

# An Phoblacht

## REPUBLICAN NEWS



Sraith nua lml 2 Uimhir 5 DE SATHAIRN FEABHRA 2 1980

Saturday February 2nd 1980

(England, Scotland and Wales 15p) Price 12p

# THE CHAINS OF HYPOCRISY

AS THE LONG-SUFFERING VICTIMS of massive injustice the mass of the Irish people are also the too frequent objects of heavy-handed hypocrisy from both our foreign and native oppressors — especially from those Fianna Fail and SDLP collaborators who seek refuge and consolation in the pockets of the imperialist establishment.

Last week in the South, multi-millionaire Charlie Haughey, posing as ever as 'a man of the people', was pondering how to sweet-talk three-quarters of a million disgruntled marching workers; and he has further repressed republicans on the border whilst simultaneously turning an opportunistic blind eye — and temporarily forcing RTE to turn a blind eye — to a Republican funeral two hundred miles south of the border in Tralee.

In the North there has been the nauseating sight of the SDLP crawling in the corridors of Stormont, desperately seeking what minor 'devolved' crumbs of comfort they can find around the table of direct-ruler Atkins and Orange King Paisley.

But Fianna Fail and the SDLP have not been the only ones doing a hypocritical turn.

### TROOPS

In recent weeks out-spoken lovers of national freedom from foreign troops have sprung up everywhere. Not, however, to protest at the continued occupation of the Northern corner of this country by fifteen-thousand British gunmen and a similar number of sectarian UDR and RUC auxiliaries, but to protest at the presence in Afghanistan of Russian troops.

A presentation of books to University College, Cork, from the Russian embassy, due to take place on Wednesday, was cancelled because of that 'invasion'. How many similar presentations to academic institutions from England have been cancelled in the last decade, or before?

Defending the Cork decision a learned professor from University College, Dublin, spoke of the even more abhorrent 'internal exile' of the Russian dissident Sakharov by the Soviet regime. How many academics and intellectuals, North

or South, have spoken out against the much more horrific 'internal exile' of nearly four-hundred freedom-loving Irish 'dissidents' to naked solitary confinement in the H-blocks of Long Kesh?

### TRIALS

And what of the 'show trials' — not in Kebab or Moscow — but in Belfast and London?

For the last two weeks in Belfast, amidst blazing publicity the 'show trial' has been taking place in a British non-jury 'court' of Turf Lodge man Eddie Brophy, a 'scapegoat' for the tragically fatal La Mon bombing. The only 'evidence' against him is a signed 'confession' obtained under torture by the infamous brutes of Castlereagh.

Another Irish victim of a British 'show trial' — held at the Old Bailey in London amidst prejudicial popular press comment — was buried in Belfast's Milltown cemetery on Tuesday.

Fifty-six-year-old Patrick 'Guiseppie' Conlon, framed by the English Special Branch five years ago, died ten days ago owing to inhuman jail treatment having been denied proper medical treatment for TB. He was 'a victim of political expediency' even according to the opportunist Belfast priest Fr. McKinley, who a week previously had hard-heartedly denied his church to the body of IRA Volunteer Dee Delaney.

Heights of hypocrisy were touched by Brit Home Secretary William Whitelaw and professional liar Gerry Fitt. Whitelaw claimed, after Conlon died, that if he had lived, he would have been released; and Fitt claimed that he had known Conlon was 'innocent' all along and now would campaign to prove his innocence!

For reasons of political capital, both cruelly added to the misery of the bereaved family.

Another well-known hypocrite — fortunately now exposed — was in the news last weekend: former 'peace leader' Ciaran McKeown.

He was quoted in the *Sunday Times* as saying, in a rare honest insight: "The worst thing that happened to us was the Nobel prize. It did us more damage than any other single factor. And the fact that Betty and Mairead kept the money made it even worse."

### SLAUGHTER

More importantly last weekend also marked the eighth anniversary of organised British slaughter in Derry — the cold-blooded killing of fourteen civilians on Bloody Sunday — a bloody slaughter hypocritically white-washed by Widgery. But not forgotten by thousands of Republicans who marched in Derry and in the English city of Birmingham.

Millions saw on TV a uniformed British soldier at the latter march, suitably merging with counter-demonstrating fascists, screaming abuse and gesturing frantically at the marchers. It is maniacs like him who wander around 'armed and dangerous' (to quote the RUC's description of the three who deserted from Aldergrove barracks a fortnight ago) intimidating and terrorising the working-class people of Northern nationalist ghettos.

What hypocrisy prevents 'lovers of civil rights and human liberties' from speaking out on this state terrorism?

It is a fact of political life in a society based on exploitation and privilege that the hypocrisy of the establishment becomes a necessary cover-up for the unjust state of things which must be changed.

For those engaged in struggle, part of the process of throwing off the chains of imperialist rule and native capitalist collaboration is to throw off the chains of hypocrisy: as have the H-block political prisoners who are defying Britain's hypocritical dubbing of them as criminals; and as have the guerrilla fighters of the IRA who have honestly acknowledged that it will take armed struggle to free this country from foreign rule.

PRISONERS  
OF WAR in  
H.M. PRISON DURHAM  
H.M. PRISON WINSON GREEN  
H.M. PRISON HULL  
H.M. PRISON LEICESTER  
H.M. PRISON GARTREE  
H.M. PRISON ALBANY  
H.M. PRISON LONG LARTIN  
H.M. PRISON WORMWOOD SCRUBS  
H.M. PRISON WAKEFIELD  
H.M. PRISON PARKHURST  
NOT  
CRIMINALS



A clear message from a Bloody Sunday demonstrator in the English city of Birmingham last weekend — in opposition to British hypocrisy of dubbing Irish political prisoners as criminals.

# FUNERAL REVERBERATIONS: HAUGHEY IN CLEFT-STICK IRA IN FRONTLINE

BY KEVIN BURKE

THE FUNERAL of IRA veteran and GAA football star, John Joe Sheehy in Tralee in mid-January is still causing political reverberations. Last Tuesday's 'Frontline' programme on RTE included a report on the funeral which was dropped from the previous Friday's programme on instructions from the Controller of Programmes.

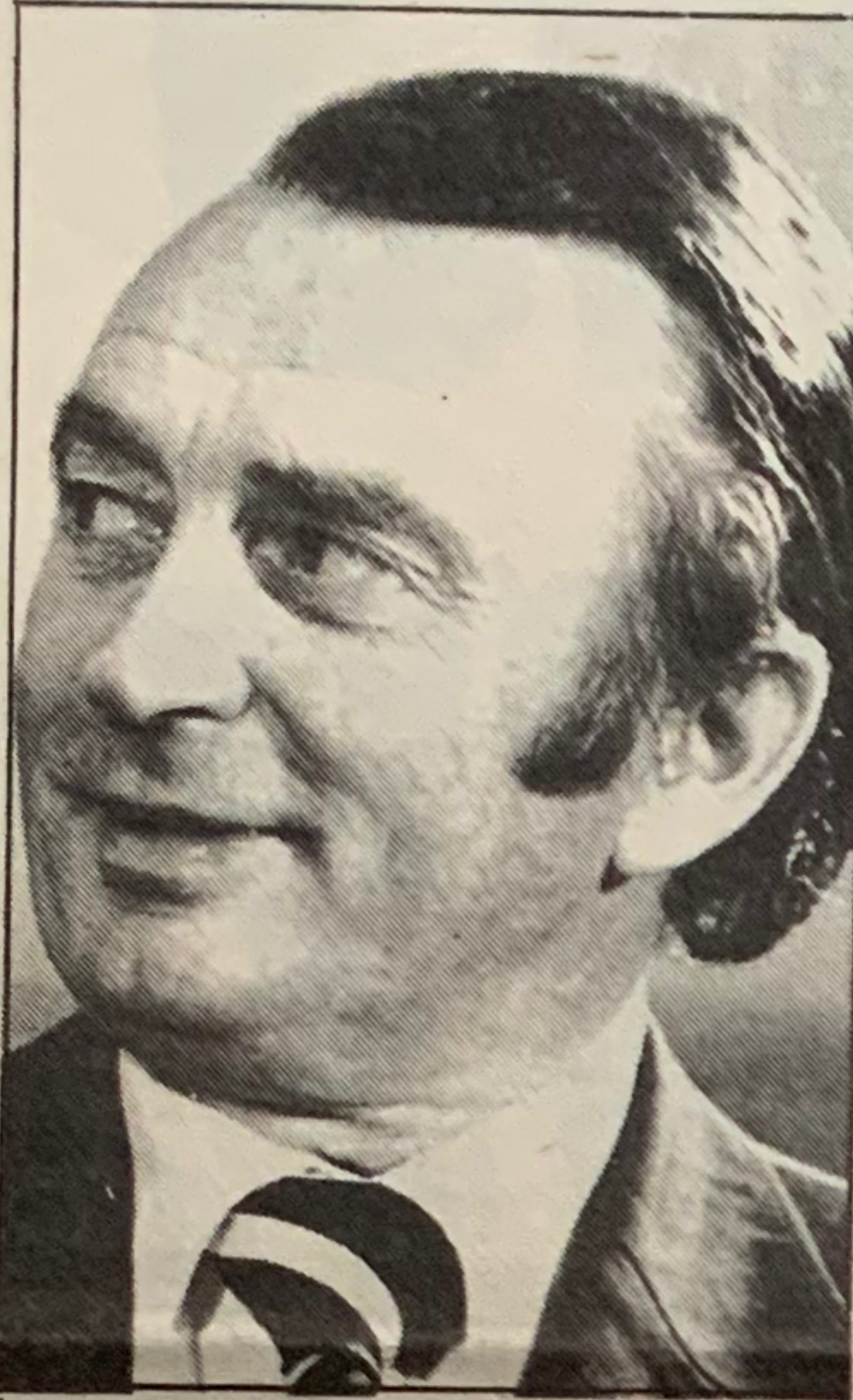
The report included some short film footage of the traditional republican funeral at which a volley of shots was fired over the coffin, an IRA guard of honour accompanied the hearse, the oration was given by the then general secretary of Sinn Fein Daithi O Conaill, and traffic control in the town was taken over by Republican stewards.

Among the large attendance were Fianna Fail's Minister of State at the Department of Finance, Tom McEllistrim and Leinster House member Chub O'Connor. A Free State army commandant represented Charlie Haughey and his brother Padraig 'Jock' Haughey was also there.

Since the funeral Fine Gael's spokesman on 'security', Paddy Harte, has described it as an 'outrageous public demonstration of defiance by the provisionals' and demanded explanations from Fianna Fail and action from the gardai.

An embarrassed McEllistrim told the press that he had seen and heard nothing but the 'Frontline' report clearly shows otherwise. A garda report for Fianna Fail Minister for Justice, Gerry Collins, apparently also claims nothing unusual took place.

No explanation was given by RTE's Controller of Programmes as to why he ordered the item to be



TOM McELLISTRIM  
— he saw nothing.

'deferred' — the showing of silent film does not contravene section 31 of the Broadcasting Act which bans republican spokespersons from RTE.

RTE journalists expressed 'concern' over his decision, saying that it reflected 'an undue caution in politically sensitive matters'. It is likely, however, that pressure may

have come from the Fianna Fail government to chop the report.

Certainly Haughey must find the whole affair highly embarrassing and is clearly caught in a cleft stick.

On the one hand, since coming to office he has deliberately kicked over his 'republican' record, but, on the other hand, he was himself doubly represented at the funeral, and both McEllistrim and O'Connor were very strong supporters of his in the leadership coup and play very much to the 'republican gallery' for their Kerry votes. So Haughey finds it difficult to either condemn or to support what took place.

At the same time successive Free State governments, and therefore RTE, have always portrayed republican demonstrations in the twenty-six counties, whenever possible, as being heavily dominated by people from the North. Reports on the Gaughan and Stagg funerals, the annual Bodenstown commemorations, successful Dublin H-Block demonstrations and so on, always include such phrases as 'large contingents from the North'.

This would hardly be believable for Kerry and film showing that republicanism in Tralee — as displayed on TV at a funeral in Rath ceme-



tery — is the same brand as that in Belfast — as displayed on TV at a funeral in Milltown cemetery — does not support their propaganda myths at all.

Whoever made Friday's decision to ban the 'Frontline' report it was clearly a blunder — only stirring up further controversy. Tuesday's decision to show it is an obvious attempt to get the matter finished with as soon as possible.

The day before the 'Frontline' ban journalists working at RTE made a long-awaited demand for the repeal of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act.

In a statement from the Dublin Broadcasting Branch of the National Union of Journalists, the recent renewal of the banning order is described as 'pernicious censorship'. The journalists say that the censorship order seriously compromises the right to a free press in Ireland

and does not lessen the support for the groups concerned.

They state that this stifling of public debate is against the interests of the Irish people and public disquiet must be increased as it is realised that Sinn Fein's elected public representatives may not be interviewed on RTE.

"The past decade in Ireland shows that no beneficial relationship exists between the level of violence and the government policy of denying journalists the right to question paramilitary groups in depth about their actions and policies", the statement says.

The journalists themselves are in a prime position to influence the continuation of anti-republican censorship. Further political interference such as that in 'Frontline' will demand that they consider stronger action to back up their statements.

## A STRONG SHOP STEWARDS MOVEMENT

BY PAUL ROONEY

A RENEWED EFFORT to launch a strong, politically conscious shop stewards movement to combat the constant sell-outs by the bureaucracy of the trade union movement and the conniving against militant unions by the Industrial Development Authority (IDA), and the Federated Union of Employers (FUE), is being made in the twenty-six counties.

