

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS



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'SURPRISING', 'SHOCKING' and 'EMBARRASSING' is how most of the Irish newspapers and political commentators described a survey which shows that 72% of people in the Free State are in favour of a unilateral British withdrawal, that 21% of the people are in support of IRA activities and 42% sympathise with their motives!

The slavish mentality of the establishment was expressed best by the *Irish Press* which was worried about the consternation it would cause loyalists and that it would prejudice British opinion!

Critics of the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) findings, especially politicians, have spent the past week attempting to ridicule the survey carried out by a Free State government-sponsored body, and have opted for a BBC survey carried out in May 1978 (ESRI's poll was conducted between July and September 1978) which was to their political satisfaction.

It had stated that the IRA only had 2% support, and now in an ironical twist of fate ESRI shows that only 2% of people in the twenty-six-counties are in favour of direct rule in the north by Britain!

In denying that the IRA has significant support, Fianna Fail premier Jack Lynch and government apologists have vainly attempted to point out that Sinn Fein's 5% poll in the recent local government elections casts doubt on the validity of the findings.

But these hypocrites fail to mention their policy of harassment of Sinn Fein, that Sinn Fein is banned from RTE radio and television, that the party name is censored on voting slips and that election candidates are harassed (Cork candidate Peadar Beecher during his election campaign was jailed for selling Easter Lilies in 1978!).

However, Professor Davis, one of those who conducted the survey said that they have no hesitation in standing by the findings in relation to the support for IRA methods in terms of people's attitudes.

The reporter states: "As such it must be acknowledged that, on this evidence, opposition to IRA activities is not overwhelming and certainly does not match the strong opposition so often articulated by public figures."

IRA OKAY!

LYNCH UP THE POLL

Furthermore, "One finds that, in general, those who are more interested in politics and involved in political discussion, and those who are more attentive to political communication tend to be more anti-partitionist, more opposed to Northern Ireland Protestants", (that is, loyalists).

NORTH

Whilst in the twenty-six-counties ESRI was responsible for conducting the opinion poll, the northern survey was carried out by E.P. Moxon-Browne of Queen's University, Belfast. Here the feelings of the nationalist community were assessed by taking the opinions of 402 Catholics. From two hundred of those it was assessed that half of the nationalist community are in favour of "remaining part of the United Kingdom."

This aspect of the survey should be rejected - not because it does not suit Republicans but for other very sound reasons.

Firstly, the nationalist community, because of their experience during the present war are notoriously suspicious of surveys and researchers and many people have been fined or gone to jail before they would fill in a census form.

Secondly, on what basis people were selected for the poll is not clear and this is extremely important because there would be sharp differences between the middle-class 'Castle Catholics' who have an interest in the status quo, and working-class ghetto areas which bear the full brunt of repression.

But even if the survey was conducted in part in ghetto areas the responses would still be cautious, and perhaps deliberately deceptive since to express overt sympathy for the Irish Republican Army is to invite state repression.

SUPPORT

Besides, support for the IRA from within the nationalist community cannot be denied given the level of armed activity during the last decade, and the IRA's continued ability to attract fresh personnel to the cause of Irish independence.

While the ESRI poll is certainly a major embarrassment to the Free State government who must now realise they would be in trouble if they attempted to drop their constitutional claim to the north, it is only of propaganda value to the IRA who certainly do not need

surveys to confirm their support or their successes.

IRA activities, described as 'futile' and 'counter-productive' by the British government and Free Staters alike, are anything but that. They continue to break down a major

barrier to withdrawal - apathy among the English people. Just a few days after an IRA attack on an undercover patrol in Belfast, the people of Thurnby and New Parks in Leicester, the home areas of the two soldiers who were shot, responded by calling for a British withdrawal!



MONAGHAN : COUNTY OF INTRIGUE

'MONAGHAN: COUNTY OF INTRIGUE' By Michael Cunningham is available from him at Tanatallon, Co. Donegal. Price £2.50.

Review by Pat Duggan

THE PROBLEM with this interesting, if disoriented, book, dedicated to the prisoners in Armagh and the H-Blocks, is that the author Michael Cunningham crusades as a Republican 'apologist' and draws heavily upon Catholic and conservative values as the moral justification for, and framework of, the struggle.

He says: "The close involvement of the Citizens' Defence Committees with the priests of the parishes and in particular the monasteries at Ardoyne and Clonard gave the early members of the Provisional IRA a deep and committed sense of Christian duty."

INFILTRATION

But now he sees infiltration taking place everywhere, and not just in the Republican Movement!

"I agree entirely with Father Faul in his warning about a class war and his appeal to the Provos to remember 1970 and 1971 when they showed such courage and concern. There have been many changes in the Provo leadership in the years since 1970 and not all have been for the better. The infiltration of the odd Communist or fellow traveller into positions of influence in the REPUBLICAN NEWS and AN PHOBLAUGHT is not in the best interests of true Irish republicanism. The use of 'class jargon' has followed this infiltration. The same thing has also happened in the Dail and Mr. Cosgrave's Cabinet has at least one former card-carrying member of the British Communist party."

He recommends that political

talk be kept out. "Well could they (the IRA) repeat the words of Arthur Griffith, 'It would not be advisable, either, to go into the details of an Irish Constitution at present; just keep the straight question of Irish Independence first. The first thing first.'"

GERRY FITT

In tracing the early part of the civil rights struggle he quotes directly from the Cameron report: "There was some regrettable and irresponsible abuse of the policy by Mr. Fitt, who was Republican Labour MP for West Belfast at Westminster and for Dock constituency at Stormont."

Elaborating on this incident which occurred in Dungannon during the first civil rights march Cunningham says: "During his speech Mr. Fitt pointed at the police cordon and said if it were not for the women and children present, and if he were a younger man, those 'black bastards' would not stop him."

The book is not entirely about Monaghan, in fact is not even mostly about Monaghan, but makes swiping attacks on Churchmen, the judiciary, politicians and journalists.

Of Monaghan county he says that "Protestants, by and large, supported the authorities in the

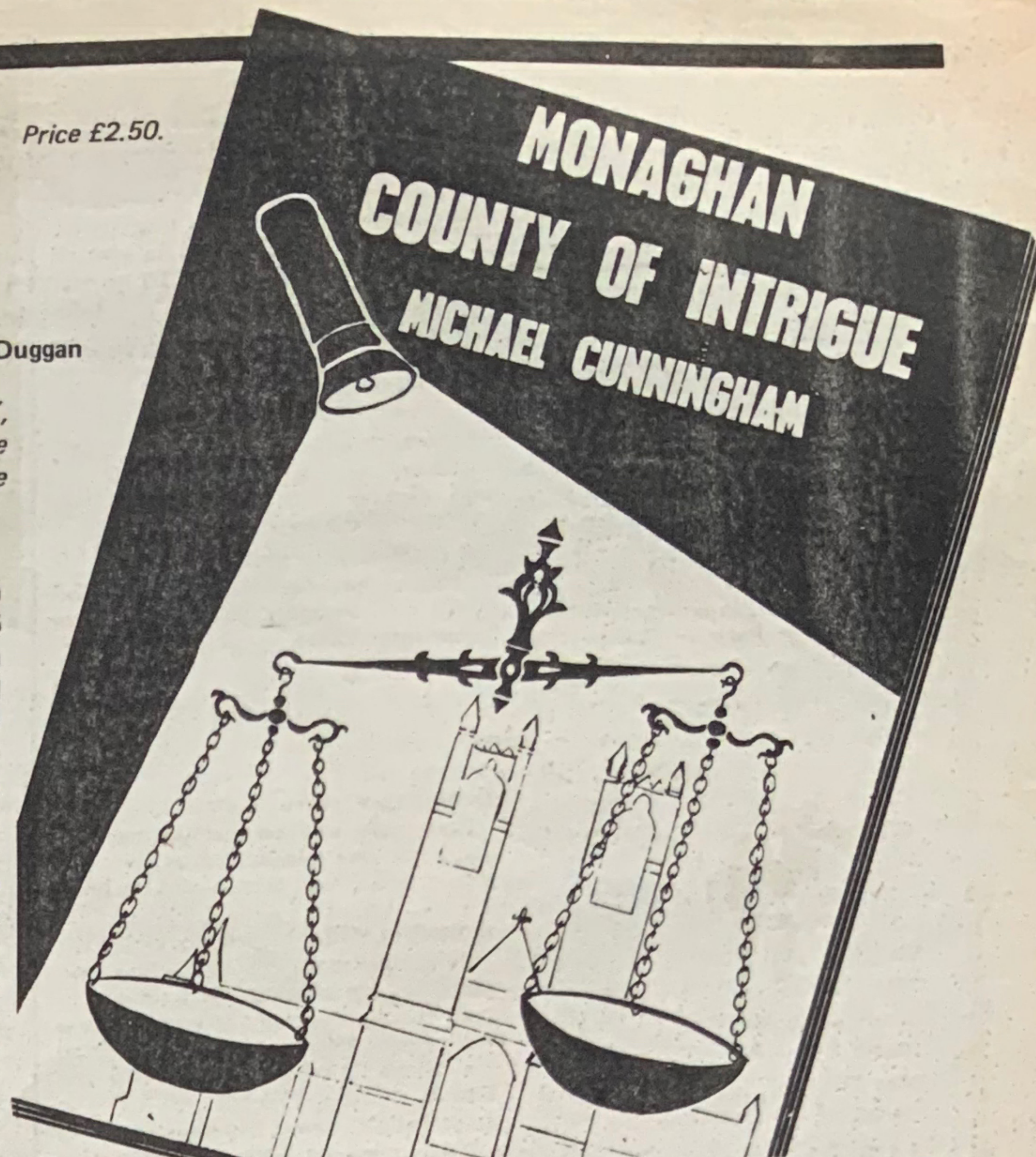
North and the status quo in Ireland", and many were "members of the B-Specials and the sectarian Orange Order."

MAYNOOTH COLLEGE

The opening of Maynooth College, County Kildare, in 1795 was a "political deal" between Rome and London, he says, and quotes directly from 1845 Richard Lawlor Shiel, an advisor to the British government who gave an annual grant for its upkeep: "You are taking a step in the right direction. You must not take the Catholic Clergy into your pay but can take the Catholic Clergy under your care. Are not lectures at Maynooth cheaper than state prosecutions? Are not professors less costly than crown prosecutors? Is not a large standing army and a great constabulary force more expensive than the moral police with which by the priesthood of Ireland you can be triflingly and efficaciously supplied?"



MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM



Thus the British government, previously persecuting priests and people alike, had now divided and conquered and could get on with persecuting the people which was made easier by the help of the 'moral police'.

Throughout the book there are half a dozen libellous attacks on various people!

Jack Lynch and his wife, Maureen, are suspect because she is the daughter of a British army officer. RTE broadcaster Liam Nolan, an ex-Captain in the British army, and Liam Hourican are agents of British propaganda.

ECCENTRIC

Parts of the book and Cunningham's suspicions are extremely

eccentric if not into fantasy. RTE is leading a "campaign in favour of SIN", and the British government in order to destroy the morals of young internees in Long Kesh put "known 'queers' with no republican connection" into the cages.

"Without doubt", says Cunningham, "the campaign to destroy the virtue of purity is part and parcel of the British reconquest of the Irish people."

Having read the last two weeks' book reviews in AN PHOBLAUGHT/REPUBLICAN NEWS Michael Cunningham may well be adding it to his proscribed list and will no doubt be lying in the Men's Room on his back with shock!

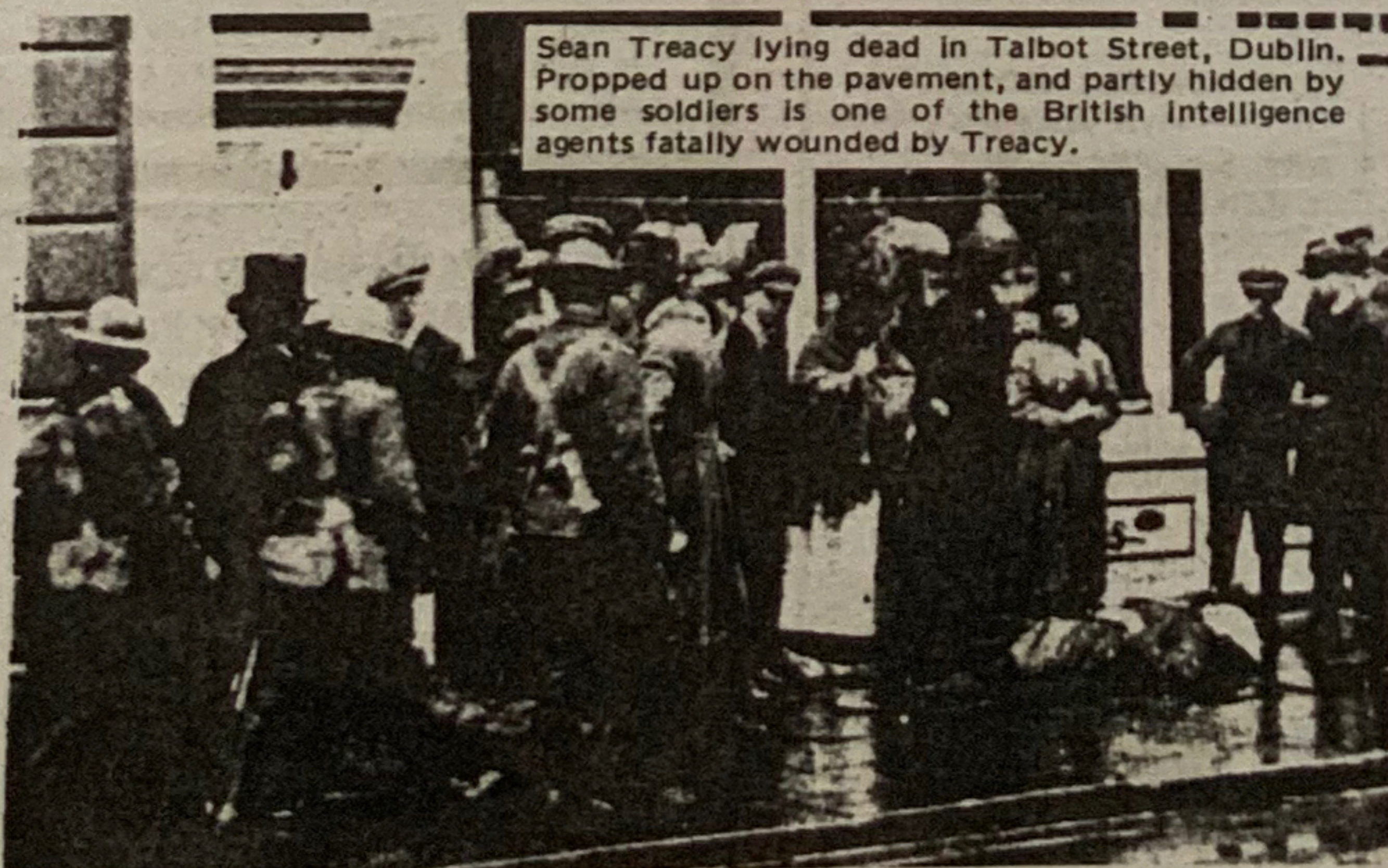
SEAN TREACY — HE DIED WITH A GUN IN HIS HAND

FIFTY-NINE YEARS AGO last week on October 14th, 1920, Sean Treacy of Tipperary died in a hail of bullets on Dublin's Talbot Street. He died with a gun in his hand having first shot down two of his British Secret Service attackers. In today's terms he was a 'man of violence'.

Sean Treacy and his comrades in the IRA's South Tipperary Brigade first came to public attention when, impatient for action against the British, they killed two RIC men in the famous Soloheadbeg ambush in January 1919. This was the first major attack since 1916 and precipitated the War of Independence.

From then until his death twenty-two months later Treacy took part in numerous ambushes, attacks, rescues and escapes and was wounded on more than one occasion.

One of his famous exploits was the rescue of Sean Hogan (also at Soloheadbeg) from the train at Knocklong. Hogan was on the way to Cork prison under RIC escort when Treacy, Dan Breen, and Seamus Robinson boarded the train, shot dead two of the escort and



Sean Treacy lying dead in Talbot Street, Dublin. Propped up on the pavement, and partly hidden by some soldiers is one of the British Intelligence agents fatally wounded by Treacy.



