

CONCERNED

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FERMANAGH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE COMMITTEE

"IRELAND UNFREE SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE"

PAY
NO
RENT
PAY
NO
RATES

No. 180

Saturday, 26th April (De Sathairn, 26 Aibreán) 1975

Boycott This Farcical Convention

ONCE AGAIN, England is asking the Irish people of the Six Counties to vote in an election which, if it should succeed, would mean the establishment of the third Stormont and the continuation of partition, with all its evils, injustice, discrimination, internment and sectarianism.

This election is part of the concession package made to the Loyalists after their murderous "strike" of last year. The callous indifference of the British to the feelings of the Nationalist community is evident in many ways, but most of all in the continuation of internment for Catholics only.

Already the mouthpieces of the self-seeking politicians and British interests in Ireland are telling the Catholic people: "It is your duty to vote." This is downright dishonest. These same people who have continuously refused to even pray for internees and those prisoners of conscience held in places like Long Kesh, who have refused to announce even a collection in their support, are now revealing the political side of their coat.

YOU HAVE NO DUTY TO VOTE. You have a duty, however, to inform your conscience on the facts of the situation and in that light decide whether to vote or not to vote.

CONSIDER THEN THE FACTS:

1. Britain asks you to vote in a Convention of her making. She holds the power to veto any decision arrived at by those elected if it does not satisfy her. Remember, England has no moral right in Ireland.
2. Only 3 per cent of those who have said they will vote feel the Convention will work. All it can guarantee is a nice salary to those elected.
3. England maintains concentration camps with about 2,500 of your fellow countrymen in them and in her prisons.
4. England seems to encourage the sectarian murder of Catholics.
5. England's chief murderer in Derry on Bloody Sunday was decorated by

England's Queen.

6. A British hack judge sets free the English soldier who murdered young McElhone.

7. Already another hack judge has been selected to act as Chairman in this partitionist assembly.

8. Priests such as Fathers Faul, Murray, Wilson and others who have done so much in the cause of justice and right, who have continuously defended the weak against the strong, who have spared no effort in the fight against internment, unjust courts and RUC/UDR/BA brutality have asked you **NOT TO VOTE**. Do you trust these priests? Surely such as they would not advise a wrong course.

9. **THE MEN BEHIND THE WIRE** of Long Kesh, Magilligan and Portlaoise have asked you **NOT TO VOTE. ARE THEY WORTH LISTENING TO? CAN YOU IGNORE THEIR CALL?**

10. The leadership of the Republican Movement asks for a boycott. For over five years they have fought the English invader as the men of 1798, 1803, 1848, 1867, 1916 and 1956 did. They fight for the full freedom of Ireland, for our country's right to full freedom. They fight for every man, woman and child of this land. They have suffered imprisonment and the loss of over 100 of their volunteers. Can you ignore their call?

The choice is yours. A vote in this election is a vote for the acceptance and continuation of British rule. Remember, British rule has brought death, disaster and suffering to this land. By boycotting this election you are expressing your opposition to England's plans for ruling your people, you are protesting against internment and all the other host of evils which partition has brought with it.

Think of the future. We do not want a Vietnam in Ireland, but for as long as England insists on remaining here and enforcing her will, so long will the fight go on against her.

IN IRELAND'S INTEREST—

IN YOUR OWN AND YOUR FAMILY'S INTEREST—

IN SUPPORT OF ALL WHO HAVE CAMPAIGNED AGAINST INJUSTICE AND REPRESSION—

BOYCOTT THE CONVENTION

THEY DIED IN LONG KESH

PATRICK TEER

PATRICK CRAWFORD

FRANKIE DODDS

JAMES MOYNE

HUGH CONEY

TEDDY CAMPBELL

How many more?

A VOTE IN THE CONVENTION

IS A VOTE FOR

DETENTION

Issued by the Sentenced Republican Prisoners, Long Kesh

News From Long Kesh

NEVER MIND THE QUALITY: FEEL THE WIDTH

WE were playing a game of football here the other night. Nothing very spectacular you understand, just a kick-about in the cage yard. But due to "over-enthusiasm" — notwithstanding the late tackles—someone thought it would be a good idea if we got ourselves a referee, and what with all the "floodlights" around a referee would not be out of place. It has never been easy to come across a person willing to "put his head on the chopping block" outside and I can assure you that Long Kesh is no exception. But finally after much "persuasion and coaxing" a timid looking man offered his services. "Where is the whistle?" the young man asked. "What with the noise of the helicopters flying overhead you'd never hear me shouting at you should the need arise." "No problem," one of the longer-serving residents remarked. "I was reading in the paper the other day about the new sports equipment that has been bought for here. I'll go over to the gate and ask one of them "between 21 and 55 years old, 5'5" tall, or over, possessing good eyesight, with or without glasses prison officers" to get us a whistle from the stores."

