

"IRELAND UNFREE SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE"

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Murdered man was police spy

A FULL Parliamentary inquiry into the activities of the British Special Branch was called for yesterday by the National Council for Civil Liberties in London, to whom Kenneth Lennon, the Newry man who was found murdered in a quiet Surrey lane last Saturday, made a long statement shortly before he disappeared. In his statement, Lennon, the presumed victim of an IRA execution squad, alleged that he had been approached and recruited by Special Branch officers to infiltrate the Sinn Fein movement in the Luton area, where he was living at the time.

Police, according to Lennon, had told him that they "had a terrible lot of trouble" arranging that he would be cleared of charges of plotting to aid an escape from Winslow Green jail, Birmingham. One Special Branch man told him: "Everyone was in on it—the Director of Public Prosecutions, the prosecutor, the detectives at Birmingham," said Lennon. "He also included the Branch, and was not sure whether the judge was involved. He said 'it had to go to the very highest authority'."

Lennon's family have been informed by British police that the body will not be released for two weeks. It is being held at Epsom District Hospital near London, and an inquest will be held on Friday. Miss Bernadette Lennon, Kenneth's sister, last night described as "a pack of lies" the statement issued by the NCCL and asked if it was really Kenneth that they had been speaking to.

Miss Lennon also denied that he was murdered by the IRA. At her home in Mourneview Park, Newry, she said: "We want it to be known that some friends of Kenneth's have told us that he was not killed by the IRA. It was not in Kenny's nature to inform on his friends."

Miss Lennon had claimed on Monday that when her brother was on a visit home at Christmas he had told her that he was a member of the Provisional IRA and was engaged in certain activities in Britain on which he did not elaborate.

The Lennon family last night claimed that his Co. Leitrim-born wife—who is deaf and partially dumb—was forced to flee to her mother's home at Dromed because of the activities of the British Special Branch while her husband was in jail.

An official "no comment" on the affair came from Scotland Yard last night but it was learned privately that Special Branch chiefs were quite satisfied that none of their officers had acted in any way improperly regarding the murdered man.

The office of the Director of Public Prosecutions would also make no comment.

Threatened

Mr. Martin Loney, general secretary of the NCCL, said last night that he had sent a copy of the statement to the British Home Secretary, Mr. Jenkins, along with a letter calling for an inquiry into the affair.

Lennon called at the NCCL offices last Wednesday, and over a period of six hours, gave his statement to the senior legal officer, Mr. Larry Grant.

In his statement, Lennon said Special Branch officers had threatened him with criminal charges relating to a civil rights demonstration at Newry in 1969, and also against his sister Bernadette for other unspecified reasons, unless he cooperated with the police.

The NCCL did not act immediately upon the statement, as Lennon was due to return to their offices yesterday to go over the 17 page statement again, checking several of its points.

Robbery

The statement alleges that Lennon was asked by two Special Branch officers, named Dwyer and Ron Wickens, to agitate among Luton Sinn Fein circles in the role of an agent provocateur, which culminated in a robbery and detailed plans to stage fund raising robberies in the area.

As a result of information passed on by Lennon, three Irishmen, Philip Sheridan, Jerry Mealey and Sean Campbell, were arrested and all found guilty in December, 1973, of conspiracy to rob, for which they received ten year prison sentences.

Lennon was then told to "lie low" for a few weeks, but was approached by an 18-year-old Irishman, Patrick O'Brien, who wanted to spring the other three from prison. Lennon was urged by his Special Branch contacts to encourage O'Brien and other Sinn Fein members in formulating such a plan, while reporting full details all the time.

Following a visit made by Lennon and O'Brien to Winslow Green prison, Birmingham, where Sheridan was being held, to take photographs of the building, the two men were arrested, acting on Lennon's tip-off, and charged with conspiracy to effect the escape of a person from Winslow Green.

After Special Branch intervention, a statement was taken from Lennon by an officer based in Birmingham named Brakewell designed to convict O'Brien while letting Lennon off lightly.

Discharged

Lennon spent three months on remand with O'Brien in Winslow Green, before on April 8, being found not guilty and discharged while O'Brien received a total of five years imprisonment.

Lennon alleged that the police told "lie after lie" to get O'Brien convicted.

Upon his return to London, Lennon contacted the Special Branch again and was asked to observe Brendan Magill, the national organiser of Sinn Fein in Britain. Lennon was told "get in with him. You will be a bit of a national hero. You have done three months for the cause."

Lennon did not, however, "get in" with Magill, and he concluded his statement to the NCCL by saying: "I have got no intention of coming the police."

I have got nowhere to go. I am frightened to go back to Luton. I will probably go north for a few days."

Illegal

Mr. Loney, the NCCL secretary, said yesterday: "One point which is certainly clear is that if Mr. Lennon had never been approached by the Special Branch, he would be alive today."