At a meeting of Dublin shop stewards on Wednesday 23rd January, Matt Merrigan, leader of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union, said that there had been a crisis of purpose in the trade union movement through the last decade, whereby trade unions had been forced into positions of often not working for the best interests of their members.

A number of factors have brought about this situation. Since the IDA was set up it has worked with the FUE to keep militant unions out of new industries by means of pre-production and pre-entry agreements. The IDA have done this while giving public funds to private industry.

The Employer-Labour Conference is another factor and this has led to the negotiation of successive 'national' wage agreements, which effectively wrenched all powers of negotiation at factory and workshop level, from the rank-and-file and their elected shop stewards, and forced workers in dispute to process their claims through a number of tortuous procedures firmly policed by bureaucrats in their own unions and by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

Because of all these reasons Merrigan said: "It is now imperative that a national shop stewards representatives movement be launched immediately to fight back. This shop stewards representatives movement must be serious and broadly-based."

Workers have become more conscious of this need for more self-determination and recent examples of this are last year's Post Office strike — where the rank-and-file forced their leadership to take a strong position and face up to the Free State's confrontation tactics; the large number of 'unofficial' strikes in the last two years; and of course the PAYE demonstrations where the ICTU and the two largest unions in Ireland — the ITGWU and the FWUI — were all forced to reverse their original positions of not supporting work stoppages in the face of massive turnouts by the members of their own unions.

### ACCUSED

Merrigan also accused elements of the ICTU of collaboration with the state especially in the proposed introduction of legislation against unions. He went on to say, "If and when legislation is introduced it will impose on unions conditions which will make industrial action very difficult — and once you relax one little bit on people's rights that's the hole in the dam that leads to a burst and engulfs us all."

The total isolation of workers in a strike situation, Merrigan described as the 'cancer of the trade union movement' — again the

Post Office strike is an example, where other unions in the public sector, who at that time were processing claims (teachers, corporation workers, civil servants), left the POWU to do all the fighting instead of working in unity.

A shop stewards movement would hope to build inter-union solidarity for all workers in struggle.

Wednesday's meeting agreed that a shop stewards conference be called early in the year and the main points on which to build a movement from this would be 'the fight for union democracy'; the 'fight against trade union legislation'; and 'free collective bargaining'.

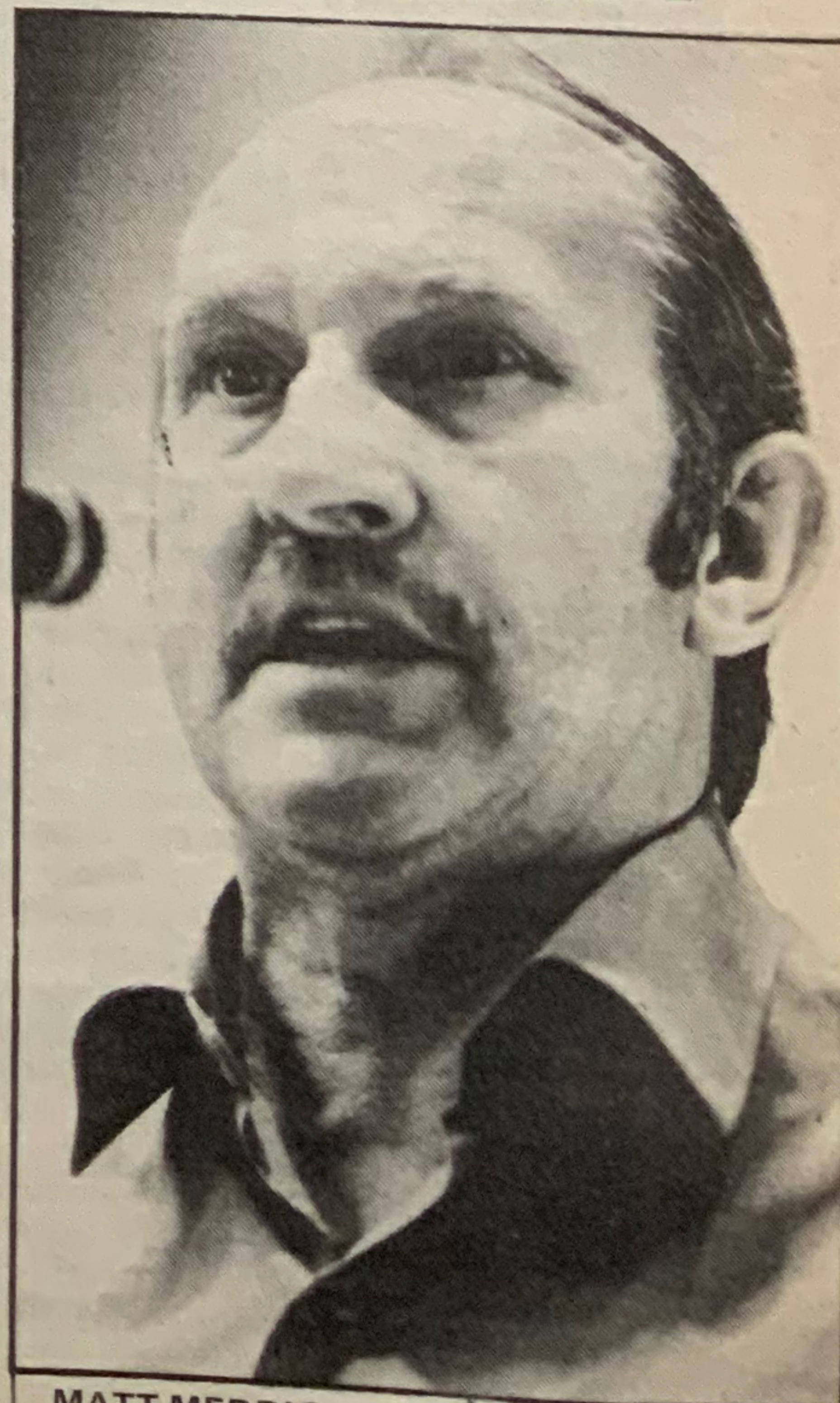
### ATTEMPT

This latest attempt to form a shop stewards movement dates back to May last year when it was hoped to consolidate opposition to the pay-deal then being negotiated into a more permanent committee.

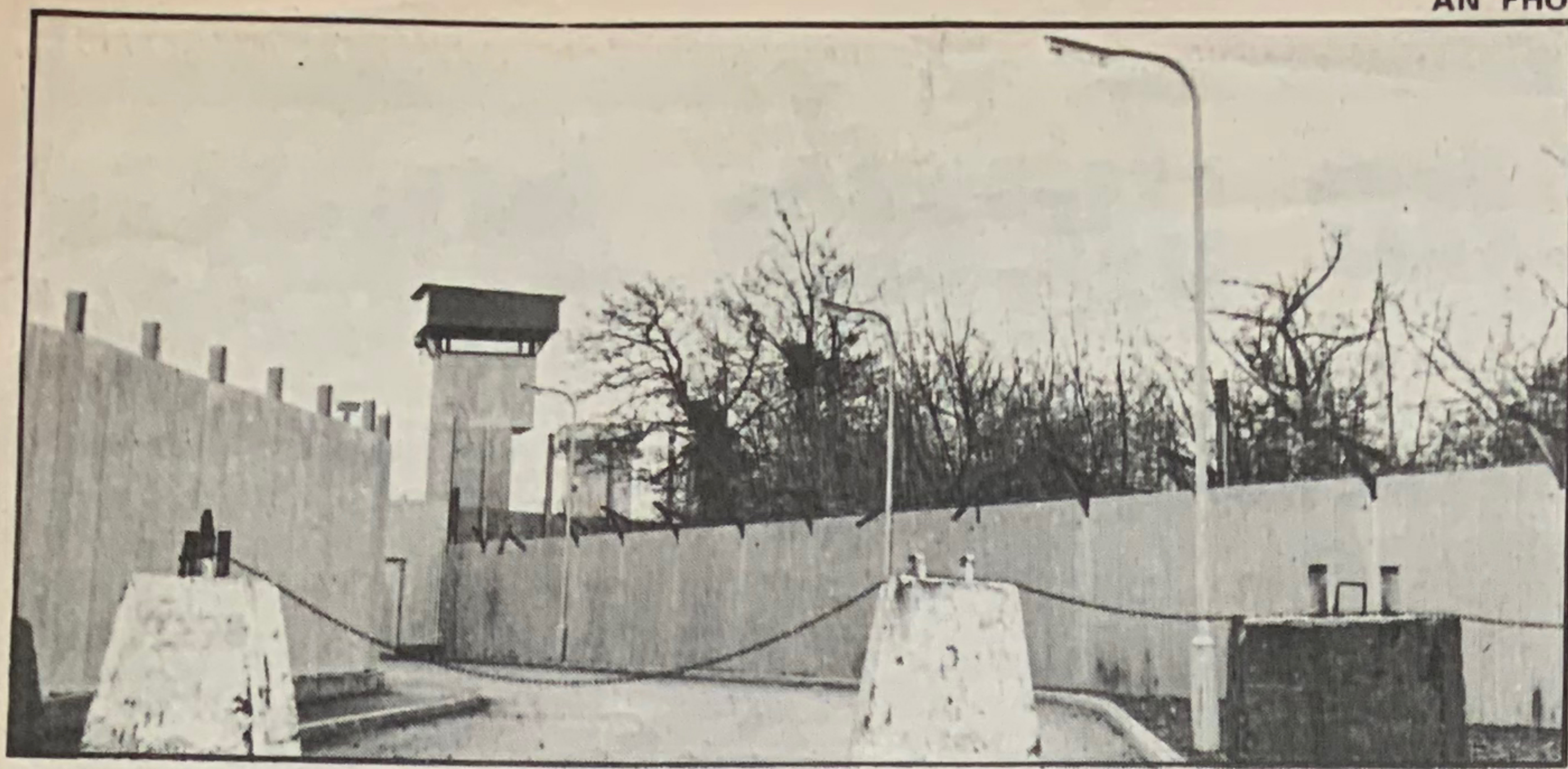
In July a meeting in Dublin elected a steering committee with the task of organising a conference in the autumn of 1979. However, further meetings appeared to have got bogged down in squabbling and take-over attempts by various left-wing splinter groups and little progress was made until this new effort.

Merrigan warned against "elitist political sects who would seek to make such a movement an appendage of their sect...."

"Utopian and adventurist tactics", he said, "will drive away workers and trade unionists seeking sound advice in concrete trade union and industrial circumstances."



MATT MERRIGAN (ATGWU)  
— accused elements of the ICTU of collaboration with the state.



# H-BLOCKS SYSTEM CONDEMNED BY PRISON WORKER

**HIBERNIA** magazine last week revealed that, to the embarrassment of the British, the H-block system has been condemned in a study by a prison 'welfare' worker.

According to *Hibernia*:

"A damning and, for the British government, highly embarrassing indictment of the H-block system and the Northern Ireland Office's policy of criminalisation has come from a prison welfare officer working in the Maze prison (Long Kesh).

"Colin Crawford, who has worked as a welfare officer in the prison since 1974, has just completed a three-year-long study of Long Kesh — the most detailed ever to be conducted since the prison opened in 1971 — and concludes that by almost every criteria applicable in Northern Ireland the H-blocks have been a total failure."

Crawford's seventy-thousand-word study entitled 'Long Kesh — an alternative perspective', was undertaken as a thesis for a post-graduate M.Sc degree. He spent

a year working in the H-blocks before being transferred back to the cages which continue to hold 'special category' prisoners. His thesis was accepted by Cranfield Institute of Technology in England, last November and he is due to graduate successfully in June this year.

Essentially the thesis is a comparison between the cages and the H-blocks.

According to *Hibernia*: "Crawford concludes that the compound system is much more beneficial for the authorities and that the long-term effects of the present H-block protest could be disastrous for Northern Ireland."

"Because the compounds provided a humane system of imprisonment and the opportunity for constructive self-government combined with a greater degree of normality in

daily life and fewer restrictions than usually apply in prison, prisoners became less alienated from the prison authorities and authority in general."

In contrast Crawford states: "The H-block regime at once sacrificed all the gains that flowed from the compound system and introduced a situation where deprivation and subjugation of a vulnerable protest prison population justifies and reinforces their alienation from state government and authority."

*Hibernia* concludes: "Forced by political expediency to abandon the compound system and introduce criminalisation, the British government through ignorance has substituted for a prison system that actually worked in its favour, one which works against it... In Crawford's words '...the introduction of the H-block system and the suffering and financial cost that it has entailed represents at least an indefensible, at worst an inexcusable, penal policy.'"

## H-BLOCK ORDEAL OVER



ABOVE: Joe Maguire greeted on his release by former blanket-men Ned Brown and Fra McCann.

BELOW: Victory salute after defying Britain's criminalisation policy.

