

CONCERNED

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FERMANAGH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE COMMITTEE

PAY
NO
RENT
PAY
NO
RATES

No. 92

Saturday, 23rd June, 1973 (De Sathairn, 23 Meitheamh), 1973

The Perimeter of Hell



I SKIRTED an arc of the perimeter of hell. I did not set out to do so; I set out for a long walk. It transpired that walk is one I shall never forget. The memory of it evokes nightmarish sensations within me. I passed by, and was for more than half an hour in the dreadful shadow of Long Kesh concentration camp. Except on film, I have never seen any of the concentration camps of Nazi days. Even on film they filled one with disgust. But here I saw and was in the very shadow of what was the perfect replica of what must have sickened millions even when only on film.

In my walk I passed through Culavey without any foreboding of the horror ahead. I had caught glimpses of Long Kesh from the M1 motorway on many occasions. Now I was to pass under its baleful shadow. Had I known what lay ahead I would most certainly not have taken the route I did take. I had not gone very far until I realised that I was in the presence of something evil. Although it was not cold I suddenly experienced the sensation of being enveloped in a cold blanket of that kind of fear and dread which one finds difficult to describe in words. The cause of my strange sensation, which was to turn my walk into a nightmare, soon became all too clear to me. On my left lay Long Kesh.

There, now just beside me, was hell. I continued onwards, even when every natural instinct prompted me to turn back and retrace my steps in haste. Now I am glad that I did not react to my natural inclination, because now I can say something, speak of the unspeakable, and remind myself, and I hope others, that they and I must never forget Long Kesh.

Hate, disgust and pity clamoured for expression. Mentally I expressed all three. That such a horrible place should exist in this year of Our Lord would seem beyond belief if it were not there beside me, socked, corrugated and barbed. I hated it and the mentality behind a system which could tolerate its being there. I was disgusted by the silence of millions of Irish men and women; a silence equalled only by the tomb-silence of that place of horror.

Pity? My heart spoke to the hundreds of human beings confined in the filthy cages. I could have shouted to them, even though I could not see them. Evil-looking "keepers" armed to the teeth were everywhere, purposefully concealed by branches. Human beings were fenced-in like wild animals only a few yards from me. I heard the place called a prison. How could anyone, except for the sub-normal, call such a place a prison? I have insulted

the sub-normal. I should say sub-human. I have passed and visited many prisons. Long Kesh is not a prison, a detention centre. It is the nearest thing to hell which even the licence of a Dante could conceive.

My mixture of rage and pity made me forget my own existence. Then I came to a level-crossing. Flashing danger-lights brought me back from a nightmare which was not a nightmare. The Belfast-Dublin Enterprise flashed by. Someone, somewhere pressed a button and the barriers raised themselves and I crossed over. I felt I had crossed from hell to heaven. Strangely, I got sick.

The Maze Prison is it called by those who are guilt-ridden. I will always remember it as the British-made hell in Ireland. And I did but skirt its perimeter—an arc of its perimeter. I know that I shall continue to walk that way again and again in my nightmares. Only the preservation of Long Kesh as a monument to British brutality in Ireland and to the heroism of the men and boys who have suffered there, after this war is over, may end my dreams of hate and pity.

I would not suggest that over-sensitive people should take the route which I took for a walk. I do suggest, however, that they cry out against this terrible place of degradation and permit their sensitivity to dictate how best each and every one of them can empty this hell of the human beings held there. They cry daily to you and to me asking for nothing more than that we make our voices heard at home and throughout the civilised world. This is more than a humanitarian duty; it is a Christian duty. It is the duty of everyone who respects the image and likeness of God in man.

Since I wrote the foregoing a young man has made the ultimate cry for help. If Patrick Joseph Crawford's desperate measure fails to highlight the horrible state of affairs in Long Kesh concentration camp, then what in God's name can?

Patrick Joseph Crawford was found hanging. His sufferings are over. What a pity Ireland did not think of a better way of bringing a young man's agony to an end. Mealy-mouthed, timid utterances and squeaks of qualified disapproval from church leaders and politicians are seen for what they are worth in the stark light of this young man's despair.

May God give them the grace to examine their conscience.

God save Ireland!