The NCCL letter to the Home Secretary, Mr. Jenkins, states that assuming their statement from Lennon is correct, he had "no particular involvement with Irish politics until he was approached by the Special Branch."

It continues: "The Special Branch appears to have not merely sought information on illegal activities engaged in by Irish political organisations, but to have sought to encourage such illegal activities."

Littlejohns

The council point out: "Mr. Lennon's involvement appears to have been only at the instigation of the Special Branch, yet when Mr. Lennon was in immediate and real physical danger as a consequence of his activities, the Special Branch afforded him no protection."

Calling attention to the "unsolved questions in the Littlejohn affair", the council ask the Home Secretary for full details to be made public of how the Special Branch operates when recruiting informers, under what circumstances its informers and agents are allowed to operate as provocateurs, and whether in the particular case

Canon backs resistance in North

IN A LETTER in the current edition of An Phoblacht, the journal of Sinn Fein (Kevin St.) a Catholic Canon has said that he has full sympathy for, and understanding of, the "freedom struggle" in the North.

Claiming that political leaders had lost all concern for the problem of injustice in the North, Canon Diarmuid MacLomhair of Killeury, Dundalk said that nothing remained but for the people to take more "vigorous measures."

"And so we come to find ourselves in the old tradition of those who have struggled and died for the freedom of their country," he writes.

"Round about here we come upon our mandate: and, from this point on, in the full light of Christian principles, we form our moral judgment on the course of the campaign and the tactics used in it."

"British occupation of any part of this country is an injustice; and when you reflect upon it, injustice on the grand scale. Like all such, it inevitably engenders further injustices, and we have seen this happen in Northern Ireland. Peaceful protest over the most of 50 years has been discredited by Great Britain," he states.

Although he could not undertake to organise "a movement," as he would make a poor hand of it, the Canon concluded his letter by saying he could at least make his sentiments known as occasion arises.

of Lennon these rules, if they exist, were violated.

The letter concludes: "We would ask you to review the conviction and sentence imposed on Patrick Joseph O'Brien, Philip Sheridan, Jerry Mealey and Sean Campbell with a view to establishing whether, in the circumstances, there are not matters not known to the courts at the time of trial which would have affected the outcome."

"Finally, we would ask you to consider granting full compensation to Mrs. Lennon if it is established that the facts in the enclosed statement are correct."

Speaking at yesterday's NCCL conference, Mr. Grant, who took the statement, said Lennon felt his life was in danger and that he did not want police help. He told Mr. Grant as he was leaving that he feared the Provisional IRA, friends of the men imprisoned and the Special Branch, whom he said, "might kill me to make it look like an Irish job."

Professional

British Murder Squad detectives searching for the killers of Lennon have been in touch with gardai in Dublin, it was learned yesterday.

Reports said British police believed a professional gunman was paid £250 by the Provisional IRA to murder Lennon.

Yesterday a Garda spokesman in Dublin confirmed that they had been "made aware" by British police of the Lennon murder, but gardai refused to comment further.

Mr. Ivor Clementson, Labour MP for East Luton, where Lennon was a constituent yesterday called on the Home Secretary to mount a full inquiry into the "grave allegations" made by the NCCL.

Mrs. Jill Knight, the Conservative MP, who is tabling a question to the Home Secretary about the possibility of IRA execution squads operating in England, last night denounced the NCCL allegations as "a farrago of nonsense".

How to get a suspended sentence

DAVID McGready, Co. Derry, was apprehended by the Brits on June 17 last, while on his way to his A-level examinations at Foyle College with a revolver in the waistband of his trousers.

His statement said that he had had it "for the good of Ulster". He lived a mile from the Donegal border, considered himself under a permanent stage of siege, had to pass through hostile areas to get to Foyle College, had to remove his school blazer for personal safety and his father, who had been petrol-bombed while in their car.

On June 17 he had been given the revolver while on "protection duty" in a Protestant estate but had never severed his links with the U.D.A. The Judge said that he was acting on McGready as a "silly schoolboy, which he then was." The age of this youthful offender, this naughty little scamp, this "silly schoolboy": only 20 years young!

Our 15 year-olds are interned!! Our 16 year-olds are interned!! Our 17 year-olds are interned!! Our 18 year-olds are interned!! Our 19 year-olds are interned!! McGready's punishment: a two-year SUSPENDED SENTENCE.

Journalist speaks out

VERY OFTEN here I have had to attack my fellow journalists for the part they were playing by collaborating in the British propaganda war against the Republican Movement. This week, however, I have a much more pleasant task. I want to congratulate a journalist on his moral courage and his journalistic integrity. I refer to Tim Pat Coogan, editor of "The Irish Press".

On Sunday, March 10, Mr. Coogan was involved in a Radio programme "This Week", in which a discussion took place between Professor John Kelly, Government Chief Whip and Conor O'Brien, editor of the "Sunday Independent".

