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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FERMANAGH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE COMMITTEE

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No. 97

Saturday, 28th July (De Sathairn, 28 Iúil), 1973

Long Kesh man "Has to be fed"

CENTRAL Belfast Comhairle Ceanntair this week claimed that a prisoner at Long Kesh was in such bad physical condition that his comrades had to shave and feed him and support him during his brief morning walk around the Nissen hut.

A statement said that "because of this acute lack of physical co-ordination, it is necessary for visitors to abbreviate their visits to enable him to return immediately to his bed."

The statement alleged that the condition of the internee, Francis Lowry, had been brought about by a "vicious attack" on 4th July in Long Kesh.

SERIOUS INJURIES

It added: "He was subsequently removed to Musgrave Park Hospital to receive "treatment" for serious injuries sustained during this attack on his compound by the British military and prison officers.

"Since his return to Long Kesh, his condition has rapidly deteriorated under inadequate and agonising conditions.

"After a similar attack, in April, 1972, when he was in Armagh Jail, he was confined to bed for three days.

"Following the refusal of the camp authorities to admit two doctors from a local hospital, the Central Belfast Comhairle Ceanntair wish to express their extreme concern at the present savage conditions at Long Kesh, and call for an immediate independent inquiry into the present medical circumstances of all internees involved in this unprovoked attack."

THANKS

FERMANAGH Resistance Committee wishes to thank the members of Ederney Resistance Committee who collected £57 for the Internees Dependents' Fund at Clones on Sunday, 8th July.

ASHAMED TO BE ENGLISH

THE well known English swimmer, Ray Cossum, has said that he is ashamed of being an Englishman because of the way he was treated by British soldiers recently during a raid on his home in Derry.

Mr. Cossum said: "I was never so ashamed to be an Englishman because of the treatment I received at the hands of English soldiers."

Mr. Cossum, a Post Office engineer, and one of the best known swimmers in these islands, and whose channel swim climaxed a career during which he made many eventful long distance swims, said that at 3.30 a.m. his family had been awakened by troops as they smashed in the front door.

The soldiers then ran up the stairs and forced everybody in the house out of bed at gunpoint.

During the ransacking of the house, some of the soldiers used abusive and obscene language to Mr. Cossum's 17-year-old son. In all, about 20 soldiers took part in the search.

ASKED TO SIGN

Then the soldiers asked Mr. Cossum to sign a form saying that no damage had been done during the search. He refused as he had not been allowed to examine the house.

"Then", said Mr. Cossum, "five soldiers jumped at me and pinned me to the floor and started kicking me in the stomach.

"They again asked me to sign the form and I again refused. I was dragged out of the house and pushed into a Saracen.

"One soldier stood on me while the others kicked me. When I told them I was ashamed to be an Englishman they became even more enraged."

Mr. Cossum's house is in the Malin Gardens, a part of the Creggan Estate. The soldiers were from the Royal Anglian Regiment, which is stationed in the Creggan and which is known as second only to the Paras for brutality.

ARMAGH MEN "CRUCIFIED"

TWO south Armagh men, Oliver Murphy and Francis Murphy, were remanded on bail at a special court in a ward at Daisy Hill Hospital.

It was alleged that soldiers who stopped them at a road block near Crossmaglen on 24th May at 11.25 p.m. had found a small quantity of an explosive substance on the back seat of their car.

After this the soldiers beat the men until they delivered them to Newry RUC Barracks at 4.45 a.m. in the morning.

Their injuries amounted to what their solicitor described as a "mock crucifixion". Even the RUC, who are not renowned for their courteous behaviour to prisoners, had the two men sent to Musgrave Park Military Hospital right away for first aid treatment.

The men still required medical treatment after being patched up there, and so were transferred to Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry.

No official sources can explain the medical condition of these men who suffered nothing less than torture at the hands of the forces of "law and order".

They are made to look like the villains whilst the sadists of the Paratroop Regiment are allowed to go scot-free, to continue with their dirty work in south Armagh.