Our man duly proceeded with the "request" and we sat about waiting for "the £3,000 a year, fill in the coupon prison officer" to come back with the whistle. (We have to be more than careful these days, of course, when we are "sitting around doing nothing". You never know when Lord Gardiner might pay us a return visit and we wouldn't want our learned friend to go away with the wrong impression about us.) Anyway, 20 minutes later "the man in the blue suit, with the secure, interesting, well paid job in an essential community service" returned — empty-handed. Standing on the other side of the wire he offered this as his excuse: "I went down to the stores only to find them locked." (Note: A wise precaution in these times, what with a couple of hundred soldiers running around in here.) He continued: "So I travelled on until I met the 'officer' in charge of the stores and I'm afraid he hadn't got any whistles. In any event," he added in his Yorkshire accent, "the man in charge of the stores says that he has to get a chit from the Governor authorising the release of any item under his control. And I'm afraid the Governor won't be available until tomorrow morning." And I'm afraid that was that. We finished our game of football, but it wasn't really the same without the whistle.

I'm certain many readers will sit back and laugh at the above story. Perhaps they may even throw their heads up and exclaim that no place could be as bad as all that. But I assure you that all of it is true. It is so typical of the "goings-on" that are part and parcel of life in Long Kesh. Not a day passes but we experience the red tape of British "officialdom". Permit me to elaborate.

If you want a pair of glasses in Long Kesh it is not just a simple matter of being examined by an optician and going on from there. That would be much too simple and straightforward. No. First of all you pay a visit to the camp doctor. And even if you should have the best eyesight in the world he advises you—without even a preliminary examination—to obtain a "board paper" from the Governor and make a request to have your eyes tested. The one line you write—"I want to have my sight tested"—travels all the way up to Stormont Castle. If you are one of the more fortunate ones you will obtain a favourable reply within a month or so, and that is only if you are fortunate. Now, there is no "resident" optician in Long Kesh. He graces us with his presence usually on Saturday mornings, and by the time he reaches you it's

more on the lines of a guide dog than a pair of glasses you need. And finally after all that you have to wait another few months before the glasses are made.

There is so much more one could say—so many more instances of incompetence, maladministration, petty-mindedness could be listed. Perhaps at a later date I will return to the subject, but I think the above will suffice for now, especially if you are reading this before dinner. Anyone who has ever paid a visit to Long Kesh—and I mean just visiting somebody here—will doubtlessly be able to cite some instance of harassment or stupidity.

Should you still choose to doubt my word, come up here for yourself and see at first hand. It is dead easy to get in—all you have to do is sing a "rebel song" in some pub or "fill in the coupon in your daily newspaper . . ." THERE IS NO INTELLIGENCE TEST if you want to be a "screw".

Long Kesh.
4th April, 1975.

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REFUSE TO VOTE

To the people of Fermanagh:

WE were roused from our sleep at 7.30 this morning. Snow was falling as 200 prison officers hustled the 80 of us from our huts and herded us into another vacant hut. There are no windows in the vacant hut; the sky can be seen through the spacing in the roof; there are three heaters, but none of these work. This was Long Kesh, April 1975, and one of our weekly raids was in progress.

It is impossible to describe the pressures, the feeling of isolation you experience in Long Kesh. Only those who have been there will ever fully understand. Harold Wilson, the English Prime Minister, said after a visit here a couple of years ago: "It is a very bleak place." Nobody here would disagree.

The ordinary people of this island, Republican and Loyalist, want to see Long Kesh closed. The people of Fermanagh are no exception. But despite your protests, Long Kesh IS open and as long as there are people who are willing to participate in British institutions, as long as there are people who are willing to "govern" these six counties, Long Kesh WILL NEVER close. No matter what these people say, no matter how often they may speak out against internment, their participation in British based assemblies is "acknowledgment" in itself of the "right" of the British Government to hold men, women and children in prison camps.

Next week you will be asked to return representatives to the Convention of "Northern Ireland". We do not feel it necessary to examine and analyse individually each of these political parties and groupings seeking your approval. Their failure in the past to implement promises they made then speaks for itself.