The discussion had to do with a speech which Professor Kelly had delivered earlier in the week, when he attacked the media for "highlighting the men of violence". Professor Kelly's statement meant nothing at all if it did not mean that journalists were to suppress facts.

What Professor Kelly was suggesting was that actions and operations carried out by Oglagh na hEireann should not be reported in the newspapers, or referred to on television or radio. To do so, according to Professor Kelly, would be to romanticize the men involved and build them up into national heroes.

Of course, the learned professor had no objections to the reporting of actions by the enemy forces, whether that action was violent or not. The cause of Law and order was sacred, particularly if it was British law and order.

Censorship plea

Professor Kelly, on the radio, repeated his call for the suppression of news by suggesting that no journalist had the right to write or say anything which was against the interests of the nation. The nation in this case being, of course, the 26 Counties State or the Six Counties State, whichever way you like to take it.

Professor Kelly went even further when he suggested that the reporting of actions by the enemy forces, whether that action was violent or not, to oppose or write against the Sunningdale Agreement because Coagave, Lynch and Company had declared that it was "In the interests of the nation".

Conor O'Brien, who I criticised in this column before, made one statement with which I agree, and which I hope he acts upon in the future. He stated that he would not be dictated to by any government or government minister as to what was, or what was not, news. He would always, he said, give the facts, his plain duty as a journalist. He did, however state that he, personally, was in favour of Sunningdale, but he conceded the right of those who were not, to write and speak against it.

I come now to Tim Pat Coogan, whose handling of the situation was superb. He made it quite plain that he was not in favour of the Provisional I.R.A. or the military policy which they were pursuing in occupied Ireland; but he stumped John Kelly completely when he said: "If the I.R.A. can plant a 1,000lb. bomb and devastate the centre of Belfast after penetrating what we were told was a water-tight security ring, are my readers to be denied knowledge of that fact?"

Mr. Coogan went on to say that the I.R.A. in the occupied area obviously could not do the sort of thing unless they had a great deal of support amongst the civilian population. He also pointed out that the bomb had to be assembled in Belfast and transported several miles to the target before the actual explosion took place.

Then Mr. Coogan very adroitly brought up the case of the Russian writer who was expelled from Russia recently for writing about conditions inside Soviet concentration camps. The Russian was expelled from his country and Mr. Coogan more or less suggested that if John Kelly had his way, Irish journalists who highlighted conditions in Long Kesh and other places of detention in England and Ireland, also would be sent into exile.

Long Kesh defended

The learned professor was rather shocked. He denied that Long Kesh and the Soviet concentration camps had anything in common by suggesting that the inmates of Long Kesh were operating against "a democratically elected government" while the inmates of the Soviet camps were operating against a "Communist dictatorship".

So we were right back again to Sunningdale; but what Mr. Kelly conveniently forgot was that only the week before, Sunningdale agreement had been rejected contemptuously by a majority of the people of occupied Ireland.

Only one pro-Sunningdale candidate had been elected to fill the 12 seats which the occupied area had in the Imperial parliament. That was the ex-Republican Labour P. J. Kelly. He had his way, Irish journalists who highlighted conditions in Long Kesh and other places of detention in England and Ireland, also would be sent into exile.

Mr. Kelly also forgot that even in Gerry Fitt's own constituency he polled a minority of the votes. He got 19,000 votes. The anti-Sunningdale Unionist got 17,000; Albert Price, Independent Republican, got 5,000; and the Labour P. J. Kelly got 3,000. That made up 25,000 anti-Sunningdale votes against Fitt's total of 19,000. What price democracy? Professor Kelly was on a very sticky wicket.

But things got worse for him as the interview progressed. Mr. Coogan, who has written a best-selling book, entitled "The I.R.A." knew what he was talking about, and the professor of law did not. The learned professor thought he was scoring a point when he said to the journalist: "You should not publish statements or communiques from these people unless you are sure of the authenticity of the statements and identity of the people who issue them."

The professor went on to point out that statements coming from the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau, and signed P. O'Neill, were, in his opinion, dubious. He did not believe that the editors using them knew where they came from or who wrote them.

Integrity and patriotism

Mr. Coogan was quick to the ball: "Of course, I know who wrote them", he said, "and where they come from. I don't publish anything unless I know it is authentic. It is my job to know. But the government does not know, nor can they prevent such authentic statements being issued".

Professor Kelly was stumped on this; but if he had only done his home work well he would have realised that when Tim Pat Coogan was writing his book on the I.R.A. he had met many of the men involved in the present struggle. He had interviewed them and, although he disagreed with them, he formed a high opinion of their integrity and their patriotism.

I will say this much for him. He has always defended them against the charge of being criminals and the free Ireland of tomorrow will remember him for that.

Tim Pat Coogan also pointed out that the physical force tradition was part of the Irish traditional struggle for freedom. Although he disagreed with the methods used, he understood the men who used them.

