

CONCERNED

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FERMANAGH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE COMMITTEE

PAY
NO
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PAY
NO
RATES

No. 77

Saturday, 10th March (De Sathairn, 10 Márta), 1973

RE-UNIFICATION: THEN WHAT?

(Continued from last week)

by S. Mac EIREANN

THE indifference to what passes as politics in Ireland can only be viewed and seen as a sign of decadence. True, election time arouses a certain degree of interest among our people, but the interest is little different from the interest aroused in the anticipation and the outcome of a world boxing contest. The election is no sooner over than it is forgotten, leaving the losing party's followers accepting the result with the calming claim "We were robbed".

Such apathy and indifference is deplorable and can never bring about anything even resembling good government. Indeed by the time you are reading this another election in the Southern part of our country will be over, and apart from the echo of promises, which no one expects will be kept or remembered, the old attitude of indifference will have returned.

Of course, the governmental system in the South is geared to this happy indifference, and to try to tell the people that political indifference is a form of religious indifference is not an easy task and takes time and effort. Here in the Northern part of Ireland, the old indifference to what used to pass as politics resulted from a different set of circumstances. Here we were clubbed into apathy, in the South the people are either bribed or otherwise lulled into apathy. Of the two contrivances the Southern one is proving itself to be the more dangerous and destructive. There the lies of the politicians are taken for granted and the merry dance of death goes on.

THE BRIGHTER SIDE

However, the picture is not all black. Thanks to an ever growing number of dedicated people with a mission and infectious concern, many, especially among the younger age group, are awakening to the transforming realisation that they are not sentenced for life to mock-government. I am growing more confident every day that when the moment reveals itself, there will be those who have the sight to see and the determination to do. More and more people are studying the governmental structure proposed by the Irish Republican Movement and contrasting it with the existing switch of power from one self-interested party to another.

They see the governmental structure of the Republican Movement set on the establishment of a new society involving the people to a degree which would be self-destructive if permitted by the existing governmental system.

FOUR LEVELS

Last time I spoke about the proposed charter of rights which our new constitution would provide. This time I am going to say something about the actual governmental structure which our new constitution would provide. Firstly, it would be federal in character and would consist of FOUR LEVELS:

- 1 The federal government would be based upon the unity and sovereignty of the people of Ireland.
- 2 Provincial government, based upon the four historic provinces.
- 3 Regional government, based upon clearly defined economic regions.
- 4 Community government, which would replace existing local government, North and South.

THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENT: It would be a single chamber of approximately 150 deputies elected as follows:

- 1 Fifty per cent by direct universal suffrage on the proportional representation system.

- 2 Fifty per cent in EQUAL NUMBERS from each of the provincial parliaments.

It would control all powers and functions essential to the good of the whole nation.

It would elect a president who would be both prime minister and head of state.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

It would prescribe that national legislation would be initiated by any of the following agencies: the federal parliament deputies, the central government, a provincial parliament, or by referendum. (You will have noticed the sanity of the dual role president as proposed. It throws out the drone cipher role presently existing and causing no small irritation, not the least of which is the colossal waste of money which could be used to SOME advantage.)

That, then, is very briefly the proposed governmental structure of the Republican Movement. I said very briefly, because I am anxious to devote as much time as possible to the provincial government proposition.

THE NEW GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE

Four democratically elected provincial parliaments, based on the four historic provinces of Ireland, Ulster, Munster, Connacht and Leinster, would deal with their respective areas. The establishment of Dail Uladh (Ulster) would be the first step towards the creation of this new governmental structure for the whole island.

By creating such a provincial parliament for the nine counties of Ulster within a new Ireland, a border, etc., would become entirely irrelevant or become no more than a provincial territory boundary; yet viewed in the context of provincial government it would have much more significance than the existing border, for the proposed boundary would encompass with friendly intention an Ulster parliament for the Ulster people.

UNIONIST MAJORITY

The Unionist orientated population would have a working majority within the nine county province concept. This would give them considerable power and control over their own affairs and that power would be the surest guarantee of their civil and religious liberties within a new Ireland.

Now, as such a proposal is not deemed to be definitive or exclusive of ALL alternative proposals, I could see a validity in Mr. Craig's recent proposal of a SIX county Ulster parliament if it were to be new Irish and orientated. I fail to see why a NINE county Ulster parliament democratically elected and in which the Protestant realistic majority could be used as a safeguard of Protestant rights does not make the greater appeal.