SEAN TREACY

brought Hogan to safety after a fierce struggle. Treacy received a bullet in the throat.

Treacy was also involved in the attempted assassination of Lord French, the leading British representative in Ireland at the time. Breen later described the purpose of the attack as to "strike at the very heads of the British government, in Ireland", and to "arouse interest in Ireland's cause throughout the world."

Treacy's luck ran out eventually outside the 'Republican Outfitters' in Talbot Street where he had been followed by British Secret agents (known as the Murder Gang). He was very definitely in the Irish tradition of physical force.

ANDERSONSTOWN

Tom Williams Memorial Pipe Band

At a meeting held on Sunday 7th October the following committee was elected to set about the re-organisation of the Tom Williams band within the Andersonstown area of Belfast:

Chairman: Danny Groves;
Vice Chairman: Paul Wilson;
Secretary: Joan Daykin;
Asst. Secretary: Maureen Wilson;
Treasurer: Donal Molloy;
Asst. Treasurer: Elizabeth Groves;
Pipe Major: Paul Wilson;
Drum Major: John McCorry.

The band was originally founded in 1967, and was a constant supporter of all Republican marches and demonstrations, until it was forced, due to conditions beyond the control of the members, to disband in the mid 1970s. Several sets of pipes belonging to the band were destroyed when Long Kesh was burnt by the Republican prisoners, and the remaining instruments made their way to other up-and-coming young bands, thus leaving the Williams band with most of their uniforms, but no instruments.

At present the committee are in the process of organising a 'Night at the races' in the Lake Glen hotel on the 15th November, and they have been appealing to various groups and individuals for assistance. The response to their appeal has so far been tremendous.

They would like to thank all those who have come forward to date with offers of help, financial or otherwise, and anyone wishing to join the band may do so by contacting Joan Daykin, Belfast 612492, or Paul Wilson, Belfast 616826. Tickets for the 'night at the races' are available from any band member.

It is hoped that in the not too distant future, the honoured name of Tom Williams will once again take its place alongside the other bands who, over the last ten years led the people of Belfast on their long march to freedom.

SINN FEIN NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

Annual Testimonial Brochure

THE third annual testimonial brochure is now being compiled by the Sinn Fein National Finance Committee. This publication is being produced in honour of four veteran Republicans (one from each province) in recognition of their unswerving allegiance to the 1916 Proclamation and the Republic for which it stands.

The cost of producing the brochure is met by paid advertisements and group or personal notices. The rates are:

Full Page: £100
Half-Page: £50
Quarter-Page: £25
Eighth-Page: £12.50

All adverts, notices and payments should either be given to authorised collectors or sent directly to Sinn Fein Head Office, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin (Tel: 726932). The testimonial presentation will take place in April 1980 — details will be available later.

Subscribe early to avoid disappointment through non-publication.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

MALONE, Hugh. (H4-Block)
Happy birthday Hugh. Hope your next one is spent in freedom. Our meeting times are seldom, Our writing times are few, But not a day begins or ends without a thought of you. God bless. All our love, Sal, Rog, Martin and Treacy.

MALONE, Hugh. (H4-Block)
Birthday greetings to our son Hugh on your 25th birthday, 19th October. When you are sitting all alone and thinking of the past, remember you have a family whose love for you will last. We are all proud of you. God bless. All our love, Mum and Dad.

MALONE, Hugh. (H4-Block)
Happy birthday big brother. Thinking of you today and always. Behind those

bars you are locked away because you dare to have your say, And when some day old Ireland's free, No more prison bars shall you see. Victory to the blanket-men! From Brendan.

SLOAN, Eugene. (Portlaoise)
Happy 21st Eugene. From Brian, Alice and kids.

SLOAN, Eugene. (Portlaoise)
Happy birthday Eugene. From Gerry.

SLOAN, Eugene. (Portlaoise)
Happy birthday son on your 21st on October 18th. From Mum, Dad, brothers and sisters.

SLOAN, Eugene. (Portlaoise)
Happy birthday Eugene. May your next one be spent in freedom. From your sister Violet.

DONNELLY, Gerry. (H4-Block)
Congratulations on completing two years on the blanket. Bua don fhir phluid. From Paul, Michael and Martin.

DONNELLY, Gerry. (H4-Block)
Congratulations on completing two years on the blanket. We continue to pray for the day when you come home from that dreary H-Block cell. From your sister Roisin and nephews Sean and Gareth.

DONNELLY, Gerry. (H4-Block)
Congratulations Gerry on completing two years on the blanket. We may have had brave men, but we will never have any braver than the blanket men. God bless you Gerry and your comrades. From your brother Kevin.

McILWEE, Tom; McILWEE Beni. (H-Block)
Congratulations to Tom and Beni McIlwee on completing two years on the blanket. Your courage is an inspiration to us all. Love and solidarity from your friends Eilish, Lisa and Geraldine.

O'NEILL, Kevin. (H-Block)
Congratulations to Kevin O'Neill for completing two years on the blanket. No price is too high for Ireland's freedom. From Fergal O'Hanlon Sinn Fein Cumann, Lavey.

Solidarity Greetings

DONNELLY, Gerry. (H4-Block)
It does not take this special day to bring you to our minds, For a gallant brother like you Gerry, is very hard to find. All the best on completing two years on the blanket. From Marion and Martin.

DONNELLY, Gerry. (H4-Block)
With great pride we congratulate you son. Two years on the blanket. Once again you have shown that they haven't broken the spirits of you and your comrades. The fight goes on not only in the 'Hell Holes' but outside by those who care. Love from Mum and Dad.



ANNUAL KEVIN BARRY COMMEMORATION

12 noon Sunday 28th October
RATHVILLY

Co. Carlow
Oration by George Lynch, Sinn Fein
Ard Comhairle
Organised by Carlow Sinn Fein

NATIONAL GRAVES ASSOCIATION BELFAST

PEARSE — MacSWINEY CENTENARY COMMEMORATION

Folk and traditional night
Tara Folk group and guest artists
WEDNESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER
Supper served at 8pm sharp. Taille (including supper) £2.50
Admission by ticket only: venue on ticket. Numbers are strictly limited. Please purchase tickets early.
Available from the usual sources.

FAILTE ABHAILE (Welcome Home)

Noel Sillery and Charlie Hoban
8pm Friday 26th October
WEST COUNTY HOTEL
CHAPELIZOD CO. DUBLIN
Buses 25, 26, 66, 67. Admission 50p
Tickets on sale at Sinn Fein Book Bureau, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin.
Organised by Loughnane Bros Sinn Fein cumann

IN MEMORIAM

FITZSIMMONS, Frank; MARLOWE, Paul; SURGENOR, Joey. (3rd Anniversary)
In proud and loving memory of Vols. Francie Fitzsimmons, Paul Marlowe and Joey Surgenor who were killed while on active service, 16th October 1976. *Thug siad a raibh acu ar son saoirse na Poblachta.* Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann.

FITZSIMMONS, Frank; SURGENOR, Joey. (3rd Anniversary)
In proud and loving memory of Fitz and Joey who died on active service. *May Ireland keep the men who sleep 'neath the ranks of the Old Brigade.* Always remembered by Gerald (Portlaoise) Theresa and Sammy (H-Block).

FITZSIMMONS, Frank; SURGENOR, Joey. (3rd Anniversary)
In proud and loving memory of our friends Fitz and Joey, killed while on active service. Never forgotten by their friend Georgie (H-1), Zack (H-4) and Pidgy (H-2).

FITZSIMMONS, Frank; SURGENOR, Joey. (3rd Anniversary)
In proud and loving memory of Fitz and Joey, killed while on active service, 16th October 1976. *They died that we may live, let not their sacrifice be in vain.* Always remembered by Christy, Eleanor and Críostóir.

FITZSIMMONS, Frank; SURGENOR, Joey. (3rd Anniversary)
In proud and loving memory of Vol. Francie Fitzsimmons and Vol. Joey Surgenor or a fhuair bas sa Bhearna Bhaoil. *Ní dhéanfaimid dearmad orthu. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a n-anamacha uaisle.* Always remembered by their friends and comrades from the Short Strand.

FITZSIMMONS, Frank; SURGENOR, Joey. (3rd Anniversary)
In proud and loving memory of Vols. Prionsias agus Seosamh, killed on active service. *Thug siad a raibh acu ar son saoirse. Go ndéana Dia trócaire orthu.* Proudly remembered by the Martin/Treacy Sinn Fein Cumann, Short Strand.

FITZSIMMONS, Francie (Fitz); SURGENOR, Joey. (3rd Anniversary)
I ndil cuimhne Vol. Francie Fitzsimmons and Vol. Joey Surgenor. Maroidh sa Bhearna Bhaoil Deireadh Fomhair 16th 1976. *Fhad's atá na uaigneanna seo in Éirinn. Ní bheidh síocháin ann gan saoirse.* Jim.

FITZSIMMONS, Francie; SURGENOR, Joey. (3rd Anniversary)
In proud and loving memory of Francie and Joey, killed on active service. *They died so we may live. Mary Queen of Ireland pray for them.* Always remembered by Mrs. Doherty and family, Short Strand.

FITZSIMMONS, Frank; SURGENOR, Joey. (3rd Anniversary)
In proud and loving memory of Francie and Joey who died on active service. *While Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace.* Mary Queen of Ireland pray for them. Always remembered by George Devlin and family, Short Strand.

FITZSIMMONS, Frank; SURGENOR, Joey. (3rd Anniversary)
In proud and loving memory of our friends Francie and Joey, killed while on active service. *Too good in life to be forgotten in death.* Always remembered by Joe and Jacqueline O'Donnell.

FITZSIMMONS, Frank; SURGENOR, Joey. (3rd Anniversary)
In proud and loving memory of our friends Francie and Joey, who gave their lives for Irish freedom. *May Heaven keep the men who sleep from the ranks of the Old Brigade.* Always remembered by their loving friend Rosemary Callaghan, Armagh jail, and the Callaghan family, Short Strand.

FITZSIMMONS, Frank; SURGENOR, Joey. (3rd Anniversary)
In proud and loving memory of our dear friends Francie and Joey, killed on active service. *We may have brave men but we will never have better.* From your comrades Teddy and Raymond Crane (H-3) and also Geraldine and Ciaran.

FITZSIMMONS, Frank. (3rd Anniversary)
In proud and loving memory of my husband Francie. *I miss you love like no one knows. As each year passes the emptiness grows. The tears in my eyes can be wiped away. But the ache in my heart will always stay.* Always remembered by his loving wife Ann and sons Harry and Martin.

FITZSIMMONS, Francie. (3rd Anniversary)
In proud and loving memory of our friend Francie, killed while on active service, October 16th 1976. *Fuair se bas ar son saoirse na hEireann.* Remembered always by Kathleen and Joe.

QUIGLEY, James. (7th Anniversary)
In proud and loving memory of Vol. James Quigley, killed while on active service on 29th September 1972. *Fuair se bas ar son saoirse.* Always remembered and sadly missed by his brother Tommy.

SURGENOR, Joseph. (3rd Anniversary)
In proud and loving memory of my son & our beloved brother Vol. Joseph Surgenor, 4th Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who died on active service 16th October 1976. Masses offered. Also we proudly remember his dead comrades Francie and Paul. *As time goes by without you and days turn into years, They hold a thousand memories and a million silent tears. We will never cease to love you, We will never cease to care, For in a corner of our hearts, You will stay forever there.* Mary Queen of Ireland pray for him. Deeply loved and always remembered by his Mother, sisters Eileen and Geraldine. Also Jimmy, Seamus and nephew Sean Joseph.

SURGENOR, Joey. (3rd Anniversary)
In proud and loving memory of Joey. *A free Ireland will be his true memorial.* Always remembered by his friend Ann Fitzsimmons and sons Martin and Harry.



AN CUMANN CABHRACH ANNUAL XMAS SALE OF WORK
Fri/Sat/Sun 7th/8th/9th December
The Mansion House
DUBLIN
Organised by An Cumann Cabhrach

AN CUMANN CABHRACH SALE OF WORK
11am to 5pm
Saturday 27th October
Union Hall, Main Street
RATHFARNHAM
Dublin
Organised by An Cumann Cabhrach Rathfarnham

GREEN CROSS GALA HALLOWEEN NIGHT
Music by residential group plus guest artists
Wednesday 31st October
CRUMLIN STAR
ARDOYNE
BELFAST
Admission £1.00
Organised by Green Cross

DUBLIN EDUCATION COURSE
No. 5 Blessington Street
Part 11:
7.30 p.m. Thursday 25th October
All Dublin Sinn Fein members welcome
Organised by Sinn Fein Education Department

SINN FEIN WOMEN'S MEETING
2pm Saturday 3rd November
to 5pm Sunday 4th November
BELFAST

Meeting to consider guidelines for involvement in women's issues by Sinn Fein. All Sinn Fein women are welcome to attend. Accommodation will be provided for those travelling to Belfast. For further information contact any of the following:
Martha Mhic Ghill' Aolain — Derry 67749
Sheila McVeigh — Belfast 23214
Lita Campbell — Dublin 747611

What's the catch? 5% RED HERRING

BY PAUL ROONEY

IN DIRECT DEFIANCE of the Free State administration and its partners in the EEC, the fishermen of the south coast of Ireland sailed from Helvick Head in Co. Waterford last Monday to pursue their traditional right to fish for herring.

This is the latest escalation of a lengthy dispute over herring fishing in the Celtic Sea, beginning, when the EEC placed a ban on herring fishing.

This ban however, allows a five per cent by-catch so that other EEC fishermen, like the Dutch, who fish for mackerel can take up to a five per cent incidental catch of herring, as part of their total haul. This allows the big foreign boats a relatively free hand, as all they have to do is increase their total of other fish caught in order to take more herring.

Fishermen in the Free State feel rightly, that this ban is infringing their traditional rights. They are incensed by the actions of other EEC fishing fleets who have bigger and better equipped boats and who fish with impunity in Irish waters.

THREE BOATS

Matters came to a head on Thursday 11th October, when three boats were arrested off Helvick Head, Co. Waterford, by the Free State naval service for fishing for herring. Skippers and owners from all over the south east then converged on Dungarvan Garda station to express their solidarity with the arrested skippers.

They also made clear their inten-

tion to ignore the ban, as it is placing their livelihood in jeopardy. Most of the fishermen are still making repayments on their boats, which can amount to £200 per month. Fishermen from Helvick, point out that their boats are only suitable for herring fishing, being small inshore fishing vessels, and this is in most cases the only source of income for many families.

Officials of the Irish Fishermen's Organisation have expressed support for the men, and have stated that an inshore zone for small fishing boats should be top priority.

TWENTY-ONE

Last Monday night's fishing was watched by the Free State naval service who cruised amongst the fishing vessels, but no attempt was made to make any arrests. However on Monday evening, the gardai delivered twenty-one summonses to men who arrived back at Helvick, and they are due to appear in court on October 24th in Dungarvan Co. Waterford.

Through the past week the fisher-

men have been defying the ban but there have been no additional arrests. The Free State administration's use of force to assist the plundering of Irish waters by foreigners, comes as no surprise to republicans.