WORKERS TERRORISED

THE new Lisnaskea UDR centre closed down this week when the workers refused to submit to the most humiliating personal searches (shades of Long Kesh). When the workers returned after the holidays a watch-tower was in operation containing metal detectors and all modern detection weapons. Then came stage two, which meant a body search by local members of the UDR (Dad's Army)—some of blimished character, light-fingered gentlemen. It is a sad day when your next-door neighbour, a man born out of wedlock, can put you up against a wall and search even your lunchbox. Armed men march through the men at work; machine-guns are trained on them from a look-out tower. There are sniffer dogs on chains and sniffer dogs in uniforms. The job is now closed. The Irish workers are unemployed. The hand of the British tyrant thug has again struck at the homes of the native Irish, aided by John Bull's quislings—the UDR, ex-B Specials, terrorists, murderers and rapists.

FERMANAGH CIVIL RESISTANCE MOVEMENT

End Internment NOW !

9th AUGUST, 1971

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9th AUGUST, 1973

After two years internment is still with us. LONG KESH: Where our own countrymen — over 500 of them — are suffering the most horrible treatment, living in the vilest, foulest conditions; where beatings and torture seem to be the order of the day; where man's inhumanity to man is carried to the extreme. ARMAGH: Where nine young Irish girls are interned—no charge, no trial, no comfort, no justice. Why? Because the English demon Whitelaw feels few of us care, so therefore he believes he can bully and treat in the good old English brutal manner any "native" who refuses to lay down when commanded to do so.

LONG KESH CAN BE CLOSED, INTERMENT CAN BE ENDED, IF THERE ARE ENOUGH CHRISTIANS TO CARE. IF YOU CARE, IF YOU WANT TO HELP END INTERMENT, YOU WILL ATTEND THE ANTI-INTERMENT PROTEST IN ENNISKILLEN ON THURSDAY, 9th AUGUST, 1973.

Ill-treatment of political prisoners

THE following are statements taken from those men who suffered injuries at the hands of the British Army and prison staff in Compound 16 of Long Kesh on the morning of 4th July, 1973. Every statement is from a man who was engaged in a peaceful protest against having to stand naked in front of prison staff, who were not content that a man should attempt to preserve his decency by wearing a pair of underpants, but insisted that every man should stand in full nudity.

During the melee that followed, when men attempted to defend themselves from the vicious onslaught by the army, some were knocked unconscious and hauled over the ground to the gate of the compound and left spreadeagled on the ground for approximately an hour, with no attempt being made to administer medical treatment for serious head wounds. Unconscious men were also the target for beatings at the hands of the prison staff and soldiers.

After an hour's delay, these men were still on the ground with their head wounds still bleeding profusely, and were then moved to the camp sick-bay, where they were examined by a doctor, who insisted that they were to be taken to an outside hospital where there would be the proper facilities to have their wounds stitched, due to the fact that the facilities do not exist in the sick-bay. This man also recommended that X-rays be taken of the injuries, but, as can be seen in the statements, this advice was not readily accepted by the authorities.

The injured men were taken under police and military escort to the Lagan Valley Hospital and on their way there they were subjected to physical and verbal abuses—mainly from the RUC, who were bent on making the injured men as uncomfortable as possible.

In the Lagan Valley Hospital the men were informed that their injuries "quite served them right". This was by a doctor on the hospital staff in answer to a request that the handcuffs be removed while the wounds were being stitched—and the examination was in progress. Let it be said, at this juncture, that the nursing staff were kind and considerate to the injured men, in the highest tradition of their profession. This is the only bright spot in an otherwise disturbing affair. The same cannot be said for the doctors in the hospital who conveniently forgot the Hippocratic Oath, with the honourable exception of a Doctor McKeown, who made every effort to ensure that all medical aid was given to those who needed it, and in so doing completely disregarded the hostile attitude of the Army and RUC.