All we ask of you is this:

Refuse to vote in the forthcoming Convention; ignore this last ditch attempt by the British to give their presence here legality or credibility. Should you choose to ignore our call and vote, NO MATTER WHO YOUR VOTE MAY BE FOR, then you are stating that you approve of the British Government controlling your lives and your future. You are stating that you accept British Government policies in this country. You are stating that you condone internment.

Think before you vote—perhaps your children might someday be here. What would you tell them?

Is sinne,

Michael McManus

John Cannon
Jimmy Lynch
Dessie Leonard
James Molloy
Brendan McCaffrey
(Fermanagh Republican Prisoners,
Long Kesh)
Malachy Riley
Mickey O'Reilly
Artie McCann
Aloysius Monaghan
Martin Monaghan
(Fermanagh Republican Prisoners,
Magilligan)

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BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

SO say we all. However, if you remember the charade involving the five Derry "peace" women as they became generally known during the 1972 Peacemakers' Season you must excuse me for being wary of "peace movements" in general and downright cynical of some in particular. There are "peacemakers" and peacemakers, there is "peace" and there is peace, if you know what I mean. Take the "peace" those Derry ladies had in mind, for instance, or rather that which the back-room boys had in mind. It eventually materialised that the "peace movement" allegedly sponsored by that quintette was in fact masterminded and manipulated by more subtle-minded gentry with, as it turned out, a vested interest in a total victory by one side—on this occasion the British Army—and behind the curtains carefully pulling the strings were the usual rabble, a few political Whitehall representatives and, inevitably, some moguls of the SDLP and their fellow travellers, prominent churchmen and their minions. That it was more of a gimmick than motivated by a genuine desire for a just and lasting peace was apparent from the beginning, if only by observing the attitude of the "peace" organisers and their equally duped followers who persisted in applying pressure to one side only to stop the fighting—the inference being, of course, that if the IRA laid down their arms, or rather surrendered, then a just peace would settle over the community. While shouting "peace", capitulation was what was in mind.

With the notable exception of the Protestant churchmen whose initiative brought about the Feakle Meeting, very few of the other "peace missions" have impressed me and some are downright misleading, if you look closely enough. Take, for instance, the Dublin based group which marched through O'Connell Street a few weeks ago to protest about those "particular bombs" (or so we were told). Fair enough! Then it was announced that the protest was to cover all violence and my suspicions were aroused if for no other reason than that I have grave reservations about the Dublin concept of violence and who is directly responsible. The whole thing started to smell when the unfortunate relatives of those victims of the Dublin and Monaghan atrocities were led into an anti-Republican fiasco and protests were made outside Kevin Street Sinn Féin offices. Now any "nitwit" knows whose connivance and actions caused the Dublin and Monaghan destruction and by no stretch of the imagination could it be blamed on Republicans. Had the march ended with a protest outside the British Embassy then it might have retained some semblance of credibility. Then who should appear in the march but Garret Fitzgerald, Cruise O'Brien, Jackboot Cooney with some of their friends and the whole

(Contd. on page 3, col. 1)

Lady Constituent Seeks N. Ireland Answers

THE following points were raised with Mr. Stanley Orme, Minister for State at the N.I. Office, by a lady constituent of Mr. Frank Judd, MP:

- (1) Answer to a newspaper article in Portadown Times in which the UWC thanked the RUC for their assistance and co-operation during the UWC Strike.
- (2) I forwarded a newspaper photograph (Portadown Times, 24/4/74) of the funeral of UVF man R. J. Neil in which the mourners were dressed in black with dark glasses and masks and the army watched while shots were fired over the grave. Since the men at Michael Gaughan's funeral in London were charged, I asked if the army had taken any action at Neil's funeral.
- (3) Leaflet issued about intimidation by the ALJ.
- (4) Refers to the taking of illegal photographs as mentioned in the preface to Father Faul's book "Corruption of Law" and also the census taking referred to on page 12 of same book.
- (5) I questioned the treatment of prisoners in Crumlin Road Jail on the day after the Long Kesh fire and sent him the article by relatives which was published in Irish News (18/10/74) and put it to him that if the allegations by relatives were untrue, why were independent doctors refused permission to visit? Also questioned treatment of internees in Long Kesh.
- (6) Amnesty International had been granted permission to visit Long Kesh before the fire, but when it turned out that this visit was due to take place about two days after the fire it was cancelled the day before they were due. Below we publish Mr. Orme's reply. Our readers can make up their own minds as to the partiality of Mr. Orme and the Northern Ireland Office.