A JAIL BIRD

What the dickens brought you to jail,
You poor little timid, grey thing?
Did you tread on some constitutional tail,
Or treat some Act as a gay thing?
Did you perch where Tricolour flags were hung,
Or heckle an SDLP man speaking?
Did you sing some song that shouldn't be sung,
Or attend some illegal meeting?

Did you get mixed up in a power-sharing plot
Or refuse to recognise some court in the glorious
realm?

Did you ride in a hijacked car with an IRA man at
the helm,
Did you dream of the Claudia guns, of bombs or the
head of a Para?

Did you scoff at Fitt or Hume, or chirp collaborator
at Currie?

Or did you drop something on Willie Whitelaw's
head and then fly off in a hurry?

Whatever your "crime", get far from here
As fast as your wings can take you;
And keep on singing your note of cheer
As long as the Lord shall spake you.
Some suffering one shall make your song
His memory's precious plaything—
God leave you freedom and keep you strong,
You poor little timid, grey thing.

NON-SECTARIAN

At least once every day the SDLP asserts that it is
non-sectarian. To prove that point candidates and
admirers are making good non-sectarian speeches
outside chapel gates all over Fermanagh.

The SDLP also loudly claim to have a ten per
cent Protestant membership. If that is so then none
of these must live in Fermanagh. If some of this
submerged one-tenth do live in Fermanagh, then
this paper wishes to plead that they should not be
neglected. We ask candidates and admirers not to
forget these people. Why not make speeches outside
the odd Protestant church?—say one in every ten
as a morale booster to your supporters. But then
that might be sectarian.

We understand that the Catholic Hierarchy after
long and careful consideration has regretfully re-
fused to allow prominent members of the SDLP to
celebrate Mass.

MR. McATEER'S CALL

WE have been asked to release the following state-
ment:

"With reference to Mr. Eddie McAteer's call for
peace talks between the IRA and the British Army,
we wish to state that the Republican conditions for
an end to the conflict have been publicly stated on
numerous occasions and as late as last Sunday in
Bodenstown, Co. Kildare.

"When talks were held last summer, Mr. White-
law undertook to convey the British Cabinet's reply
to the Republican demands by 14th July last. No
reply was ever received. The British Army pre-
empted the situation by breaking the Truce on 9th
July and subsequent British aggression has done
nothing to alter the Republican demands.

"A belated positive response to those demands
would now receive the careful consideration of the
leadership of the Republican Movement.

Signed: P. O'Neill."

ASYLUM

PLANS for a £1½ million improvement to the Long
Kesh asylum have just been announced. Big plans
are envisaged for all medical sections. Shades of
Aushwitz, Buchenwald and other infamous concentra-
tion camps!

OWEN CORRIGAN

GROCER · HARDWARE MERCHANT

KINAWLEY

Telephone Florence 285

Letters to the Editor

NO VOTE FROM ME

Dear Sir,

Thursday, 28th June, 1973, is likely to be an im-
portant date in Irish history.

On that date the people of the North will have a
choice between resurrecting Stormont or rejecting it
completely.

Make no mistake about it, a vote for ANY can-
didate is a vote for bringing back Stormont (a
slightly new version), the continuation of partition
and the condemning of our children to the same
rule that we have been forced to live under, bringing
in its train more suffering and bloodshed.

Remember, a few Catholics willing to take the
oath in return for a few well-paid executive posts,
which will be termed power-sharing, is no guarantee
of justice for the minority.

The existence of Stormont rule has cost almost
900 lives, concentration camps and the greatest
exodus of people from their homes since the 1939-
1945 World War.

To take hand, act or part in re-establishing that
or any other form of partitionist junta is downright
treason and will be remembered as such by future
generations of Irish men and woman. Now is our
chance—REJECT Britain's plans for continued con-
quest of our country; reject big, lying, plausible,
hypocritical Whitelaw and all who would co-operate
with him, be they Faulkner, Fitt, Currie or other
local, unthinking, place-seeking slaves. If ever there
was a time for clear thinking it is now. A vote cast
on Thursday next (I repeat, no matter what the
candidate's name) is a vote of confidence in White-
law and the murdering British Army here.