The attitude of the doctors in the hospital was proved by the fact that most men were given three stitches in wounds that varied in length from half an inch to three inches, and the fact that no local anaesthetic was administered at any time, and that the men had to undergo this treatment while they were still handcuffed, as the RUC refused to remove the handcuffs.

It should also be noted that these men who were away from the cage for a period in excess of eight hours were offered no refreshments whatsoever while they were in the hospital, nor were they even provided with a cup of tea at any time.

STATEMENT OF FRANCIS LOWRY

I was attacked by a number of soldiers and prison officers and beaten to the ground with batons. While I was on the ground a baton was broken over my head, causing me to lose consciousness. I regained consciousness for a few seconds as I was being dragged across the ground, when I lapsed into unconsciousness again. I have only a vague recollection of subsequent events until I awoke to find myself in Musgrave Park Hospital the following (Thursday) morning.

There were three deep lacerations on top of my head, each approximately two inches long, severe bruising on my head, shoulders, right ribs and legs. I was also suffering from concussion, and had severe pains in my head. Only two of the lacerations on my head were stitched, with the third being left,

for reasons unknown to me. This was, apparently, done in the Lagan Valley Hospital prior to my removal to Musgrave Park, where I was detained for almost two days. I believe that I was X-rayed at Lagan Valley, but I have no recollection of this, nor can I recollect whether or not I received any injections.

I was assaulted by soldiers and prison officers on a previous occasion in Armagh gaol in April, 1972, and as a result of that beating I was confined to bed for three days.

STATEMENT OF HUGH CLARKE

I was attacked from behind by several soldiers and knocked to the ground by batons. While I was lying on the ground I was repeatedly struck with batons and kicked. I managed to stagger to my feet and make my escape from them, but while doing so two rubber bullets were fired at me, fortunately missing me.

I was taken to Lagan Valley Hospital, where my injuries, which consisted of severe bruising in the areas of the head, left ribs and left leg, were treated. This treatment consisted merely of stitches to a deep laceration on the top of my head and an anti-tetanus injection, and nothing more. No X-rays were taken of any of my injuries.

I was attacked and beaten up on a previous occasion in Armagh gaol by members of the RUC, soldiers and prison officers in April, 1972.

STATEMENT OF EAMONN McKENNA

I was standing along with the rest of the men and was attempting to protect myself with the lid of a dustbin when I saw a soldier standing approximately five yards from me aiming a rubber bullet gun at my head. I attempted to duck, but the bullet struck me on the chest leaving a scar three and a half by two and a half inches, which I fear will be permanent. I had received a beating on a previous occasion at the hands of the RUC in Hillsborough Courthouse, when I was thrown down the stairs while handcuffed to Patrick McGrath after I had already been attacked and beaten.

The only treatment that I received at the Lagan Valley Hospital was an X-ray, and nothing more.

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL FLANAGAN

I was attacked by a number of soldiers and knocked to the ground. While I was lying on the ground I was beaten by soldiers wielding batons. As a result I suffered extensive bruising in the areas of my head, shoulders, legs and body.

When I was taken to the Lagan Valley Hospital I was X-rayed, but no other treatment was given to me.

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL CUPPLES

I was struck on the left hand by a rubber bullet, fired by a soldier, approximately four yards from me. I was taken to the camp sick-bay, where my hand was bandaged. No X-rays were taken to determine the extent of the injury, nor was any other treatment given.

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL McCORRY

I was attacked by a number of soldiers and prison officers and knocked to the ground by blows from batons. I was then forced over to the wire fence and made to stand in a spreadeagled position for approximately ten minutes, then being thrown head first into the canteen. As a result of the treatment I received at the hands of these men I suffered severe bruising in the areas of the head, chest, back, left leg and left hand.

I was then taken to Lagan Valley Hospital, where I was X-rayed, but no other treatment was given me.

STATEMENT OF MARTIN MONAGHAN

I was attacked by a number of soldiers with batons and was beaten to the ground, when I lost

consciousness. I can remember nothing more until I came to in hospital.