STATEMENT

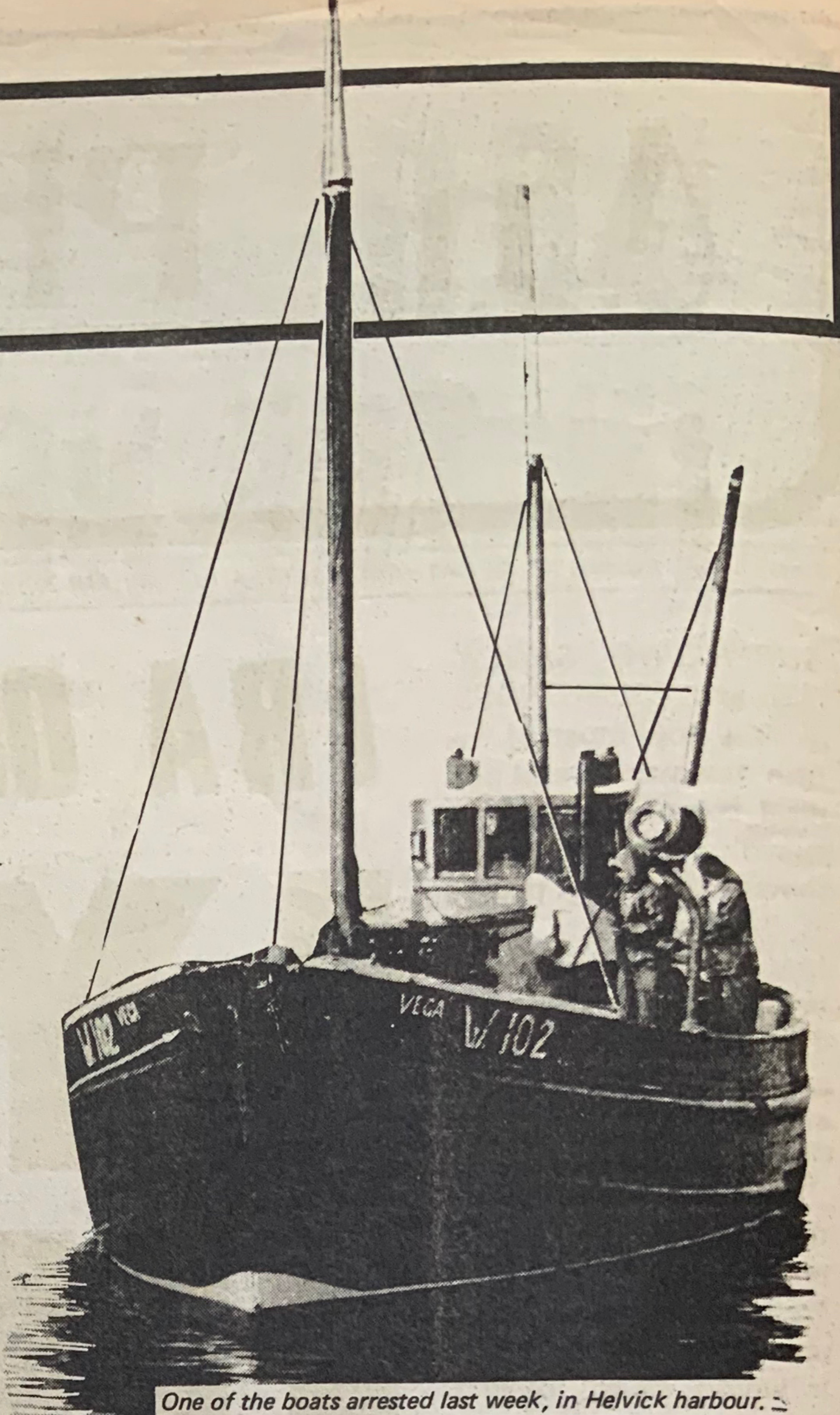
Sinn Fein has issued a statement supporting the action of the fishermen. "Their livelihoods are at stake, they use only small boats and their people have fished there for generations," it says.

"The present difficulties involve depletion of herring stocks, but the blame lies ultimately with our continued membership of the EEC. Foreign trawlers from EEC countries have completely overfished our waters, and our small fishermen are now to suffer for this.

"We hear a lot about EEC grants for development but the other EEC countries take many times this amount from our fishing grounds, 'the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland' declared in 1916 is no longer upheld by those who have surrendered to Brussels dictatorship.

"Sinn Fein has always opposed EEC membership and still does so. We demand a 200-mile fishing limit with the first fifty miles completely reserved to Irish boats. Fishing rights in the rest of the area can be leased on a temporary basis to other fleets which have traditionally fished there until such time as our own fleet is more developed, provided strict quotas are imposed.

"What is happening to our fish stocks today can happen to our minerals, gas and maybe oil tomorrow. Norway and Iceland have taken the right approach. But our Dublin rulers continue on the path of sell-out and collaboration with the modern economic imperialists."



One of the boats arrested last week, in Helvick harbour.

Faulkner engineers another strike?

BY MICK SWEENEY

THE Irish Post Office Engineering Union (IPOEU) in Dublin has warned of more industrial action in the Post Office. This follows the refusal by Fianna Fail's Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, Paddy Faulkner, to meet the union to discuss post office staff representation on the new 'Interim Board' which is in the process of preparing the hand-over of twenty-six-county telecommunications to private industry.

Immediately after the four-month-long post office workers' strike, which ended in June, the Free State administration announced that they planned to hive off the postal and telecommunications' systems to two semi-state bodies, involving private and public investment.

They also proposed the immediate setting-up of an interim board for the disposal of the telecommunications' system — which of course is the more profitable section of the industry and the only part likely to attract private investment while the unprofitable postal section is left as a drain on public funds.

I.P.O.E.U.

Leaders of the IPOEU have threatened to take industrial action and embark on a campaign of non-cooperation with both the board and the post office, if there is no representation on it for their union.

The IPOEU last year were involved in a dispute with the department which hit the telephone service and the telex system. The union claimed at the time that their members did not have a strong

enough voice in the running of the service, and that management-staff relations were appalling. The IPOEU see this latest snub by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs as further evidence that the management of the post office have no intention of allowing the staff to have any say in the running of their industry.

Another section of the post office staff declared their dissatisfaction with Paddy Faulkner and his department, last weekend. The Post Office Management Staff Association (POMSA), which represents supervisory grades in the post office, including the central sorting office in Dublin, have stated that the Department of Posts and Telegraphs are ignoring all suggestions put forward by the POMSA for the improvement of the postal system, mainly by increased recruitment of temporary and permanent staff. The POMSA feel that this intransigent stand is making a situation — which includes long delays in delivery service — much worse.



Post office workers picket Telephone House, Dublin in May — how long will it be before the picket lines return?

THE POLL AND THE POLLING BOOTH:

PERCENTAGES IN PERSPECTIVE

FOLLOWING the publication of the E.S.R.I. survey on Monday, Sinn Fein head office in Dublin released a statement pointing out that the survey confirms that "the vast majority of the Irish people want the British to go."

The statement added: "A majority of the British people also demand a withdrawal from Ireland and this demand can no longer be ignored by British and Irish politicians."

"The survey clearly shows that the politicians are completely out of tune with the aspirations of the people."

"Those who reflect the views of the people are denied access to the media and the RTE ban on Republican spokespersons, including Sinn Fein elected representatives is shown up in a ludicrous light by the survey," concluded the statement.

In attempting to explain away the results of the survey relating to support for the IRA, Free State premier, Jack Lynch at a press conference in Dublin Castle on Tuesday, claimed that Sinn Fein had put forward candidates in the 1973 and 1977 General Elections in the twenty-six-counties as well as the 1979 local elections and received only 2% of the vote.

Sinn Fein President Ruairi O Bradaigh in his reply has pointed out that in fact Sinn Fein did not contest the two General Elections at all, and he went on to analyse recent Sinn Fein electoral support:

"Sinn Fein has been effectively banned from the State-monopoly RTE radio and television since 1972 and is the only organisation with elected representatives to be so excluded.

"In 1972, before the ban, Sinn Fein led



RUAIRI O BRADAIGH

the active campaign against EEC membership in which the 'No' vote was 17% of the total valid poll. In 1974 and again in 1979 Sinn Fein, as always, contested the local elections, and increased its representation on both occasions, and now holds thirty local council seats.

"In the areas contested it is admitted by political correspondents to have secured 5% of the vote. In its more successful areas such as County Galway, where there is a Sinn Fein chairman of the County Council, the percentage was much higher. Given full access to radio and television since 1972 this total would undoubtedly have been even greater.

"As was admitted by one of the authors of the E.S.R.I. survey, interviewed on RTE radio news, many people would support the IRA demands for a British withdrawal from Ireland, self-determination for the whole Irish people and a general amnesty for all political prisoners, who would not be prepared to vote for Sinn Fein's objectives of a decentralised Socialist Ireland, especially when they have been denied detailed political exposition of this programme on radio and television for over seven years."

U.D.R. IN THE NEWS

WAR NEWS

All the operations referred to here were claimed in supplied statements by the Irish Republican Army.

EARLY in the week the UDR were very much in the news. Firstly it was announced that they are to have a new commanding officer (KOSBie Colonel Pat Hargrave, currently serving with United Nations forces in Cyprus). Secondly direct-ruler Hump Atkins went on a well-publicised visit to the UDR training camp at Barry Buddon in Scotland, to give them a much-needed morale-boost.

And thirdly, one UDR man came under fatal IRA fire near Roslea whilst another had a narrow escape at Sion Mills.

During the week covered by *War News*, a prison warder, RUC men and British soldiers were also ambushed, the most successful attack occurring in Belfast on Wednesday when two Brits were injured.

THURSDAY 11TH OCTOBER

Belfast:

An IRA active service unit mounted a gun attack on an RUC land-rover on the Andersonstown Road in Belfast during the afternoon. Two bullets struck the vehicle but no RUC men were hit.

SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER

Dungannon:

A prison warder was shot and injured when his car was raked with gun-fire as he drove along the M1 motorway near Dungannon shortly before half-past-seven in the morning. The prison warder had just left his home in Dungannon and was driving to work at Long Kesh when his car was over-taken by another car which had been commandeered by three IRA Volunteers.

They fired fourteen shots at the warder who was injured in the chin and the arm, but he was able to keep control of his car and was later reported not to be seriously injured.

Fermanagh:

A landmine attack was mounted on a British military land-rover, one mile north of Pettigo.

MONDAY 15TH OCTOBER

Fermanagh:

A member of the Ulster Defence Regiment of the British army was shot dead by IRA Volunteers who commandeered a Fermanagh school. The school is about three-quarters of a mile from the village of Roslea in the townland of Mullaghconnolly.

In a carefully prepared and smoothly executed operation two masked IRA Volunteers armed with a rifle and a revolver shot dead the UDR man when he arrived at the ambush point driving a lorry, shortly after nine o'clock in the morning. The Volunteers escaped in a commandeered car.

Ian Paisley later correctly commented, "The IRA seem to strike at will and get well away."



IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY
VOLUNTEER WITH M16

TUESDAY 16TH OCTOBER Tyrone:

During the afternoon the IRA ambushed a UDR man at Herdmans Mill, Sion Mills, County Tyrone. The UDR man, who was in his car at the time, came under IRA gunfire but escaped unscathed.

WEDNESDAY 17TH OCTOBER

Belfast:

Two KOSBies were shot and injured in a daring gun attack outside Springfield Road RUC barracks in West Belfast. One Brit was seriously

injured and another slightly injured. The carefully-planned attack was launched just after two o'clock from an unoccupied house in Cavendish Street, which faces the back-gate of the barracks. As a four-ton truck emerged from the barracks two IRA Volunteers unleashed a fusillade of rifle fire — one Volunteer firing from upstairs and one downstairs. The wounded Brits were in the lorry's driving cab and the lorry careered out-of-control into a stationary car temporarily blocking the barrack gate.

Solicitor's clerk shot dead— I.R.A. APOLOGISE

SHORTLY after they shot dead John Donaldson, a twenty-three-year-old solicitor's clerk, in Belfast last Friday afternoon, the IRA issued an apology that he was not their 'intended target'. The IRA shot Donaldson dead a few minutes after he had ridden out of Andersonstown RUC barracks, on a motor-cycle.

The IRA pointed out in a supplied statement that: "He was not the Irish Republican Army's intended target but tragically got caught up in the defensive measures taken by the IRA to combat the high level of under-cover surveillance carried out by the British army and RUC against the nationalist population. An example of this spying was shown on Monday when an under-cover team of Brits was ambushed at the bottom of the Whiterock Road. The fact that the Brits/RUC are extensively using plain-clothes under-cover teams in unmarked vehicles endangers the lives of innocent civilians."

The IRA statement concluded: "The active service unit which carried out the shooting was convinced that its target was a member of such a surveillance team and acted accordingly. The Irish Republican Army expresses its deepest sympathy to the family of the dead man."

MARGARET'S SLIP

THE most surprising aspect about Princess Margaret's now internationally-famous Chicago remarks 'The Irish, they're pigs' is that it should reach the pages of the world press.

A racist contempt for colonised 'natives' is of course what can only be expected from the English aristocracy. What surprised Princess Margaret, and caught her off balance, was to find such a 'native' — Irish-American Mayor Jane Byrne — in the plush surroundings of the penthouse of oil heiress Abra Anderson.

COUNCILS CALL FOR CURFEW

FOURTEEN of the North's twenty-six local councils voted on Tuesday in support of a loyalist resolution which amongst other things calls for a curfew and 'search and seize' operation in Republican areas.

Five councils, including Belfast city council, rejected the motion which had been drawn up by Official Unionist and Paisleyite DUP councillors at a series of meetings. The other seven councils have yet to consider the resolution.

With Tory talk in the air of more 'devolved' power from Westminster to local councils, the prospects for the re-inforcement of Orange rule in the North are high.

LISNAHULL TENANTS ASSOCIATION ATTACKED

BRITISH soldiers in Dungannon, County Tyrone, recently arrested and questioned Seamus McNulty, Vice-President of Lisnahull Tenants' Association after it was reorganised.

Seamus McNulty, who has a brother on the blanket in the H-Blocks, was interrogated about an incident which had occurred in Ballygawley Road Housing estate. After a residents' meeting which registered concern at vandalism in the estate, approaches were made to the local IRA who intervened. An armed unit rounded up and took popular action against local offenders.

Seamus McNulty was asked about the feelings of people in the estate towards the Republican Movement and if the Pope's visit would affect attitudes — soundings obviously ordered by British military commanders.

H-BLOCK MAN HARASSED

JOHN DEERY of Derry, who was the first H-Block 'blanket man' on the 'no-wash-no-slop-out' protest to be released, was arrested by a mixed Brit/UDR patrol outside Dungiven on Thursday one week ago. John Deery works in the Derry H-Block information centre and when Brits at a road check-point discovered H-Block leaflets in a car in which he was travelling both he and the car driver were arrested, made to stand in the pouring rain and then taken to Strand Road RUC barracks where their literature was photocopied before they were released.

THEIR OWN MEDICINE

TWELVE British soldiers were arrested last week after West German police used tear gas and batons to break up a street brawl in the German town of Lemgo. Two policemen and several Brits were injured. About twenty soldiers of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers stationed in Lemgo as members of the British-Army-on-the-Rhine were involved in a fight with a group of German football fans. The fans fled when the police fired tear gas and charged with batons but the drunken and berserk Brits started fighting with police and twelve of them were arrested.

DEMOLISH DIVIS

THE recently-formed committee to campaign for the demolition, and not the renovation, of the Divis flats, in Belfast, held a well-attended public meeting on Tuesday evening.

The committee was expanded to twenty persons and various publicity-seeking proposals — especially harassing the Housing Executive — are under consideration. One resident pointed out that "the Orange bigotry of the state is being challenged... What's at stake here is decent housing for Catholics."

Another resident said that it would be stupid to keep the committee, and campaign, 'non-political' because the creation of the Divis slums was a political act and it should be recognised as such.

TRIGGER HAPPY

TWO trigger-happy members of the state forces accidentally shot and injured themselves in separate incidents last Friday evening.

In Coleraine a full-time UDR man received a gun-shot wound to the head, and was critically ill, after his gun had apparently discharged accidentally, whilst he was in his car. And in Lisburn a prison warder was admitted to hospital after shooting himself in the leg whilst in his own home.

Unfortunately, however, these people do not normally keep their violence to themselves.

MOTHER DENIED ACCESS TO DAUGHTER

GARDAI have refused to allow a Belfast woman to see her daughter whilst detained in the Dublin Bridewell.

Mrs. Dines' daughter was arrested while visiting her husband, Gerard Rooney, in Mountjoy jail on Monday and was taken to the Bridewell for interrogation. When her mother arrived from Belfast she was refused permission to see her.

This action by the gardai is contrary to the rules governing detention, according to Sinn Féin's POW department who also state that there have been a number of complaints recently about prisoners being denied access to relatives in the Dublin Bridewell.