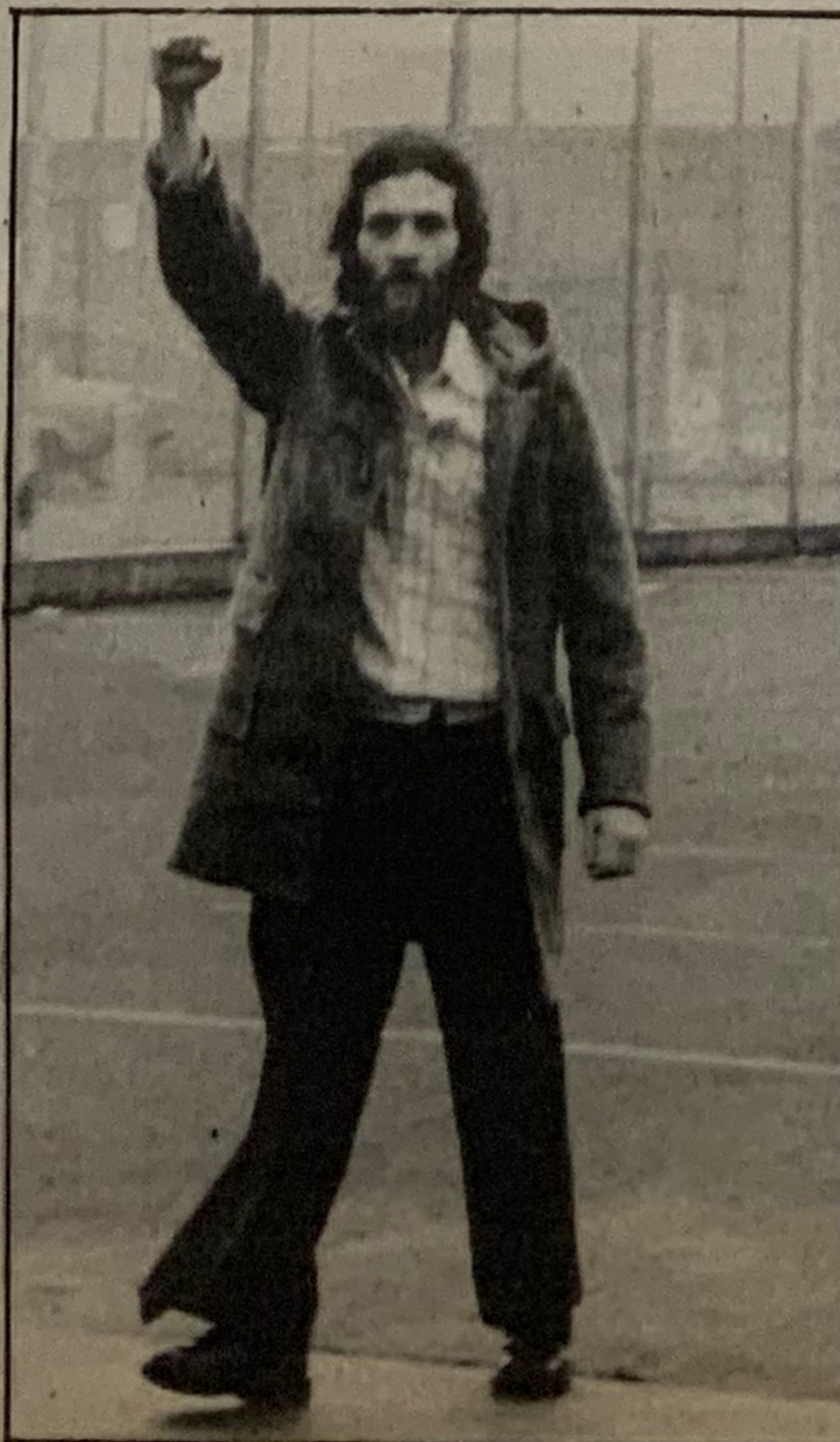
Joe Maguire of Clonard, Belfast, walked free from the H-blocks of Long Kesh last Friday after serving every day of a three-and-a-half year sentence. If he had not joined the blanket protest for political status, he would have gained half-remission of sentence and have been released in early 1978 to rejoin his wife and two children.

Joe Maguire, now twenty-seven years of age, was arrested in July 1976 and spent the first ten months of his imprisonment on remand in Crumlin Road gaol. As a short-term prisoner he then spent seventeen months 'on the blanket' in the Crum' before being moved to the H-blocks. In H3-block he found the most annoying aspect of his incarceration, naked and locked-up twenty-four hours a day, to be petty harassment from the warders — vile verbal abuse, pots of urine or scalding water being thrown into the cell, the heating and lights being frequently turned on and off, and the with-holding of personal letters.

The lack of 'normality' in the H-blocks is graphically illustrated by Joe Maguire's only recent contact with a mirror — to be subject to the obscene mirror search. On his release, when for the first time in months, he looked into a mirror he was shocked. And no wonder, for he has lost three stone in weight, from eleven-and-a-half stone to eight-and-a-half.

Despite being incarcerated in deliberately degrading conditions, Joe Maguire considers that the blanket men's Republican resolve and Irish identity is being strengthened — for example, of the forty-four men in his wing all can converse to some degree in Gaelic.

Although delighted that his H-block ordeal is over, Joe Maguire feels sad at leaving behind his comrades who gave him a tremendous send-off, banging on cell doors, and shouting messages of support.



## BRIT SHOT DEAD

A BRITISH SOLDIER — a member of the Duke of Wellington Regiment — was shot dead by the IRA, with an M60 machine-gun, on the Whiterock Road in West Belfast on Saturday morning. A three-man IRA active service unit had commandeered a house at the corner of Falls Road and St. James' Road, facing Whiterock Road, at 8.20 a.m. Two hours later a Brit foot-patrol ventured out of the Macrory Park barracks (Fort Pegasus) on the Whiterock Road, and set off down the road. A Brit, the first to be killed by the IRA this decade, was hit by a hail of bullets fired from an upstairs window of the commandeered house. He died shortly afterwards. His comrades-in-arms panicked and fired a couple of shots hitting a nearby pedestrian in the arm and a nearby car-driver in the leg. The IRA unit returned safely to base. The operation was claimed in a supplied statement.

## St. James' mini-curffew

SEVERAL HUNDRED British soldiers invaded the St. James area of West Belfast last Saturday morning to terrorise the inhabitants for the earlier shooting dead of a Brit by the IRA. The area of twelve streets and over one thousand homes has a staunchly republican reputation and the Brits' behaviour — described by Belfast Sinn Fein as a 'mini-curffew' — although unusual by their present standards, did not come as a surprise to the residents. Brits darted about the streets trying to look aggressive, but only managing to look frightened — worried no doubt in case the IRA popped up again with their M60 machine gun.

However the relative safety created by their numbers encouraged the Brits and before long the usual defenceless targets fell foul of them. Twenty young men were arrested and several were viciously beaten. An elderly woman was slapped across the face when she came to the assistance of a man being hauled away and another man, spread-eagled against a wall, had a rifle fired between his feet. The intimidatory rampage lasted for several hours with a couple of hundred houses being searched, and a number ransacked — one of which had two front windows smashed. The Brits, of course, failed to find any IRA Volunteers or the M60 machine gun — but they did manage to enrage several hundred already hostile people.

## Derry attack

THE DERRY BRIGADE of the IRA launched a gun attack against two Brit land-rovers on the city's Culmore Road on Tuesday evening. No enemy fire was returned. The IRA's supplied statement claiming responsibility for the attack claimed no hits but stated that their active service unit had returned safely.

## Off-licence shut

THE SHIMNA WINE LODGE in the Springfield Road, West Belfast, was blown up by the IRA on Tuesday evening. In claiming responsibility for the action, in a supplied statement the IRA pointed out that 'despite repeated requests to the owner alcohol continued to be sold to under-age drinkers' and they, the IRA, 'believe this had the effect of increasing the juvenile crime rate'.

## Arrogant aristocrat

AN ARROGANT ENGLISH ARISTOCRAT, the sixty-four-year-old Duke of Wellington, visited West Belfast a week last Wednesday, 23rd January, during the funeral of IRA Volunteer Dee Delaney. The duke, the human mascot of the British army's Duke of Wellington Regiment, apparently came to lord it over the 'natives' and to display his racist contempt for the funeral. However having secretly sneaked into Belfast, he spent just a few hours in the city under heavy military guard, before fleeing back to the relative safety of his home-land.

## RUC behind tri-colour

DESPITE the hated RUC's infamous crimes of shooting and torture committed against the Irish people, an RUC gun-man from Belfast may well be selected for the all-Ireland pistol-shooting team for the Olympics. If so, gun-man Chief Inspector Ken Stanford will temporarily swallow his sectarian and unionist principles and at the opening ceremony in Moscow he will march behind the tri-colour. The *Sunday Press* commented: "What an irony it would be if Ireland's first Olympic gold medal since 1956 in Melbourne were to be won by a Belfast police-man in a shooting event."

## Capaill rásaíochta

TÁ CĀIN BHREISLUACHA a foch againn ar bhia agus ar riachtanaisí eile na beatha. Ní ghearrtar Cāin Bhreisluacha ar chapaill rásaíochta sna Sé Chontae Fíchead in ainneoin nach riachtanaisí iad. Mar is soiléir do lucht íochta P.A.Y.E. cheana ní mar a chéile a luíonn an cháin ar ghach duine.

Ní dócha go ndéanfaidh Cathal Ó hEochaidh, fear mór rásaíochta, an scéal seo a athrú. Taispeánann an sampla seo arís, más gá gur i bhfábhhar na saibhir atá an córas cánach sa tír seo.

## Stormont circus

LAST WEEK the Atkins Stormont conference got even more like a circus and the farcical parallel 'side-show', starring the SDLP, got underway. There will only be four main Stormont performances next month, reportedly owing to the unavailability of the main actors, and the side-show will also be put on only when 'convenient'. The side-show has been opened to enable the SDLP to waffle on about executive power-sharing and an institutionalised 'Irish dimension' ruled out of the main performances by King Paisley.

Despite various off-stage histrionics, and walk-out threats, by professional politicians well-versed in such plays the main show is expected to go on at least until Easter and might even be followed by a final Act at Westminster 'devolving' some limited power if so-called 'protection for the minority' can be agreed upon.

# LONDON FRAME-UP VICTIM BURIED

BY PETER HAYES

A BLANKET OF SADNESS descended onto the Falls Road in Belfast last Tuesday afternoon as another chapter in the litany of British injustice against the Irish people closed with yet another burial.

The grief-filled occasion was the funeral of fifty-six-year-old Guiseppe Conlon, who died on Wednesday 23rd January in Hammersmith Hospital, West London, after being moved there the previous weekend from Wormwood Scrubs prison, also in West London.

In cold weather, amid pouring rain, hundreds of mourners flocked to pay homage to a man whose imprisonment five years ago and his treatment since then, is typical of the depths to which the British are prepared to stoop to extract their pound of flesh.

From a small house in Aibert Street which Guiseppe Conlon never saw, (his family moved there after he was arrested), his coffin followed by a large cortege wound its way up the Falls Road, lined with people towards Milltown Cemetery.

After a simple religious ceremony at the graveside the body was interred. Among the many wreaths placed on top of the grave was one signed: "Deep sorrow, D. Hall and friends, Wormwood Scrubs".

## GAOL

Wormwood Scrubs is the gaol where Guiseppe Conlon spent the last months of his life and is also where his son Gerard is serving a thirty year sentence on trumped-up bombing charges.

The heartbreak already caused to the Conlon family was aggravated when last weekend the English police, the RUC, and British Airways combined to frustrate the smooth return of the body to Ireland.

For twenty-four hours after the body left the hospital on Thursday it went missing. The Conlon family and friends were out of their minds trying to trace its whereabouts. Eventually it was traced to Ryans Undertakers in London, who told of receiving a telephone call (presumably from the police) telling them to collect a body from an Oxfordshire military airbase.

Apparently the body was taken there after British Airways had refused to handle it for 'security reasons'. The body arrived home at shortly after eleven at night last Saturday; Aer Lingus flew it to Dublin and a Belfast undertaker brought it over the border.

## OTHERS

Before the funeral, at a Requiem Mass at St. Peter's Pro-Cathedral on the Falls Road, Father Vincent McKinley in his homily prayed for five others. He said: "We pray for Mrs. Conlon's son, Gerard, for Patrick and Anne Maguire, Sean Smyth and Patrick O'Neill, still in prison, that they may see light in the darkness of this tragedy and that justice will be done in their case".

Father McKinley was one of the priests, who the previous week had refused to allow the remains of IRA Volunteer Dee Delaney into his church.

On Tuesday he said: "In this Mass we pray earnestly that

*Guiseppe Conlon's repeated assertions of innocence will be vindicated .... In these difficult times of what is described as urban guerrilla warfare, Mr. Conlon was the victim of political expedience. An outraged public had to be placated. It is better to get someone, if not the bomber, then an Irishman, if possible from the Lower Falls....*

*"It was with great physical difficulty that he left his home to travel to England to be with his son Gerard in his hour of need. A few hours after his arrival in December, 1974, this semi-invalid was arrested and later charged with conspiracy and possession of explosives, and sentenced to a cruel twelve-year prison sentence. At his trial and during his imprisonment, he protested his innocence, but his repeated assertions of innocence always fell on deaf ears."*

## DEAF EARS

Those deaf ears included British Home Secretary William Whitelaw and West Belfast MP Gerry Fitt.

The hypocrite Whitelaw now claims that he had agreed to release Guiseppe Conlon on 'compassionate grounds' if he recovered from hospital treatment. But Whitelaw had shown no compassion in dealing with Guiseppe Conlon.

Despite being seriously ill, including suffering the after-effects of a short hunger-strike, Conlon was moved from prison to Hammersmith Hospital on December 31st. But then, on January 11th he was taken out of an oxygen tent and off a drip and moved back to an antiquated prison hospital.

He was only rushed back to the civilian hospital, on January 18th, when his condition rapidly deteriorated. He was given the added comfort of a constant four-man armed police guard. He weighed only four-and-a-half stone when he died.

## FITT

Typically, Gerry Fitt attempted to use Guiseppe Conlon's death in a vain attempt to boost his sagging fortunes in West Belfast. Fitt claimed that he believed Conlon to be innocent and would do all he could to prove it.