I found that I was suffering from severe bruising to the areas of the face, head, hands and body, and in particular around my right eye. I also received numerous small abrasions on my face and body where I was apparently dragged along the ground. Also I was suffering from concussion, but I received no treatment at the Lagan Valley Hospital beyond an X-ray and an anti-tetanus injection.

STATEMENT OF PATRICK KERR

I was standing by myself at the doorway of hut 111 when several soldiers charged towards me and attacked me with batons. They then kicked me across the yard, punching me repeatedly on the way. This was repeated a couple of times, and I was then forced to stand in a spreadeagled position for approximately five minutes. I was then taken to the canteen and thrown bodily inside. I suffered from severe bruising in the areas of the head, shoulders, base of spine, right hip and left leg.

I was taken to Lagan Valley Hospital, where a deep laceration on the back of my head was stitched. I was given an anti-tetanus and a penicillin injection but no other treatment, nor was I given an X-ray.

STATEMENT OF OWEN CHRISTIE

I was attacked by five soldiers and twice batoned to the ground. While I was on the ground I was repeatedly battered on my head and body with the result that I suffered severe bruising around my head, back, shoulders and ribs, along with a severe laceration on the top of my head.

The only treatment that I received for my injuries was to have the wound on my head stitched. No X-ray was taken to determine the extent of my injuries.

STATEMENT OF PATRICK McKINNEY

I was attacked by soldiers with batons and knocked unconscious. On regaining consciousness I discovered that I was being dragged along the ground towards the wire fence, where I was forced to stand in a spreadeagled position for approximately ten minutes before being thrown bodily into the canteen. As a result of the beating I sustained bruising in the areas of the head and body, along with numerous abrasions on my head and chin.

I was taken to Lagan Valley Hospital, where I received stitches to a deep laceration on the back of my head. I was X-rayed and given an anti-tetanus and a penicillin injection, but no other treatment.

I was assaulted on a previous occasion by members of the RUC, the special branch of the RUC, and soldiers in Armagh RUC station when I was arrested, and again by soldiers in cage 8 on 8th September, 1972.

STATEMENT OF DAVID POWER

When the army charged into the cage, I happened to be separated from my comrades and I was attacked by six soldiers and while trying to defend myself I was beaten to the ground with batons. During the time that I was lying on the ground I was repeatedly struck with batons and received several kicks from soldiers and prison officers. I was then forcibly held against the wire fence for approximately ten minutes, then being dragged by the hair to the canteen and assaulted again before I was thrown bodily into the canteen.

Over an hour later I was taken to the camp sick-bay and at approximately 6 p.m. I was taken to the Lagan Valley Hospital, where my wounds, which consisted of severe lacerations on the top of my head, and extensive bruising to my head, body, arms and legs, as well as numerous abrasions. The treatment consisted of an anti-tetanus and a penicillin injection, stitches to the cut on my head and nothing else. No X-rays were taken.

I was previously assaulted by members of the

ners in Long Kesh, July 4 1973

RUC and RMP in Mountpottinger RUC station on the 18th February, 1972.

STATEMENT OF EDWARD CARMICHAEL

I was attacked by a number of soldiers and two prison officers, armed with batons, and beaten to the ground. Afterwards I was forced to stand in a spreadeagled position against the wire fence.

I was taken to the Lagan Valley Hospital, where I received a number of stitches to a wound on the top of my head which was caused by a baton wielded by a prison officer. The only other treatment which I received was an anti-tetanus injection and no X-rays were taken, nor was any local anaesthetic administered before my wound was stitched.

STATEMENT OF JAMES GERALD MARKS

While rendering First Aid to an injured comrade I was struck from behind by what I presume to be a baton and I lost consciousness. When I came to, I found myself being dragged along the ground by two soldiers, while three other soldiers were beating me around the head and body with batons. I was then forced to stand in a spreadeagled position against the wire fence. While I was in this position I was struck across the loins with a large piece of mahogany and was then made to run the gauntlet while various soldiers struck me and I was then thrown head first into the canteen.