BRIT BITES MAN AND WOMAN

A MEMBER of the notorious KOSBie regiment, which is imminently leaving nationalist West Belfast, has ensured his trade mark, or to be more exact his teeth mark, is left behind him. During a street fracas on Belfast's Falls Road a Brit sunk his teeth into two people, Hugh Carson and Margaret Smith.

Seven people were also arrested during this assault by the KOSBies which happened just after midnight on Tuesday 9th October at the corner of Sebastopol Street and the Falls Road.

Margaret Smith and her husband Pat, together with their sixteen-year-old son Gerard, challenged a patrol of KOSBies who had earlier assaulted Gerard. The reaction from the patrol was typical. They threatened to give the father the same treatment as the son if he did not 'clear off home'. When Pat Smith insisted on being faced with the Brit who assaulted his son the leader of the

patrol ordered him and his son to be arrested.

UPROAR

Attempts to enforce this order created an uproar which brought more people on to the street. As Brit reinforcements also arrived, what started out as a minor dispute flared into a vicious assault by the KOSBies, using rifle butts, boots and fists.

One man, Hugh Carson, was badly beaten as he foiled several attempts by the Brits to force him into a sar-

acen. As well as being bitten on the back he suffered numerous bruises on his back, legs and shoulders and was injured in the stomach by the barrel of a rifle. It was during the attack on Carson that Margaret Smith was bitten when she intervened to try to stop the Brits beating him. Another young woman, Bridie McCabe was also viciously assaulted. She was dragged to the ground by the hair and kicked before being thrown into the back of a saracen.

The seven people arrested, during what was a very much one-sided

free-for-all by the KOSBies, were Hugh Carson, Bridie McCabe, Pat Smith, Gerard Smith, Pat McGivern, Geordie Rooney and Seamus Laverly. They were released without charge, but with threats of charges to come, after being imprisoned for several hours in Springfield Road RUC barracks.



Margaret Smith - bitten by a KOSBie

BIZARRE ATTACK IN TURF LODGE

A BIZARRE attack was mounted on four houses in the West Belfast nationalist estate of Turf Lodge in the early hours of last Sunday morning. A berserk man, wielding what appears to have been a pickaxe handle, smashed in the front windows of four houses causing hundreds of pounds worth of damage.

At each house he left behind an abusive note accusing the occupants, whom he called 'bastards' of being IRA supporters. Each note was ironically signed 'Peace Person'. Each attack was carried out in seconds before the assailant jumped into a car and continued his round of destruction. The houses attacked were those of McQuillan, Monagh Road; Captain, Norglen Crescent; Taylor, Norglen Gardens; and Kearney. (In the photograph Mrs. Kearney is reading the threatening letter which she found in her hallway, while behind her the broken windows are being repaired.)

One witness described the assailant: "He was like a mad man, banging this stick as quick as he could through all the windows."



Repairing broken windows

When challenged he shouted "You fucking murdering bastard" before leaping back into the car. His accent was not immediately recognisable as being English or

Belfast but he had a pronounced lisp.

The families attacked believe the culprits to be KOSBies, the locally-based Brit regiment which is

imminently due to return to Scotland after its four-month rampage of harassment and destruction in West Belfast - a departing gesture perhaps.

A WEEK of stepped-up Brit harassment in the Bogside and Brandywell areas of Derry began on Monday 8th October. The perpetrators were the locally infamous Duke of Edinburgh regiment currently based in the city.

On Monday foot patrols were much thicker on the ground than usual as a net of petty harassment was spread over both the Bogside and Brandywell and youths were constantly stopped for ritual questioning.

On Tuesday the Bogside was flooded by thirty military vehicles and hundreds of Brits in what some residents described as a 'mini-motorman' operation.

A week of harassment in Bogside and Brandywell

During the morning in the Meenan Park and Cable Street areas every out-building and backyard was searched; the doors of numerous coal sheds were smashed open; bins were tipped over and sifted through; and gratings lifted.

On Wednesday, the Brandywell was the target. Numerous house searches took place and the Sinn Féin Advice Centre was also surrounded by Brits who spent an hour in a predictably futile search. One family chosen for a deliberately pain-staking raid was that of last

November's SAS death victim Patsy Duffy.

The Brits brought a huge Alsatian dog into the Duffy's living room and the dog-handler had the nerve to tell them to put away the food, that they were just sitting down to eat, otherwise the dog would eat it. In fact the dog proved to be the most civil member of the raiding party.

On Thursday the Brits raided, for the second time in a week, the home of an elderly man Joseph McCool, presently ill in hospital, causing great distress to his wife.

And finally on Friday the Brits surrounded a number of elderly people's homes and dug up their gardens in yet another futile, if energetic exercise.

duirt siad

"A highly placed White House source has told Hibernia's Washington correspondent that the suspension of arms and munitions to the RUC is most likely to be made permanently temporary in order to avoid 'being damned by the British if we do and damned by the American-Irish if we don't'."

Hibernia on international diplomacy.

"I felt a bit discouraged and also some people feel a lot of money is going in salaries."

Delegate to the Peace People's conference in Belfast last Saturday.

"In 1970-71 our garda and army cost £40 million to maintain. Today the equivalent figure is £230 million."

Free State Minister Michael O'Kennedy on the increased cost of collaboration with the Brits.

"It was a pleasure for me to read the English papers of Monday 22nd November 1920. They sucked Roger's Thesaurus dry to find words to denounce us. We were gunmen, terrorists, extremists, murderers, assassins, butchers, thugs. They were particularly vocal about the sense of horror that swept their nation. No race commands such an inexhaustible supply of horror as do the British when their interests are adversely affected."

Todd Andrews, who took part in the execution of fourteen British agents in 1920, describing the unchanging nature of Brit hypocrisy."

"Jack Lynch is standing idly by while Sile de Valera has her female chauvinist fling. Gerry Collins is providing colour television for the creepy inhabitants of Portlaoise, and Bobby Molloy is doing Sweet Fanny Adams about the army. It is like putting a Clydesdale horse in the Derby. They are not bred for the job."

Former Fine Gael Minister for Defence Patrick Donegan explaining the breadth of his bigotry.

I.R.A. OPERATION STRIKES HOME

LEICESTER MERCURY INDICATES RISING 'TROOPS OUT' CLIMATE

THE IRA's ambush of two British soldiers in plain-clothes at the bottom of Belfast's Whiterock Road a week last Monday was a double success. Not only was it a technical military success in undoubtedly curbing the activities of Brit undercover men — one was killed and one seriously wounded — but also brought immediate political and propaganda pay-offs in encouraging 'troops out' sentiment in England.

The two shot Brits, who were in an unmarked mini-car, were members of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment which is stationed at Palace Barracks in East Belfast. They were both from Leicester where many members of the battalion come from. And a few days after the ambush, on Friday 12th October, the local newspaper the *Leicester Mercury*, carried a prominent story headed 'Ulster verdict is unanimous: Pull them out'.

The story began: "Thurnby and New Parks people, still shocked by the IRA's brutal gun attack on two of their local lads serving in West Belfast, are calling for the soldiers to come home."

Reporters had interviewed people in the neighbourhood of the 'local lads' homes.

LANCE-CORPORAL

"Withdrawing the troops from Northern Ireland is the only solution we have left", said Harold Moore, a neighbour of the Lance-Corporal seriously wounded in the attack. He went on: "Let them come home. Too many young lives have already been pointlessly wasted... I was proud to be a soldier. But I would never let my twenty-three-year-old son

Winston sign up." Referring to the wounded Brit, who was shot four times in the chest, shoulder and head, he said: "He had a narrow escape. Let's learn a lesson from that before more are maimed and killed."

Hilda Wilson, whose daughter

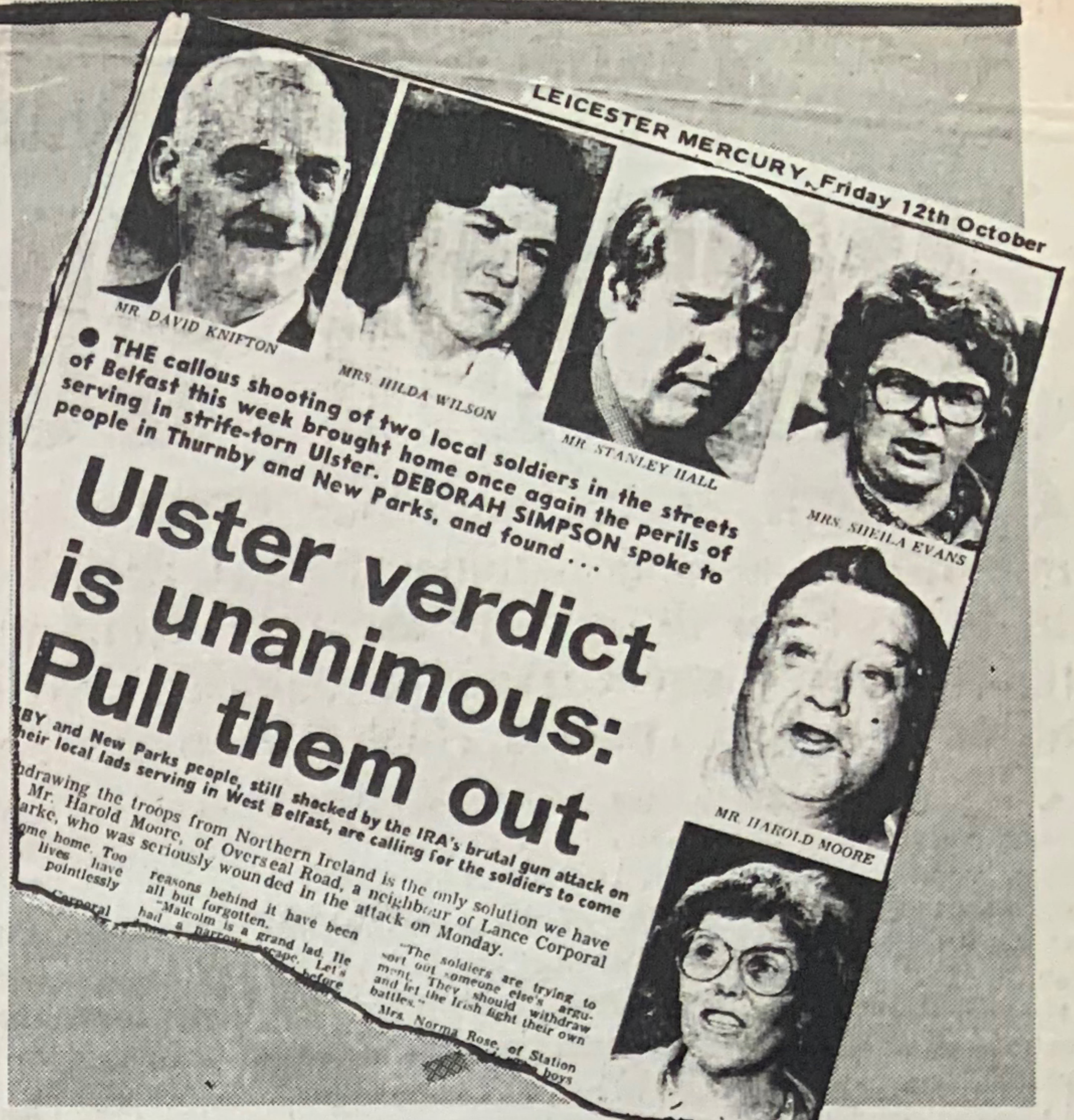
was a close school friend of the wounded Brit, said: "Brutal incidents don't really affect you when they are far away. But when it involves a friend the horror of it hits home." Expressing confusion about the role of the British army but calling for the right British

action, she said: "The soldiers are trying to sort out someone else's argument. They should withdraw and let the Irish fight their own battles."

The call to withdraw the troops also came from the neighbourhood of the Private killed in the ambush.



British press and military combine



"Get them out", said Stanley Hall. "The whole situation here has reached a stalemate." "Men are being killed for nothing," he concluded.

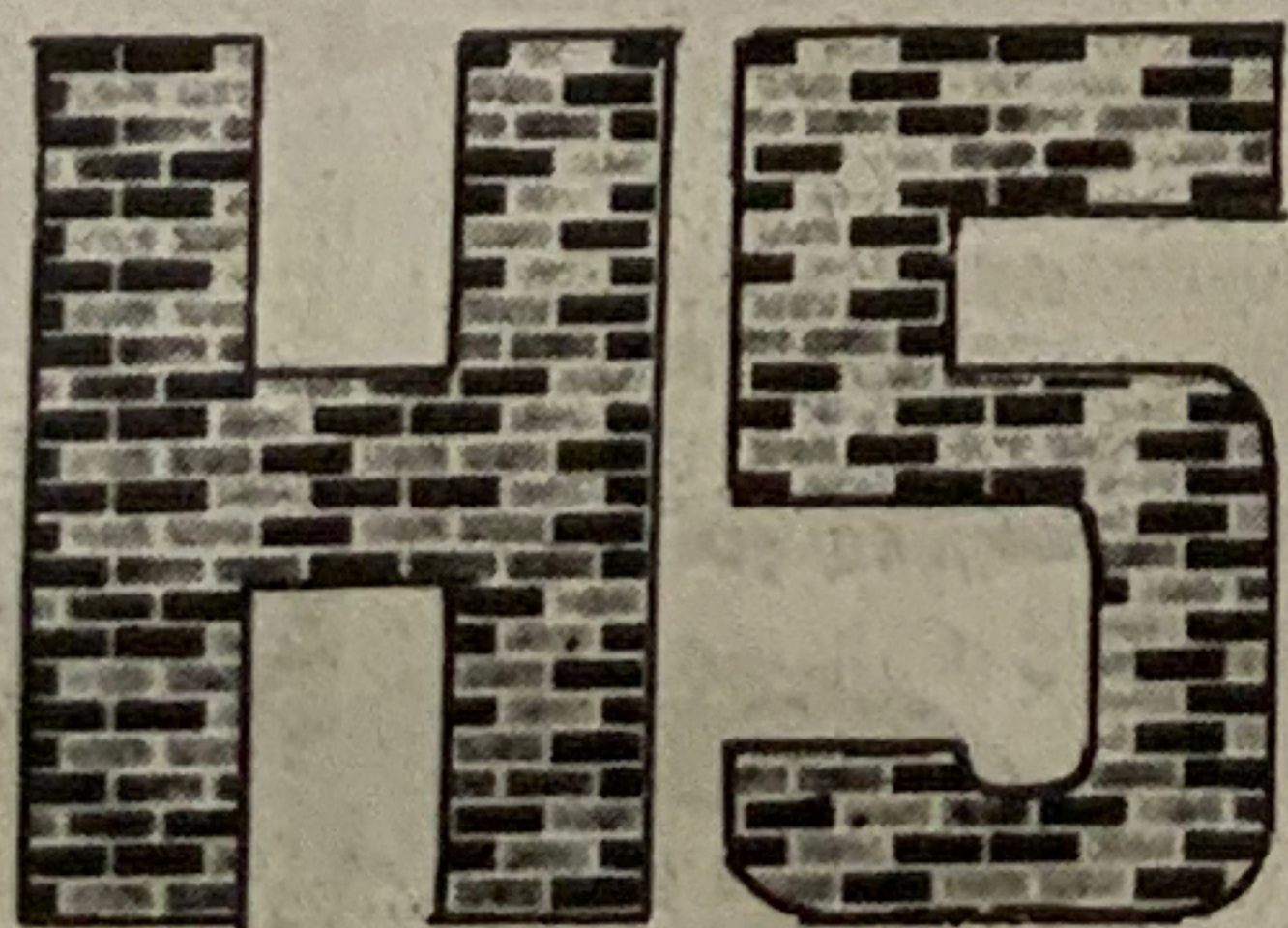
"Thank goodness my sixteen-year-old son did not want to join the army," was the view of Sheila Evans. "The whole situation in Northern Ireland is a mess. If the troops were withdrawn they would leave behind absolute chaos, yet I can see no other solution."

Editorially the *Leicester Mercury* argued 'the case for soldiering on' but admitted that "Readers of the *Leicester Mercury* in the areas where the two latest victims of the IRA live are very angry: And many of those interviewed by reporters have called for the withdrawal of the troops from Northern Ireland."

Predictably, 'Troops must stay in Ulster, say Tory MPs' was the title of yet another story in the same paper.