Despite misleading statements to the contrary by Fitt, he visited Conlon only twice in the last five years: once when he was on remand in Brixton prison in early 1975 and once when he was on his death-bed a fortnight ago. Fitt at no time either offered to help Guiseppe Conlon and his family or issued a public statement protesting his innocence.

## NIGHTMARE

The nightmare experiences of Guiseppe Conlon began in late 1974, a few hours after arriving in London at the request of Belfast solicitor Ted Jones. Jones had expressed an interest in defending



RIGHT: Guiseppe Conlon's grieving daughters at his funeral in Belfast on Tuesday.

BELOW: The coffin of Guiseppe Conlon on its way to Milltown Cemetery from the Lower Falls.



Guiseppe's son Gerard, who had been arrested in Belfast and taken to London a few days earlier for questioning about the Guildford bombings.

Guiseppe Conlon and four of his relatives were arrested from a London bar and seven days later he was charged with possession of nitro-glycerine and conspiracy to cause explosions.

After a three month show trial of himself and the Maguire family at the Old Bailey, during which time the British press whipped up anti-Irish hysteria, the lack of evidence was ignored and Conlon was given a savage twelve-year

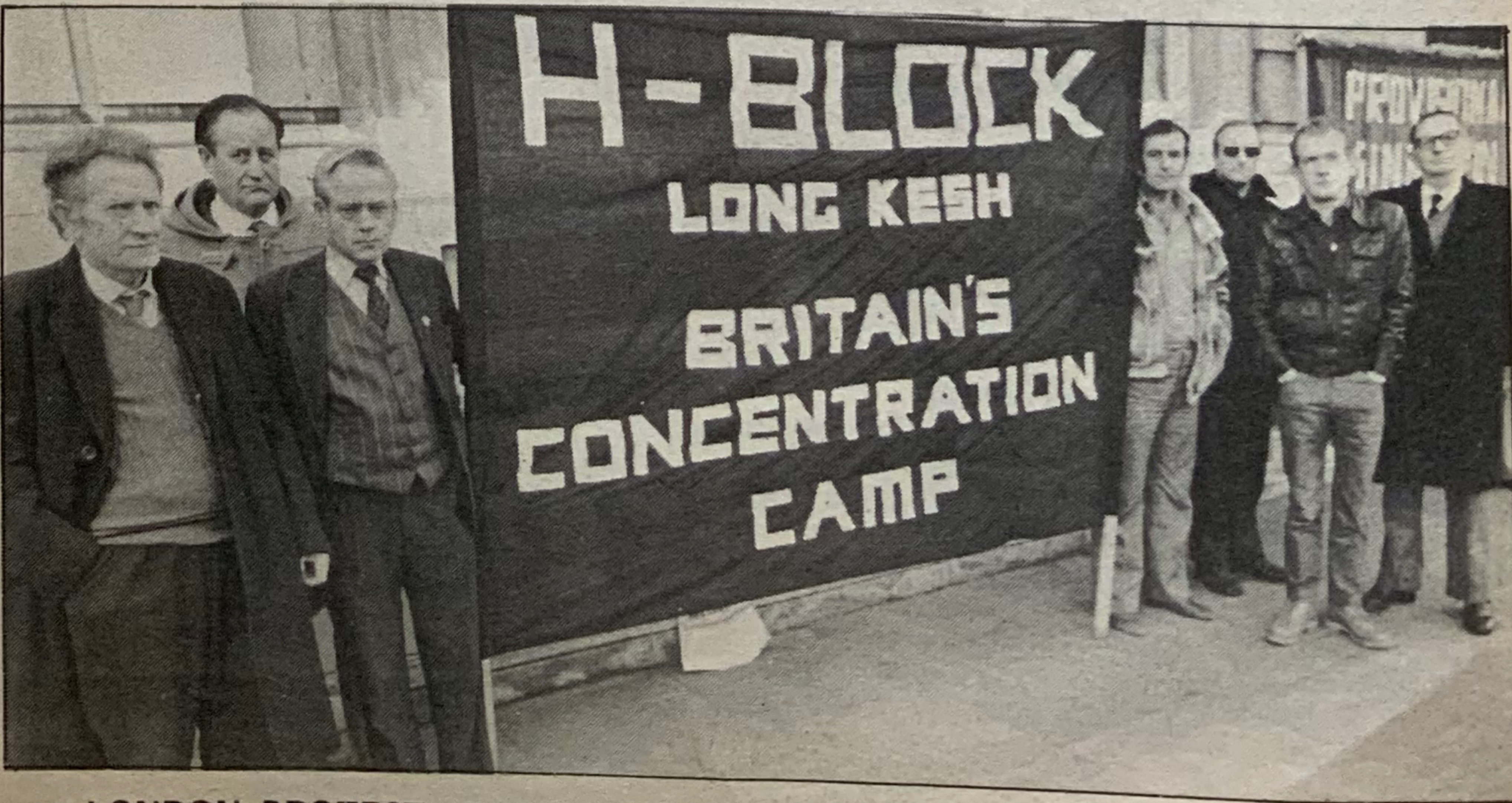
sentence. Some months later he appealed against the verdict on the grounds of insufficient evidence but his conviction was upheld.

Prior to his imprisonment Guiseppe Conlon had a sixteen year history of bronchial illness. To walk a distance of two-hundred-and-fifty yards was an ordeal which left him exhausted.

Though his health rapidly deteriorated he was not exempt from the typical harassment meted out to all Irish prisoners in English gaols and was transported between four prisons: Brixton, Wakefield, Winchester and Wormwood Scrubs.

Those who visited him in prison, talk of a man who although physically wasting, retained immense dignity and pride. He never bowed the knee to the prison authorities and when warders, or governors, got high handed with him he promptly pointed a stiff fore-finger straight at them and in a stern voice said: "You have no jurisdiction over me, I'm innocent".

On his death-bed he maintained his innocence and to his gathered relatives and friends he asked them to ensure that people learned the truth of how he was framed and railroaded to gaol simply because he was Irish.



LONDON PROTEST: Sinn Fein members picketed the British Home Office in London last Saturday protesting at the death of Guiseppe Conlon.



# BIRMINGHAM MARCH GIVES RARE INSIGHT

MILLIONS OF TELEVISION VIEWERS were granted a rare insight on Sunday evening, into the berserk behaviour of British troops in the North of Ireland. A uniformed British soldier - Fusilier Stuart Smith-Blain - was pictured screaming abuse and gesticulating wildly at marchers commemorating Derry's Bloody Sunday in the English city of Birmingham. He is now to face internal British army discipline - not so much for his action itself, but more for its embarrassingly public nature.

The more than two-thousand-strong march, organised by Sinn Fein (Britain), was led by the Coatbridge Pipe Band from Glasgow, and was supported by republicans from around the country, a wide spectrum of the British revolutionary left, the Troops Out Movement, and a number of other groups including the Bradford Asian Youth Movement.

In the days leading up to the

march the local extreme right-wing Tory MP Jill Knight - as ever on an ego-trip seeking cheap publicity - had attempted to get the march banned and to incite violence against the marchers.

On the day, a couple of hundred fascist counter-demonstrators, supporters of the British National Front and the British Movement, turned up. They screamed anti-Irish abuse, threw a few assorted missiles, sang Rule Britannia and waved the Union Jack. A pathetic bunch! Although they, like Fusilier Smith-Blain, received wide British television news coverage, they made little impact on the marchers and for their pains nearly twenty of them were arrested by police, who numbered nearly one thousand.

The militant and well-organised march ended with a rally in the city centre, chaired by Kevin Colfer (Sinn Fein Ard Comhairle), who commenting on the choice of Birmingham for the march said: "We have no objection to the people of Birmingham mourning their own dead. We are only mourning ours. We came to hold a peaceful demonstration and no one is going to prevent the Irish people and their socialist brothers from marching in support of the men in the H-Blocks and the women in prison in Armagh"

Gerry MacLochlainn (Cardiff Sinn Fein) made a strong speech and other speakers were from the Troops Out Movement, the Women in Ireland group, the Relatives Action Committee and the Women Against Imperialism group.

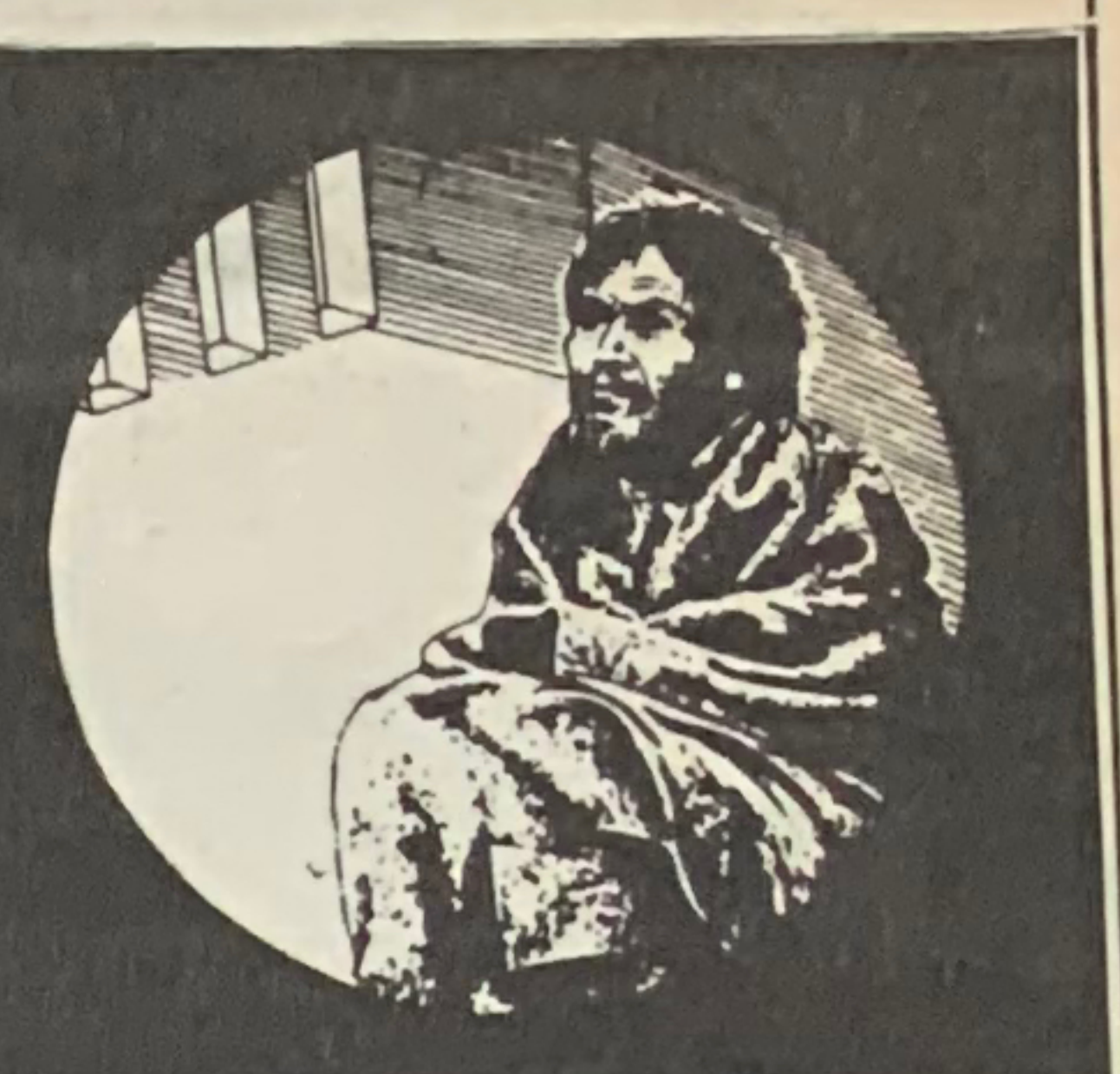
All speakers called for support for the liberation struggle in the North, and for political status for the POWs, particularly emphasising that the prisoners in England be repatriated to Ireland - a call given added urgency by the death a few days previously of prisoner Guiseppe Conlon. There was a minute's silence in memory of him and other

Irish political prisoners who have died in English jails.

There were brief messages of support delivered by Strabane-man Brendan Gallagher, pacifist Pat Arrowsmith, and Taranchan Gacatura (Bradford Asian Youth Movement) and one from the Fedayeen section of the Iranian Students Movement in Britain.



Berserk Brit half-way up a Birmingham lamp-post last Sunday. He now faces internal British army discipline - not so much for his action itself, but more for its embarrassingly public nature.



## GROWING H-BLOCK CONCERN

Growing concern for the blanket-men has again been exhibited in a variety of areas as encouraging trends of wider support continue.

Delegates to the Annual GAA Congress, to be held in the Bellevue Donard Hotel, Newcastle, Co. Down on March 29th and 30th will be asked to pass motions condemning the treatment of prisoners in the H-Blocks. Motions from clubs all over Ulster, many of which have members in the H-Blocks, have already been passed at county conventions in Antrim, Fermanagh, Derry and Donegal, and will now go forward to the annual congress.

Last week-end the Kerry convention also passed a motion condemning 'the inhuman and degrading treatment of prisoners in H-Block' and they too will be adding their support at next month's congress.

Meanwhile, New Ross Urban District Council has passed a motion condemning the treatment of prisoners in the H-Blocks and supporting the five demands of the prisoners which would satisfy their campaign for political status. This follows representations made to the council from the local Michael O'Hanrahan Cumann of Sinn Fein drawing attention to the deteriorating situation of political prisoners in the H-Blocks, Armagh and Crumlin Road jails.