By not voting we can express our utter rejection
of the old and new Stormont, the British right to
rule in Ireland, internment, torture, Long Kesh and
every evil that springs from English aggression to-
wards Ireland. No vote is an expression of confi-
dence in the Irish people to rule the land that God
gave them. I will not vote on Thursday because I
believe that to do so would be a betrayal of my own
people. I have confidence and hope in the future.
Now is the time to hold fast. The British are hold-
ing Ireland only by the skin of their teeth. No rent,
no rates, no co-operation—NO VOTE!

Sincerely yours,

Maire Bean Uí Ruairc

Carnicknaskea.

DEMOTION FOR THE MAJOR

MAJOR Mervyn Dennison, former Rhodesian
judge, was during the lifetime of the notorious
Fermanagh Co. Council the chief architect of the
discrimination and jobbery practised by that body.
For years he rode high as a sort of "Godfather" in
Fermanagh. But at the Council meeting the other
day he was put in his place. He was forced to stop
acting as some sort of Chairman or boss and adopt
his lowly role of acting clerk.

That will please a lot of people who suffered
directly, or more usually indirectly, at this man's
hands. But I doubt if these people will be pleased at
the efforts of Councillor P. Flanagan, Derry-
gonnelly, to reinstate him as acting Chairman. Yes,
incredibly, Mr. Flanagan actually proposed at the
meeting that Dennison should act as Chairman until
one was elected. Fortunately no other anti-Unionist
supported him in this—even though it was feared
for a time that a few might.

You were probably surprised that when Mr.
Flanagan nominated he did not put any description
or party after his name. Could it be he did not know
what to call himself? Looks like it, don't you think?

CONVICTIONS IN NORTHERN COURTS: TWO LAWS?

Sir,

The acquittal (14 June) of Carrickfergus Coun-
cillor Ernest Burton on a charge of membership of
the UVF, despite his possession of a UVF member-
ship card, highlights the question of illegal organi-
sations in the North.

Both the UVF and IRA are illegal, but there has
been only one conviction for UVF membership:
James McKeown was convicted of membership of
the UVF on 9th May and fined £50. The record for
IRA convictions in recent months is rather dif-
ferent:

6th March—John Magill, convicted of IRA mem-
bership and sentenced to five years.

3rd APRIL—Leo Cassin, convicted of IRA
membership and sentenced to five years.

19th April—Paul Graham, convicted of IRA
membership, sentenced to seven years.

24th May—Mary Kelly, convicted of IRA mem-
bership, sentenced to three years.

6th June—David Wilson, convicted of (1) joining
the IRA, (2) remaining in it, sentenced to four years
on each count.

Meanwhile, the UDA remains a perfectly legal
organisation despite several declarations of war on
the British Army, arms finds in its headquarters,
and the conviction of dozens of its members for
offences ranging from the possession of arms to
sectarian murders.

In face of this, who could deny that the Northern
courts are biased and that there are still two laws
here, one for those who support British rule and
another for those who oppose it?

Yours,

Michael Farrell

Belfast 11.

IRVINESTOWN TRICKERY

Dear Sir,

I live in Cornagrade estate and voted for Jim
Lunney, SDLP., at the Local Government
Elections. Lunney is still my man.

The Irvinestown people had no right to select
SDLP candidates for the Assembly elections. Last
week one of your readers wrote: "Knowing the
Irvinestown people involved, one could expect no-
thing else only trickery."

One of the candidates should have been from this
area—Lunney would have been my choice.

I will not be tricked or conned by the Irvinestown
clique. My vote will not be cast.

Yours faithfully,

"Ernesider"

LONG KESH £1½m

THE last straw was broken for us internees this
week when the Whitelaw regime announced a £1½
million fortress for Long Kesh—a better place to
exercise more cruelty, a training asylum. Fellow
Irishmen and women, show you have not written us
off, condemned us to hell without reprieve. Don't
vote. Show your faith in the men behind the wire.

Internee (Cage 8)

(Name and address supplied)

When in Lisnaskea, call at . . .

FRANK'S BAR

Home of Traditional Song and Music

MAIN STREET

LISNASKEA

AS I SEE IT

ON a recent visit to occupied Ulster it was most heartening to meet old friends and make some new ones—despite all the difficulties with which you are beset at this grave moment in Ireland's history.