He indicated also that the causes of the violence, i.e., occupation, segregation, partition, etc., would have to be removed before complete peace was restored to Ireland. Tim Pat Coogan is an honest man. We need many more like him in Ireland.

Youth knows truth

Now, one last word to Professor John Kelly. Not all the censorship in the world can prevent the Republic telling the truth. Many men have tried it, tougher men than Professor Kelly ever will be, and they failed miserably.

Perhaps the learned professor would like to ban Mr. Coogan's book on the I.R.A. or any other book on the same subject? But it won't work, professor. The younger generation already know the truth. I refer you to the election of the S.R.C. in University College, Dublin, last week. You were professor of law there.

The young man elected to represent the law faculty certainly would disown you and your imperialism. No wonder you need censorship. We will leave it at that, shall we?

What religion, asked English policeman

I AM enclosing a report of an incident which took place recently here in Luton. In view of the seriousness of this event I feel sure you will give it serious consideration for publication.

On February 12, two carloads of plain clothes policemen raided the home of the treasurer of the Sinn Féin Cumann here.

The raid was carried out at 10.30 at night. The men arrived every room to find the policemen in every room of his house carrying out a search.

His wife (who is English) and his young children were terrified of what was happening.

Inside his home the man was surrounded by policemen, who produced a search warrant for "arms and explosives".

Having done that, they took him into his own living room (away from his family) and told him to sit down.

There he was interrogated in a fashion known up to now only in the Six Counties. He was questioned about the explosion at

the Military College in Chesham (Bucks). He was questioned further about an explosion last September in Welwyn Garden City (Herts).

Having satisfied themselves on those matters, the police officer in charge questioned him in a different way. He was asked what his religion was.

He refused to answer, saying it really wasn't anybody's business what his religion was and that that was a sectarian question.

The officer then asked him what he was "frightened" of being questioned like this?

He replied he was more concerned about the effect it would have on his wife and small children.

He was again asked what his

compiled a dossier of complaints. In one pub, it is claimed that soldiers caused nearly £300-worth of damage.

Major Desmond Kirby, chairman of the landlords' association said: "The pubs are usually well behaved, but there has been

some bad trouble recently." Now the publicans plan to take the dossier to the Garrison Commander at Aldershot.

An Army spokesman agreed there had been one bad incident.

LONG KESH

I WAS highly amused to read that Mr. Pym has invited the IRA and the UVF "in from the cold". I think it would be much better if Mr. Pym descended from the top of that cold pedestal and met the warmhearted Ulster people of whom he is overlord.

He might also restore happiness that he has taken from the homes of law-abiding citizens through the detention of their loved ones.

I wonder if Mr. Pym was so naive as to think that the Maze Prison is always as he saw it some weeks ago - visits rushed through, clean bedding, clean shirts for the convicted prisoners, choice on the menu for lunch etc.

I would be very happy to arrange a visit for Mrs. Pym to accompany me so that she could see at first hand the indignities that respectable people are subjected to in order to visit their husbands, brothers etc. This takes up to four or five hours per day.

By the way, Mr. Pym, do not try to fool the Ulster people any longer, as I can assure you that the majority of us are educated and intelligent.

Finally, Alexander Solzhenitsyn can take heart as there are hundreds of British citizens unlawfully imprisoned at the Maze Prison for daring to speak their minds in public. Some are not even guilty of that.

I think the following extract from a letter published in the Sunday Times (February 17) sums up the situation:

"I find it impossible to condone the attitude of the Russian authorities, but equally impossible to join with the hypocritical smugness of the Western World."

"We do not so much turn a blind eye as close our eyes completely to our political injustices."

"A tank is a tank, a soldier is a soldier, a political prisoner the same no matter where, Russia's excuse is that it happened half a century ago. What is ours?"

Need I say more? — Mother of a Loyalist Detainee, Belfast 6.

Degrading treatment of Irish prisoners

Sir—As an Irishman and an inmate of Wakefield Prison, I feel it my duty to let the people of Ireland know about the degrading and humiliating treatment the two Irish political prisoners are receiving here at the hands of ex-British soldiers.

The two men concerned are Roy Walsh and Father Fell, both of whom are on the A cat list which means they are not allowed to go anywhere without a prison officer being behind them. This is very embarrassing for them, as can well be imagined.

Both men have been stopped from going on physical training with other A cat prisoners. They have also been refused permission to join education classes. Their letters are held for weeks before they get them (some they don't get). Father Fell has been refused permission to say Mass, which I think is pure badness by the prison authorities. Their visitors are subject to the most stringent searches adults and children alike.

Roy Walsh's two-year-old son had a metal detector used on him with no apparent thought for the impression this would make on a child.

Records which other prisoners are allowed to read to these men because they are in Irish. They are taunted by prison officers whenever Ireland is mentioned on the radio news.

There are many more things being done to try and break these men.