NEWS FROM LONG KESH—contd.

thing started to positively stink. If anyone had any further doubts (and I wasn't one) they were soon dispelled when you got a glance at the names of the "peace movement's" executive and march organisers. Right at the top was one Marie Cruise O'Brien—who else but Conor's old woman, the former Miss Marie McEntee. Remember the Congo and all that business!

As it is that so-called peace movement is nothing but a thinly disguised political ruse, carefully orchestrated by Whitehall's Dublin agents, with the dual purpose of presenting the British presence in Ireland in a favourable light and excusing British Army atrocities, both North and South. To take it a step further, it can only help to ensure continued British dominance of Irishmen and their affairs. It is designed to frustrate the people who resist aggression—not, mind you, that it has any chance of success.

The achievement of a just and lasting peace is the ultimate aim of any sensible person. We all desire it, strive for it, pray for it. But there is no magic formula and the answer must be based on what is best for the Irish people—all of them. Only a complete idiot would accept that Cruise O'Brien, his Mrs., Paddy Cooney or any of their cronies have anything other than Whitehall's directives at heart in relation to anything said, done or otherwise in the course of their duties.

As I was saying, "Blessed are the peacemakers". If only we could discover who the "peacemakers" are, wouldn't we all bless them!

Dear Frank,

You wrote to me on 11 November enclosing a letter from your constituent, Mrs. Anne Walters. Incidentally, I see that I replied on 15 August to an earlier letter from the same lady, which you sent me on 3 July.

(1) Her first allegation of co-operation between the RUC and the UWC can be totally refuted. At no time did the RUC at Portadown assist or co-operate in the UWC strike. The general situation in Portadown at that time was delicate, to say the least. Great tact and diplomacy had to be exercised by the police to avoid a confrontation which could have been very violent. The fact that large scale disorder was avoided is evidence that the RUC adopted the correct course.

(2) With regard to the second item in the letter, attempts were made at Mr. Neill's funeral to identify those persons involved in illegal actions, but the Security Forces were unable to get close to the house because of the size and attitude of the crowd. Photographers who did get close had the film removed from their cameras by hostile elements in the crowd. In such a situation, intervention by the Security Forces could well have escalated the incident and caused severe disturbances. As it was, violence was avoided. This reasoning had nothing to do with the sectarian composition of the crowd. The Security Forces apply equal treatment to both communities in Northern Ireland.

(3) With regard to the leaflet "The Plight of Catholics in Newtownabbey", the RUC made a most thorough and time-consuming investigation into the claims that were made. The conclusion was that the RUC were doing all they could, within the constraints of limited manpower, to protect Roman Catholics in that area. You might like to know that a number of leading representatives of the Roman Catholic community in Northern Ireland expressed their complete satisfaction with the thoroughness and conclusions of the investigation.

(4) The Army does not indulge in "census-taking". It does however collect as much local knowledge as possible about all areas in which it operates. This is essential if it is to protect the community effectively. Gathering this knowledge involves asking people questions. There is no legal impediment to this; equally there are no legal requirements on people to answer questions other than those specified in the Emergency Provisions Act. Much the same applies to photography. The Army is free to take photographs providing no force is used.

(5) One hundred and twenty-five prisoners were seen and treated by prison medical staff at Crumlin Road Jail on 16 October, 1974. Most of the injuries received were superficial lacerations and bruises. Lacerations were stitched, where necessary, by prison medical staff and some prisoners were transferred to an outside hospital for special investigation, including X-ray where medical opinion considered this necessary.

The health of all prisoners is the responsibility of the prison medical officers, who enjoy excellent working relationships with hospital and family doctors—this covers domiciliary visits to the prison by consultants in the various specialities, referrals to the accident and emergency out-patient departments and admission for in-patient treatment and retrieval of necessary past clinical data from general practitioners. All the arrangements ensure that any prisoner in need of medical care receives it as quickly and as efficiently as does the population at large and this both as regards qual-

ity and range of services.

Prison medical officers, like all doctors, are bound by medical ethics and are therefore as independent as other members of the profession.

Only in exceptional circumstances are outside doctors who have not been called in by the prison medical officers allowed to visit prisoners, e.g. an untried prisoner may apply for examination by an outside doctor for the purposes of his defence. Prisoners should apply in writing through the usual channels stating fully the reasons for their request. None of the prisoners injured has made such a request.