I would like to pay particular tribute to the people who are enduring continual harassment by the occupation forces. However, I must add a word of warning to people who are likely to become confused by the mass of lying propaganda poured forth by the mass media controlled by the Whitelaw junta, ably assisted by the quislings of Dublin's Leinster House. You must also be very much on your guard against the political eunuchs who have risen amongst you and presume to speak on your behalf.

I was amazed to hear one or two clerics using the pulpit to sow confusion amongst their congregations and also to read the bleatings of another gentleman—misnamed Erne Sense—who shields behind a cleric's collar and plays the traitor's game. However, despite these black spots, I must congratulate the men and women of the Civil Resistance Movement. You are now writing the final chapter in our country's long struggle for freedom and justice.

The fierce pulsation of resurgent pride that disclaims servitude may have ceased to throb in the political lackeys of the 26 Counties. They may believe that they have bought one half of the people and intimidated the other half. But they have reasoned without thought of the heart of resurgent Ulster. These were the gallant people who first lit the torch of freedom at Cavehill, and what could be more fitting than that it should fall on these same people to complete the task of Henry Joy?

As to the forthcoming charade that is being posed as an Election, this will be nothing more than a talking shop for very low grade political hacks who despise principles and break promises as fast as they

make them. Remember, internment still continues. We have seen the broken promises of the SDLP on the major issue. Can you trust them to keep any future promise? I believe not. They are only interested in the £60 per week salary and £600 per annum tax-free expenses—nice crumbs from the master's table to fool and bamboozle you again—while the innocents in Europe's only concentration camp would be left to languish in agony for years to come and the imminent prospect of freedom with justice would be cast to the four winds. Before you think of voting take a close look at the more than ample precedent in the 26 Counties. Do not be hoodwinked by the leaders of the hierarchy. It's obvious you have some miniature Adrian IVs in your midst. These gentry appear to have a vested interest in upholding the remnants of a dying empire. Unfortunately the interest is much more financial than temporal or spiritual. Remember, this is Britain's last throw; Whitelaw and his band of brigands are at last waking up to the voice of the ordinary English people who now in their thousands and soon in their hundreds of thousands demand that the troops be withdrawn and that Ireland be given to its rightful owners, the people of Ireland. The gathering storm to get the troops out of Ulster is causing concern and panic in government circles in London and consternation in Dublin. When this occurs, partition's office managers of all parties in Dublin will be swept away, and the dream of Eire Nua will give to you and your children something that has been denied them for over 800 years—peace, freedom, justice. So in God's name stand fast; you are on the threshold of freedom.

Jack O Connal

London.

SOUTHERN DIARY

SPECULATION is rife in Leinster House circles that internment in the 26 Counties is not far off. The renovated Arbour Hill prison is named as the site of the new concentration camp. It only houses about 60 in relative comfort, but that won't stop the Government whipping in 100 or so—after all, what the British can do, the West Britons can do better.

It seems one or two members of the Cabinet are not wholly for the idea. Liam Cosgrave is a "for" and so is that arch-Liberal/Socialist Conor Cruise O'Brien. They lead the Cabinet hawks who want to slam the gates on legitimate political protest.

British pressure is not the only reason Cosgrave wants men and women behind the wire. Mention the word "provisional" in any context and Liam is off hot-foot for the toilet roll. Also burning up pathways to the loos are Paddy "Kick up the transome" Donegan and Tom Fitzpatrick.

In the opinion of this foursome the corridors of Leinster House and round about are peopled with shadowy figures all aiming to overthrow or undermine the institutions of the State by force.

Nobody outside the political arena believes this propaganda. Mention it to your man in the street and he'll consider you certifiable. But Liam and the lads, not to mention Jackeen and the boys, have lied to themselves so often they don't know the difference between what is true and what is not.

Naturally the British are in there pitching. Agents are forever passing on "information" that would make your blood run cold. And, equally naturally, the word of a Briton is gospel to the Leinster House boys, drunk or sober.

So internment is once again a current topic. Between hiccups in a Leinster House bar the guardians of Irish liberty will tell you it has to come and soon. An excuse must be found, of course, so expect big scare stories of "alien influences" and such like to liven up your breakfast marmalade.