I would like to think that very many serious-minded Ulster Protestants, very many of them just as "let down" and as under-privileged as their Catholic neighbours, do see that this is their way out of the position of serfs of Britain.

REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

The pledged charter of rights which the new constitution would provide should allay any residual fears which they may have of the "Home Rule, Rome Rule" pre-digested slogan of the past. I would also like to tell them that they are NOT being invited to submit to any Dublin administration. As we refuse to do that it would be deceitful of us to ask THEM to do so.

NEW IRELAND is a country envisaged by the Republican Movement; a country where ALL our people are assured of prosperity and of security; a country where ancient dissension can be buried forever. Is not that much more sane than the doubtful security of a reliance on another country bedevilled by its own domestic problems? Personally, I would tire of running up and down other people's stairs.

RESISTANCE MOVEMENT

FIGHTS...

BRUTALITY, TORTURE, INTERMENT CONDEMNED

SPEAKING in Cavanacarragh on Friday night, Mr. Tom Flatley paid tribute to the Resistance campaign in Co. Fermanagh. "The campaign," he said, "was initiated to counteract the evil of internment and the body charged with the responsibility of promoting and organising the campaign was the Fermanagh Civil Resistance Committee.

"This Committee organises meetings in the different areas and sets up local committees. It provides free legal advice for participants; it organised the Rent and Rates Strike; it publishes a newspaper. Today it is an active force in the county, fighting injustice and internment, highlighting British Army brutality, giving advice and help to its victims.

"At the present moment," continued Mr. Flatley, "it's Chairman, Frank McManus, is in America conducting a coast to coast lecture tour on the situation in this part of Ireland. From him the American public are hearing the true facts of the terrible campaign of brutality, torture, imprisonment without trial and the concentration camps that are all part of the British plan to force the Catholic community back to the status of second class citizens, maintain partition and hold Ireland divided against the wishes of the vast majority of her people.

"Local Resistance Committees such as Cavanacarragh are actively organising functions such as 'his one tonight' to raise funds for the dependants of internees and political prisoners. Then there are the people involved in CONCERNED; those who continue to write for it week in, week out; those involved in its distribution, and the sellers — that dedicated band who stand Sunday after Sunday, through sunshine, rain, hail and snow, to make sure you and I get our copy — all unpaid. Their effort will stand as a monument of devotion and dedication to a just and worthy cause.

"Finally, there are you, the people, who support functions such as this, the people who withhold rent and rates as a protest against the continuation of internment and the Special Powers Act. Together we make up the Civil Resistance Movement in Fermanagh, a movement dedicated to justice, equality and full freedom for all," concluded Mr. Flatley.

The dance itself was a great success, attended by people from a wide area of the county. It was the third organised this year by that hard-working Committee.

INFORMERS

THERE are several breeds of informers (a dirty name in Ireland): (a) Those who directly given information to police and British army (murderers of Irishmen and Irishwomen); (b) The person who whispers out aloud and usually condemns an innocent man to internment, i.e. "Paddy John is a Provo, he was out last night"; (c) The public house "bum" who is a rotten coward at heart but will not hesitate to name and vilify men helping the cause of the down-trodden people.

Paddy Hill

FERMANAGH CITIZENS' ADVICE
SOCIETY

WON £5 EACH

P. FOX,
47 Rydal Gardens,
Kingsbury, London, N.W.9.

DANIEL NEILAN,
Garrison,
Co. Fermanagh

CONRADH NA GAEILGE

ORGANISER:

LANGUAGE NOT AN END IN ITSELF

SPEAKING at an organising function of Conradh na Gaeilge in Co. Fermanagh, the Regional Organiser, Séamus de Faoite, Cavan, said:

"Our ultimate aim in Conradh na Gaeilge is the spiritual and material prosperity of the Irish people, North and South. Just as other organisations lay stress on various aspects of the country's development, we lay stress on the language and culture because we believe they are important for the preservation of our national identity.

"Language is not an end in itself, but it becomes important when it helps to preserve the identity of a nation or people. There is something that strikes a chord in each of our hearts when we say that we are Irish — there is a sense of pride, a recognition for a set of values, a concern for preserving a way of life. Now, identity is not an end in itself either, but without it we are in danger of becoming citizens of an imaginary international world, a people without a soul, without initiative, without a purpose. The Irish poet, Aodhgan O Rathille many years ago described such a Ireland:

'Fód ar fán in Éire,
Tír nach tír i
Tír le díol
Bíodh ag péir mian i.'