I am already under medical treatment for a heart complaint and the extent of my injuries are severe bruising around my head and shoulders. I also suspect that I have a fractured pelvis, as I am suffering intense pain in the pelvis area.

While I was in Lagan Valley hospital I was continually molested by soldiers and members of the RUC and I was placed in a position where I was forced to refuse an X-ray as, despite repeated requests by the doctor, these men refused to leave me alone with him. As a result of this action by the security forces I received no medical treatment.

STATEMENT OF JAMES DEMPSEY

I was attacked by four soldiers and in attempting to defend myself I was knocked to the ground by the blows of a baton. While I was falling towards the ground I was struck in the stomach by a rubber bullet fired by a soldier, approximately three feet away. During the time that I was on the ground I was repeatedly kicked and batoned by soldiers. As a result I suffered severe bruising in the areas of my head, arms and body. My right thumb was also injured, with the thumb-nail coming off, and I also was concussed. I was taken to Lagan Valley Hospital where I was X-rayed, but received no other treatment. While I was at the hospital I was handcuffed all the time, even during the X-ray procedure.

STATEMENT OF JOSEPH RAFTERS

I was attacked by a number of soldiers and, while trying to defend myself, was forced to my knees after a baton had been broken over my head. I was then held, in a kneeling position, by two soldiers while a third struck me repeatedly about the face with the broken baton. While this was going on a prison officer attacked me from behind, breaking another baton over my head. I managed to break free and, while staggering towards the canteen, I was again attacked by soldiers wielding batons.

My injuries consist of a deep laceration 14 inches long in my head which, according to the doctor who examined me, did not require stitches, a 2 1/2 inch cut above the right eye, which required six stitches, severe bruising around the left eye, bruising also on the face, head, neck, both shoulders and right arm, along with severe bruising and abrasions all over my body.

While in the Lagan Valley Hospital I was X-rayed and, after my wounds had been dressed, I received two injections, one anti-tetanus and the

other penicillin. While I was being treated for the cut over my eye I did not receive any local anaesthetic or pain killing treatment. Also I would like to mention that, despite the obvious injuries around my eyes, at no time was I given an ophthalmic examination.

This is the third occasion that I have received severe beatings from the security forces, the previous occasions being in Newry RUC station on the 24th February, 1972, and in Armagh gaol on the 20th April, 1972, and from which I still suffer the after-effects.

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL HONE

While attempting to rescue one of my comrades, who had been injured, I was attacked by soldiers with batons. When I attempted to defend myself I was struck over the head with a baton and repeatedly struck across the shoulders. As a result of this I suffered severe bruising in the area of my shoulders and a deep lacerations on the back of my head.

I was taken to Lagan Valley hospital, where stitches were inserted in the wound on my head, with no anaesthetics being given. No X-rays were taken and I refused, on principle, other injections because I was being continually assaulted and molested by soldiers and members of the RUC while I was in the treatment room of the hospital. While I was in the treatment room my handcuffs were not removed.

I was previously assaulted by prison officers and soldiers.

STATEMENT OF LAURENCE O'NEILL

I was attacked by a number of soldiers and knocked unconscious while I was attempting to defend myself. On regaining consciousness I found myself being dragged along the ground, while I was being beaten with batons. I was then forced to stand in a spreadeagled position against the wire fence and then was dragged, after ten minutes, by the hair and thrown bodily into the canteen. While I was standing at the fence my head was repeatedly struck against one of the posts by two soldiers.

As a result of this treatment I suffered severe bruising to my head, left arm and body.

I was taken to Lagan Valley Hospital, where I was X-rayed, but received no other treatment beyond a roller bandage on my arm.

I was assaulted on a previous occasion by the RUC Special Branch during an interrogation in depth at Hollywood Barracks in November, 1971. I am still awaiting surgery for some of the injuries that I received at that time.