(6) The visit to Maze Prison by Professor Alfred Heijder of Amnesty International could not, unfortunately, take place as first planned due to the situation created at Maze by the inmates' burning of the prison. However, despite the difficulties being encountered by the staff and prison authorities, Professor Heijder was in fact allowed to visit the prison on 31 October, 1974.

Yours sincerely,
Stanley Orme.

CO. FERMANAGH PRISONERS' AND INTERNEES' DEPENDANTS FUND

A COUNTY WIDE

COLLECTION

in aid of the Dependants of the Internees

and Political Prisoners

will be taken up at all Churches on

SUNDAY, 25th MAY, 1975

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS WORTHY CAUSE

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WOULD collectors please ensure that all monies be sent immediately to:

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MAIN STREET

LISNASKEA

WHO'S AFRAID OF THE RUSSIAN WOLF?

... CERTAINLY not the British it would seem. The arrival of Mr. Alexander Shelepin, former Soviet KGB boss, would have struck terror into a people without hearts of oak. By gad, his coming did not strike terror into British hearts. Just a few slight tremors perhaps, but nothing to talk about. Certainly nothing to halt the ceremonial offering of traditional British courtesy. A VIP suite on the south side of Heathrow Airport which is reserved for heads of state was put at his disposal.

Here I should say that I am not in the least interested in how Mr. Shelepin was received. My interest lies solely in British attitudes and how weathercock-like they are. It would seem that whichever way the wind blows, whenever there is a possibility of its favouring Britain, then British attitudes change whatever the face on the cock. Take the example of a 92-year-old Irish Republican, Joe Clarke, no win his 94th year, arrived in Britain and although venerable in years and supporting himself with crutches, he was refused permission even to leave the airport because Britain declared him a "security risk". On the other hand... but sure it is all in the in-line behaviour of a riches to rags nation. After all, Mr. Shelepin may run round the hat for some roubles to repay for the traditional British courtesy extended to him, while of course they could bray until hell freezes over before Joe would throw them a bale of hay.

British attitudes are as changeable as British moral standards are flexible. What is good for Britain is always right. The long-held belief that God is an Englishman has made that latter statement a dogma of British faith. Because of our proximiting to Britain we have had to encounter more than our share of the frightening forces of hate and fear and rage which are locked up in the sufferer from this terrible delusion. Nevertheless, we have survived and are on the verge of witnessing the final stage in the shattering of Britain's self-delusion. We have very good reason to feel proud of the part played by dead generations of Irishmen and women, and of the part being played by today's generation in British delusion shattering. "The sick man of Europe" is in greater need of crutches now than is the nonagenarian, Joe Clarke, and it is no longer delicately important whether the crutches are made in Moscow or Washington, Rome or Paris.

FERMANAGH CR STATEMENT

IN a statement the Fermanagh Civil Resistance Committee says it refutes a statement in the local paper that Mr. Murray, the SDLP candidate, was a leading member of the Fermanagh Civil Rights or Civil Resistance organisations.

The statement points out that Mr. Murray was at no time a member of these associations. "In the interests of truth, Mr. Murray was elected to the Fermanagh Co. Council as an Independent, but soon turned his coat and joined the SDLP," it adds.

"Like Mr. Daly, the other SDLP man, his face was always missing from the protest meetings and marches for the cause of justice which were held in this county.

"Let Mr. Murray and his comrades seek votes on their own merits, but let them not try to ride to power on the backs of those who faced the RUC and Orange mobs, or try to confuse the electorate by claims to which they have no right."

TEMPO THANKS

THE organisers of the recent dance in aid of PDF in Tempo wish to thank all those who supported the function and made it such a great success.

A beautiful lamp made from lollypop sticks by Danny Barr in Portlaoise Prison was raffled during the dance.

CONFLICT OF OPINION

Dear Sir,

Re the Convention elections there seems to be a conflict of opinion among the clergy.

On the one hand we have priests like "Erne Sense" and some of the parish clergy telling the people to vote.

On the other hand there are priests such as Father Faul, who has published a fine leaflet advising us not to vote.

For the ordinary Catholic voter the choice should be easy. We all know the work Father Faul and Father Murray have done.

We also know the downright indifference of Erne Sense—who spends his spare time writing for pay in, it appears, the interests of the British garrison—and many more of our local priests to suffering in Long Kesh and such places.

Let us at least repay Fr. Faul by taking his advice. Let us boycott the polls on 1st May.

(Miss) Mary E. Donegan

PROTEST TO UN ON TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

THE Association for Legal Justice is to lodge a protest with the United Nations charging breaches of the UN resolutions and the European Convention on Human Rights by the British prison authorities in their treatment of Frank Stagg, now at Wakefield Prison.

Mr. Stagg has been in solitary confinement since Friday last because of his refusal to work. He had been transferred from Wakefield to Long Lartin for hospital treatment after previous hunger strikes. While in solitary confinement he is deprived of books, papers and radio and the mattress and bedclothes are taken from his cell each day. The Association maintains that the treatment is in breach of Rule 31 of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners adopted at a United Nations conference in August, 1955, and Article Three of the European Convention on Human Rights.

SWORN AFFADAVIT

The Association's complaint is supported by a sworn affidavit from Mr. Frank Maguire, MP for Fermanagh/South Tyrone. In his affidavit, Mr. Maguire reports on a visit to the prison a month ago:

"Frank Stagg told me he was force fed on the previous Thursday and Friday," Mr. Maguire swore. "On Thursday, 6th March he was requested to the doctor's office. The doctor's name was Dr. Xavier and Stagg believes that he was a foreigner. He was forcibly grabbed by three prison officers and placed on a chair with his hands twisted behind his back over the back of a chair—one officer holding his knees and the third standing on his feet. The doctor grabbed him by the hair and forced a metal clamp into his mouth. He then pushed a rubber tube through the clamp, bringing it up and down his neck several times, giving a choking feeling. The doctor asked him to blink his eyes if he would agree to drink milk. This torture continued until Stagg collapsed. This torture was repeated on Friday and after each session Stagg vomited blood.

"When I visited him on 11th March his forehead was bruised, he had several deep scratch marks on hands and arms, cuts on both sides of his mouth, and his bottom lip burst. The assistant governor of the prison was present during the interview and denied none of it. It is significant that from the time of the completion of the attack he had not been seen by Dr. Xavier up to the time of my visit."

THE NUM: WHAT IS IT?

WHAT is the NUM? Few if any would have asked that question until very recently. Today the question is very often asked by all classes of people. I suppose this questioning has been aroused by Mr. Conor C. O'Brien's apparent involvement in the NUM base which was set up here some short time ago.

So what is this NUM? The initials signify New Ulster Movement, and it was probably started by a Mr. Brian Walker, who was certainly its first chairman. He came into the limelight at the time Terence O'Neill was fighting desperately for his political life. With the fall of O'Neill one would have expected the fall of the NUM, since it apparently had as its aim a kind of save O'Neill crusade. In some strange way it survived the fall of O'Neill, and of Clark, and Faulkner, and Stormont.

Its present open role appears to be an advisory one. One cannot help feeling that its behind the scenes role is very different. There are those who believe that its very name is misleading and that the Old Ulster Movement would be the more accurate name. For instance, the so-called Alliance Party is certainly a child of the NUM and there is scarcely any doubt that party is the Old Ulster Party with a new label. If the SDLP is not a child of the NUM it is certainly one of its converts from Republican Labour.

It now appears that the NUM has broadened its area of influence and policy making. It has come south and is presently openly inviting the Fine Gael/Labour Coalition to renounce any jurisdiction over the Six Counties and to surrender them to Britain in a new Constitution. The NUM has set up a base here and can boast the support of certain influential individual politicians and of individuals not directly involved in politics.

Many southern politicians express privately their worry about the strange activities of the NUM. Someone has described the NUM as a kind of British CIA. Its activities certainly can be said to give validity to the description.

The person most closely associated with the NUM, Mr. Walker, was unknown in the political sense prior to the emergence of the NUM. By profession he was, and probably still is, the manager of an engineering works. Once it had to ask how sinister is the NUM. Certainly we have not heard the last of it. On the contrary, I feel that we will hear a great deal more about it.

GOOD ADVICE

Dear Sir,

To vote or not to vote is a decision which every voter will have to decide on here on 1st May. I feel the advice of Fr. Faul and Fr. Murray should be acceptable to all who term themselves anti-Unionist.

These two priests have been outstanding in their work for the internees and have fought tooth and nail for justice and fair play. They have asked all anti-Unionists to boycott this Convention Election as a means of peaceful protest against the existence of Long Kesh. Their advice is good enough for me.

As everyone seems to agree the whole thing is a farce and has no chance of working, why should we not take the opportunity of using the election as a means of massive protest?

Joseph Magee

KINAWLEY DANCE

DON'T forget the Dance in aid of Prisoners' Dependents Fund in Kinawley Hall on 5th May. Music by the Blossoms. Adm. 50p.