And a French Human Rights organisation have requested permission to look into conditions at the H-Blocks. The group - Christian Action for the Abolition of Torture - have written to British Prime Minister Thatcher seeking that a small delegation of their members be allowed to consider the situation at first hand. A similar request from Amnesty International was turned down last year.

## Divis division rejected

TOTAL REJECTION was expressed at a meeting of a couple of hundred residents last week, to recent ridiculous Housing Executive proposals to only partially demolish the Divis Flats in West Belfast and to 'rehabilitate' the rest.

Conditions in some of the twelve deck-access blocks are even worse than in the two to be demolished - Whitehall and Fasset. One resident pointed out that these two blocks create the only 'blind-spots' for Brit observation posts, and accused the Housing Executive, officials of which were present, of collaboration with the Brits. As for 'rehabilitation' it was pointed out that constructing concrete bin-houses on the already badly-cramped balconies - to solve the accumulation of refuse, which poses a severe health hazard - would only create ramps enabling children to climb up, and fall off the balconies. It was also pointed out (based on figures from a Brit government report!) that few families would be able to afford to sufficiently heat their flats, given their construction, whatever new system is installed.

The Brit/Housing-Executive tactic of divide-and-rule - new housing for a few and improvements for others - is being totally rejected by Divis residents whose opposition is spear-headed by the militant Divis Demolition Committee.

# BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION 1980 - DERRY

## A SPIRIT OF SORROW AND DEFIANCE



AS HUNDREDS of men, women and children, marched slowly down off the windswept heights of Creggan — overlooking the walls of Derry City and the River Foyle — last Sunday, many remembered eight years before how when faced with the sight of thousands of the Nationalist people up off their knees and marching for their civil rights and freedom, the British connived at the deliberate slaughter of fourteen men, to ensure that never again would such a march take place.

Eight years later we had come again, as every year since 1972, both in a spirit of sorrow, remembering those men and the many hundreds of other victims of the British presence, but also in a spirit of defiance. Marching once more as the people of Derry did that day, for an end to tyranny and exploitation, but armed with the lesson of Bloody Sunday, that freedom will not come purely from peaceful marches but also from the barrel of a gun.

Republicans had come from Belfast, Strabane, Lurgan, Maghera, Dublin and Glasgow. But as always, the strength of the march came from the people of Derry themselves. Significantly it was the youth of Derry — many too young to have been on that first march — who were most visible on Sunday, a sombre warning if it was ever needed, to the oppressors of Ireland.

In just what state of fear the British hold this symbol of Bloody Sunday was testified to by those who travelled to Derry along the main eastern route. Along the Glenshane Pass hordes of Marine Commandos stopped all traffic, ordering protestors off coaches into the freezing cold for ritual harassment and their usual abuse. But in Derry itself, apart from a couple of helicopters, flying high, they kept their distance, preferring to adopt their familiar role of spying from Derry's walls.

Shortly after three o'clock the procession moved off, headed by a tricolour flying at half mast on a pikestaff — a double symbol of grief and continued resistance. Behind that came children and relatives of the victims of Bloody Sunday carrying black flags and wreaths. And then, leading the marchers, came the banner of Belfast Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Fein, carried by four former blanketmen to emphasise the continuing tradition of Bloody Sunday.

The hills of Derry make it a place of echoes. As the march wound down the long Southway from Creggan into the heart of the Bogside the tunes of six Republican

Bands — two of which had travelled from Glasgow — resounded back once more. Eight years ago it was the far more terrible echoes of British bullets and the cries of the dying and wounded which sounded from the hills and narrow streets. In the Bogside, under the historic shadow of the Rossville Flats, the procession stopped for children to lay wreaths at the memorial erected by the people of Derry on the scene where those fourteen men were coldly murdered. A spontaneous near-silence fell on the marchers at this point before moving on the few yards to the wall which marks Free Derry Corner, where the rally was held.

The barricades of the Bogside may have been crushed long ago by the brute force of Operation Motorman, but the sense of resolute separateness of the Bogside (literally a stone's throw from Derry's walls), which sparked off the present war remains as tangible as ever.



That sense of continuity was spelt out by Derryman Sean Keenan, the rally's chairperson remarking on the bitterly cold weather he reminded people it was bitterly cold on January 30th 1972 as well. And it would be bitterly cold tonight in Long Kesh and Armagh gaol. The H-Blocks, he said are a re-imposition by the British of the system of internment which the Bloody Sunday victims had marched and died to end.

Continuing that theme, Billy Donnelly — Chairperson of Ulster Executive Sinn Fein — spoke bitterly of the Church leaders and politicians who had been horrified at the Bloody Sunday massacre but had profited from their association with the initial outrage. The true message of Derry — that of freedom — had never penetrated these opportunists. Now that there was no

personal or political capital to be made, they were nowhere to be seen. Their original so-called Christian 'concern' was belied by such acts as the sickening refusal — for political motives — to accept the body of Volunteer Dee Delaney into the church last week, after a bomb he was transporting accidentally exploded.

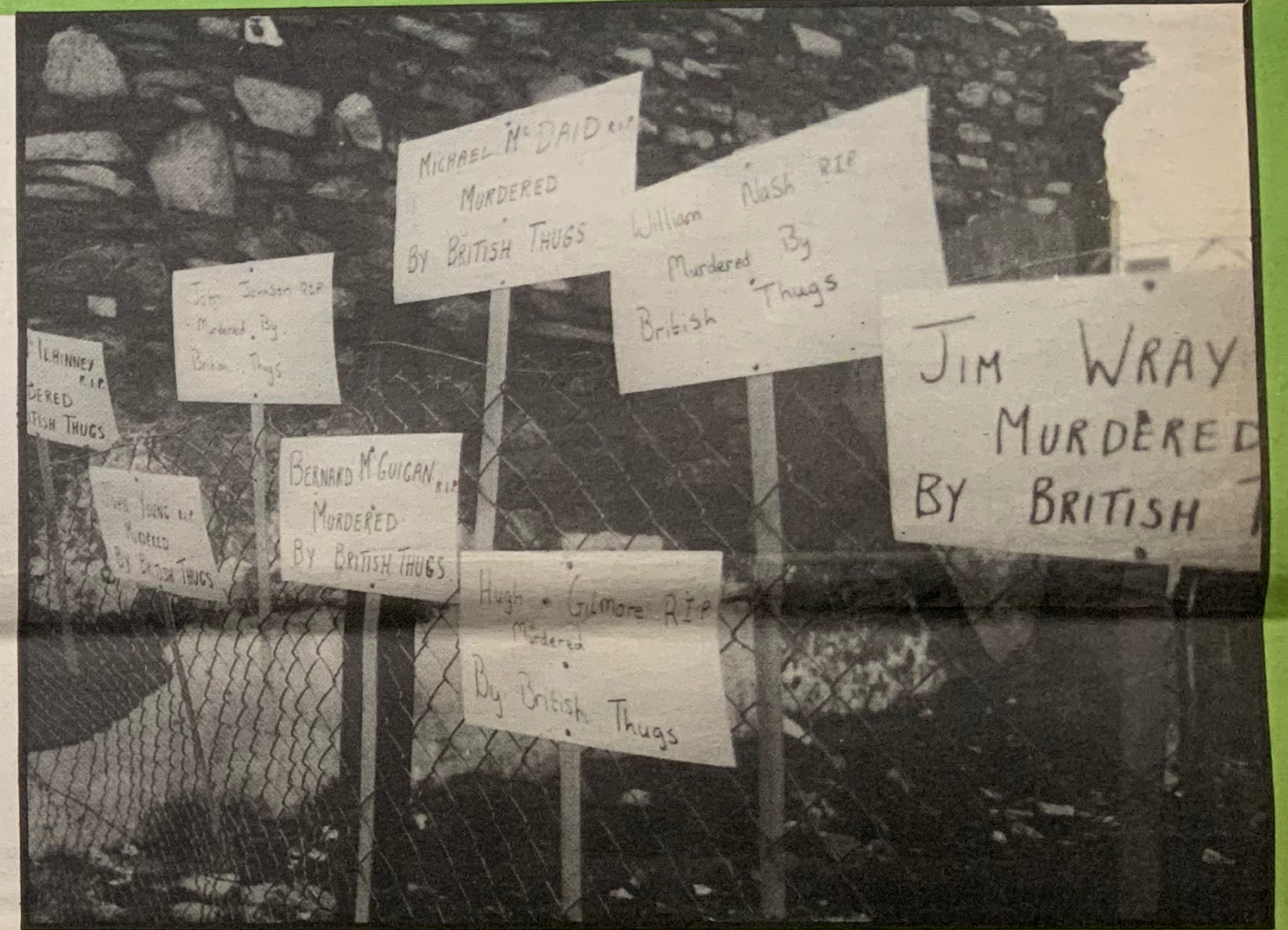
Next to speak, briefly, was Kevin Agnew, secretary of Ulster Executive Sinn Fein. He read the names of the fourteen victims, like accusing fingers each name echoed off the ancient city walls behind which so many atrocities against Derry nationalists have been contemplated and planned. The crowd then stood for a minute's silence.

Niall Fagan, a former General Secretary of Sinn Fein spoke next, and recalled that Gerry Fitt had applauded vigorously when he spoke in Milltown Cemetery, Belfast in 1966, claiming the ownership by the Irish People of every sod and stone of Ireland. Yet now Fitt, and people like him, are busy collaborating with those very people who had plotted together, at the highest level of British Government, to strike terror into the hearts of nationalist people that awful day. Speaking of British troops Niall Fagan warned, to the delight of the crowd: 'If they don't cross that water soon, they'll go by Narrow Waters!'

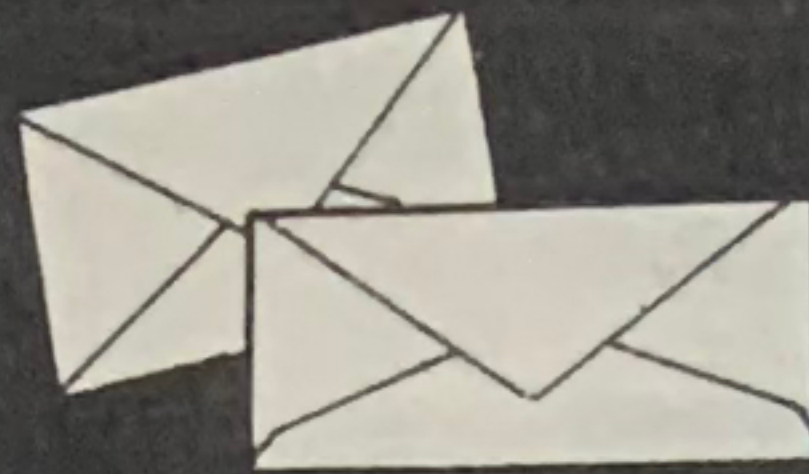
In quickly concluding the rally Kevin Agnew spoke briefly again to condemn the hypocrisy of the Catholic church on the issue of the liberation struggle and to stress that though today was a time for remembering past infamies, people must also concern themselves with the future of the struggle.

Kathleen Gallagher spoke briefly for the Relatives Action Committee and Sean Keenan finished by calling for a new mood among Republicans that would carry us to a political as well as military victory in the 1980s. The rally concluded with the playing — by Turf Lodge's Cathal Brugha Band — of Amhran na bFiann.

The message of the Bloody Sunday commemoration is a vital one. It is impossible not to become extremely emotional on such a day. But to forget the goal that those fourteen victims died trying to achieve, is to do their memory grave disservice. The importance of last Sunday's commemoration must be that it carries us forward in a renewed upsurge of resolve and rightful anger to drive the British scourge out of this land once and for all!



# Postmhála



All letters should be addressed to the Editor - An Phoblacht/Republican News, 170a Falls Rd., Belfast or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin

## SPORT AND POLITICS

A chara,  
Last week Mrs. Thatcher and the European Parliament, following in the footsteps of big brother Jimmy Carter, called upon the International committee to cancel the Moscow venue of the Olympic games, in the light of Russia's invasion of Afghanistan.

Clearly the message is disseminated that military intervention into a foreign country by a Communist government is simply unacceptable to the Western powers.

By the same criteria Russia must view with alarm the sinister catalogue of clandestine operations by the Western powers in Latin America, Korea, Iran, Jordan, and Thailand, to name but a few countries where military aid has been flowing to the most conservative, not to say fascist, governments; military aid which in the past has included the presence and even participation of American troops on foreign soil.

However on the question of sport and politics, which ultimately cannot be divorced, Britain has always enacted an anomalous policy to suit her own selfish interests.

The appalling actions of the South African government for example, against which Russia's behaviour cannot possibly be compared, did not influence Britain's Minister of Sport to ban the recent Springboks rugby tour. The iniquities of apartheid, that is lamented and condemned throughout the world, or the murdering and torturing of citizens, who are being stripped of their nationality and exiled into desert lands to suffer a fate similar to the Red Indians of America, did not persuade Britain to reconsider their decision to permit the tour.

On the contrary the Springboks were provided with a police guard to ensure that their tour was not disrupted. Again Britain's message is equally clear: our economic interests take priority over the injustices of South Africa although you have our sympathy.

Britain is good at that, offering sympathy, and cups of tea. If the invasion of Afghanistan is particularly frightening to Britain and the Western powers, it is not because of the loss of sovereignty or self-determination, nor for that matter is it out of fraternal love of the Afghanists for whom Britain couldn't care less, but rather it is because of its effects on the world's political chess board and the very real game which both sides play for domination, manipulation and control.