STATEMENT OF PETER GARLAND

While I was standing with a number of my comrades I was attacked by a number of soldiers and, while attempting to defend myself, I was knocked to the ground with batons. While I was on the ground I was repeatedly struck with batons. I managed to break free and managed to stagger into one of the huts, from where I was eventually taken and brought to a Saracen with Red Cross markings which brought me to the prison hospital.

While I was in the Lagan Valley Hospital I received treatment for my wounds, which consisted of a deep laceration on my head, numerous abrasions and severe bruising to my shoulders, arms, back and legs. Beyond an anti-tetanus injection and a penicillin injection, no other treatment was given apart from stitches to the wound in my head, which were inserted without any form of anaesthetic being given.

STATEMENT OF JOHN MULHERN

While I was going to the assistance of an injured comrade two soldiers fired rubber bullets at me from a distance of approximately six feet. I was struck on the back by one of these bullets, which

caused severe bruising.

When I reported to the sick-bay in the prison I was told to return to Cage 16, as, in their opinion, my back was only bruised and I should be all right. No X-rays were taken, and no treatment of any description was given to me.

I was assaulted on a previous occasion in Armagh court while I was on remand by members of the RUC and by soldiers and on one occasion I was attacked by members of the RUC and by soldiers, and on one occasion I was attacked by members of the RUC in the reception area here in Long Kesh.

STATEMENT OF JAMES SCULLION

I was attacked by a number of soldiers and was struck on the head by a baton. While I was staggering as a result of this blow I was struck by a rubber bullet fired at a range of approximately five feet on the right side of my chest.

I suffered a severe bruise on my chest, and bruising on both arms, along with a deep laceration on top of my head.

I was taken to the Lagan Valley Hospital, where I received a number of stitches to the wound on my head. The doctor who was treating me asked me how I came to be injured and when I informed him that these wounds were the result of an attack by the British Army, his only comment was to the effect that I probably deserved what happened to me.

STATEMENT OF PATRICK McGRATH

I was struck by a rubber bullet on the left thigh and also was struck around the genitals by the same bullet, which was fired from a range of approximately one yard. I fell to the ground, where I was attacked by two soldiers. I managed to free myself and while attempting to make my way to safety two further rubber bullets were fired at me by soldiers, which fortunately missed.

I was given absolutely no treatment, and my injuries were not X-rayed.

This is not the first time that I suffered injuries at the hands of the security forces. I received several beatings at the hands of the security forces. I received several beatings at the hands of the RUC while attending Hillsborough Court in the company of Eamonn McKenna, and I was also beaten up by soldiers while I was on remand in Cage 8.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS

It should be noted that throughout all these statements several consistent facts emerge. These facts contradict in a positive manner the statement issued by the security authorities on the evening of 4th July.

It was claimed by the authorities that the injuries were of a "stock" nature and that no man was taken from the prison to an outside hospital. As can be seen, in the majority of cases here, the men were taken to Lagan Valley Hospital and in one case to Musgrave Park Hospital.

It was also claimed that the men in Cage 16 initiated an attack on members of the prison staff and that the army was called in to "restore order". That this is false is demonstrated by the number of statements which show that the army were in fact the first ones to attack, with members of the prison staff being involved in a second or subsequent beating.

Further claims that the action was preplanned is shown as false by the number of statements of men who were attacked while attempting to render first aid to their comrades, or who were attacked from behind by the army. Had the action been, in fact, preplanned these men would have been expecting a fight and would have been prepared for the vicious onslaught which developed.

As long as the authorities seem to brush aside all complaints about ill treatment and to tell lies about what happens in prisons, the sense of oppression and injustice and unfair treatment will continue to grow, and to poison the community.

SOUTHERN DIARY

THERE is a growing speculation in Leinster House circles, very discreet, mind you, about how long the Coalition Government of Liam Cosgrave can last. Hints of a strain between Fine Gael and Labour have been appearing in the columns of the Southern Irish press, but nothing concrete. I will go further and stick my neck out. I think the uneasy alliance will just about last a year and we shall have another General Election come February time. Cracks are showing in the Coalition and these will widen as the months progress. You can expect Liam to make a number of concessions to Labour in an effort to stave off the inevitable, but eventually even his monumental patience will run out. Political fireworks will then ensue with everyone blaming everybody else for the breakdown.