"I have said that neither language nor national identity are important in themselves. But people are important, the Irish people are important, and if this nation of ours is to prosper, if the Irish people are to develop as a people, then courage, spirit, generosity, a willingness to work hard and other such virtues will have to be much more manifest than they are today. Such virtues will only be present in a nation with high morale, in a people that is aware of its national identity.

"I believe that the ordinary person, North and South, in this country is well disposed towards the Irish language. There are some who under various pretexts oppose it; this is not a bad thing, a healthy opposition is good. But far too many who are well disposed stop at that; they are not prepared to go any further; they do not consider translating this goodwill into action, into a personal effort.

"In this context I believe parents have an important role to play. You may ask what can parents without Irish do. It is a well known fact that children often take a liking to one subject at school and a dislike to others. Sometimes the reason for this can be traced to the teacher, but very often the reason can be traced to the home, especially if it is a question of Irish. If parents are continually questioning the usefulness of the language, this reacts on the children. Parental encouragement is necessary; you can show that the language means something to you by being interested, by encouraging your children to go to the Gaeltacht.

"Parents with Irish can remember that an ounce of example is worth any amount of talk. If they were to use Irish occasionally, for example at a meal, it would give them daily practice, it would bring home to the children that Irish was more than merely a school subject.

"For those people who feel they could help by joining a local branch of Conradh na Gaeilge, I can offer no better programme than that offered by Glór na nGael for their national competition."

N.B.—The Irish Language Collection in County Fermanagh will be taken up on Sunday, 18th March at all Church gates. A generous response is requested. Details of collection will be published in CONCERNED.

QUEER SENSE

ON Wednesday, 21st February a Dublin newspaper carried the prominent heading—"IRA had worldwide arsenal". Mr. Ian Gilmour, British Minister of Defence, told the British House of Commons, and Mr. Kilfedder, the Unionist MP for N. Down in particular, that weapons seized by British soldiers in N. Ireland and believed to have been in IRA hands included several types from a number of countries. He then listed no less than 17 countries. We note the ambiguity of the language used—"believed to be". Of course it serves British propaganda. But we ask: why must any of our Irish newspapers serve British propaganda by giving such a statement front page coverage in a special print inset?

On the previous day, Tuesday, 20th, the Irish News carried the conspicuous heading—"Catholics still being leaned on". It reports Mr. Ivan Cooper (a politician who usually does his homework while his garrulous colleagues are seeking publicity) as a challenger to Mr. Whitelaw's partiality towards the Protestant community. Quoting "impeccable sources", he revealed that in the seven week period ending 31st January, 1973, 551 Catholics were arrested and 60 Protestants. Of the 19,000 rounds of ammunition found by Security Forces, 13,700 were found in 60 Protestant searches while 5,300 rounds were found in the 550 searches in Catholic areas. Similarly with explosives—although almost ten times as many Catholic homes were searched only 1,200 lbs. were found as against 2,600 lbs. in the Protestant area. One wonders would the Security Forces have sufficient storage space to hold all the subversive materials that would have been uncovered had they searched 550 Protestant homes.

Yet Mr. Whitelaw, on that same Tuesday evening, appeared on TV and told us he was launching a great new attack on assassins, bully boys and intimidators. But, but—he asks the people not only to help the Security Forces, but to be the Security Forces themselves. He asks neighbours to guard each other night and day and even if these bullies have guns we must unite against them (with our bare and empty hands, of course). He singled out peaceful Bangor as an example of this good neighbourliness, but he didn't tell us that in this very town Tartan gangs have been smashing the windows of Catholic houses and that crowds of these rampaging youths have been permitted to congregate and jeer outside Catholic homes. Evidently as long as Catholics are at the receiving end of these harassments the British supreme sees "good neighbourliness".

Catholics can conclude what he means when he grinds his teeth and says: "We will win, as win we must." Who is the real bully boy?

SILENCE ON SPOILED VOTES

IN KERRY SOUTH

AN adamant refusal by the Returning Officer to give the number of spoiled votes in Kerry South is prompting people far removed from that constituency to ask WHY?