Hypocritically Britain was also loud in her condemnation of Vietnam's invasion of neighbouring Cambodia - a country whose regime was bent on the genocide of the population - while tacitly approving Tanzania's invasion of Uganda - an equally brutal regime who were a constant source of embarrassment to Britain.

The smaller nations of the world and the various liberation groups struggling for national independence see this game in its true perspective. During the 1972 Munich Olympic games, when a handful of Irish N.C.A. members and myself made a peaceful protest, against the invasion and occupation of my country by a foreign government and the internment syndrome of death, suffering and torture which followed, we had to listen to an orchestrated campaign of slander from the British-inspired media, who in the strongest terms accused us of bringing sport into dis-

repute through our politically motivated action.

In 1972, sport and the splendour of the Olympic games were above the sphere of politics. The swelling crowds and the thick walls of the stadium were supposed to stifle any dissident cry for justice. However, now in 1980, the voices are not raised against South Africa (Britain's main trading partner) or even Britain herself for her acts of complicity in Ireland, but rather against Russia, the old arch rival.

Now that the hawks have returned to the White House and Whitehall in style, the old cold war demands further frothy contributions, and sport, similar to any other issue, is by no means above politics.

Brian Holmes,  
Republican Prisoner  
Cage 10, Long Kesh  
Prison Camp.

## Afghanistan and lies

A chara,  
Your article on Afghanistan (*Afghanistan: War and Revolution*, AP/RN 12th January) repeats the imperialist lies.

We of all people should know better, the way our struggle is slandered round the world.

The capitalist states will always try to strangle at birth any people venturing on a socialist path. Hence the 1978 treaty of friendship and mutual aid, including military, between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan. Pakistan was warned twice, regarding using her territory as a base for counter revolution against her neighbour.

Foes of the revolution were being trained by U.S. and Chinese advisers.

When the change of leadership came in Afghanistan Babrak Karmal sought and the Soviet Union honoured, its obligation under article 4 of the treaty. Class solidarity on an international level!

If we think that the imperialists won't try to impede social progress, then we should recall Salvador Allende's Chile and Nixon's words about it to David Frost in his television interview. 'I gave orders to make the economy scream'. All this because a Government began to implement its election promise of nationalising the copper industry.

Sean O Ceallaig,  
Atha Cliath 3.  
P.S. The treaties between the U.S.A. and Spain and the U.S.A. and Turkey allows for the U.S. to use its armed forces against any upheaval within those countries that might topple the governments.

## A view from serene Seattle

Friends!  
I am a supporter of the Provisional IRA. I see it as the vanguard organisation of the struggle for self-determination in Northern Ireland.

I have no money at the moment to donate to the Republican Movement (I have only a part-time job as a janitor) but I feel I must do something...

I realise that must not seem very encouraging considering I'm here in Seattle and the people I wish to aid are on the other side of the world.

I read the bourgeois newspapers, watch the televised news media to get a glimpse at what is happening there (I watched on the news recently about the two men who were arrested for the Mountbatten incident, it is very

unfortunate that both men were not released). But if I can do no more than write this letter and read Republican publications, which seem impossible to obtain, then I will content myself with that.

I have read one good book on the IRA and that is 'The Secret Army' by J. Bowyer. I've studied some revolutionary documents such as 'The Minimanual of the Urban Guerilla' by Carlos Marighella, Nechayer's 'The Catechism of the Revolutionist' and some of the works of Lenin.

So, my reason though for just writing this is to see just what I can do to best serve and in some small way assist this genuine human rights movement.

I am 21 years old. I have Irish and English ancestry. I have been made a student of the theory and practice of resistance since I was about 15.

For the last couple of years I have also been very consumed by the muzik of the New Wave. I consider myself to be a Neo-Nihilist.

The 'New Left' has deteriorated into post hippie counter culturism more concerned with the pacifist nuclear power issue, natural foods and dedicated to living a long life of non-action. The pro-Moscow C.P. (USA) is pretty much dead - no great loss, and the Trotskyite groups exhaust themselves perfecting their non-existent revolution, the old get old and the young get old too (excuse my bad humour).

There exists no revolutionary consciousness in the U.S., only a massive huge petit-bourgeoisie that will continually elect Nixons, Carters.

I must not seem very optimistic or have much faith. I don't.

I look to your organisation, to the RAF in West Germany, The Red Brigades in Italy, the PFLP in Israel and the other forces of change in the world today. Nothing exists here.

I agree with the idea that the major contradiction in the world today is between the capitalist super power nations: the U.S. England, Israel, West Germany and the forces of change in the 'third' world: Northern Ireland, Latin America, the neo-colonialist states in Africa and elsewhere.

And one must not forget the imperialist actions of the USSR in Eastern Europe and the current attack on the anti-imperialist Moslem resistance in the Mid-East.

I watch what goes on in the world today with anxiousness and also feeling of powerlessness as I sit here in seemingly serene Seattle and watch the numbness of the American mass.

The question, WHAT IS TO BE DONE? will not be answered for decades perhaps longer here, but it is certainly being met with an affirmative answer on the battle ground of the rest of the world.

I was given your address by a long-time supporter of the Irish people here in Seattle. I see this letter as being nothing more than an act of encouragement from at least one American. If you can see it as that also, I am content with that....

Long Live The IRA!  
Thomas Appleby  
Seattle, U.S.A.

## Farmers taxation

The Editor,  
The fairest and most effective way to approach the farmers taxation issue would be to tax the farmer with over £40 Land Valuation or at least over forty acres holding.

Anyone exceeding £40 Land Valuation should be taxed as follows:

£5 up to fifty pounds land valuation; £15 up to sixty pounds land valuation; £20 up to seventy pounds land valuation; £30 up to

eighty pounds land valuation; £40 up to ninety pounds land valuation; £50 up to one hundred pounds land valuation and so on as the valuation increases.

This would eliminate the abuses of the ACCOUNTS SYSTEM.

The industrial worker would then be less burdened by taxation if the better off farmer were to pay his fair share of tax which he can afford. This type of a taxation system would apply to full time farmers, however business or professional people using land as a second income or a way of avoiding tax would be taxed on all sources of income.

Farmers who have borrowed from the banks etc for farm development should be relieved of a proportion of tax because of these debts.

All levies and rates on farmers would be abolished. A reasonable portion of this money should be ploughed back into agriculture for the development of small and medium sized farmers, such as land drainage and purchase of machinery to be used co-operatively among smaller farmers.

This type of a taxation system would discourage speculators and encourage greater production of the land.

Patrick McLoughlin,  
Drumrane,  
Ballinamore,  
Co. Leitrim.

## Clonard allegiance

A chara,  
Following their recent A.G.M. the newly-elected Officer Board and members of the Clonard Martyrs Sinn Fein cumann reaffirmed their allegiance to the true Government of the Irish Republic. We express our solidarity with our comrades throughout the Republican Movement and with the people of Clonard, in our common fight against British mis-rule in this country.

P.R.O.,  
Clonard Martyrs  
Sinn Fein Cumann, Belfast.

## The Murrays' rights

Dear Friends,  
A group of concerned people in Ireland have decided to help raise funds in support of a legal action which is being taken by a prisoner here.

Marie Murray is a prisoner serving a life sentence in Limerick prison in the south of Ireland. Through the Irish and Strasbourg courts she is trying to win conjugal rights with her husband Noel Murray who is also serving a life sentence in the Curragh Military Prison.

At present they only have a one hour visit every three or four months.

There are conjugal rights of a certain degree in South American and Scandinavian countries. If Marie Murray's legal case is successful it would change the existing situation for all prisoners in this state.

The costs involved in taking a case of this nature to Strasbourg are very substantial and will cost thousands of pounds (£1,000 - £7,000). As it is impossible for any prisoner to obtain legal aid for a civil action to procure this type of money on their own we have set up a committee and opened a bank account where money can be sent.

If you wish to support this legal action more information can be obtained from the address below. If you could send any information about conjugal rights

in your own country it would help us with our case.

Crossed cheques to W.Gaj and R.D. Stenson, account number 48034381, Bank of Ireland, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2.

If you wish to send information and literature please send it only to:

R.D. Stenson,  
15 St. Aiden Park Road,  
Fairview, Dublin 3.

## Wolfe Tone plaque

To The Editor,  
At the Sinn Fein Ardtheis I bought a statuette - plaque of Wolfe Tone and on reading the synopsis of his life I was not pleased to see Tone took his own life as a fervent admirer of this great man. To foreign visitors, or anyone, this gives a very wrong idea and it should be withdrawn.

That Tone committed suicide, or could even consider doing so, is all wrong to anyone who has read about Tone, his deeds and his love for his country, family and friends. Just to read of this man is to love him and as for taking his own life. How is it that two days before this thing was supposed to have happened the Marquis of Buckingham was able to tell a friend that Tone would commit suicide. How did he know? If he had some special information why did he not pass this on.

On Sunday June 22nd 1913 Padraig Mac Piarais stood at the Grave of Tone and said 'We have come to the holiest place in Ireland, holier to us even than the Sacred spot where Patrick sleeps in Down. Patrick brought us life, but this man died for us'.

Let us not continue to have the name Tone defamed.  
Patricia O Sullivan  
Passage,  
Co. Cork.

## Arch-Hypocrites

Sir,  
It would appear that the hypocrisy is unlimited that emanates from the arch British hypocrites who are at present squealing their heads off over the treatment of dissidents and the abuse of human rights in the Soviet Union, and of the occupying by foreign troops of other people's countries.

Why don't these freedom-loving hypocrites pay a visit to their military-held province 'Ulster', and maybe after visiting 'the H-Block of Long Kesh, and their other hell holes of so-called detention centres, they will make sure that forever more they will keep their hypocritical mouths shut.

Fiat Lux  
Springfield Road,  
Belfast 12.

## Glasgow meeting

Dear Editor,  
Despite police attempts at disruption, *Hands Off Ireland* held a highly successful public meeting in Glasgow on Tuesday 15th January.

The meeting was called to commemorate the massacre of Bloody Sunday, to win support for Irish Republican Prisoners of War and to urge people to attend the Bloody Sunday marches in Derry and Birmingham.

When *Hands Off Ireland* supporters arrived at the meeting rooms they found two police cars and eight policemen waiting outside. At first the police were con-

tent to try to merely allow their presence to intimidate people, but shortly after the meeting started the speakers were 'drowned out' by the noise of police radios. On investigation we found that a black maria had arrived and that over twenty police were roaming in and out and around the building.

When we challenged the police they claimed that the *Daily Express* had informed them of a bomb threat against the meeting and they told us to leave the building. We refused to leave the building until we had contacted the *Daily Express* for ourselves.

On phoning the *Daily Express* we were told, as we expected, that they had not received, or informed the police of, any such bomb threat - it was an invention of Glasgow police who it seems will go to any lengths to try to disrupt the work of *Hands Off Ireland*.

The meeting continued uninterrupted and listened to speakers from *Hands Off Ireland* (Scotland) and Sinn Fein, Patrick Duffy Cumann (Glasgow). This was followed by a very lively discussion after which several people pledged themselves to support the Bloody Sunday demonstrations and to work with *Hands Off Ireland* in Glasgow.

Once again action by the police only succeeded in convincing more people to become active in the struggle against British imperialism and in support of the Irish people led by the Republican Movement.

Mike Hill,  
for *Hands Off Ireland*  
(Scotland).

## IRLANDE LIBRE

Dear comrades,  
We have started publishing a new series of our paper, *Irlande Libre*, the first issue of which came out in December.

You may remember that an initial series of *Irlande Libre* ran from November 1977 to September 1978 before having to suspend publication due mainly to a lack of funds. We are hoping that our new format, less costly and more flexible in its layout, will permit us to come out regularly without bankrupting both ourselves and our readers!

As before, the aims of *Irlande Libre* are to fill in some of the gaping holes in French language news coverage of events in Ireland and to provide the basis for a campaign in favour of a British withdrawal from the six-counties and for self-determination for the entire Irish people. We will also continue to place considerable emphasis on the situation of Irish prisoners, in particular in the terrible H-Blocks of Long Kesh.

To survive on a regular basis, *Irlande Libre* is of course completely dependent on its subscribers, many of whom are prepared to give financial support over and above the regular subscription rates. Perhaps there may be readers of your paper who would be interested in supporting us, and in receiving a regular French language version of the news?

Perhaps also some of your readers may know of institutions (Libraries, colleges, French institutes etc.) which might be prepared to take out a subscription?

We would be grateful if you could bring this letter to their attention.

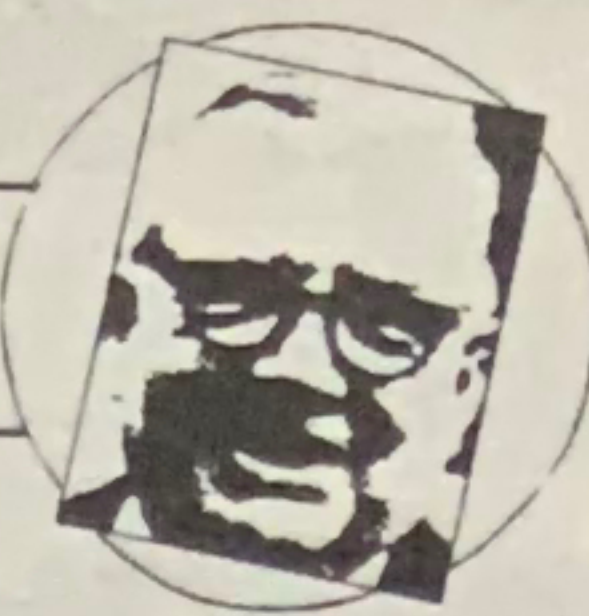
Minimum subscription rate for Ireland is six pounds. Cheques or money orders to be made out to P. Camo.