Michael Latham, MP, said: "There is no other possible policy. We must continue the struggle for the defeat of terrorism." Whilst Kenneth Lewis, MP, said that if the troops are withdrawn then it will result in a 'bloodbath'.

LONG DIRECTION IN H5-BLOCK



DAVY LONG, who is a senior prison warder, at Long Kesh is renowned for his hatred of Republican prisoners and for the vicious assaults he carries out, and supervises, against them.

Last week during the first wing shift in H5-block, since Long took charge of that block, thirty men were beaten. H5-Block, compared with H3 and H4, has recently been relatively quiet in terms of attacks on the blanket-men. It seems that this is now about to change under Long's direction.

The worst injured during the wing shift were: Eugene McCormick, who was kicked to the ground because he refused to face the wall; Seán Lavery (Toome) who

received a badly cut lip and nose; Brendan McLoughlin (North Derry) who suffered a bad bump on his head after it was banged against the iron grills; John Cushnahan (Toome) who has bad bruising to his ribs; Eamonn Digney who was bruised on his ribs and back and Finbarr Bateson (South Derry) who was badly bruised on the legs.

The names of the warders responsible for the beatings include Davy Long, Lyle, Edgar, Jimmy Murray, and Baden Cordonier.

Reporter on under-cover run

AFTER the IRA ambush of two Brits from Leicester, the *Leicester Mercury* sent a reporter, Malcolm Munro (pictured above left) to Belfast for two days which he spent "sharing the tensions on the streets of Belfast with soldiers of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment."

In an article entitled 'Hatred on every face in Republican stronghold' he recalls: "On every wall the message was clear enough 'BRITS OUT, THE PROVOS RULE'" and he "could sense the bitter resentment as the army armoured car moved in for the routine surveillance patrol".

He remarks: "Even the toughest troops dread waiting around on the notorious Falls Road." And he records how "later, in an unmarked car, I went with soldiers in civilian clothes to the Falls area," — Surely a highly-dangerous pro-Brit activity, even for a journalist.

SMASH H-BLOCK CONFERENCE

Commences 11a.m.
Sunday 21st October
The Green Briar
BELFAST

Organised by six-county co-ordinating committee of the Relatives Action Committee.
SUPPORTED BY THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

ALL WELCOME

THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND THE SECTARIAN DIVISION OF THE WORKING CLASS IN THE NORTH — part 1

FROM LARKIN AND CONNOLLY TO PARTITION

BY CIARAN DOWD

THE LOYALIST section of the working-class in the six-counties have their historical roots in the Ulster Plantation carried out by the English early in the 17th century. The settlers, mainly Scottish, were planted in Ulster to secure a loyal garrison against the (Catholic) Irish who had been dispossessed.

As the linen industry developed a process of industrialization began in Ulster, and in the mid-19th century, Belfast acquired its second major industry, shipbuilding.

As Belfast expanded, the rest of Ulster's rural industries — spinning mills, distilleries and flour mills contracted, and the unemployed tended to move to the city. The Protestants were the first to leave the land and came to occupy the skilled jobs in the growing industries. The Catholics, who began moving into Belfast in large numbers in the 1820s and 1830s, were driven into the unskilled occupations.

Even before the famine of 1845 to 1849 tension had built up between the Protestants and Catholics. The first serious sectarian riots began in Belfast in about 1835 and these were to recur as Protestant workers

drove the Catholics from their jobs, and competed with them for housing. As far as they were concerned a job for a Catholic was one less for a Protestant, a house for a Catholic was one less for a Protestant.

LARKIN

When James Larkin arrived in Belfast in 1907 as organiser for the National Union of Dock Labourers he was confronted with a working class divided politically along religious lines.

Within a short period this great trade union organiser had recruited four thousand members to his union, which greatly alarmed the big shipping companies. By May of that year the owners had engineered a lock out and began drafting in scabs from Hull and Glasgow to break the trade unions.

The carters who moved the goods to and from the docks as well as the coal fillers came out in sympathy with the dockers

and the dispute escalated. The workers at Gallahers tobacco factory were soon on strike as well, because the owner was Chairman of the Belfast Steamship Company with which the dockers were in dispute.

The issue at stake was the right of workers to organise in unions of their choice in pursuance of improved wages and conditions. The strikers came from both sides of the community, for once overcoming the carefully fostered religious divisions to fight for their common interests.

MUTINY

A sign of the times was a brief police mutiny caused by the long hours put in protecting the scabs, which resulted in the calling in of the British army. Larkin even organised a non-sectarian demonstration on the 12th July.

In a bid to stir up sectarian feeling, the British army moved into the Lower Falls area provoking a sharp riot which resulted in two deaths. The Unionist press could then portray the strike as a nationalist uprising, and the trade union leadership in London grew afraid.

They rushed over and settled with the employers over Larkin's head on terms that the strikers saw as a betrayal. The selling out of 1907 was thus a combination of 'yellow' unionism and a pandering to imperialist ideology. Larkin had said nothing on the vital political issue of the day, Home Rule. In thus trying to separate economic from political issues, the strikers surrendered the political initiative to the employers and the state.

CONNOLLY

In the aftermath of 1907, Ulster entered into a political crisis over the issue of Home Rule, with Carson threatening to set up a Provisional government in Ulster in 1911 if the Home Rule Bill was passed. In 1912, four hundred thousand people signed a 'Solemn League and Covenant' to resist Home Rule through the Ulster Volunteer Force.

It was in this atmosphere that James Connolly went to Belfast and became an organiser for the Irish Transport and General

JAMES CONNOLLY once stated: "The doctrine that because the workers of Belfast live under the same industrial conditions as do those of Great Britain, they are therefore subject to the same passions and to be influenced by the same methods of propaganda, is a doctrine almost screamingly funny in its absurdity".

Today the position so strongly criticised by James Connolly, the great trade union and socialist leader, in 1913 has become part of the 'wisdom' of trade union leaders in the North of Ireland. (A 'wisdom' also strongly promoted by the Sticks.)

The 'religious' divide of Northern Irish workers is seen as a medieval hangover, which must be overcome by exclusive concentration of the trade

unions, and socialists, on 'bread-and-butter' issues, avoiding religious or political divisions.

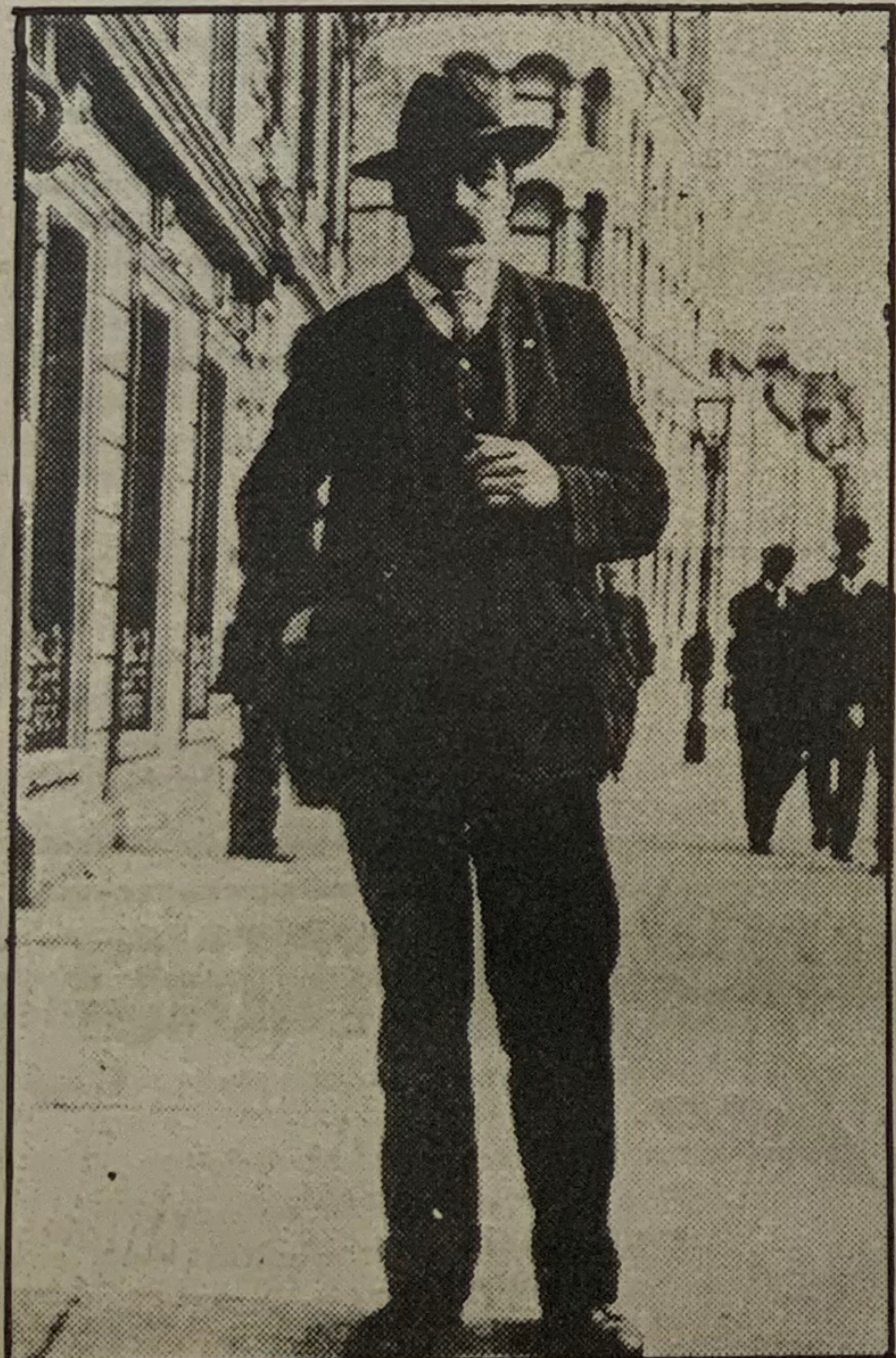
British unionism and Irish nationalism are dubbed as equally outdated sectarian ideologies, which stop workers from coming together around so-called 'class politics'. For these people, the impractical reformists, the solution to the present war lies in the direction of achieving working-class unity within the bounds of the six-county statelet.

An Phoblacht/Republican News is publishing a three-part series of articles by Ciaran Dowd on 'the trade union movement and the sectarian division of the workingclass in the North' whose

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JAMES LARKIN IN BELFAST



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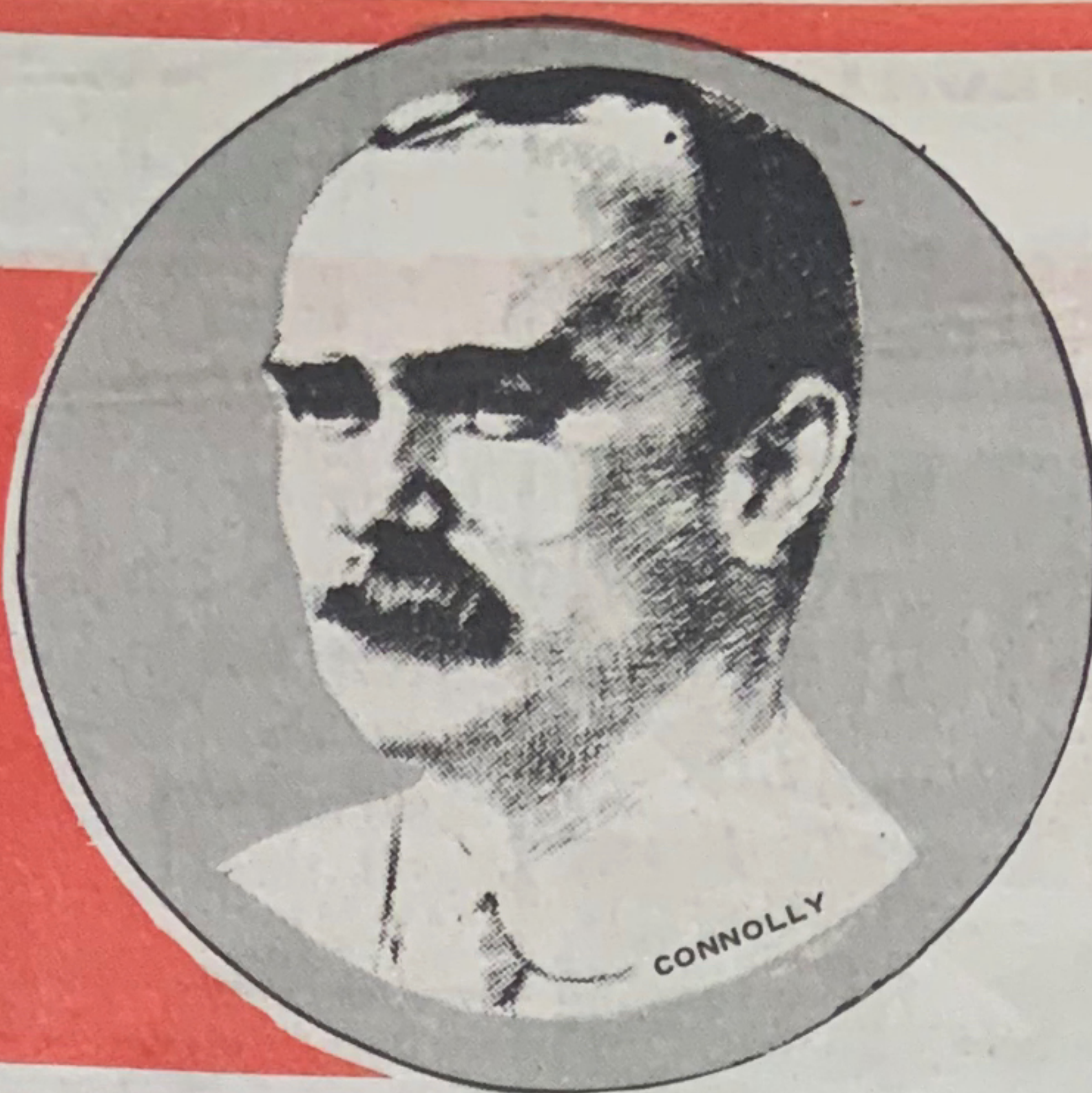
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THE WORKING CLASS IN THE NORTH — part 1

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An Phoblacht/Republican News is publishing a three-part series of articles by Ciaran Dowd on 'the trade union movement and the sectarian division of the working-class in the North' whose

aim is to assess the prospects of this (useless) strategy, placing it in a historical context.

The first article printed here, briefly explains the historical roots of the loyalist working-class; then goes on to give an outline of cross-sectarian working-class unity 'from Larkin and Connolly to partition', and describes how this fragile unity was always broken by industrialists, politicians, or clergy (that is the British ruling-class or their loyalist puppets) playing the Orange card.

A fourth article, on the Orange Order, is very relevant to this three-part series. Entitled 'Orange Drums Out Again' (by Ciaran Dowd) it was published in the July 21st issue of this paper.

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privately) to this 'unionist'
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Unionists. And Unionism
means Toryism".

Connolly continued the fight against sectarianism begun by Larkin, organising some three hundred aluminium workers in the staunchly Protestant town of Larne, to fight for better conditions. Their strike in 1913 was broken by the intervention of the Protestant clergy which declared it was a devilish Fenian and Papist plot, and that it was their Christian duty to return to work.

Connolly was understandably bitter when the strike collapsed: "...here at the command of

sectarianism the interests of trade unionism, of social progress, of material well being are all forgotten, and in the midst of a battle against abominably slavish conditions, the workers are induced to abandon their trade organisation, to bite the hand that fed them, and to throw away the only weapon that could protect them".