CONRADH NA GAEILGE—Comhaltas Uladh

IRISH LANGUAGE COLLECTION

will be taken up convenient to
ALL CHURCH GATES
IN COUNTY FERMANAGH
on SUNDAY, 18th MARCH, 1973
PLEASE SUBSCRIBE GENEROUSLY

Returns from all areas in Co. Fermanagh to Regional Organiser, Séamus de Faoite, "Aileach", Highfield Rd. Cavan. Tel. 327.

William Rooney, the forgotten Patriot

NO man since Davis did more to rouse the Irish national spirit than William Rooney. He was a tireless worker for the language revival even before the Gaelic League was founded in 1893. As poet and editor and language teacher, he preached the gospel of nationality and separatism and put new heart into an Ireland depressed and broken after the Parnell split.

He spent himself for Ireland, died at 27. Arthur Griffith said: "No man for generations knew Ireland so well . . . no man loved Ireland better . . . Had he lived he would have become, perhaps, the greatest leader Ireland has known."

Rooney died on 6th May, 1901. His inspiration guided the men of 1916 and the years that followed. Yet, today, he is all but forgotten. So, in this centenary year of his birth, we would like to pay a small tribute to gallant Liam O Maolruanaidh, "Fear na Muintire" (Man of the People), one of his many pen-names.

He was born in Dublin on 20th October, 1873. His parents lived in Leinster Avenue, North Strand. He went to the Christian Brothers' School and went to work, at the age of 12, as a clerk in a warehouse, for a few shillings a week. Later he became a railway clerk.

Every penny he could spare was spent on buying books at the quayside bookstalls—books about Irish history, the Irish language, lives of great Irishmen of the past. In those days the magazine "The Irish Fireside" ran a children's column which was edited by "Uncle Remus". Young Rooney used to contribute to the column—and win prizes. One day, he and P. W. Kenny—who was later to write historical studies under the name of Sean Ghall—decided to beard Uncle Remus in his den, and got the surprise of their lives when they found he was a woman, none other than the poetess, Rose Kavanagh!

From her, Rooney and Kenny and other lads received good advice, as a result of which they formed the Leinster Literary Society, renting a room in Marlboro' Street. It was there that Rooney met Arthur Griffith for the first time. Griffith was two years older than Rooney.

"Within an hour of our meeting," Griffith wrote, thirteen years later, "I knew I had met one who could and would do great things."

After the Parnell split—almost all the members were Parnellites—the Leinster Literary School broke up. Later, the Celtic Literary Society was started at 32 Lower Abbey Street. It had history and language classes, lectures, debates, Irish dancing classes, outings—and a manuscript journal, "An Seanchaidhe".

Willie Rooney was the life and soul of the society. He had made such a close study of the Irish language that he could do everything but speak it fluently, and, to remedy this, he paid regular weekend visits to Spiddal and other places in Connemara to pick up the correct "blas". He became a first-class teacher of Irish and of Irish history and wrote practically all of the manuscript journal.

When the Gaelic League was founded, Rooney was one of its most enthusiastic members—though he had no time for its "non-political" policy! When Griffith started the "United Irishman" as a four-page halfpenny weekly, he and Rooney wrote everything in the early issue. And the type was set up by Griffith, who was a compositor by trade.

Week after week in the "United Irishman" he sent out his message of faith and hope to the people of Ireland. Listen to his definition of nationality:

"Nationality . . . that all-embracing quality which holds everything characteristic of the country as sacred, which concerns itself with the minutest fragments that typify and define a distinct civilisation, which jealously guards and fosters everything that keeps the land and the people in the one among the peoples of the world and educates every inhabitant to the errors of the past, the needs of the present and the possibilities of the future."

Rooney was an unflinching follower of Tone. He wanted all Ireland free, and he held as Pearse and McSwiney did later, that nations are saved from defeat and destruction, not by the crowd, but by the faithful few. **"History has never been made by the millions. The few who sacrificed themselves did all that the world is proud of. The single seed eventually fills the cornfield; the silent, earnest thinker moves the mass . . ."**

Willie Rooney wrote verse in Irish and English. He was a musician and a sweet tenor, singing ballads like the rousing "Men of the West"—which he often sang at concerts—or the tender "Ceann Dubh Dilis".

He played a leading part in organising the centenary celebration of the 1798 Rising. "In a dozen books, covering the 1898 period", Brian O'Higgins wrote in 1956, "you will look in vain for the name of William Rooney, although he did more work than any ten men. It was his desire and custom to work quietly, diligently, unobtrusively, to do what had to be done and let who wished have the credit;

to finish whatever task fell to him and then slip quietly away . . ."