Thanking you in advance for your help.

Irlande Libre,  
c/o P. Camo,  
2, Place de l'Abbaye,  
94000 CRETEIL,  
France.

# APRIL FOOLS, HAYHOE AND AWAY THE GREEN COWARDS GO

By  
Maurice



**EXCITING NEWS!** Mr Barney Hayhoe, Defence Under Secretary has informed me that he has instructed the Post Office to issue, on April Fools' day a comemorative cover to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the UDR, Ulster's Discredited Regiment. Accordingly, I am running a competition for all you Irish Artists. All you have to do is design four postage stamps depicting the decade of glory in this regiment's brief though bloody history.

I have myself paved the way with some rough designs.

The 8p stamp for example shows the daring UDR raid on Magherafelt Armoury in 1974 when they stole several hundred of their own weapons and buried them in a slurry, while the 10p depicts a typical UDR road block, with a family spreadeagled by their car while the platoon assault them in a variety of amusing ways.

The 11½p stamp has on it the new UDR uniform, with the yellow stripe down the back of it while the 13p is, of course reserved for the Miami Showband massacre, perhaps the regiment's greatest claim to fame so far. These, I stress are only the ideas of an outsider.

I merely run these notions up the flagpole to see if anyone salutes them. I'm sure all you budding Michaelangelos can do better. Designs please, within the next month, to MAURICE'S UDR Competition.

Prizes galore!

## HAYHOE

And talking of Barney Hayhoe, I'm a bit worried about him. He was asked recently in the Commons by Labour MP and troublemaker Guy Barnett how many Army personnel had been through the Army's new torture course.

Barney at least had the wit to deny that any of them had been actually tortured, but he did go on to say, and I quote, "340 army personnel have undergone this course

at three army centres in Britain. While I would think that the use of the word 'torture' is unjustified, there is a degree of physical hardship and mental stress, which is, of course, fully justified."

Black mark Hayhoe!

Just when we are desperately looking for cannon fodder, and so many of them are even deserting, like Clive Bruce, William Bairstow and Adrian Jones of Alexander barracks, Aldergrove, it's no time to discourage potential recruits by telling them that even if they manage to escape getting blown up in Ulstah they run a good chance of getting tortured by their own men.

## WHITESIDE

Talking, again, of the Green Cowards, I must confess that when the news came over the telex that three armed and dangerous soldiers had escaped and were on the rampage hi-jacking and stealing, I thought it was an IRA plot. Somehow they had infiltrated these hooligans into the barracks and then got them to desert wearing soldiers' uniforms. Far fetched, you may say, but they are getting in everywhere!

So I contacted John Whiteside. He's my new liaison man with the RUC. One of Hermon's old mates who got promoted for being loyal to Jack in the past. He's a bit dim, but then, it wouldn't do for Jack, who, heaven knows is no 'mastermind', to have someone

smarter than him about RUC HQ. Hence, for example, his giving promotion to 'Mad Michael' McAtamney to Deputy Chief Constable, and to Bob 'Bampot' Killen and Trevor Forbes to Assistant Chief Constables. And also to ACC, Dave 'Dumdum' Cushley, the self same thug who ordered the Shoreland armoured cars to strafe Divis Flats with Browning machine guns



A.C.C. JOHN WHITESIDE

on August 13th 1969. (I wonder why he's still in the 'new reformed' RUC?)

But I digress. What I meant to say was that Whiteside checked up by ringing Alexander Barracks (994-52051) and asking for extention 288. (This is about all he can manage to do actually, and I'm thinking of getting a tame monkey, which could function just as well and could be paid in bananas instead of thousands).

Anyway an awfully nice chap, Captain Timmy Wilson, who is press officer there got on to his C/O Lt Col John Byrne and got back to us to confirm that the whole ghastly story is true. Two Green Cowards and a Royal Engineer were in what he termed a 'deserting and running amok situation'.

Luckily they have been re-captured, kipping in a stolen motor in County Down, but it all rather leaves a bad taste in one's mouth.

## SCALES

As indeed does the story of one County Down policeman, Reginald Scales.

Reggie, who is 37 and now lives in Comber has been up in court charged with shooting a young teenager whom he suspected of breaking a milk bottle. I know the Milk Marketing Board are somewhat desperate these days, with the price of a pinta soaring weekly as it does, but I hadn't realised they offered bounties to RUC men like Reggie to plug anyone caught tampering with one. As a result of the shooting Reg has been forced to leave his former home in the Glen Estate in Newtownards, since apparently the local residents didn't take kindly to his trigger happy exploits. The youth shot wasn't even a taig.

## SUMMERVILLE

Reginald couldn't claim the excuse that he was drunk.

That one belonged to Jim Summerville of Dundonald, who, when he isn't shooting up taxis in a drunken stupor, is a screw at Crumlin Road jail. He has been fined £250 for discharging his licensed firearm while in a public taxi in Belfast's High Street. Normally I would be sympathetic and contribute to a whip round for him, but on this occasion, he was indiscreet enough to admit that he and the lads had got plastered during their lunch hour and then had 259 milligrams worth after duty.

This obviously will lead people to believe that all screws are drunk on duty and cannot control their firearms. While this is, of course, an enormous problem in the prison service, I would like to reassure the General Public that we have the situation relatively under control.

## CRAIG

And more good news, and, goodness knows we can do with it, can't we?

Following the granting of the Freedom of the City of London to that great civil libertarian Bill 'shoot-to-kill' Craig, comes the statement that the Belfast city fathers, led by Lord Mayor Billy (I'm not a street-walker, it's my sisters) Bell, are going to vote on the motion to grant the Freedom of Belfast to the RUC and the UDR.

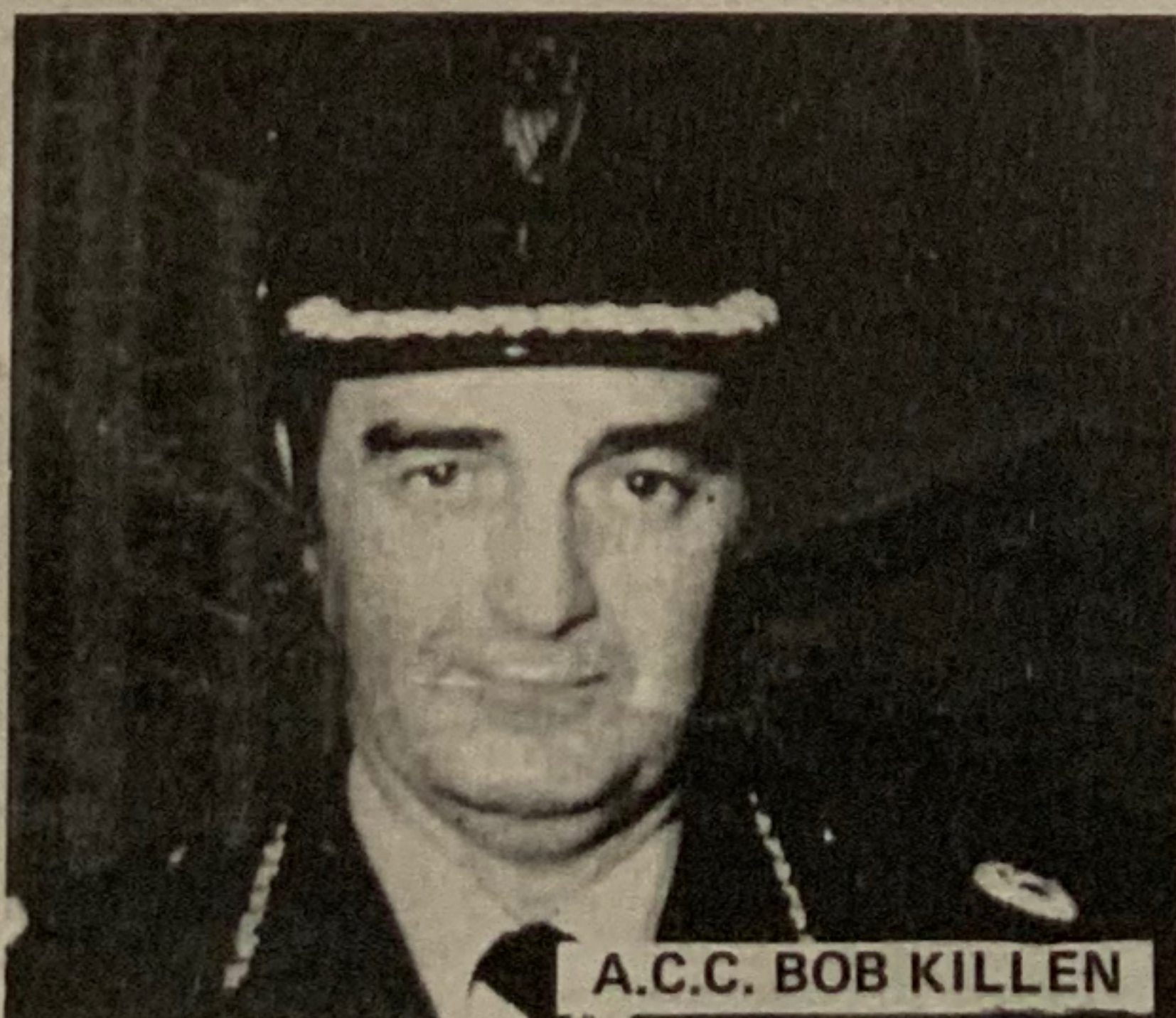
Those of you who cynically say that, judging by the way that they swagger round the town, armed to the teeth, terrorising the populace, you thought they had it already, will have to eat your words, unless, of course, you fancy a spell in Castlereagh in what is known in the legal business, as a 'Bernard O'Connor situation'. I have instructed the idiot Whiteside to draw up a list of any councillors foolish enough to vote against this splendid wheeze. They can't say they haven't been warned.

And may I end on a cheerful note. Mrs Terry Keane, wife of judge Ronan Keane, has written to tell me that since he has been elevated to power Charlie Haughey has cast her aside, deeming it to be more expedient. Accordingly it seems that I might be in with a chance of winning her favours. My cup runneth over!

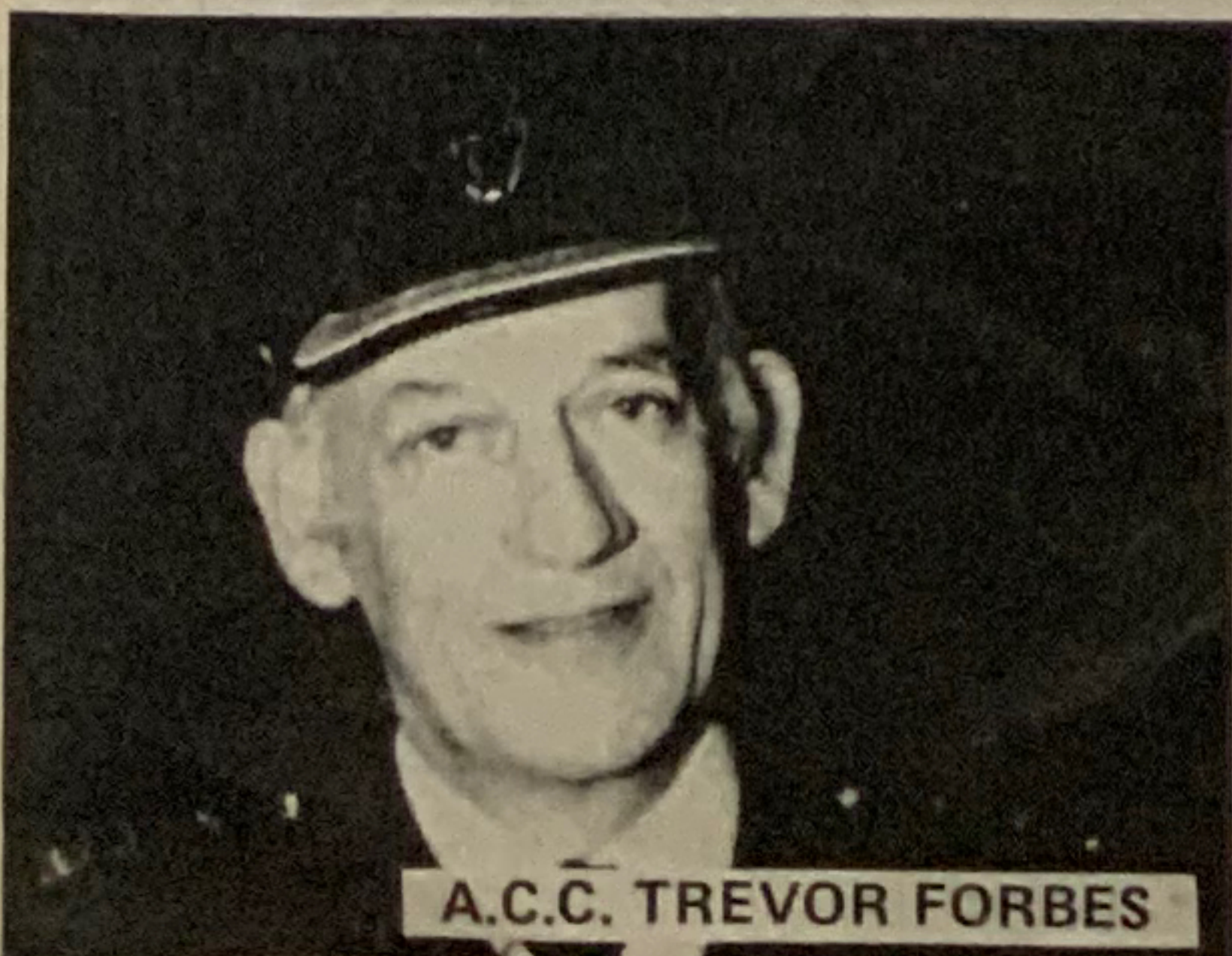
Maurice.