Much of the trouble stems from the fact that the much-boasted Cabinet of intellectuals has not come up with the goods. They started off in great form, but it wasn't long before the political inexperience showed. Paddy Donegan started the rot with his handling of the Claudia affair and Mark Clinton's failure in Europe has brought home to the public that the intellectual "saints" have plastic feet.

Garret Fitzgerald's buzzing around certainly failed to produce any honey and his attitude to the six-county question has alienated much of his original support. He is now rapidly becoming a figure of fun and should soon take over Denis Healy's mantle as "the fool of Europe". Brendan Corish must be the most ineffective Minister for Health we have yet had and James Tully has emerged as no world beater.

But, perhaps, the biggest disappointment has been Justin Keating. This young man made a great name for himself in the EEC Referendum campaign but, with the trappings of power around him, has sunk without trace in the Establishment sea. Justin's principles went overboard when the ship was in calm water and he will join them as the waves get rougher.

What have Fianna Fail to offer as an alternative? Not very much at present, I'm afraid, but there are a few talented folk floating around. Many knowledgeable political pundits, for instance, are forecasting Noel Lemass as a future contender for the leadership and, the way things are going, it may not be long before Noel makes his bid. Time is not on Noel's side and he is a young man in a hurry these days.

Jack Lynch is not the most revered figure in the 26-counties today, whatever his university friends whisper in his ear, and a lot of Fianna Fail people think Lemass would be the most likely man to lead the Party back to power.

Should be an interesting year.

REMEMBER the headlines of a month ago? The Provos are beaten, they screamed. The men of violence have been rejected. They no longer have any credence in either a six-county or 26-county context. They can now safely be ignored and left to the British Army to administer the coup de grace.

You were supposed to believe it, and, no doubt, many of you did—but how do you reconcile that with the uproar over the Provo press conference in Dublin and the seizing of their booklet on the six-county struggle? Surely, if all the propaganda was true, everyone could safely have ignored a thousand Provo press conferences.

Such a contradiction is an insult to the public's intelligence. If the Provos are no longer of any significance in the political sense then the logical thing to do is ignore them. Give them the treatment their insignificance deserves. But the uproar over that press conference indicates a different story. It illustrates that the Provos are not insignificant. That, in fact, they are a power to be reckoned with and deserve the utmost respect—the full panoply of the law, for example.

The Brits and their 26-county collaborators must think we are all fools!

A LITTLE bird has whispered to me that Brian Lenihan, the Fianna Fail Foreign Minister ousted

in Roscommon at the General Election, has failed to get the nomination for Erskine Childers' old Monaghan seat. You can expect an "I'm loyal to my old constituency" statement from Senator Brian very shortly.

THAT same bird says Teddy Heath would dearly like to "welcome home" Erskine, now he is "President of Ireland", with something resembling a State visit. Erskine was born in London. Erskine, having got his knuckles rapped over some unwise words spoken in America, is hedging the invitation in case it upsets Liam Cosgrave.

Teddy-boy still hopes Erskine will risk it and his favourite prayer these days is: "Suffer Little Children to Come Unto Me". The British Blundering Boatman seeks anything and everything to take the minds of his people off their impending financial ruin, expected around August.

THE MILITARY TAKE-OVER OF BELFAST

THE military take-over of Belfast last weekend, which was designed to hoodwink the people into believing that the Army was holding the centre between two warring factions, was an attempt to harass further the Catholic areas of Belfast. The Army was used exclusively to saturate and seal off Catholic areas, Catholic ghettos and Catholic roads. If the Army had been interested in preventing the killing of Catholics by the UFF, etc., then it would have sealed off Unionist areas from where these groups sally forth in search of prey. No, the British Army is only interested in harassing the Nationalist population.