The sooner all political prisoners are sent back to Ireland to serve their sentences the better for all concerned.

I hope that my letter will be published as it was very difficult to get out of this hell hole where these men are being held. I wish to remain anonymous for obvious reasons or I would probably end up on bread and water, which is still used as a punishment here in Wakefield.

—Yours etc, PRISONER

Wakefield Prison, Love Lane, Yorkshire.

The man's wife and children were very distressed at what had happened and has now written to the Chief Constable of Hertfordshire, demanding an explanation and an apology.

He has also written a complete and detailed account of the incident to the National Council for Civil Liberties and asked them to take the matter up on his behalf.

Before leaving the house the officer in charge told him he had recently completed a course (at the Open University) "in psychology".

This was deliberate harassment, causing a great deal of unnecessary distress to innocent children and a law-abiding family.

—Michael Holden, rna, Patrick McArdrey Cumann, Luton, Beds., Sasna.

THE IRISH public, north and south of the Border, will need a lot of very convincing evidence before it will even begin to believe that the escape of the Littlejohn brothers from Mountjoy Jail last week was not the result of collaboration between members of the Dublin Special Branch and British intelligence.

People will remember the O'ice Shamhna escape of the airborne three from Mountjoy and all the Merriem street propaganda that followed. The security system was to be reviewed by experts: it would never - it could never - happen again. The Dublin administration as to its disposal such experts; and, if their advice were followed, it would be very, very difficult, indeed, to escape from that place.

If the Littlejohn brothers - or their advisers or both - were able to find the weakest link in the prison security system, such a discovery was unlikely not to have been made also by the advisers to the king of the cockroaches. The prison warders must have known as well as anybody else the most obvious place to try in an escape bid. How strange, therefore, in all the circumstances, that material should have been left convenient to this place to provide the scaffolding to get the spy brothers over the prison wall?

Was it ever intended that both brothers should escape? Perhaps not. Obviously, it would be unwise for the Merriem Street authorities to take too many into the secret. Obviously, it would be useful if an excuse could be found to concentrate the search parties in one particular area so that the one intended to be freed should have a better chance. Therefore, Keith, conveniently, is found with telephone numbers and addresses, an obvious plant, if ever there was one, so as to lay a false trail. Meanwhile, Kenneth heads west or south.

Visualise the absurdity of trained spies, who have learned to memorise far more complicated data than telephone numbers and addresses, having to rely on such things as notes. Even if one were to get such information at the last moment it could be written on the palm of one's hand where it could be rubbed off easily in the event of recapture.

We are not alone in our view that this was an "inside job", aided by British intelligence. The political correspondent of the Press Association

Escape of a spy

believed likewise. The only question that requires an answer is: Why should the Dublin administration allow itself to be put in this quandary, one that could bring about its downfall?

The answer is that the British wanted Kenneth free and ordered Merriem Street to provide the facilities. Merriem Street had no option but to obey. It is too deep, now, in the collaboration business to be able to withdraw. There is far too much damaging information available to the British.

Some of this information was uncovered by newspaper reporters in the earlier stages of the Littlejohn saga. It was published in bits and pieces, as the reporters found it. It is no secret to newspapermen in Dublin that a very embarrassed Merriem Street appealed to newspaper editors, "in the national (sic) interest" to end the investigation and to publish no more. There was mention, too, of the Official Secrets Act.

Merriem Street was obeyed. The investigation was ended. The reporters were told to lay off, to forget what they had discovered, and given other tasks. There was, for example, the drinking association in Tralee between a high-ranking individual under the control of the Department of Justice and the Littlejohn brothers.

There were the peculiar circumstances by which the British spy Crinnion obtained his key position in C-2, in the Garda Depot, Phoenix Park, and the much more damaging connections, perhaps, between Wyman and other British spies, and prominent Dublin politicians.

Material for blackmail is available to a huge extent, due to the immaturity, carelessness and personal weaknesses of very many people in good jobs. Disclosure for them would mean ruin, even in the pathetic "Free" State area as it is today.

But Jack Lynch was able to survive as leader of

Fianna Fáil despite his convenient memory lapse. There appears no reason to doubt the ability of the present crowd of messers in Merriem Street to survive the latest Littlejohn scandal. Nevertheless, an attempt should be made to unseat them.

The average man-in-the-street, grossly uninformed as to the capabilities of Sinn Féin, due to the amazing shyness of so many members, would not be immediately enthusiastic to a suggestion of another general election in the 26 Counties, as a result of the Littlejohn affair. His reaction would likely be: What choice do we have? Isn't Fianna Fáil just as bad?

The Mountjoy Jail escape scandal gives Sinn Féin yet another glorious opportunity to tell the people in their homes and on the streets just how rotten the Leinster House regime is; how hopeless the situation must continue to be under monopoly capitalism, as a puppet state of the Westminster empire; and what considerable improvements are possible at once with a really nationally minded and independent government such as Sinn Féin could form.