GERRY: STOP!

AS an ex-internee it is with disgust I see Gerry Fitt trying to make political capital by trading the unfortunate internees on the eve of the re-named Stormont elections. Gerry, please leave the internees alone. There are no SDLP men behind the wire, and to add insult to injury Whitelaw will do nothing for them until after the bogus election—in other words use the internees as vote-catchers. After the election it won't matter. No, Gerry, your party are not men of their word; this has been proven. Don't try to bolster up another regime that took four years of fighting to remove. The message from the internees is: ignore the election. You can do so by not voting.

Ex-internee

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

THE Minister must not fall into the delusion of accusing me of trying to weaken legislation which was designed to bring terrorists to trial.—Gerry Fitt in Westminster, 19/6/1973.

FERMANAGH CITIZENS' ADVICE SOCIETY

WON £5 EACH

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

MRS. KATHLEEN MAGEE,
Killyhommon,
Belcoo

MR. TOM CORRIGAN,
Drumany, Thompsonsbridge,
Enniskillen

PRIORITIES: IRVINESTOWN STYLE

MEMBERS of Irvinestown Chamber of Commerce, who are also leaders of the GAA and the SDLP in that area, are furious that Republican Clubs had the cheek to open an election office in their town. They say it might damage community relations, and how are they to face their Unionist neighbours? They fear that these Republican-types might actually hold a public meeting in the town. They had successfully prevented such things up till now, and it would be embarrassing if people actually started making public speeches.

The same people are, however, pleased that the old St. Molaises Hall which is controlled by the parish and/or the GAA is to be rented at a profitable rate by a prominent Unionist.

You might say that some people in Irvinestown have strange priorities. Or you might agree with them that money counts above all else. We hope you don't.

UDA OUT AGAIN

THE UDA thugs were stopping cars again in the Lisbellaw-Tempo area during the week. The security forces, of course, did nothing about it, as usual. Some people believe that these thugs were perhaps aspiring members of the new UFF looking for a suitable Catholic to kill so that they could join the ranks as fully fledged.

We urge people not to stop for these creatures, but to drive on. When you see a red light at night make certain that you can identify the "force". But be careful of the so-called security forces also. Remember Michael Leonard. He was shot in the back for no reason except that he did not stop.

JAMES CAREY

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

THE border is a crowded area these days. Joining all the freedom fighters allegedly running backwards and forwards in bare feet past the vigilant Irish army and gardai are units of the British forces.

And is there a big outcry about this in Dail circles?—not on your life. Those British soldiers rumbling back and forth armed to the teeth are the guardians of law and order, in the estimation of the politicians.

Irish army and gardai border patrols must give due deference to these gallant lads from the back streets of Bermondsey, Birmingham or Bradford. At the way things are going we can expect to see the Paras training the Irish soldiers in how to belt a little girl "accidentally" with the butt of a rifle or make out a report on how an unarmed boy was stupid enough to run from the custody of ten armed men and had to be shot to stop him getting away.

Residents of the border get short shift from the Minister for Defence (?), Paddy Donegan. If they don't like the situation, he told them recently, they can always move away. What a pity a number of them didn't take Paddy at his word and camp outside his palatial home?—now wouldn't that be a funny happening.

TWO Catholics died in Belfast last weekend, the victims of a murder squad. If you expected to see the headline "Cosgrave and Lynch united in grief", you don't know our gallant Irish traitors. Not so much as a whisper emanated from Leinster House or the fastnesses of Cork.

The forever condemning Cardinal Conway lost his voice as well, so do Philbin and the rest of the crocodile tears crew. One must come to the conclusion that it is not the blood spilled in the Six Counties but who spills it.

One could believe the "condemnations" trotted out by these worthies if it wasn't so selective . . . or could it be that they fear Unionist extremists might have no scruples about adding one of them to the statistics?

RECENT ELECTIONS ANALYSED

by AIDAN CORRIGAN

An analysis of the recent local government elections and the initial meetings of the new district councils leads to a number of inescapable conclusions:

1. The Loyalist community sought and succeeded in using the PR system with so much aptitude, precision and skill that the new voting method, designed by Britain to break the Unionist monolith, failed miserably in this objective. Unionists realise, and this point has been stressed publicly on TV by their spokesmen, that they constitute 65% of the population and believe, therefore, that this entitles them to uninterrupted (Unionist brand) rule. Faulkner as recently as ten days ago expressed amazement that anyone should object to going back to square 1, i.e. old Stormont rule.