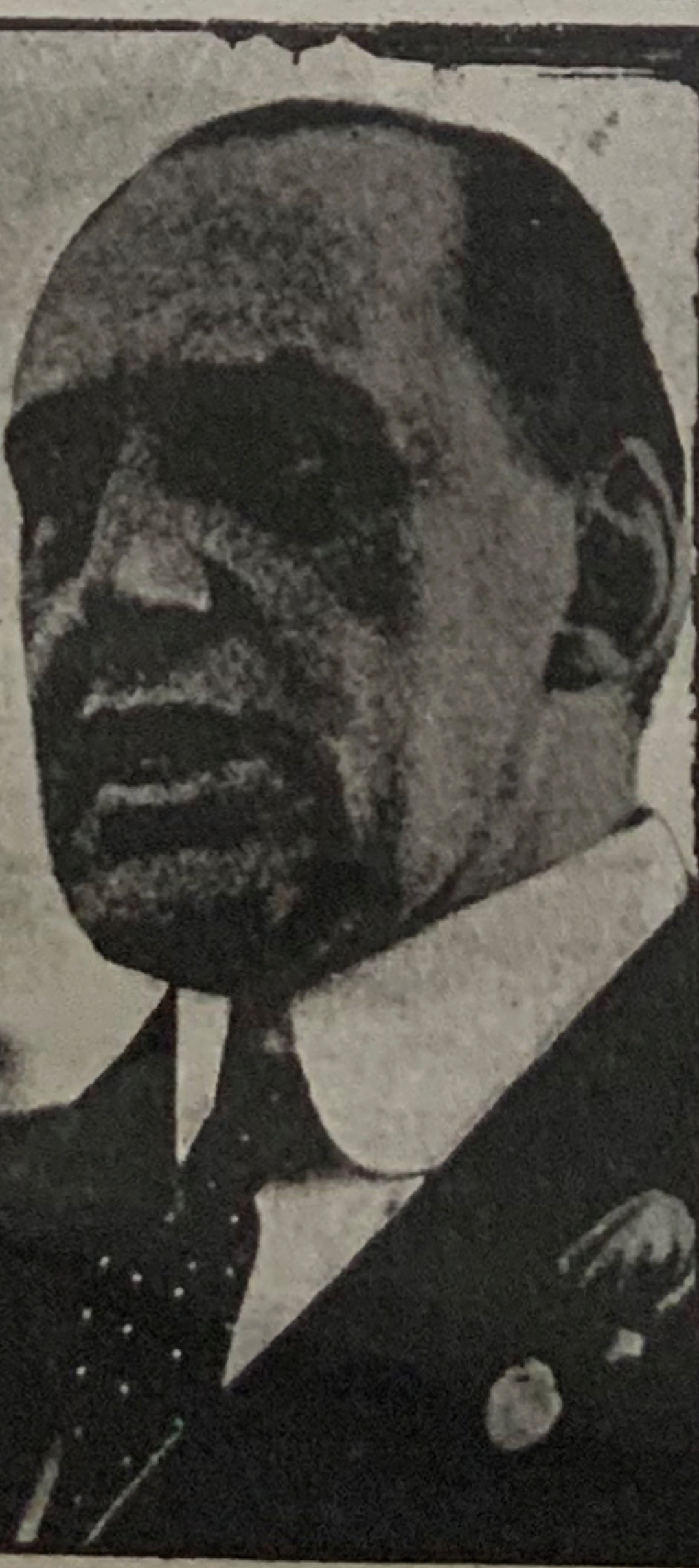
Slightly more successful was his activity amongst the dockers. In an important strike he was able to bring out the predominantly Catholic deep-sea dockers in sympathy with the mainly Protestant cross-Channel seamen. Larkin however thought Connolly was not making as much headway as he had in 1907.

Connolly's reply was instructive; Larkin "is for ever snarling at me and drawing comparisons between what he accomplished in Belfast in 1907, and what I have done, conveniently ignoring the fact that he was then the Secretary of an English organisation, and that as soon as he started an Irish one his union fell to pieces, and he had to leave members to their fate".

ORANGE

Connolly's experience in Belfast was contradictory. In 1912, he had helped organise a quite unique 'Non-sectarian Labour Band' under the auspices of the ITGWU. But, this union and the Textile Workers Union which he organised with the women workers of the linen mills, were predominantly Catholic in membership.

Characteristically the Belfast Trades Council had previously sponsored a linen workers union which concentrated on



EDWARD CARSON

recruiting the better paid Protestant workers in the 'making-up' section.

Connolly's thought on working class unity seems to change slightly in emphasis during his period in Belfast. Writing in America in 1909 he spoke of Protestant workers throwing off "their senseless distrust of their Catholic fellows, realize that class interests are stronger in political warfare than religious bias, and so realizing, unite with their Catholic fellow-workers of the rest of Ireland".

By 1913, he was saying that "the Orange working class were slaves in spirit" and warning that for socialists there could be no temporising with Orange

ascendancy — "therefore we declare to the Orange workers of Belfast that we stand for the right of the people of Ireland to rule as well as to own Ireland..."

Connolly was to go on to lead the Easter Rising in 1916 in the belief that the tasks of national liberation could only be realized by the working class. His execution by the British deprived Irish workers of their greatest leader and fostered the great divide between nationalism and labourism.

GENERAL STRIKE

After 1907, the most significant working class action in Belfast was probably the 1919 General Strike.

It seemed that the war and the great demand for labour meant that no exception was taken to the indiscriminate employment by shipbuilders and linen merchants of Catholics and Protestants alike. The great political agitation in the South had little impact on the North. Consequently, when industrial action of the shipyard workers spread into a widespread four week strike for a shorter working week, political questions did not arise.

According to McCarthy's history of trade unions in Ireland, this strike saw "good working relations between the Protestants and Catholics, and although the majority of the strikers were Protestant, the Chairman of the Strike Committee was a Catholic".

Unionist politicians and the shipyard owners were, according to a contemporary observer, "aghast at this manifest unity of Catholics and Protestants, and were not long in setting to work to make sure that never again should such a situation be allowed to develop".

At the Orange demonstration on the 12th July 1920, the Unionist leader Edward Carson declared that "these men who come forward posing as the friends of labour care no more about labour than does the man in the moon. Their real object, and the real insidious nature of their propaganda, is that they mislead and bring about disunity amongst our people: and in the end, before we know where we are, we may find ourselves in the same bondage and slavery as is the rest of Ireland in the South and West".

This beating of the Orange drum gave the go-ahead to a vicious sectarian campaign against 'Sinn Feiners', that is Catholics, who were driven from the shipyards and the big engineering plants.

A number of radical Protestants, including those who had aided Larkin in 1907, were conveniently got rid of at the same time. The Chairman of the engineering strike committee the previous year, went as well. In all a total of eighteen thousand men and one thousand women were thrown out of work by their fellow-workers under the benevolent gaze of the employers.

It was in this atmosphere that the 'Northern Ireland' statelet was born in 1921, as Britain partitioned the country into six and twenty-six counties. As Connolly had pointed out years earlier, partition led to "a carnival of reaction" and perpetuated the sectarian division of the working class.



Scaip an sceal

SEO LITIR eile as na Blocanna H. Tá an foreigean á imirt ar na cimir gan stop gan staonadh. In ainneoin sin tá na fir ann buanseasamhach ina dtroid i gcoinne an chórais atá i bhfeidhm ann. Beidh an bua acu, ach is féidir an bua sin a bhuachaínt níos luaithe má thugann gach aon duine tac-aíocht dóibh.

Is fada an lá anois, ó thosaigh an agóid pluide i mí Meán Fómhair 1976. I rith an ama sin is minic a chualathas daoine ag fiafraí - 'Caide a tig linn a dhéanamh ar son na bhfear ar an bpluid?' Sileann daoine nach bhfuil siad ábalta cabhair a thabhairt dúinn, ach amháin tré cabhair aird nó a leithéid.

Níl an ceart acu. B'fhéidir go dtiocfaidh liom sléile a thaispeáint san alt seo gur féidir libh feidhm a bhaint as. Beagnach gach lá sna nuachtáin nó ar an Teilifís, cluintear scéal agus nuacht óna Blocanna. Scéalta mar gheall ar fhulaingt na bhfear pluid faoi lámha na Sasanach. An gcreideann tú an méid a deir-tear?

TINN

An gcreidfeá é dá n-abróinn leat arís é. Cuir i gcás an scéal seo. In ár gcillín ag an am seo táimid inár

gcónaí in áit nach gcuirfí ainm. Tá cac ar na ballaí. Tá sé go h-an salach. Is gránna an boladh agus bínn tinn leis uaireanta. Sa choirnéal luíonn an bia nach féidir liom a ithe.

As an salachar seo tagann péist-eanna agus beithigh bheaga. Uair sa tseachtain deineann na hudaí sin a aistriú ó sciathán amháin go sciathán eile fad is a bhíonn na cillíní á ghlánadh. I rith an t-aistriúcháin sin deintear dian - chuardach ar na cimir. An féidir leat é sin a shamhlú?

Tornochta, beireann na bairdeirí ort agus buailtear tú agus tugtar ciceanna duit go dtí go gcoimfidh tu síos os chionn an scatháin chun go ndéanfaidh siad scrúdú ar thimpireacht do choirp. Gortaítear a lán fear mar gheall ar an gcuardach seo.

MORSHIÚIL

Is deachair é a chreidiúint ach is fíor é. Leanann an saol seo ar aghaidh agus anois tá níos mó ná 360 fear anseo. An ndéanfaidh tú aon rud ar ár son? An dtabharfaidh tú na firinní seo do do chairde agus do aon duine nach bhfuil an t-eolas acu cheana fein?

An rachaidh tú chuig na mórshiúil a bhíonn socraithe i do cheannair? Sin é an slí chun cabhair a thabhairt dúinn. Tá súil agam go n-úsáidfí gach duine na slí seo chun cabhrú linn.

Gach seans go mbeidh deireadh leis an bhfulaingt níos luaithe mar gheall ar sin.



ers leaving shipbuilding yards, Queen's Island, Belfast.

College, Dublin, spoke more abhorrent 'internal exile' of the Russian dissident Sakharov by the Soviet regime. How many academics and intellectuals, North

Another fortunate the new 'peace

URANIUM MINING IN DONEGAL:

THE DANGERS AND DECEITS

Review by Peter Hayes

A RECENTLY RELEASED pamphlet by 'Just Books' in Belfast entitled 'Uranium Mining in Donegal: The Dangers and Deceits' points out in a simple and easily understood way the dangers for the people of Fintown in particular, and the area in general, if mining is allowed to proceed.

It says that uranium mining kills people and animals, destroys the land and livelihoods, and makes a lot of money for a select few, not least the international companies. It points out:-

"Uranium is a natural substance and buried in the earth it does little damage to anyone. Once it is mined it starts off the whole deadly nuclear cycle, a cycle which leaves behind at every stage more and more deadly radio-active waste; it creates at every stage a step nearer a nuclear catastrophe."

After it has been used reprocessing can then "supply the raw material necessary for nuclear bombs. Without a plentiful supply of uranium the nuclear industry cannot survive."

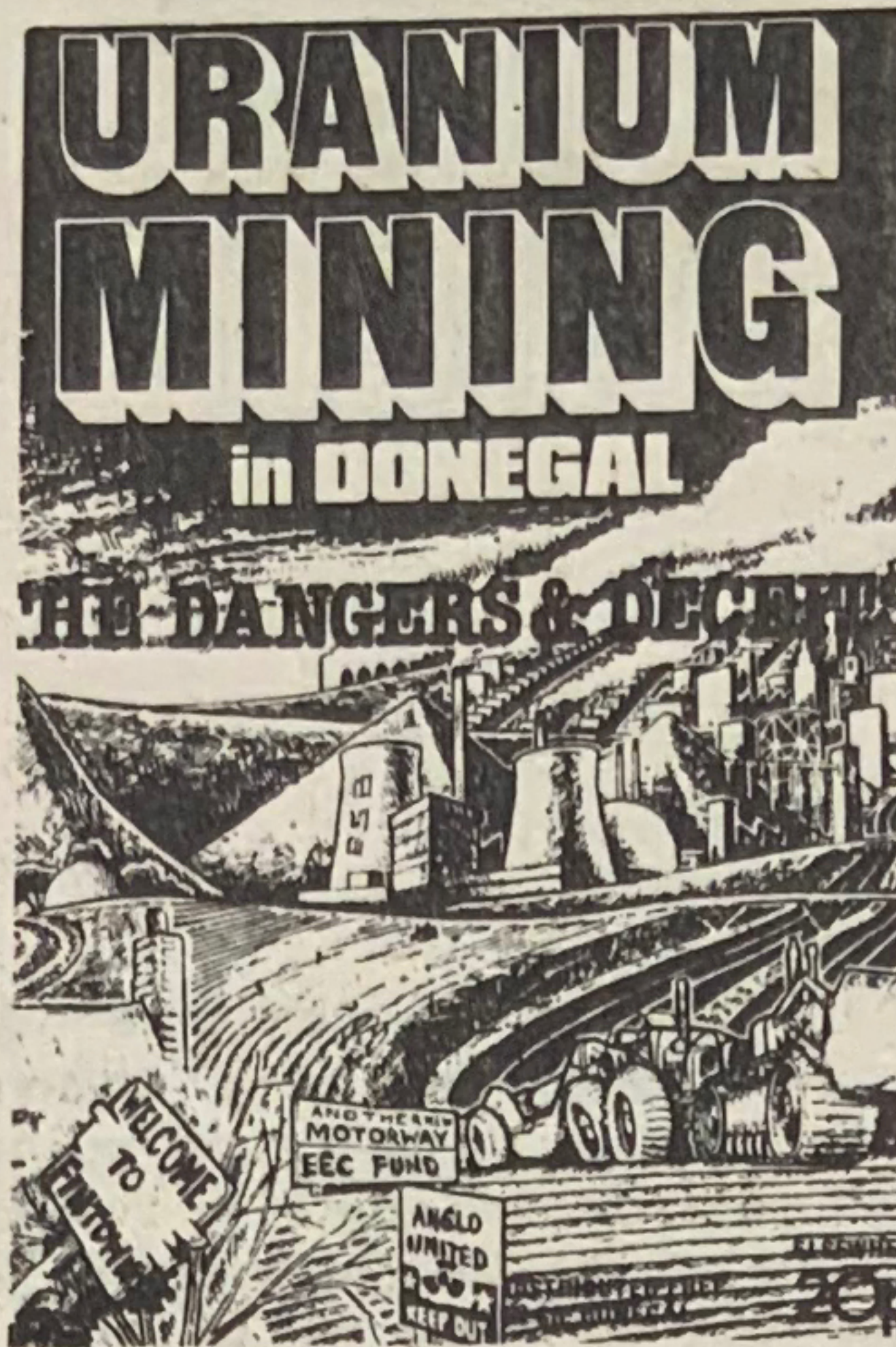
The pamphlet points out that

for every ton of rough grade uranium shipped out the people of Donegal will be left with "100 tons of sand (now called 'tailings', highly dangerous containing radium and radon gas), and 1,000 gallons of radio-active liquid waste," which remains deadly for at least 500,000 years.

Diseases caused by radio-active wastes include cancer, leukemia, also abnormalities at birth, polluted fishing waters, crops destroyed and animals killed.

RESIST

Though the Free State government and the Electricity Supply Board assure people of the economic necessity of going nuclear they have yet to seriously consider any of the alternatives.