There is a sufficiently strong body of intelligent people, not at present part of the Republican Movement, appalled at all the insults to national dignity inflicted by the professional politicians, to push Sinn Féin into power. But this body needs convincing that there is a viable alternative, that there are practical proposals behind Republican idealism; and that there are reasonable people in the Movement who could be trusted in national office.

The black propaganda of the media is strong, shrill and insistent. All the power and influence of big business is backing the campaign of vilification. But there are times when that grave disadvantage can be overcome.

Now is an ideal time to get out and to rally one people who cannot fail to be disgusted at this latest clumsy example of the worst kind of collaboration between the native and the foreign enemies of Ireland. Sinn Féin, unlike other political parties, is well documented as to the details and reasonableness of its politics. Has it the vitality, imagination and initiative needed to organise a nation-wide series of protests? The tide is with us. It would be a crime against the Irish people and their descendants to miss it.

Jesuit and language

A JESUIT father suggested recently that official attempts at restoration of the Irish language be abandoned by the Merriem Street administration because of the hypocrisy associated with state policies. No doubt he was thinking, among other things, of the hypocrisy of civil servants and politicians connected with Irish language policies and who do not bother even to use the correct, Irish forms of their names. To do him justice, the form he uses is Ó Catháin, a surname of distinguished Ulster origin. He has an impeccable Irish-Ireland background and is related to the late Athair Ó Duinnín who produced the only Irish-English dictionary in general use today.

From a Jesuit father and a former professor of education at a university college one expects knowledge and use of logic. The Jesuits take a vow of poverty. Yet, they have been associated in the public mind with the cultivation of the more affluent and the abandonment of the poor and struggling. They are looked upon as a vanguard of the upper middleclass and of having the same set of values and interests. This is true of Ireland as it is of other countries. It continues to be true of Ireland despite the rather tardy appeal, in recent years, of the General of the Society of Jesus that Jesuits should concentrate on the education of the under-privileged.

All this would seem to smack of hypocrisy. Should all honourable members of the Order in Ireland - and elsewhere - resign forthwith?

It can be shown just as clearly that hypocrisy is a fact of life of the Roman Catholic Church in general in many countries today, as in other centuries. Again, we do not have to go farther than Ireland for detailed documentation.

The ambivalent attitude of so much of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy, and of the clergy in general, to violence, is the obvious example. And to power and temporal interests, even when these clash obviously with the teaching of Christ.

The general clerical attitude to the Irish language is yet another example, despite the documents of Vatican II, in striking contrast to the attitude of the Basque Catholic clergy to the native language and native culture in general; in striking contrast to Roman Catholic clerical attitudes to native culture in South America, Africa and elsewhere.

Should all good Roman Catholics, members of Conradh na Gaeilge and other national organisations, cease to practise religion because of the hypocrisy of so many Irish Catholic bishops and priests?

There is hardly any need to labour the point or to extend the argument to the Church of Ireland, to the Presbyterians, Methodists, Jews, to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, to the alleged custodians of democracy, freedom of speech and all the rest of it: the press.

Hypocrisy, it would appear, will be a fact of life for many a long year, at home and abroad. The only way of stopping or delaying the decay is to expose it broadly rather than selectively and to fight it. Nothing can be gained by resignation, opting out, abandoning principles merely because many of those in high positions, boasting of the same principles, betray them by hypocrisy.

Our loyalty is to the principles, not to some of the weak, sick, ignorant or arrogant betrayers. That, surely, must be the reaction of intelligent people of conscience: logic must triumph over disgust and disillusionment by our determination to change society for the better. That is the only way to fight the stagnation of a society, through faith, hope and charity. And, when necessary, through physical force: Christ whipped the money-changers from the Temple.

If Ó Catháin had said that the restoration had failed, and had tried to prove it, he would have been found out by the facts. For, despite all the betrayals of people in high places, despite all the sabotage by politicians, seoinín elements and the civil service itself, despite all the stupidities, more people know, speak and write Irish today in the towns and cities of the 26 Counties than for centuries. The official census returns show a steady increasing percentage of fluent Irish speakers.

Had the 26 Counties been independent economically, and had it been organised in the interests of the mass of the people instead of in those of a rich minority, development would have been spread evenly over the entire state; emigration, especially from the west, would have been stopped many decades ago, and the Gaeltacht regions would be far stronger than they are today. No. The restoration has not failed. Rather has the state and gommeism in general failed the restoration.

For a time, perhaps as late as 1954, up to which time some pretence was being made of economic independence, it was fashionable for those in power to be seen to stand by the language restoration. Since that time the ruling parties gradually have abandoned every principle connected with the reconquest of Ireland, including the cultural reconquest.