NO POWER SHARING

2. The initial meetings of the new district councils clearly indicated that where Loyalists are in a majority—and that is in 80% of the 26 District Councils—that they are intent on grabbing all the jobs and appointments by blockvoting and have failed so far to drop even a crumb, like a representative to a library or medical board, to the anti-Unionist community. The attitude of Unionists at local government level will no doubt be repeated at Assembly level and is clear from the statements of Unionists on the Liam Nolan Show (18/6/73), among them the so-called moderate Ann Dickson, MP, who clearly would not share power with anyone working for a united Ireland.

HALF OF ANTI-UNIONISTS DISENFRANCHISED

3. A substantial section of the anti-Unionist population were effectively disenfranchised by Whitelaw's ban on Sinn Féin. This resulted, at a time when politics are on everyone's lips morning, noon and night, in as high as 60% of anti-Unionists not voting in areas like South Down, South Armagh, Mid and West Tyrone. Only three of the eight thousand anti-Unionist voters exercised the franchise in one area of North Belfast, while up to half of anti-Unionists of Andersonstown and areas of Derry abstained. This resulted in ridiculous results, like Crossmaglen being represented by a Unionist, Carrickmore and the Bogside by Alliance councillors. In effect Whitelaw has made a farce of the elections by having men returned who certainly have no mandate from the electorate. Does anyone really believe that a Unionist accurately reflects the aspirations of the people of Crossmaglen or that a Unionist chairman reflects the thinking of the people of Strabane?

UNDEMOCRATIC COUNCILS

The nett result of all this is that we have manifestly undemocratic, unrepresentative District Councils; we have a large section of the anti-Unionist population not represented at all and with no one in the Council chambers with whom they can identify; we are left with Unionists controlling and snatching all the jobs and appointments.

The lesson is there for all to see, namely that the purpose of partition is still valid; that the artificial boundary still guarantees a permanent Unionist majority dedicated to Unionist rule. The presence of British troops ensures this Loyalist hegemony.

If the British Government is seriously interested in finding a solution to our troubles, then she must make a declaration of withdrawal as soon as possible. As long as she resists this inevitable decision, so long will she perpetuate Unionist supremacy and delay the thaw of half a century's frozen politics.

If the Southern Government is interested in helping, rather than harassing our Northern refugees to the extent of officially violating its own laws (failure to charge British undercover agents in Clones for violating the Firearms Act and probably more as well as over 100 more cases), then it should by now have come up with a White Paper on the matter.

To date both the Government and Opposition, from O'Malley to Cooney, from Colley to Donegan, have been pursuing and advocating the same policies vis a vis the North which destroyed Faulkner and Maudling and will in the next year or so send Whitelaw out of Ireland ignominiously.

O'MALLEY HOWLS ON APRIL FOOLS' DAY

Cooney's recent misrepresentation of the Provos' Eire Nua document on RTE and O'Malley's howling on April Fools' Day about the Claudia is no

substitute for hard thinking and a realistic assessment of the Northern situation.

The death of British rule in Ireland is imminent; the campaign which brought this about inevitably and of necessity had to have the backing of the majority of anti-Unionists. The theory held by the Dublin politicians that "only a handful of extremists" are campaigning to have Britain out has been blown sky high too often; it is time it was abandoned by all, especially by people in high places, who should instead be planning and plotting the building of the New Ireland.

DISC JOCKEY P.C. IN LISNASKEA

YOUR friendly P.C. turned disc jockey for a while last weekend in Lisnaskea. He chose an early hour on Sunday morning to treat the locals to such hits as 'The Sash and Dolly's Brae'. A native of the town who likes a bit of Grand Opera at tea time told us that chamber music—we think that's what he called it—is not his cup of tea in the wee small hours.

The Brits' latest stunt is to pick up young children and take them for a drive in the big Saracens. We think that parents should be warned about this, as many of the Brits are deviates who have served prison sentences for offences against kids.