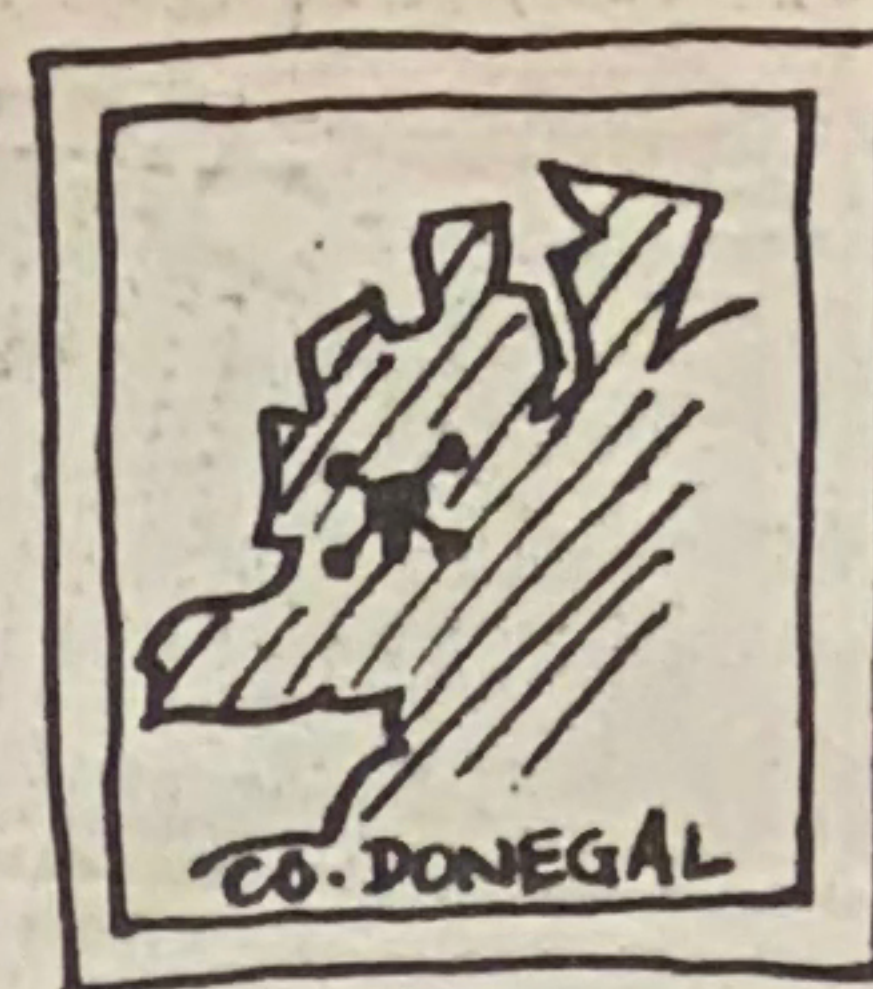


The pamphlet urges people to organise and resist plans for mining. It says that "the French nuclear industry is at a virtual standstill because of the thousands of people who refuse to let it continue... the people of the Orkneys, North of Scotland... formed themselves into local groups, talked and demonstrated, and by their own

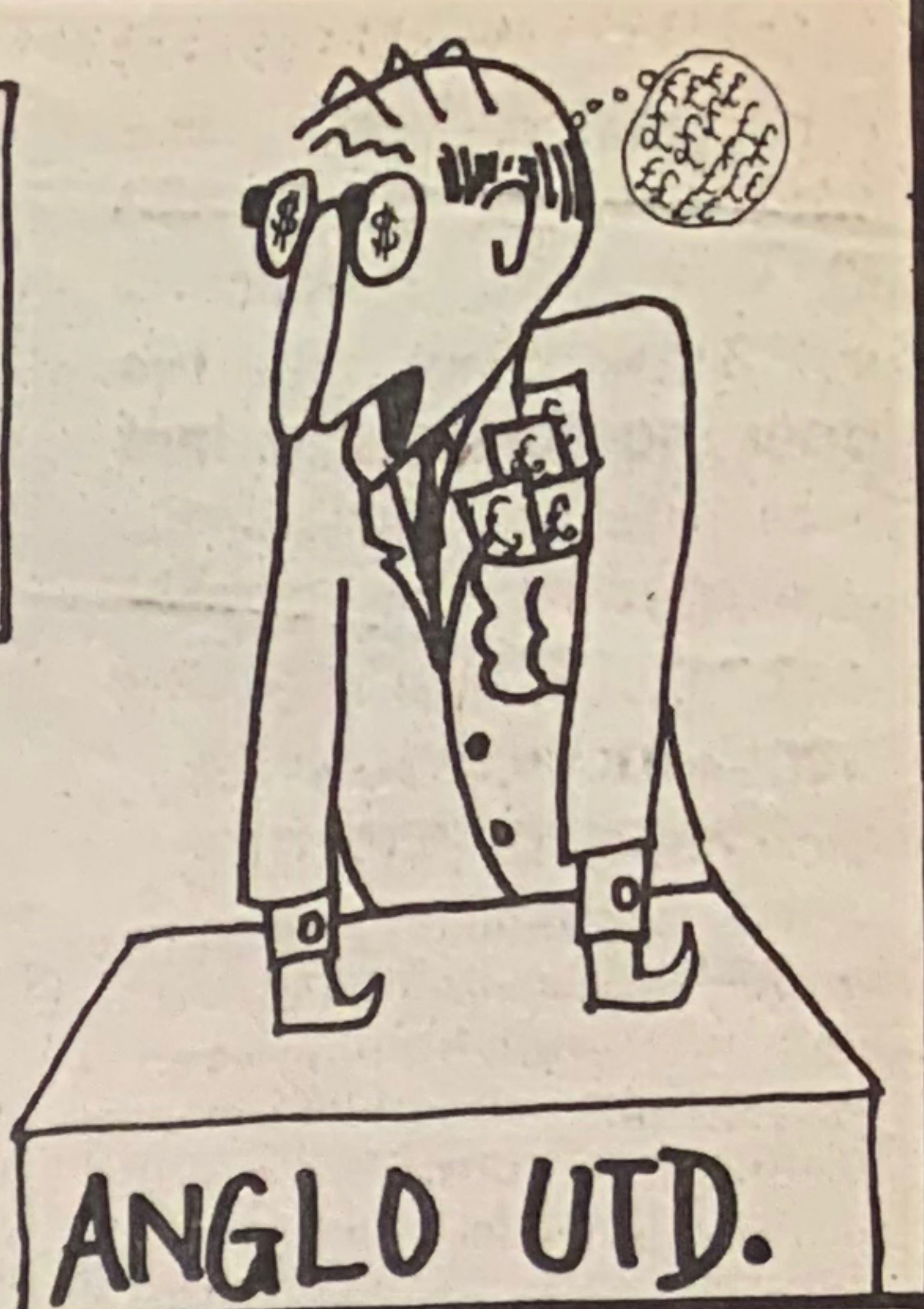
efforts forced their local government to call a halt to mining exploration.... The mining companies in the Orkneys had gone only as far as Anglo-United in Fintown... the Orkney people reckoned on the need to stop them right at the beginning."

WEXFORD

The pamphlet tells of how the Free State government to overcome the resistance of the people of Wexford to a nuclear power station took over ALL planning decisions and enquiry details.



LISTEN, LISTEN
GOOD PEOPLE,
WE HAVE YOUR
INTERESTS
AT HEART



The pamphlet says:- "Work out your own actions against the mining companies, the E.S.B., the government... meet and talk with other people in the area who also want to find out more. Work it out together, yourself, and work out just HOW to stop them. The government can 'vest' the land, but they haven't as yet - the geologists can be told to leave."

The anti-nuclear issue is certainly an issue in which Sinn Féin in Donegal County can give a lead. The pamphlet costs 20p from Just Books in Belfast (telephone 25426), but is being distributed free in Donegal.

RADIO AN PHOBAIL

Ba mhaith linn fáilte a chur roimh bunú Raidió an Phobail. Tá ar mbuíochas tuille ag Conradh na Gaeilge as an céim seo a thógaint. Is mar agóid i gcoinne R.T.E. a bunaíodh an stáisiún seo.

Seo a leanas sleachta as an preas ráiteas a d'éisigh an Conradh:-

Tá stáisiún nua raidió - Raidió an Phobail - tosaithe ag craoladh ar 200m (1500kHz) ar an mheán-tonn.

Is i mBaile Átha Cliath atá an stáisiún seo lonnaithe. Tá sé á reachtáil ag Conradh na Gaeilge. Faoi láthair tá

clár amháin á chraoladh gach oíche idir 9.00 agus 10.00p.m.

Tosófar ag craoladh i rith na maidine sar a bhfad agus cuirfear le raon craolta an stáisiúin chomh maith. Is iad craobhacha den Chonradh agus daoine aonair a d'foc as an trealamh chraolacháin.

Bunaíodh Raidió an Phobail mar agóid a gcoinne drochstaid na Gaeilge agus forlámhas cultúr Shasana/Mheiriceá ar na stáisiúin raidió agus teilifíse atá á reachtáil ag R.T.E. Táimid an-mhíshásta nach bhfuil feabhas ar bith ar staid na Gaeilge i sceideal teilifíse an Fómhair a mbliana i gcomparáid le Fómhar 1978.

Tá Raidió an Phobail ag iarraidh seirbhíse nach bhfuil le fáil ó R.T.E. a chur ar fáil don phobal. Faoi láthair tá an stáisiún nua seo ag craoladh eolais faoin nGaeilge agus faoi imeachtaí a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge chomh maith le ceol Gaelach agus ceol ó thíortha eile.

Ar ball nuair a bheidh acmhainní bhreise aige, craolfaidh Raidió an Phobail sceideal i bhfad níos leithne agallaimh, díospóireachtaí, cláracha spóirt &c.

Beifear ag iarraidh foirmeacha agus coincheapa craolacháin a fhorbairt nach bhfuil R.T.E. ná stáisiúin eile in Éirinn ag plé leo. Ní seirbhís chúnáil áitiúil a bheidh i gceist. Beidh an raidió seo ina

cheangal idir an lucht éisteachta agus an saol mór, go háirithe an saol neamh-Angla-Mheiriceánach atá follaithe ag R.T.E. Beidh fáilte ar leith rannpháirtíocht an phobail sna cláracha. Tugtar cuireadh d'eagrais na ndaoine cláracha a dhéanamh iad fhéin.

Oibríteoirí dheonacha iadsan uilig atá ag glacadh páirte in obair an stáisiúin seo. Ní bheidh Raidió an Phobail ag glacadh le fógraí tráchtála. Is léir anois gurb é an cleithiúnas ar fhógraíocht mar fhoinsé airgid an fáth is bunúsaí ar fad le galldachas agus frithnáisiúnachas R.T.E. Mairfidh an stáisiún nua seo ar shíntiúis ón bpobal.

RAIDIO AN PHOBAIL

200m (1,500 KHZ)

9 p.m. - 10 p.m.

GACH OICHE



Winson Green Picket

A PICKET was held at Winson Green prison in Birmingham on Saturday 29th September. It was organised by the local Cumann of Sinn Féin, Pearse/McDaid, and supported by the United Troops Out Movement and several English left-wing groups. The protest was in solidarity with the two Irish POWs there, Eddie Butler, (Limerick) and Eddie O'Neill (Tyrone). Eddie Butler has been held in isolation in Winson Green since December of last year. Eddie O'Neill was moved to Winson Green following a recent protest in Gartree prison.

The picketers occupied the prison forecourt for over an hour, despite the presence of police and warders. The police told the picketers that they would

have to move off the prison property as they were trespassing but they ignored this warning and continued to walk around the forecourt. Despite their threats of bringing in reinforcements, their bluff having been called, the police had to content themselves with forming a line on the forecourt between the picketers and the prison. In the photograph, a police sergeant (on the left) is remonstrating with the picketers for extending their circular path.

Throughout the picket, slogans were continually chanted, aided by a loud-hailer. Several hundred H-Block leaflets were distributed to prison-visitors and passers-by. The protestors' reception was even better than the previous picket held there, some visitors asked for more leaflets as they were coming out of the prison and several bought literature on sale.

PICÉAD

ar R.T.E. Donnybrook

To demand not less than 15% Irish language programmes on R.T.E.s. new schedule.

Dé Sathairn 20/10/79
3-00p.m.

An leor 07%? Freagra!

REPORT BY SEAMUS BOYLE

"WE ARE HERE TO WORK, NOT FOR APPLAUSE" was the keynote set by Ruairi O Bradaigh, President of Sinn Féin, in his opening address at last weekend's Sinn Féin conference on organisation attended by one-hundred-and-fifty delegates in Athlone.

The conference made a serious self-examination of Sinn Féin's functioning as an organisation but did not involve any consideration of political programme. It was intended as a stop-gap measure because of the postponement of the Ard Fheis until January. (A postponement enforced by the current refurbishment of the venue: Dublin's Mansion House.) Those invited were the Ard Comhairle; delegates from the Comhairle Cuige and Comhairle Ceanntair; and the thirty local councillors in the twenty-six counties.

Thus it was a working conference attended by the leadership and middle ranks of the organisation. It had none of the jamboree atmosphere associated with an Ard Fheis. And as General Secretary Daithi O Conaill explained when he introduced the agenda, the Ard Comhairle had "deliberately done away with the format of the Ard Fheis".

REPORT

After the president's opening address on the Saturday afternoon, the first item was a detailed report on the state of the organisation by Daithi O Conaill.

He stated: "The main theme of the conference this weekend is organisation. It is both a look back and a look forward but, above all, the conference is designed as a stock-taking exercise to enable us to understand our strengths and weaknesses at the present time."

One of the most important points he went on to make, was: "We must ask ourselves if the present structures of the organisation are suitable for modern times. The cumann is the basic unit of the organisation but we at head office find that the comhairle ceannair is the important unit from an administrative, directing and efficiency viewpoint".

Treasurer Tony Ruane then delivered a financial report indicating that the organisation's financial state is not as healthy as it should be. Written reports on the state of the organisation, the membership strength and finance were circulated.

The conference then broke up for the rest of the afternoon into five discussion groups of members from each of the four provinces and England; discussion groups in which many problems were thrashed out.

During the evening the film 'the Patriot Game' was shown to an appreciative audience. (The film is available for hire from 170a Falls Road, Belfast.)

At this stage some delegates felt that to only have four hours work out of the first day of the conference was disappointing, and there did seem to be a certain lack of direction about what the discussion groups had covered.

These faults were remedied on the second day.

Sinn Féin conference on organisation WORK — NOT APPLAUSE

Firstly the chairmanship of Ruairi O Bradaigh and Vice-President Gerry Adams ensured a smoothly-run conference making efficient use of available time—secondly, and most importantly, the officer board of the Ard Comhairle had in fact met on the Saturday evening and gone through all the problems and proposals arising out of each of the discussion groups; they collated and summarised their findings and structured the second day's agenda around them.

ORGANISATION

The first section of the Sunday morning session on organisation was introduced by Daithi O Conaill. He stressed that Sinn Féin's organisational structures need to be more flexible but that "this conference does not have the power to make changes; people should keep on thinking; and proposals should be put to the Ard Fheis."

However, leadership bodies will intervene to give organisational assistance in weak areas; there is a need for more full-timers; and where necessary special committees should be set-up to deal with any specific problem.

After the introduction from the platform, discussion, as in each section throughout the day, was then thrown open to the whole conference.

One of the main points of discussion was around the procedures of the election of the Ard Comhairle members. Current procedures are considered democratic but there is a need for members to be more aware of the political background and qualifications of all candidates.

FINANCE

The next section on finance, was introduced by George Lynch of the Ard Comhairle. He pointed to the existence of a National Finance Committee, which although it is Dublin-based is involved in fund-raising on a national basis.

He outlined some fund-raising proposals including the publication of a brochure with paid

adverts—a project which was successful last year.

One of the most important points made in the ensuing discussion was that fund-raising functions should continue to be run in the routine and traditional manner and that Sinn Féiners in the twenty-six counties must stand up to the garda on this question.

Members of the Ard Comhairle stressed that one person at each level of the organisation must be responsible for fund-raising.

TRADE UNIONS

Paddy Bolger of the Sinn Féin trade union committee introduced the next section on trade unions. He explained that the aim of Sinn Féin, through the committee is to promote Republican aims within the trade union movement and to point out to trade unionists their common interest with the national liberation struggle. He re-emphasised, once more, the importance of over-coming the crippling split between the nationalist movement and the labour movement and welcomed the fact that this has now been recognised by the Republican Movement.

A very healthy discussion followed with numerous delegates expressing their enthusiasm for work in the trade unions despite the difficulties of confronting the strangle-hold of the bureaucracy and of other political parties. One delegate welcomed the fact that the movement has recognised that de Valera's proposition that 'labour must wait' must be rejected in order to win meaningful national liberation.

LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

After lunch the first section was introduced by Fra Browne, a Dundalk councillor, who spoke on local involvement, and Walter Lynch, General Secretary, who spoke on involvement with other groups.

Fra Browne emphasised that "people are crying out for leadership" on social questions and on community projects and that there is a gap there that Sinn Féin can fill. Walter Lynch emphasised

the need for Republicans to be involved in community-based groups and especially the GAA.