It was only to be expected that the likes of the various Fitzgeralds, O'Briens, Beltons, McCarthys and Ó Catháins would come our more and more openly against the only sane alternative to their policies of national surrender and reintegration with the British ethos; and the Irish language is the very essence of nationality, of independence, of defiance to alien dictates, of revolt and the freedom struggle.

The logic of their betrayal must lead them even farther, to question the commonsense of a separate parliament in Dublin when, having abandoned nationality, the sanest, most economic course, would be to leave the complete administration of these islands to the Westminster parliament. After all, they have gone a considerable distance in surrendering to Brussels. And for how much longer, with all its tensions and contradictions, can the Common Market last, or, at least, offer any incentive whatsoever to the people of this country, north or south?

Already, Charles McCarthy and Jack Lynch are talking along these lines. Cruise O'Brien is stepping out on that journey with his proposals for radio and television services. Business and industry are controlled almost entirely from abroad.

How dangerous for the future of our people all that madness can be seen in our petrol and oil problems: Leinster House has been told officially by ministers that we are completely at the mercy of foreign exploiters who, as long as the present system lasts, can bleed us white and get away with it.

Ó Catháin probably knows all this but is a man broken in spirit, like so many of his class. But the road to sanity, to national self-respect and dignity, to hope and progress, must begin with the determination to reach out and take control of our own affairs. The very marrow of that determination lies in the conviction that the Irish language is vital to our being. There can be no freedom in Ireland until we are free in our minds and our mouths.

Winchester Hostages

158 Days of Torture

Historic Anniversaries in March

- 1 Raddington and Charing Cross stations, London, bombed by Irish Republicans, 1884.
- 2 Agitation in Dail to have boycott of Belfast goods re-imposed in retaliation for the murder of Catholics there, 1922.
- 3 Six-County Flogging Bill for political prisoners introduced, 1922.
- 4 Robert Emmet ("the Darling of Erin") born, 1778. Curfew in Dublin by the British, 1921.
- 5 IRA attack and demolish many RIC barracks, 1920.
- 6 Councillors Clancy, O'Callaghan and O'Donoghue of Limerick murdered in their homes by Black and Tans, 1921.
- 7 British order disclosure of bank records, etc., in Ireland, 1920.
- 8 Gavin Duffy buried in Glasnevin, 1901.
- 9 British General Gough publicly protests against Black and Tan atrocities in Ireland, 1920.
- 10 James Fintan Lalor born, 1807.
- 11 Many homes in Cork City wrecked by British Army, 1920.
- 12 Oliver Bond and other Republican leaders arrested, 1798.
- 13 Band parades prohibited in Ireland by British, 1918.
- 14 Irish Republicans Flood, Moran, Whelan, Byrne, Doyle and Ryan hanged in Mountjoy by the British, 1921.
- 15 IRA execute D.I. Potter, RIC, 1921.
- 16 Defence of Realm Act, No. 2, passed for Ireland, 1915.
- 17 Patrick Pearse reviews IRA Volunteers in College Green, Dublin, after Mass Parade, 1916.
- 18 The Battle of Ross, 1642.
- 19 Tomas Mac Curtin, Lord Mayor of Cork, murdered by Crown Forces, 1920.
- 20 IRA successfully raid Collinstown Aerodrome for arms, 1919.
- 21 British Army mutiny on Curragh, 1914.
- 22 Kerry No. 2 Brigade IRA ambush British column at Headford Junction, 1921.
- 23 British troops wreck Dublin shops, 1920.
- 24 Senior British intelligence officer B. F. Molloy executed by IRA, 1920.
- 25 Arrival of Black and Tans in Ireland, 1920.
- 26 IRA carry out ambushes all over Munster, 1920.
- 27 IRA Convention held in Mansion House, Dublin, 1922, in spite of British ban.
- 28 Sir Neville McGready appointed G.O.C., British Army of Occupation, Ireland, 1920.
- 29 IRA destroy many RIC stations in West, 1921.
- 30 Crown Forces dismissed for looting by General Crozier, re-instated and posted to Ireland, 1921.
- 31 Terence McSwiney elected Lord Mayor of Cork, 1920.