On Thursday next three members of the SDLP stoop to an all-time low, even for that party, when they offer themselves to the Fermanagh and South Tyrone electorate. They neatly avoid the most important issue facing the Irish people, that of the plight of 420 men detained without trial in Long Kesh. They are selling the unfortunate men behind the wire down the river in order to further their own personal nests and, worse still, if anything could be more evil, they are prepared to sit at a table with the devil incarnate Faulkner, the author of torture and internment.

There is a handbill going round at the moment which reads: If you approve of Internment, then vote. I think we should study this handbill carefully. Its message is very clear. Are we also going to let down the men in Long Kesh or the girls in Armagh whose only crime is that they love Ireland?

I know the people of Fermanagh and South Tyrone and I don't think they will.

CLAUDIA CLAIM REFUTED

WE have been asked to release the following statement:

"The Irish Republican Army wishes to state that no member of the organisation gave any interview on the Claudia operation to Mr. Sean Boyne as alleged in last Sunday's issue of the 'Sunday World'.

"We wish to repudiate a claim by Mr. Donegan that the IRA had issued a statement on the day of the arrest of the Claudia. A bogus statement issued at the time was denied by the IRA and it is obvious from comments made by Mr. Donegan that his so-called 'Intelligence' was more than likely the source of the statement. If Mr. Donegan was truthful with the public, he would openly admit that that so-called 'Intelligence' was none other than the British Secret Service.

"It is not the practice of the IRA to reveal details of any major operation, for obvious reasons. The time will come when the positive contribution of the entire Claudia operation will be made known and it will be made known and it will be seen then how idiotic in the extreme were the words and actions of Mr. Donegan. Perhaps he could learn a little from the Icelandic Government, who are showing the world how British aggression can be met and defeated. The time is long overdue for Irish politicians to cease being dupes of the British Government.

Signed: P. O'Neill."

VATICAN STATEMENT WELCOMED

WE have been asked to release the following statement.

"The Irish Republican Army welcomes the statement from the Vatican that Sunday's world day of prayer would help 'in correcting the often simplistic and exaggerated impression given by many newspapers and television reports that the conflict in Northern Ireland is mainly a religious one'. Such an impression has been carefully fostered by all British and most Irish news media with the resulting damage to the whole Christian foundation in Ireland. Until the struggle is clearly recognised as one of conflict between this country's right to self-determination and England's colonial policy to hold us in subjection, the Christian Churches will have little influence on the course of events.

"We have repeatedly stated that the conflict can be ended by Britain acceding to three legitimate demands: an acknowledgement of the right of the Irish people to self-determination; a commitment to withdraw troops by a specific date; and a general amnesty for all political prisoners. The British Government has given no indication it is willing to meet these demands despite the fact that there is a growing demand in Britain for a withdrawal of the troops. A number of senior British politicians are of the viewpoint that the troops should be withdrawn, but they are reluctant to say so publicly. In a letter to a Dundalk lady last March, Mr. Merlyn Rees stated:

'I was very angry with Mr. Craig, who purports to be a Loyalist, but was not prepared to say that he would not support those who fired on British troops. Frankly, we have not the faintest desire to stay in Ireland and the quicker we are out the better.'

"The weekend attacks on British troops by Loyalist forces illustrates the futility of British Government policy. Even the mild form of repression in Loyalist areas has evoked armed resistance and the British public can expect a mounting toll of casualties amongst their forces. It matters little to the British Government how many soldiers die in the North, but it does matter to the British people. Those politicians who genuinely care for the people have a duty to pressurise the Heath Government towards a policy of disengaging from Ireland. Once such a policy is adopted, the goals of justice, liberty and concord will no longer be pious dreams but real characteristics of a new life in a New Ireland.

Signed: P. O'Neill."

DON'T VOTE

SINCE my letter to ConcERNEd my friends have commented: "Ah, it's McManus's paper." But no other paper published my letter. Having served my constituents for many years as a Co.C., I must now be honest with myself and serve in any way I can my brother and sister Irish behind the wire. To all my friends, to all who voted for me for years to fight corruption, I now appeal to you to reject this election—throw your vote in the fire. Remember, the time has come to stand up and be counted—which side of the fence will you be on. You don't need me to tell you—DON'T VOTE!