A morale booster was badly needed for the soldiers whose eyes are turning more and more to home, so after the arrest and inhuman torture of Gerry Adams and comrades what better for sagging morale than to put 4,000 heavily armed Tommies sealing off the "Fenian bastards" of Belfast.

Big "Horse Face" Whitelaw had better think again. The real Irish do not frighten easily; like Major John McBride, they can look down the barrel of an English rifle without fear.

Whitelaw and his kind will go. Ireland will be free and controlled by its rightful owners much sooner than the foreign bully thinks.

CAPTURED MEN WERE TORTURED

THE South West Donegal Comhairle Ceanntair of Sinn Féin (Kevin Street) condemns the actions of the British Army/RUC upon the capture of two men near Belleek, Co. Fermanagh, on Sunday, 15th July, 1973.

Eye witnesses' accounts state that the men were severely tortured at the scene of their capture contrary to all convention regarding the treatment of prisoners of war, and pleas by the local population to the occupation force to desist were received with the foulest abuse. The action of an Irish Army contingent from Finner Camp and Garda Special Branch from Ballyshannon who collaborated in the whole operation can only be looked upon with the deepest of shame.

On Monday, the 16th July, 1973, the British Army entered Belleek shouting jubilantly "Two nil", which should be sufficient to stir all freedom loving Irishmen against them and their collaborators.

JAMES CAREY

Select Grocers and General Hardware Merchants
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Your Letters...

ERNE SENSE'S IGNORANCE

Dear Sir,

I was astounded by the ignorance exemplified by Erne Sense recently in justifying the arrest of Mr. Eamon de Valera in Ennis on 15th August, 1923, by the Free State troops. Erne Sense must know that this happened after the Civil War subsequent to a unilateral ceasefire by the Republicans. In the ensuing bye-election Mr. de Valera was standing in Clare and when he appeared on the Ennis platform the Free State troops opened fire on an unarmed crowd, who dived to the ground for cover. Several people were injured, including Mr. de Valera, who was then imprisoned, being placed in solitary confinement.

It should be remembered that after the ceasefire the Free State troops did not reciprocate, but piled on the shooting, the arrests and the harassment of Republicans. A bloodthirsty man like Erne Sense is a true and genuine Free Stater, a man who would be at home with Kitson in his murder campaign.

By the way, Erne Sense, I would prefer a Protestant Unionist like Harry West to any Catholic Unionist who masquerades as a Republican. Full marks to the shrewdness of the electorate of Fermanagh-South Tyrone.

De Valerite

WHITELAW'S WINE

Dear Sir,

On Monday last Mr. William Whitelaw gave a cocktail party for new Assembly members. The DUP (Paisley's Party), the Vanguard (Craig's) and ten anti-White Paper Unionists led by Taylor boycotted the proceedings. The Faulkner Unionists and the SDLP loyally attended and did homage to Her Majesty's representative. At a time when Whitelaw has women interned in Armagh Jail and when his paratroopers are scourging and murdering the people the SDLP are celebrating with their British overlord. Congratulations to the Vanguard and DUP for not playing ball with this British ruffian. This latest betrayal by the SDLP is a further vindication of the action of the people who did not vote in the elections.

We are not anti-Unionists. We are anti the Union, i.e. anti-British, anti-Heath and anti-Whitelaw for their plunder in Ireland. We have nothing against any decent Protestant or Unionist who has been misled by the British. We are bitterly opposed to British interference in Ireland. We are, therefore, bitterly opposed to the SDLP and the Faulkner Unionists for joining Whitelaw in his night of revelry while men languish in prison on hunger strike, while young girls are in cages in Armagh Jail. At least Paisley, Craig, Taylor, West and their followers did not let down their own people to go hob-nobbing with Whitelaw. Hume, Fitt and Currie must eternally hang their heads in shame. The people of Fermanagh and South Tyrone are not so green after all.

Sean McG.

Lisnaskea Emmetts Gaelic Football Club

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