Rooney had never been robust and his non-stop work with little or no relaxation took its toll. In March, 1901, he became ill. No longer could he keep up the teaching, writing, lecturing in different parts of the country at weekends—he usually cycled in all weathers—besides doing his railway clerk job. He and his mother were sharing the same house with the Griffith family at Summerhill, on the North side of Dublin.

After a month there was no improvement. Doctors feared he was worn out. With the coming of May the patient was hopeful of getting up and about. Griffith heard him repeat Denis Florence McCarthy's poem, "Waiting for the May".

**Longing for the pleasant rambles
'Mid the fragrant hawthorn brambles . . .**

Willie Rooney died on 6th May. Griffith felt "an overwhelming loneliness, but he carried on with his work on the now greatly enlarged "United Irishman". His editorial began:

"The Davis of the National Revival is dead—dead in the spring of life—a martyr to his passionate love of our unhappy country. Ireland has lost the son she could least have spared, and we have lost our leader, our comrade and our life-long friend. He saved his country's soul from damnation at the price of his life."

When in Lisnaskea, call at . . .

FRANK'S BAR

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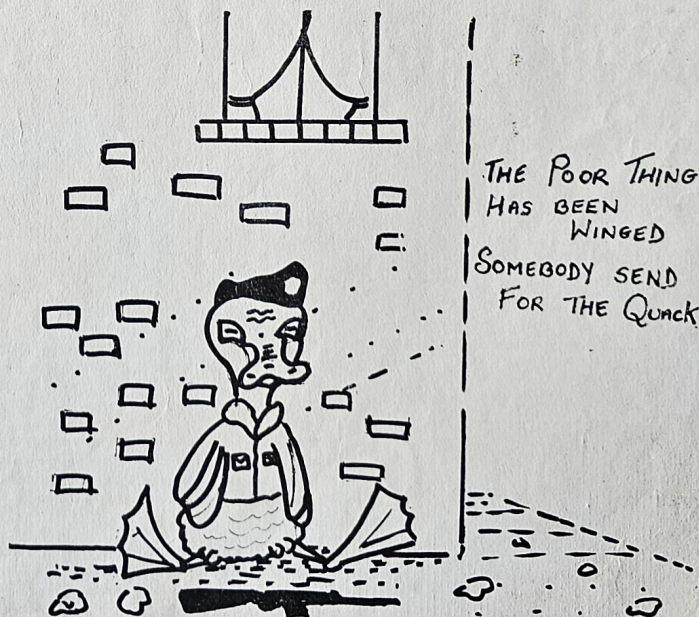
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PHONE: LISNASKEA 337



KINAWLEY CONCERT

A MOST enjoyable concert was held in Kinawley last week, organised by the Kinawley Resistance Movement.

An enthusiastic welcome was given by the audience to the artistes, who delighted everyone with their Irish songs, dances and music.

The local unit of the "foreign army" was so captivated by the music and songs that they left their "nests" in the nearby hedges and ditches and gathered round the hall. Passers-by were amused to see them (resembling roosters outside a hen-house) with necks stretched and ears at every available keyhole listening to the merriment and going-on inside.

One of the most amusing incidents of the night occurred at the end. One of the foreigners (armed, of course) was led into the tearoom. He said that his commanding officer instructed him to say: "We cannot get any sleep with the noise." He apologised for his presence and withdrew.

Some of his pals outside became a little nasty when the music stopped and as people were leaving they were called "Fenian bastards" by these "tartars" by these.

Another form of "peace keeping" the foreigners have become involved in is the writing of obscenities on signposts, but, as the locals say, what would one expect from a pig, even if he was housed in a parlour?

EDERNEY'S NEW SINN FEIN CUMANN

AT a largely attended meeting a new Sinn Fein Cumann was formed in Ederney.

In a statement the Cumann said that it was named after the "Pettigo Martyrs", William Kearney (Drumquin), Patrick Flood (Pettigo), Edmond McKenna (Drumquin) and William Deasley (Dromore), who were volunteers and gave their lives for Ireland in the fight for freedom against the British forces of occupation.

By naming the Cumann after these men they hoped to maintain their memory and promote the aims for which they fought and died.

The Cumann pledged their wholehearted support for the national leadership of the Republican Movement and recognised Ruairi O Bradaigh (interned in the Curragh) and Mrs. Marie Drumm (acting President of Sinn Fein).