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The Green Field

Round a brown whin bush four fairies sat:
Bill and George and Sean and Pat.
They fought and quarrelled with tempers frayed,
And blow for blow each other paid.
Each one claimed a rich green field,
And threats were hurled, but none would yield:
The fight was old, but hate remained,
Their fathers fought there just the same.
"The field is mine!" Sean did cry,
"It always was and for it I'll die!"
"Not so!" yelled his brother Pat,
"You've lost your claim, you murderin' rat!
You've fought too long and spilt much blood,
While I stayed home bein' kind and good."
"The field is mine!" Bill did weep,
"I've ploughed and sown and it I'll keep!
So get off my land, you bloody scourge!
O I'll have you bashed by cousin George!
Sean hit Bill and Bill hit Sean,
And both hit Pat with a branch of thorn.
"Now, gentlemen, please," George began,
"Let's not fight over a patch of land.
We can all be happy if you all agree.
So settle down now and listen to me.
I'm the biggest here and the wisest, too,
So you'd better listen or I'll beat you blue.
The land you've fought for all this time
Is not your land but really mine.
But I'm kind at heart, and generous too,
So I'll rent my land to each of you.
He swept the group with a monocled eye
To see the effects of his suggestion sly.
"Well," said Bill, making no delay,
"Sounds fair enough, I think I'll pay."
Pat looked down with eyes of mist
And stole a glance at George's fist.
Fearful of this fairy bold,
He handed George a piece of gold.
Sean jumped up, his eyes on fire:
The field is mine, you thievin' liar!
You tried so hard to take it away,
But the time has come for you to pay."
He lashed a blow at George's head,
He lay quite still . . . almost dead.
Bill hit Sean and Sean hit Pat,
George got up and knocked Sean flat.
The fight went on day and night,
Each one claimed he was right.
Round a brown whin bush four fairies sat,
Bill and George and Sean and Pat.
Nursing wounds deep, red, and sore,
And every night you can hear them roar,
The field is mine! It's mine I swear!
And maybe it is . . . do you really care?

P. G. Donohoe

Police chief suspended

SCOTLAND Yard self-investigation into allegations of London police corruption took a dramatic turn last week with the suspension from duty of Chief Inspector George Fenwick the head of the Yard's No. 9 Regional Crime Squad which covers London's seedy Soho district.

A crackdown on Soho police corruption was predicted by SUNDAY WORLD as early as February 3 when we exposed the exploitation of Irish girls by Soho strip-joint owners.

● A confidential circular sent to all Chief Constables in England and Wales warns them to expect a big push by Provo bombing teams, using a new type of incendiary bomb.

The circular, marked "Most Secret" was sent out early last week by the Police Department of the Home Office. It claims that "infor-

mation received from Intelligence sources indicates that the IRA plans a major outrage on one or more town centres in England in the near future."

And it goes on to detail a list of precautions, which include "surveillance visits" to Irish homes to disrupt the bombers' supply organisation.

Meanwhile at Westminster, as MPs left for the Easter recess, it was strongly rumoured that a detachment of SAS troops due to leave Hereford for Ireland this weekend have been posted instead to the Duke of York Barracks in Chelsea.

This unit could be used to supplement the Metropolitan Police in rooftop surveillance in London over the holiday weekend. Police cadets who were inspected by the Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins, last week are also expected to be used in these patrols.

Legal 'Impartiality'

During these past weeks we have seen the "impartiality" of the British judiciary, the legal system which has always been praised for its fairness.

Firstly, we saw this unbiased system declare that one Corporal Francis Foxford, 22 year old member of the Royal Hampshire Regiment, "unlawfully killed a 12 year old boy in Newry". Now according to their legal values, "unlawful killing" or murder carries a penalty of life imprisonment, but in this case, the corporal was given a 3 years sentence after conviction by the system. Not only that, but he was allowed to serve his sentence in England and not, as in the rule, in a prison near to where the crime and subsequent trial took place. The rules of the British judiciary have been further bent by allowing this same corporal bail, pending his appeal against conviction!

Before that same case in which 7 members of the UDA were on trial accused of the sadistic and sectarian murder of 21 year old James McCartan from Hollywood. The evidence against them was an almost text-book example of how the British legal system is supposed to work, whereby a court is presented with a co-operative witness at the scene of the crime, the finger-printed gun which had been used in the murder and two more witnesses to state that they saw 4 of the accused drage the victim from a hotel.

But in this case the court was unable to convict the 7, and as a result they are still at large, free to go on with their work for the British government.

The witness turned Queen's evidence in this case was Ginger Baker, a self-confessed sectarian murderer who had already been tried, convicted and sentenced for his activities. He was seen being allowed to serve his time in an English jail. Yet more bending of the rules of the "impartial" law to suit a particular section of the people, in this case the section which is pro-British.

When the Winchester Hostages were tried for the offence of damaging sacred British property (in which no lives were lost either by intention or accident) they were convicted and given unprecedented life and 20 years sentences and were refused permission to serve their time in jails in their own country.

In comparing these cases, certain things come out clearly. Firstly, there's no such thing as 'impartial British justice. Secondly, the British legal system is primarily concerned with the safeguarding of private property rather than human life (3 years for murder, life and 20 years for damage to property). Thirdly, the British legal system is merely a tool of the state, set up to safeguard and protect the state from any opposition. (Pro-British Baker gets transferred to an English jail, yet the Winchester Hostages are refused their same demands).

Who said the state is an instrument of coercion to safeguard the interests of the ruling class, the capitalists?

The state in Britain includes the army, the legal system and the administrative system, all of which can be seen to be abused in the interests of the rulers but never in the interests of the working class

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