Discussion centred around how to increase local involvement but was mainly restricted to the twenty-six counties. Questions were raised about local councillors' role and their relationship to the national liberation struggle. And it was announced that a meeting for all Sinn Féin local councillors has been arranged for next month.

With respect to the six-counties it was pointed out from the floor that whereas people tend to know at least some of the IRA locally (because the IRA could not exist without local support), people often do not know who Sinn Féin are locally, or how to contact them!

PUBLICITY

Publicity director Sean O Bradaigh and An Phoblacht/Republican News editor Danny Morrison introduced the next section on publicity.

Sean O Bradaigh first explained the background to the recent Sinn Féin press conference held just after the papal visit and corrected the distorted picture painted in the media.

He then stressed the need for, amongst other things, a full-time press officer nationally and news sheets and street literature stalls locally. Proposals which came out of the discussion included one that people should intervene in a personal capacity on radio phone-ins and in the letter columns of the national and provincial press.

One speaker described the discrete manipulation of the Gay Byrne show (on RTE) which involves the strict vetting of the audience and cut-offs of embarrassing questions. Much anger was expressed at the Free State government banning of Sinn Féin, including local elected representatives, from RTE and there was strong backing for a militant campaign to be launched against the ban.

Danny Morrison then spoke from the platform. He criticised the lack of reports of Sinn Féin

local activities being received by AP/RN.

He also answered the various criticisms of the paper expressed in the provincial discussion groups and pointed out that many of them cancel one another out. For example, some people felt that there is too much international coverage in the paper, whereas others felt equally strongly that there is too little.

In fact, in general there were few major criticisms of the direction in which the paper is developing—and even some praise.

A novel, and interesting, suggestion, which will be well-worth pursuing is to wall-poster copies of AP/RN in public places for passers-by to read.

The manager of the paper, Michael Timothy, answered several points on the continued improvement of the distribution system. But the point was made that although weekly sales are now more than thirty thousand, that is still not enough—there is a much wider potential audience.

SUNDAY WORLD

Publicity was the final section dealing with the points raised in the discussion groups. Then an extra item was inserted into the agenda.

Ruairi O Bradaigh made an announcement referring to a front-page story in the Sunday World entitled 'Provos make a turn to the left' which sensationally threaded together recent political developments within the movement.

It was pointed out that the leadership of the movement had been examining over a considerable period of time its social and economic policies and the need to update Eire Nua. It had done so at all times within the confines of the objective of a democratic socialist republic, not based on a centralised bureaucracy, but on the widest possible decentralisation of power. All leadership recommendations would subsequently be put to an Ard Fheis.

SELF-CRITICISM

As time pressed heavily against the conference a much-awaited session of 'beefing', that is self-criticism, came next.

A frank and forceful discussion was held involving many aspects of the role of Sinn Féin. This included: the functioning of head office and the need for firmer guide-lines from head office; the EEC boycott campaign; the running of candidates in twenty-six-county local elections; joint work with other groups; the lack of youth work and cultural work (the latter included a short discussion in Irish); and the need for members to wholeheartedly implement decisions.

SUMMED-UP

As the conference moved towards its close, Tom Hartley spoke from the platform on behalf of the POW department. He spoke about the H-block struggle and stressed the need for people to support this Sunday's H-block open conference in Belfast.

Gerry Adams then summed up the way ahead for Sinn Féin and spoke of the need to "consolidate, re-group and move ahead".

Daithi O Conaill outlined the commitments that had been established during each section of discussion before Ruairi O Bradaigh closed the conference. The latter concluded: "We have all been very honest and very straight. No punches have been pulled. I think the organisation should benefit from that."



Dublin Sinn Féin 'on the march' in March of this year.

DROCH-MHARGADH

LE TAMALL ANUAS ta scata bithiúnaigh i mbun gnótha i mBaile Átha Cliath. Tá siad ag baint feidhm as stíl díolacháin ar a dtugtar an 'Dutch Auction'. Is cuma cen ainm a cuirtear ar an ngnó, ach is gadaíocht atá ar siúl acu.

Tháinig an dream atá i mbun gnótha go dtí Baile Átha Cliath ó Shasana. Tháinig siad anseo nuair a achtaíodh dlí i Sasana chun stop a chur leo. Níl dlí ar bith chun iad a stopadh anseo.

Caint mhilis, cleasaíocht agus an lamh láidir na modhanna a úsáideann siad chun airgead a robáil ós na daoine. Níl aon chosaint ag an bpobal ar na bithiúnaigh seo.

MODH OIBRE

D'oscail siad roinnt seomraí díolacháin ar fud na cathrach. Tosnaíonn fear istigh ann ag insint scéalta grinn chun daoine a mhealladh isteach ann. A luaithe is a bhíonn slua bailithe tosnaíonn siad ag tairiscint earraí ar phraghasanna ísle go dtí go mbíonn inní ar an slua nach n-éireoidh leo margadh d'fháil.

Nuair a bhíonn gach duine ag brú chun chinn deineann siad tairiscint nua. Cuireann an díoltóir bosca ar an gcúntar agus iarrann sé ar an slua púnt ar an mbosca cé nach bhfuil a fhios acu cad tá istigh ann. Stadann an slua ach tagann fear

chun tosaigh chun an púnt a thabhairt. Bíonn duine nó beirt des na bithiúnaigh sa slua acu i gcónaí chun misneach a thabhairt don slua. Tugann an díoltóir luach timpeall cúig phúnt dó agus tagann misneach ar an slua arís. Deineann an díoltóir é seo uair nó dhó.

MUINÍN

Ansin nuair a bhíonn muintín ag an slua arís, athraíonn sé na rialacha arís. Cuirtear an bosca ar an gcúntar agus iarrann sé orthu siúd gur mian leo fanúint púnt a thabhairt agus go bhfaighfidh siad an rud atá sa bhosca.

Aon duine nach bhfuil sásta an púnt a thabhairt bíonn orthu imeacht ag an bpointe sin. Aon duine atá mall ag fágaint tagann triúr no ceathrar fear timpeall air chun é a chaitheamh amach.

Sa chás is déanaí a chuala mise faoi séard a tharla i ndiaidh an phoinnte sin ná gur tugadh cúpla peann de dhéantús saor dóibh siúd a thug púnt. Ansin dúradh leo nach raibh sa mhéid sin ach teist féachaint an raibh spéis acu rudaí maithe d'fháil.

Chun bheith istigh ar an seans sin bhí orthu cúig phúnt a thabhairt. Bhí sé de mhí-ádh ar an mbean go rabhas ag caint léi gur thug sí an cúig phúnt. Tugadh babóg beag plaistic di. Míníodh don slua go raibh na duaiseanna móra le fáil ar dheich bpúnt ach sula ndeanfaidís é sin go n-iarrfaidís ar ghach duine an raibh siad sásta leis an méid a fuair siad ar chúig phúnt. Dumhal is ea é seo chun go bhfanfaidh na daoine ina dtost.

LÁMH LAIDIR

Dúirt an bhean go rabhas ag caint léi, nach raibh sí sásta ach níor tugadh aon áird uirthi. Lean sí uirthi ag gearán agus sa deireadh snapadh an babóg as a láimh, tugadh a cúig phúnt thar n-ais di agus caitheadh amach ar an tsráid í.

Leanann an díoltóir air ag goid. Ní gá a rá nach mbíonn duais mhór le fáil. Níl cearta ar bith ag duine a théann isteach sna seomraí díolacháin sin. Ní bhíonn rud ar bith fiuntach ag aon duine ag fágáil na seomraí céanna.

Ní bhíonn fiú na gnáth cearta a bhíonn le fáil ag duine sna siopaí. Má bhriseann pé earra a fuair an duine ní aon teacht aniar aige.

Tá sé imithe thar am anois an ruaig a chur ar na bithiúnaigh seo.



Sinn Féin and Republican Prisoners

REPORT BY SINN FEIN POW DEPARTMENT

JUST over one year ago members of Sinn Féin based in Belfast, worried about the lengthening 'blanket' protest going on in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh, formed a committee to collate and disseminate information relating to that protest. Within a short period of time a conscious move was made to have on the committee representation of all levels of Sinn Féin in the Ulster area.

From that time members of the Ard Comhairle, Ulster Executive, Belfast Sinn Féin and Belfast-based members of the newspaper (AN PHOBLACHT/REPUBLICAN NEWS) met once per week to discuss the many problems concerning the H-Blocks.

Shortly after its inception and due to experience from its work, the committee made a proposal to the Ard Comhairle of Sinn Féin to set up a P.O.W. Department. This proposal was accepted and the new department was formed with the committee in Belfast covering the prisons in the six-county area; and a Dublin-based committee covering the prisons in the twenty-six counties and England.

In the one year of its existence the P.O.W. Department has brought out a series of leaflets, posters and pamphlets; it has paid for newspaper adverts and sent former blanket-men abroad. It has also sponsored the H-Block film and play and recently produced two records and the H-Block badge.

One of the first decisions taken by the Belfast committee was to appoint a full-time information officer, provide him with a telephone and an office, and a brief to collate all information available on the prison struggle. This information was then to be made available to the relatives of prisoners, the press, foreign embassies, support groups etc.

Following the opening of the department's office in Belfast, an office was opened in Derry City and it also has a full-time information officer. All this has cost the P.O.W. Department twenty thousand pounds; approximately one third of this amount has come from Sinn Féin.

Through time and relating to its experience, the P.O.W. Department realised that a number of serious problems existed within Sinn Féin over the prison issue. It was felt for example that there was not enough cohesion within Sinn Féin on a national basis; that there was a serious lack of internal communication, and that Sinn Féin was not developing the prison issue.

Because of these factors a conference on prisoners was called to examine these and other problems and from conclusions arrived at it was hoped that proposals would be sent from the conference to the Ard Comhairle for speedy implementation.

The conference was held on the week-end of the 22nd and 23rd September and was attended by some 140 delegates from twenty-two counties and included delegates from England. Three delegates were appointed at the beginning of the conference to take note of all suggestions and recommendations and to compile a report which would draw its proposals from the conclusions arrived at.

Speakers addressing the conference covered the following issues: Republican Welfare/English Jails/Portlaoise/Free State Legislation/Armagh Jail/H-Block and reports from the Belfast and Dublin committees. The Conference undoubtedly had an impact on all those who participated as it exposed the devastating lack of knowledge on many Sinn Féin members' part of the suffering of their imprisoned comrades.

Time will tell if that impact was sufficient enough to create a commitment from Sinn Féin members to mobilise and work on this most important of political issues.

In the four weeks since, the committee elected to assess the conference has met and drawn up its report, this was presented to the P.O.W. Department just one week ago and is now in the process of being presented to the general membership of Sinn Féin.



For information on the prisons contact the following:-

SIX-COUNTY PRISONS:- Gerry Brannigan, 170a Falls Road, Belfast. Tel: Belfast 46841
TWENTY-SIX-COUNTY PRISONS:- Brendan Golden, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin. Tel: Dublin 126932
ENGLISH PRISONS:- Eddie Caughey, 2 Leabon Grove, Leahurst Crescent, Harborne, Birmingham.

COMMENT

COMMENT is the fortnightly magazine of the British and Irish Communist Organisation (BICO) who are the main proponents of the two-nations theory. As the BICO support the British occupation of the north as a basis for the advance of Socialism, they have earned themselves the same sort of respect that is due to the Flat Earth Society.

In an article about the Pope's visit the B.I.C.O. profess atheism, but it is directed solely at the Catholic Church — the Calvinistic rantings of sixteenth century Protestantism going unnoticed.

The BICO also try to suck up to the loyalists by representing Republicanism as a papish plot.

They claim: "republicanism had developed an ideology which was saturated through and through with Catholicism."

While of course most republicans are Catholics, there is no parallel in the Republican Movement to the likes of the Reverends Robert Bradford and Martin Smyth. The BICO must have also missed Paisley's 'songs of praise' after his EEC election victory.

The BICO has its sinister side as well.

Defending loyalism they say: "The Northern majority has the power, no less the democratic right to make its will effective."

Are they saying that loyalists have the democratic right to murder nationalists?

IRISH SOCIALIST

In the latest issue of the Irish Socialist the Communist Party (CP) attack Fianna Fail for, "its security collaboration with the British in the North", and say that this "is a recipe for further violence and not for peace."

They say that, "the root cause of the trouble is not the Provisionals but the British occupation itself."

A LOOK AT THE LEFT PRESS

BY CATHAL McCORMACK

The CP have lost much of their anti-republicanism that they picked up from the Sticks, but the editorial still calls for an end to the current war. The editorial stresses that this call is on 'non-pacifist' grounds and warns that if the IRA called off their campaign and there was no political response from the Brits, "then a fresh eruption of violence would be inevitable."

STARRY PLOUGH

"What kind of peace?" asks the Irish Republican Socialist Party in their paper the *Starry Plough*.

They say that the general desire for peace is being used as "the basis for launching a vicious anti-republican campaign." And stress the cynical and hypocritical nature of the present crop of peace-merchants.

The IRSP come to a similar conclusion to the CP and say that to abandon the anti-imperialist war now "would not bring peace, only a postponement of the struggle for a few years."

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Maybe in response to the hysterical anti-Irish headlines of the British gutter press the headline on the front page of the *Socialist Republic* the paper of the Peoples' Democracy screams 'PISS OFF THATCHER'.

Whether Maggie will heed this advice remains to be seen?!!!

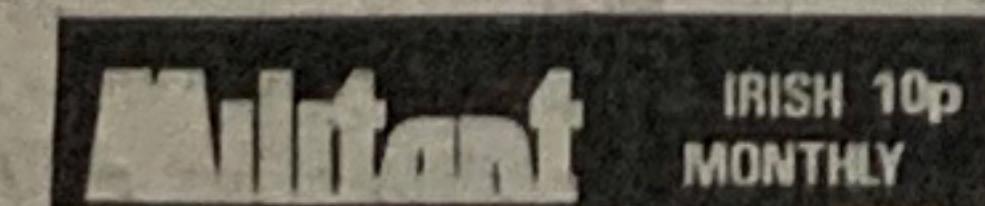
On the Pope's visit the PD sensibly say that freedom of religion

belief is not incompatible with socialist ideology.

The article goes on to criticise the church for its interference in secular life. They say that the Pope's silence on the role of the Brits and H-Block is in line with the Catholic Church's history in Ireland:

"The Catholic Church has always sided with British imperialism against the forces of resistance in Ireland. Did they not condemn the Young Irelanders, the Fenians, Larkin, the Easter Rising, the IRA in the period 1918-1923?"

The PD also say that the Pope's visit will strengthen the oppression of women



The newspaper *Militant* restates in its editorial that "only the organised Labour Movement uniting workers North and South is capable of solving the issue of partition."

How the ultra-timid Trade Union movement is to achieve this the reader is not told. Instead there are vague and meaningless clichés such as, "the border question cannot be resolved on the basis of capitalism", and calls for, "the united mass action of the Irish working class."

Given their confusion it comes as no surprise that the *Militant* group backs the pro-imperialist 'Better Life for All Campaign'.

Their lack of political principle can be seen best when they welcome "the first simultaneous call to action throughout Ireland

made by the Union tops since the days of partition."

What glorious Labour activity are they referring to? None other than the Irish Congress of Trade Unions' recent call for a two-minute silence in honour of the English aristocrat, Mountbatten.

UNITED IRISHMAN

In an article about Frank Ryan, Irish patriot and international socialist, (and 'man of violence') the *United Irishman* sets out his ideals.

Firstly, "an Irish Republic free of imperial links"; secondly, "a socialist Ireland free of capitalist links"; and thirdly, "a Gaelic Ireland, speaking its own language and free of the cultural marks of colonialism."

As these three revolutionary tenets have been abandoned by the Sticks the reader could be forgiven for thinking that he or she were reading AP/RN.

That is, until reading the other parts of the paper.

Throughout the paper there is not one reference to the British imperial link. The editorial entitled 'PEACE' is directed only at the "sectarian terrorist gunmen" (a phrase they usually reserve for the IRA!).

As far as a "Socialist Ireland free of capitalist links" is concerned the Sticks have been to the fore in begging foreign multi-nationals to Ireland for a quick rip-off.

And Irish culture? There is not a word of the Irish language in the latest *United Irishman*, nor has there been for several months!

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