The Cumann unanimously decided to call on the people of Ederney to demand the release of the internees and political prisoners and to boycott the Border referendum.

Fermanagh Citizens' Advice Bureau

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on
SUNDAY, 25th MARCH '73

at 2.30 p.m.
in

SCOUT HALL

(St. Michael's Old School)
East Bridge, Enniskillen

ALL MEMBERS REQUESTED TO ATTEND

Letters to the Editor

DERRYLIN SECONDARY SCHOOL

Dear Sir,

Please give a little room in your paper for an item that I am very concerned about. I am a pupil of Derrylin Secondary School. For years the Catholic people of Killesher, Kinawley, Teemore and Derrylin have subscribed to the building of this school, and now we find that there is only one Catholic bus driver out of seven employed. Many of the pupils are with me in this, and we are hoping that the parents will now take up the issue and see what can be done about it. This is typical of all N. Ireland and Unionists still wonder why the IRA intervened.

Concerned Pupil

GRATEFUL ADVERTISER

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to express my gratitude for the results I received from an advertisement which I placed in CONCERNED a few weeks ago.

Imagine my surprise at receiving replies from as far away as Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, and Dunmore, Co. Galway.

You are doing a fine job in Co. Fermanagh. I am very pleased to discover CONCERNED is finding its way so far afield. It is gratifying to know the true voice of oppressed Fermanagh is being heard beyond the unjust border. Keep up the good work. Thank you again.

Sincerely yours,

Very Grateful

MIDNIGHT COURTS

Did you shout "Up Ireland"? No MiLord. Prove it.

Did you call O'Malley a —? No MiLord. Prove it.

Did you invoke the name of Dev.? No MiLord. Prove it.

Did you say Lynch was a Law unto himself? No Sir. Prove it.

Did you call yourself an Irishman? No MiLord. Prove it.

Did you look at the Garda? No Sir. Prove it.

Did you sneeze while in the presence of the Garda? No Sir. Prove it.

Did you — in the Sergeant's presence? No, No MiLord. Prove it.

Did you wink at the Bangharda? No Sir. Prove it.

Did you look below the belt of B.G.—? Lord, God, Sir, No! Prove it.

Did you ever dream of having in your possession any one of the following:

A gun? No. Prove it.

A tank? No. Prove it.

A rocket launcher? No. Prove it.

A submarine? No. Prove it.

A Corp of Cavalry? No. Prove it.

Did you on awakening applaud, i.e. bualadh bos? No, Sir. A Uasail. Prove it.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

A PRAYER sit-in organised by the Lisnaskea Branch of the Women's Institute drew some of our more prominent citizens to the local Methodist Church. The Catholic ladies taking part were loud in their praise of the occasion, and in return have promised to dance an Irish dance to entertain the Loyalist members of the Institute at their next function. I wonder will they wear green or orange Irish costumes.

DONAGH ENGINEERING WORKS

Repairs to all Commercial Vehicles,
Agricultural Machinery, Excavators, etc.

MOST SENATE CANDIDATES FOR IRISH

TWELVE out of sixteen candidates for the Senate of the National University of Ireland elections have agreed that the university colleges should provide a wide range of academic and administrative services in Irish for students and staff.

In September eighteen graduates signed a letter to the candidates asking them to initiate the relevant proposals of the White Paper on the Restoration of Irish and of the memorandum of Comhairle na Gaeilge to the Higher Education Authority as part of the work-programme of the Senate.

Some of the twelve candidates questioned the feasibility of the recommendations, but said they would support them in general.

Maire Nic Ghiolla Phadraig, in a statement on behalf of the graduates, said the support shown for Irish should mean a better position for Irish under the new Senate.

LIGHTS GO OUT AS O'MALLEY ELECTED

(Irish Times)

THE count in Limerick East was held up for several hours when the electricity failed in the main hall of the School of Commerce. A fault developed just after the Minister for Justice had been declared elected.

One is left wondering if the declaration had been made during the day would darkness have covered the face of Ireland?

HOPE?

IN 1948 the then Inter-Party government granted an amnesty to Republican prisoners. May we hope for a similar action from the present Inter-Party Government?

Also, as so many of the present Inter-Party Government were openly opposed to the notorious Amendment Bill, may we hope, now that they are in power, that they will use their good offices and have it thrown out with its "movers", Svengali Lynch and Trilby O'Malley?

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS