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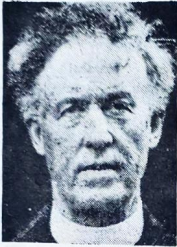
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FERMANAGH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE COMMITTEE

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No. 88

Saturday, 26th May (De Sathairn, 26 Bealtaine), 1973

Smug and over-civilised savagery



Father Michael O'Flanagan

by S. Mac EIREANN

MUCH talent is presently being squandered in blackening every act carried out by our people in the North who have had over the past years the courage to stand up and fight what remains of a once mighty Empire. The talent-squanderers are so smug and over-civilised that, to them, to fight for one's freedom appears as the act of madmen with no regard for life and property.

Those interested enough to care see nothing new in this. We have but to look back and we will find in our sorry history, freedom fighters and their supporters branded as cowards, renegades and every imaginable name in the litany of derogations. Not long ago I came upon a talented broadside levelled at a man 31 years dead. The target was the revered Republican priest, Fr. Michael O'Flanagan. Like every other one who belongs to the smug and over-civilised savagery fraternity, this one levelled his talented broadside for his own expressed purpose. He was directing other priests on how to avoid becoming like Fr. O'Flanagan. This over-civilised layman should feel quite happy since some priests, thank God few, have taken his spiritual direction so to heart that were they to live to be a thousand there is small danger of their ever becoming like Fr. O'Flanagan. With the following sample quotes from their director it should not be difficult to see a thousand [years] is not an exaggeration:

"The Co. Roscommon firebrand, Fr. Michael O'Flanagan..."

"This volatile cleric..."

"Political idiocies of the Fr. O'Flanagan scale..."

True, my quotes are taken out of context, but in context they are even more offensive and so, not being over-civilised, I am sparing the director.

It may come as a surprise to the over-civilised director to learn that although his target is dead for more than thirty years, there are very many people in very many parts of this country who would deem his slur upon the character of a great priest and Irishman as being beneath contempt. Few priests before him and few priests since have suffered as he did for the uncompromising stand which he took and maintained on the side of the freedom fighters until his death. He died as he had lived, an unrepentant Irish Republican and a champion of the downtrodden.

Today his name is remembered in Belfast and Derry as vividly as it is in his native county. I would not think that any one of the many who remember him would recall him as a "volatile cleric" or speak of his "political idiocies". I rather think that they would wish that there were many priests like him with them today who

would give PROPER direction to the few over-civilised clerics who have won the grace and favour of the enemies of our country. One must thank God that such men are FEW in number and one naturally hopes they will become fewer yet.

I mention the "political idiocies" of Fr. O'Flanagan just to give an example of what all who take a stand for the justice of Ireland's claim to freedom must en-

sure and to point out, and this is important, that they do not and will not escape over-civilised savagery even after death. Great men and women have suffered and are suffering much for Ireland. They have not suffered and are not suffering to bolster up a system of smug and over-civilised savagery. It would be well for the members of the covens, North and South, to wake up to that TRUTH.

Outrage at brutal killing



Michael Leonard (RIP)

ON Thursday night, 17th May, a young Co. Donegal man was deliberately shot dead on a lonely road 200 yards from the Border.

Michael Leonard (RIP) was 25 years old, the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Leonard, of Tievemore, Pettigo. He had two sisters, Michael was a keen GAA man and played for Pettigo. He was a keen student of Irish music. He was educated at St. Macartains College, Monaghan and was a well known cattle dealer, highly respected by all sides of the community.

His funeral from the Erne Hospital, Enniskillen, was the largest ever seen in Co. Fermanagh or Donegal. An estimated 500 cars took part on Saturday evening, 19th May. The church at Lettercran was completely filled for the funeral Mass next morning and a large number were unable to gain admission. Among the clergy attending were Fr. Sean McGrath and Fr. Joe McVey, both cousins of the deceased.

The feeling of outrage and revulsion at the dastardly crime was evident on the faces of all and the allegation of murder against the faceless and cowardly RUC man was on many lips. Since the sad news of Michael Leonard's death, a number of facts have come to light. He was well known to the RUC at Belleek and Kesh as his business took him into Co. Fermanagh a lot. He had

lost his driving licence for the Six Counties. Certain RUC men confirmed to relatives that he was not "wanted", nor was he suspected in any way of being involved in what they termed "subversion". So on the evening he was shot down his only crime was driving while disqualified. Shortly before his death he walked out of a shop at Letter, near Belleek in Co. Fermanagh, where he had been phoning his fiancée (they had plans to marry in September). He was called on to halt by the RUC, who were nearby. He got into his car and drove off towards home. He was followed by the RUC in a Landrover. They say they bumped his car and tried to stop him, but he would not; so they shot him dead, all because he had no driving licence and tried to get away.

The questions that are now being asked are: Why did they not "ram" his car with their Land Rover? If they wanted to shoot why not at the tyres of his car? How was he shot—was it with a rifle? Could Michael Leonard's car have been stationary at the time he was killed? Will the killer be allowed to hide behind an RUC uniform and barrack wall? Will his identity be disclosed?

Of one thing all are certain: there was no need to kill this young man. He could have been stopped and if he could not, his crime did not merit the death penalty.

His death confirms another fact—that in the ranks of the RUC are the greatest thugs and villains, cowards and bigots on this earth. It is not enough to root out the murderers in it; the whole lot must be disbanded, for the vast majority of the present gang are unacceptable to any self-respecting community.

ALARMING REPORT

WE have reports from many people that at least one of the SDLP candidates in the Enniskillen area, Mr. J. Lunny, has been recommending that second preferences should go to the Alliance Party. We can hardly believe that this is party policy.

We would remind readers that the Alliance is a Unionist party and we find it sad that an anti-Unionist candidate should recommend a Unionist party in preference to other anti-Unionists.

So much for solidarity in face of the common enemy.

HOW TO VOTE ON 30th MAY

HERE ARE EXAMPLES OF HOW YOU SHOULD VOTE:

AREA A: 4 SEATS (3 ANTI-UNIONIST) - ROSSLEA, LISNASKEA, NEWTOWNBUTLER, DERRYLIN.

AREA B: 4 SEATS (1, PERHAPS 2, ANTI-UNIONIST) - BROOKBOROUGH, MAGUIRES-BRIDGE, TEMPO, LISBELLAW.

AREA C: 4 SEATS (3 ANTI-UNIONIST) - FLORENCECOURT, KINAWLEY, BELCOO & BELMORE, GARRISON, DERRYGONNELLY.

AREA D: 4 SEATS (2 ANTI-UNIONIST) - BELLEEK & BOA, KESH, EDERNEY & LACK, IRVINESTOWN, BALLINAMALLARD.

AREA E (ENNISKILLEN): 4 SEATS (2 ANTI-UNIONIST) - CASTLECOOLE, ERNE, ROS-SORY, DEVENISH.

REMEMBER:

DO NOT USE AN



DO NOT VOTE UNIONIST, WHICH
INCLUDES OFFICIAL UNIONIST,
DUP, VUPP AND ALLIANCE.

AREA A

	HUTCHINSON, Samuel Unionist Unity
	LEAHY, John Charles Unionist Unity
	McCUSKER, John Joseph Unity
	McMAHON, John Unity
	MURRAY, Thomas Independent
	REILLY, Hugh Independent
	WATTS, Maurice Alliance

VOTE

McCUSKER

McMAHON

1 - 2 in order of your choice

AREA B

	BREEN, James A. Unity
	BROWN, Norman Unionist
	HENDERSON, James D. A. Alliance
	HUGHES, Irene Loyalist and Democratic Unionist
	NETHERCOTT, James Official Unionist
	NOBLE, William Cecil Official Unionist
	TRAYNOR, Margaret Unity

VOTE

BREEN

TRAYNOR

1 - 2 in order of your choice

AREA C

	ELLIOTT, William E. Unionist
	FINN, Brian Alliance
	FLANAGAN, Patrick —
	McCAFFREY, Patrick Unity
	O'FLANAGAN, Patrick James Unity
	SCOTT, Kenneth B. Loyalist and Democratic Unionist
	STEWART, Francis Unity
	THORNTON, Richard Official Unionist

VOTE

FLANAGAN O'FLANAGAN

McCAFFREY STEWART

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 in order of your choice

AREA D

	ASKWITH, John L. H. Alliance
	BRIAN, David Independent
	CROWE, Eustace Loyalist and Democratic Unionist
	DALY, Thomas Anthony S.D.L.P.
	GAGE, Francis Boyd Official Unionist
	GALLAGHER, James Unity
	LOANE, Benjamin Unionist
	LOANE, Simon F W. T. B. Unionist
	MAGUIRE, John S.D.L.P.
	MONAGHAN, John C. S.D.L.P.
	ROBINSON, Samuel Loyalist and Democratic Unionist
	RUDDY, Anthony Alliance
	STEWART, Robert J. Alliance

VOTE

No. 1 GALLAGHER

AREA E

	CATHCART, George Arthur Unionist
	CORRIGAN, Mary Dympna S.D.L.P.
	DONALDSON, Robert Loyalist and Democratic Unionist
	DONNELLY, James Joseph S.D.L.P.
	FALCONER, James Joseph Alliance
	LOVE, Edward Alliance
	LUNNY, James Thomas S.D.L.P.
	McMANUS, John J. Unity
	MAGUIRE, Anthony Unity
	MOORE, Marjorie Vivienne Alliance
	OWENS, Joseph P. Unity
	RITCHIE, Herfort Alliance
	SCOTT, Thomas Unionist

VOTE

McMANUS MAGUIRE OWENS

1 - 2 - 3 in order of your choice

LETTER FROM LONG KESH CONCENTRATION CAMP



Michael McManus

WITH the appearance of SDLP and Alliance Party candidates in Fermanagh seeking election in the forthcoming Local Government and Assembly elections, the time is now ripe for an assessment of the merits and demerits of both these parties. One must assume that the local candidates subscribe fully to official party policy, otherwise their nominations on the party ticket would not have been endorsed by the Party Executive; therefore all must be seeking election on clearly defined policies as laid down by their respective Party Executives.

The so-called non-sectarian "moderates" of the Alliance Party can now be recognised for what they really were all along—the new-look all-embracing Unionist Party, comprised of a collection of political opportunists and political hacks, almost all ex-Unionist Orange Lodgers completely discredited by their association and active collaboration with successive Stormont tyrants. This "moderate centre" party receives its financial backing from exactly the same sources as did the former Glengal St. Unionists, namely the "solid" middle-class Orange businessmen and now some of his Castle Catholic counterparts, all of whom realise that Faulkner-Unionism is now a lost cause and that a revitalised Unionist Party under a different name is vital in order to ensure the continuation of their dominance. Not only is their backing from the same source, it comes in fact from the very same individuals. Alliance is dedicated to union with Britain and the maintenance of that union by armed force. It is pledged to helping its British masters implement their White Paper proposals. It fully accepts as not only "necessary" but desirable the Diplock Report and all the repression contained therein.

The SDLP are a much more dubious lot. An assortment of power-hungry politicians dedicated to achieving power at any price, they have already broken every promise they ever made. Remember a solemn-faced Gerry Fitt after internment was introduced in August, 1971, declaring to the world that never again would he or any of his party enter Stormont or any Local Council until the last internee was released? Then there were 300 men held without trial; now, almost two years later, there are over 400 men held without trial at Long Kesh Concentration Camp. Many of them have been here since 1971, the very men you shed crocodile tears over; when did their status change, Gerry? Internment has even been extended to include young Irish girls of 17 and 18. Yet now Gerry Fitt, with full approval from his party and executive, pledges that all members elected will take their seats and play their parts like the good loyal citizens they are. And what's their excuse? They tell us that the Provisional IRA is keeping internment going; they tell us the camps will close when armed resistance ends. Come off it, SDLP! Brian Faulkner told us exactly the same! The SDLP are also pledged to accepting the White Paper as a "constructive approach" to the Irish "problem"; like the Alliance Party they will work towards the implementation of its main proposals. As usual they have left themselves a bolt-hole, stating that they have reservations about some of the proposals. Reservations!—under Diplock the most repressive legislation in Western Europe today giving the British Army, RUC and their cohorts and lackeys almost unlimited powers to brush aside all opposition to British imperialism in our country. If Diplock becomes law this country could see death, destruction and repression on an unprecedented scale. Yet the SDLP can only express "reservations"! But then when Gerry and his band of hack opportunists could

sell out hundreds of fellow Irishmen and women without batting an eye-lid, repression on a grand scale is hardly likely to unduly move them.

We have called the SDLP hacks, opportunists and anything else that they richly deserved. We also call them liars. They have told the people that it was they who won political status for the Republican prisoners now held in Long Kesh. I remember 37 long days in May and June of 1972. I remember 20 brave Republicans daily moving towards death. It was Billy McKee and his comrades who won political status. Anyone who says otherwise is a liar.

When leaders of the new-look Unionist (Alliance) Party recently agreed with a journalist on television that it was "quite possible" there could be a coalition between his party and the SDLP in order to form an Assembly Executive acceptable to the British Government, there was a stony silence from the SDLP. I wonder why? Come to think of it, when Brian was asked would he serve with Gerry, and when Gerry was asked would he serve with Brian, both managed to wessel their way out of giving an answer. Again, I wonder why?

People of Fermanagh, we ask you to deal with these giving bands of political adventurers as they deserve. Give them neither support nor solace, ostracise them completely. This you can easily do by rejecting them totally in the coming elections. It would be a far better service for your country, and for your men and women in the concentration camps, to cast your voting paper in the fire rather than vote for either of these two parties.

MICHAEL McMANUS

Case 9, Long Kesh Concentration Camp.
19th May, 1973.

Get back your own . . Get your own back

AFTER more than fifty years you are given the opportunity of GETTING BACK YOUR OWN and of GETTING YOUR OWN BACK. You can SLAY GERRYMANDER and doing so is as simple as 1, 2, 3. All you have to do is vote for and have elected ELEVEN ANTI-UNIONISTS to the new Fermanagh Council. To make it more obviously simple, just vote for the UNITY candidates contesting YOUR area. For example, if YOU are in Area E, you will know by now that YOUR UNITY candidates are McManus, Maguire, Owens. Just give them YOUR 1, 2, 3 in the order of YOUR choice. But REMEMBER, no matter how much you may love them do NOT give them "kisses"—X, X, X. One X on your ballot paper and YOUR vote is SPOILED. Do not think that there will be enough electors for the eleven without YOU. YOU are the important ONE. Vote as though the success of the eleven depended upon YOUR vote. Your 1, 2, 3 can make ELEVEN. No need to explain "the magic".

WHAT NOT TO DO

- 1 Do NOT vote for anyone sheltering under the Unionist umbrella. The following are ALL shelterers: Official Unionists, DUP, VUPP and Alliance. Do NOT be fooled by the fact that some of the Alliance candidates belong to the minority's religious persuasion. Remember Dr. Newe, Faulkner's man?
- 2 Do NOT spoil YOUR vote. Do NOT "kiss" your favourite. You can do that AFTER the count. NO X, X, X please. YOUR UNITY candidate wants YOUR 1, 2, 3, etc. Simple, EVEN for us SECOND CLASS CITIZENS.

WHAT TO DO

- 1 Vote UNITY.
- 2 Realise the importance of YOUR vote.
- 3 Get back your own from the robbers.
- 4 There is strength in UNITY and YOU are the strength.

WHAT POWERS WILL THE NEW COUNCIL HAVE?

Very few. Do not believe anyone who tells you otherwise to GET YOUR VOTE. Such a one is a LIAR and is up to the old tricks of "the trade". A gain in stature and status, yes, AND the knowledge that YOUR years of concern have not been in vain.

SO

Let's get back our own. Let's GET OUR OWN BACK. Vote Unity 1, 2, 3, etc., and the Unionists are OFF THEIR PERCH. They have set there FIFTY YEARS too long.

THE GOOD COUNCILLOR

VERY soon we will be asked to elect new councillors to replace the present gerrymandered Fermanagh County Council. The new council will be elected through proportional representation. And for the first time in fifty years the majority of the people of Fermanagh will exercise control over the affairs of the county.

Uppermost in our minds now is the question: whom should we elect to represent us in the Council and to look after the affairs of our county? What kind of a man is a councillor? What are the characteristics of the good councillor? We have reached the following ideas about the good councillor.

- 1 The good councillor will be a public-minded person. He or she will have displayed, in the past, concern for the public at large, concern for his neighbour. And he will not only have shown his public-mindedness; he will also have acted in a public-minded way.
- 2 The good councillor is the person who in these past traumatic years has made his contribution to the civil rights struggle which the people of Fermanagh have been carrying on. A person who had remained aloof from that struggle, who has refused to march with the people and stand shoulder to shoulder with them in their protests, is not a public-minded person. Such a person would not be a suitable candidate for the new Council.
- 3 The good councillor will have shown that he has the ability to organise and lead. He will be accepted by the local community as a leader in political affairs, that is as the man who is always prepared to devote his time and energy to political activity such as has taken place in the county since the inception of the civil rights campaign.
- 4 The good councillor is one who is dedicated to the principles of justice and equality and freedom. His dedication will have been revealed by the stand which he has taken during the past year. By their fruits you shall know them.
- 5 The good councillor will be in harmony with the thinking and the feeling of the people he represents. That means that he will accurately reflect the abhorrence with which the people of Fermanagh hold internment and special courts. His abhorrence of these things will be known to us because he will have joined in public protest against them.
- 6 The good councillor will be politically conscious and politically identified with a political solution to the present troubles. That means that the good councillor will have to declare that he stands for "this type of settlement". A good councillor in Fermanagh will have to declare himself to favour the declaration by the British that they are going to withdraw their army and actively promote unity in Ireland.
- 7 The good councillor will have to be prepared to work politically and to take political stands in the future, because we know that he will be called upon, by events, to react. Consequently, those who would be afraid of taking a political stand, an Irish stand opposed to British domination, could not be good councillors at the present time.
- 8 Men who have not joined in the campaign are by definition unfit to hold positions of public trust because they cannot represent the thinking and the feeling of the majority.

It is inconceivable that people who have not participated in the present political struggle should either offer themselves as candidates or be considered as fit candidates for the present crucial period. Future elections may be different; but this time we need the men whom we know that we can trust politically. That means men and women who will carry the banner of Irishness and not seek to be British as well. Vital for us now is to elect a strong, politically minded and politically competent Council.

We have the men and women. Those who have led the people of Fermanagh in the struggle for civil rights, freedom and justice will lead the people in the Council. They will be good councillors.