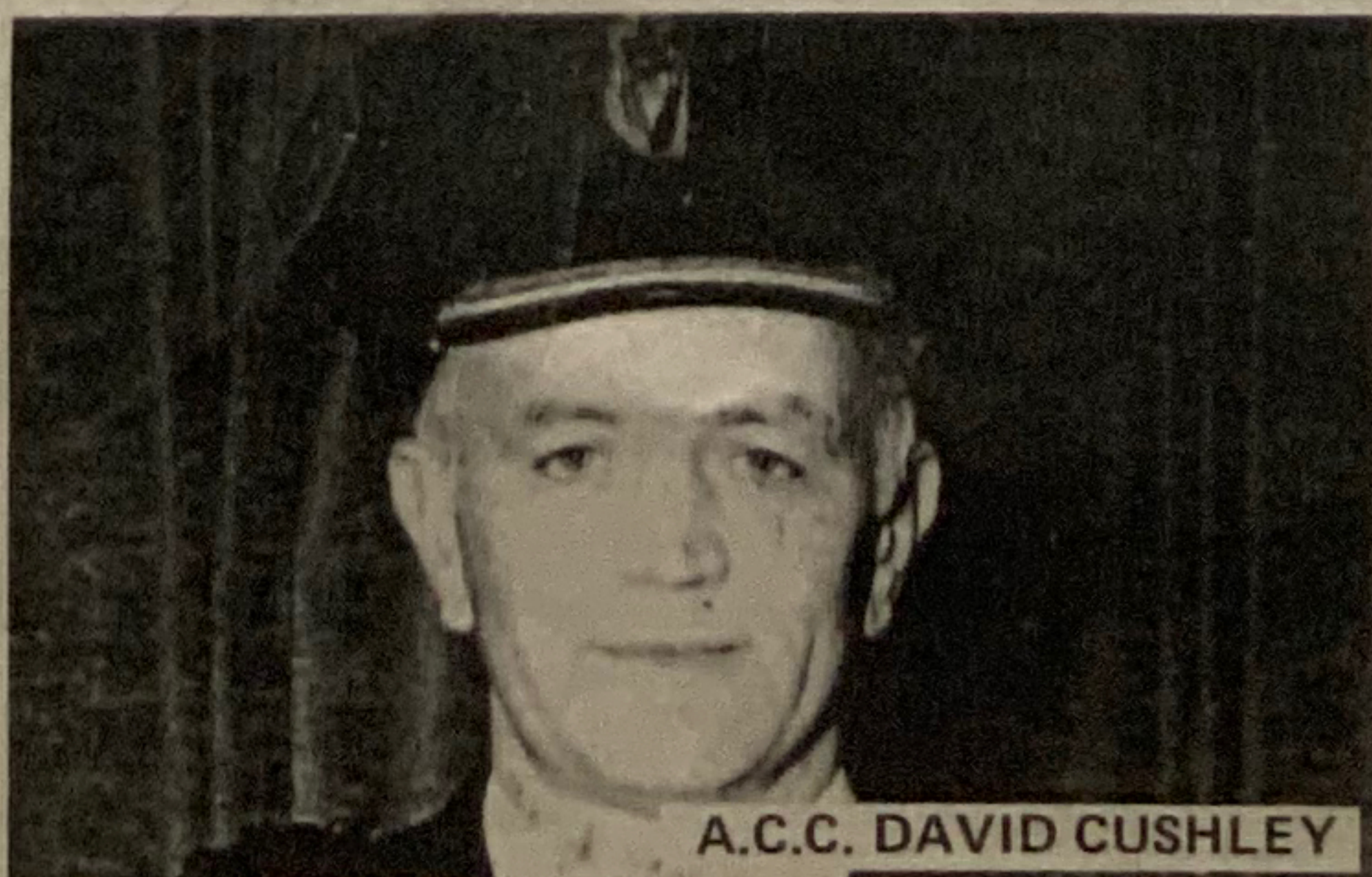
D.C.C. MICHAEL MC ATAMNEY



A.C.C. BOB KILLEN



A.C.C. TREVOR FORBES



A.C.C. DAVID CUSHLEY

"It wouldn't do for Jack Hermon, who, heaven knows is no 'mastermind', to have someone smarter than him about the RUC HQ. Hence, for example, his giving promotion to 'Mad Michael' McAtamney to Deputy Chief Constable, and to Bob 'Bampot' Killen and Trevor Forbes to Assistant Chief Constables. And also to ACC, Dave 'Dumdum' Cushley, the self same thug who ordered the Shoreland armoured cars to strafe Divis Flats with Browning machine guns on August 13th 1969"

# duirt siad

"Following Canon Pdraig Murphy's refusal to allow the remains of IRA man Kevin Delaney into the church in Ballymurphy, an unprecedented wave of sympathy for his wife and mother and father, has been sweeping through Catholic West Belfast. The Andersonstown News office has been inundated with telephone calls and letters, condemning what people feel was the uncaring and callous treatment meted out to a bereaved family, and calling into question the judgement and compassion of the priests involved."

Andersonstown News front-page lead article.

"We spent four months pounding round and round Crossmaglen, trying to keep awake, trying to keep alert, trying to ensure that when attack came, at the worst it would kill only one or two - but all the time waiting for a bomb to go off, all the time wondering if it would be today where you were out on patrol. You felt that if you moved into doorways the chances were that they would explode. If you kept away from cover you were likely to get shot. Even if you were back in camp, you had a good chance of being mortared."

British army demoralisation being spelt out by a sergeant on BBC TV 'War School' programme.

"It is every bit as hazardous and difficult as Palestine, Malaya, Cyprus or any other counter-insurgency operation. Harsh as it may sound, the ambush was extremely professional and successful. It achieved what it had been set up to do. It was not a question of people running around the place shooting at each other. It was a controlled action and the only thing that was wrong was in the question of mistaken identity."

Lieutenant-Colonel Colin Thompson, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, Parachute Regiment of the British army, cynically commenting on the stake-out in which two of his own men - obviously expendable pawns - were shot dead on New Year's Day. (Daily Telegraph).

"If I were a supporter of the IRA I would have a duty not to be sitting here. I would have a duty to be out with a gun or a bomb. Maybe if all those members of the IRA were out with guns and bombs, the whole thing would be over sooner."

Fianna Fail councillor Brian Gallagher from Donegal town speaking on an H-block resolution at a recent Donegal GAA county convention.

"It was the premiere of 'Battle of Britain'. Twelve members of the Royal Family, the most we've ever had, were attending because it also coincided with Battle of Britain week. I was showing the Queen Mother to her seat and I said something like: 'terrible things, wars, that so many should kill each other', to which she replied rather sharply: 'If your country was invaded you would fight the invaders too, and people would be killed.'"

The manager of the Leicester Square Odeon cinema, London. (Woman magazine.)



## Interview with 'Patriot Game' Film Director Art MacCaig

# PATRIOT GAME



DURING the last few months the film 'PATRIOT GAME' has had a limited showing in various parts of Ireland. The film gives a short history of Ireland and then deals with the occupied six-counties in the late 1960s and early 1970s, dealing particularly well with the resistance of the nationalist people to British imperialist aggression.

It has had an overwhelmingly favourable response from Irish audiences and in this interview, director, Art MacCaig, an American now living in Paris, explains some of the background to its making.

The film can be hired from Sean McPeake, 170a Falls Road, Belfast (Tel: 46841) enquiries can also be made through *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, 44, Parnell Square, Dublin (Tel: 747611).

**Q. WHAT gave you the idea of making 'Patriot Game'?**

**A.** I've had the idea since 1972, the first time I went to the north of Ireland. The idea came to me simply because no one else had done such a film. Before I went to Ireland I had the same general idea of that struggle as most people did — it was very confusing, and everything that I knew about it came through established media, or when I was in the US, through the left press, which always accepted uncritically the view that the Official IRA was putting across at that time: namely that the Provisional Republican Movement was purely nationalist and gangster-like, almost fascist.

I knew at least that it wasn't a religious war, but at the same time it was very confusing, because like most left people in the USA I accepted — though a bit sceptically — the position that we were getting from the Officials in the US.

They put across the view that peaceful political reform work should be going on, and that the political movement should try to unite the two communities in the north — instead of what the Provisionals were saying, which I learnt later on, that the most important thing was to attack the cause of divisions in the north which is British imperialism and the occupying army.

So in 1972 I spent a week in Belfast in different nationalist areas. I never saw anything like it. It just blew me out to see the force and the power of a mass movement, and to see the kind of active support that most people were giving the Provisionals, to the so-called 'mad bombers'. And for the first time getting a first-hand look at this movement, it enabled me to see that these people were not crazy, but in fact they were probably conducting the cleanest guerrilla war in modern times, in the extent that their actions were prepared to avoid and limit civilian casualties.

After 1972 I was back once more, and the idea of a film was still very big. Then I went to film school in Paris and learnt the necessary skills.

I wanted to make films not as some kind of artistic exercise or just as something to entertain people, but films that would have a concrete role in the real world. Although I think political films should be artistic, and should be, in so far as it's possible, entertaining. They shouldn't bore the people. I feel that good political cinema has to hit the emotions, the heart, as much as the intellect.

**Q. How far do you feel the film has matched up to what you were trying to do?**

**A.** Up to now for me it's been really satisfying in the kind of response that it's got from the audiences that have seen it.

The first public showing was at the Popoli Festival in Florence in Italy last December. In Italy like everywhere else there is total confusion about Ireland, and people wanted to know

and were interested. And there was a fantastic response.

And every public screening I've been to people have applauded at the end, which is fantastic for me and for the other people who have worked so hard on the film. In that sense it's been terrific, but the real problem is getting a wide distribution, and as you know that takes a lot of money. Money has been our single largest problem.

The overall budget was about £20,000, which for a feature-length documentary is cheap. And we were only able to do the film because people were able to give us equipment for nothing or for half price, and because the people who have worked on the film have not yet been paid anything. They have just worked on the basis of their political commitment.

**Q. How much filming did you do in the north of Ireland? Did you have any problems?**

**A.** We were up in the north around three weeks. Because I'd previously been there preparing the film, the actual shooting was pretty well organised.

So we interviewed the people we wanted to interview, we shot the stuff we wanted to shoot, we got a good sequence in a social club — which is fundamental in the film, to show something of the tremendous cultural life and vitality, and the spirit of the people.

When you talk about making this kind of film you have to have the support of the people in the struggle, and that sequence is just a perfect example: they knew almost exactly when the British soldiers were going to make their patrol into the pub, and so we were there waiting for them and they weren't ready for us, so we got a really good scene.

We were very anxious about how we were going to deal with the British army, and how they were going to deal with us.

But the way it turned out was that the other people on the film crew during the shooting were French, and in all our contacts with the British army they did the talking in French, and we gave a real good impression that we were French television. That worked for most of the shooting.

It was just towards the end that they were able to figure out that we weren't exactly French television! At that point the other two people who were with me were lifted. Just by chance I wasn't with them at that time, I was on the other side of the street. They were just held a couple of hours and questioned, just the normal thing with foreign people, the British army did a good job of scaring them.

But it wasn't a real problem at that point, because we'd already done pretty much everything that we wanted to. There was a good element of luck.

**Q. Wasn't your crew turned out of one of the areas by the British army?**

**A.** We tried to do some filming in Turf Lodge,

because there was a tremendous mobilisation of that district against the British army presence dating back to when Brian Stewart was killed by a foot patrol.

And we saw incredible stuff there that we weren't able to film, simply because the British army put so much pressure on us. We got some stuff, but it was nothing compared to other stuff that we didn't get.

They told us that it was illegal to film Turf Lodge, which was untrue, and that if we knew what was good for us we'd get out real quick. So we didn't push things too much because we had gotten some stuff. But Turf Lodge is a film on its own.

**Q. Why didn't you take up the 'bloodbath' propaganda theory?**

**A.** Well actually I'd say that the bloodbath theory is an important propaganda idea that is used to justify the British army presence in the north, but I wasn't really that conscious of it.

Now thinking back I'm really aware of a lot of the weaknesses in the film: it doesn't show in the kind of detail it should the kind of repressive machinery the British army has there or the tremendous role that women are playing. It's very difficult to say everything in a film — if you say too much, people just can't handle it. But I am sorry that we didn't really attack that 'bloodbath' myth, because it's only when the root cause of the violence is removed — that is, British imperialism, that the loyalist community is going to have to relate with the nationalist community in a realistic way.

It is certainly in the interests of the loyalists that the British get out, though they may not be conscious of that right now. Without the support of the British state and the British army I don't see how the violence could continue the way it is now. At the same time the sectarian division won't disappear overnight, but it will only begin to disappear when withdrawal takes place.

**Q. How do you see the film being used?**

**A.** Well it will obviously vary from country to country, but my own idea is that for this kind of film the widest possible distribution is needed.

But if you show the film in front of twenty people who are really going to learn something, for me it's more valuable than showing some stupid film fabricated for American television before millions of people.

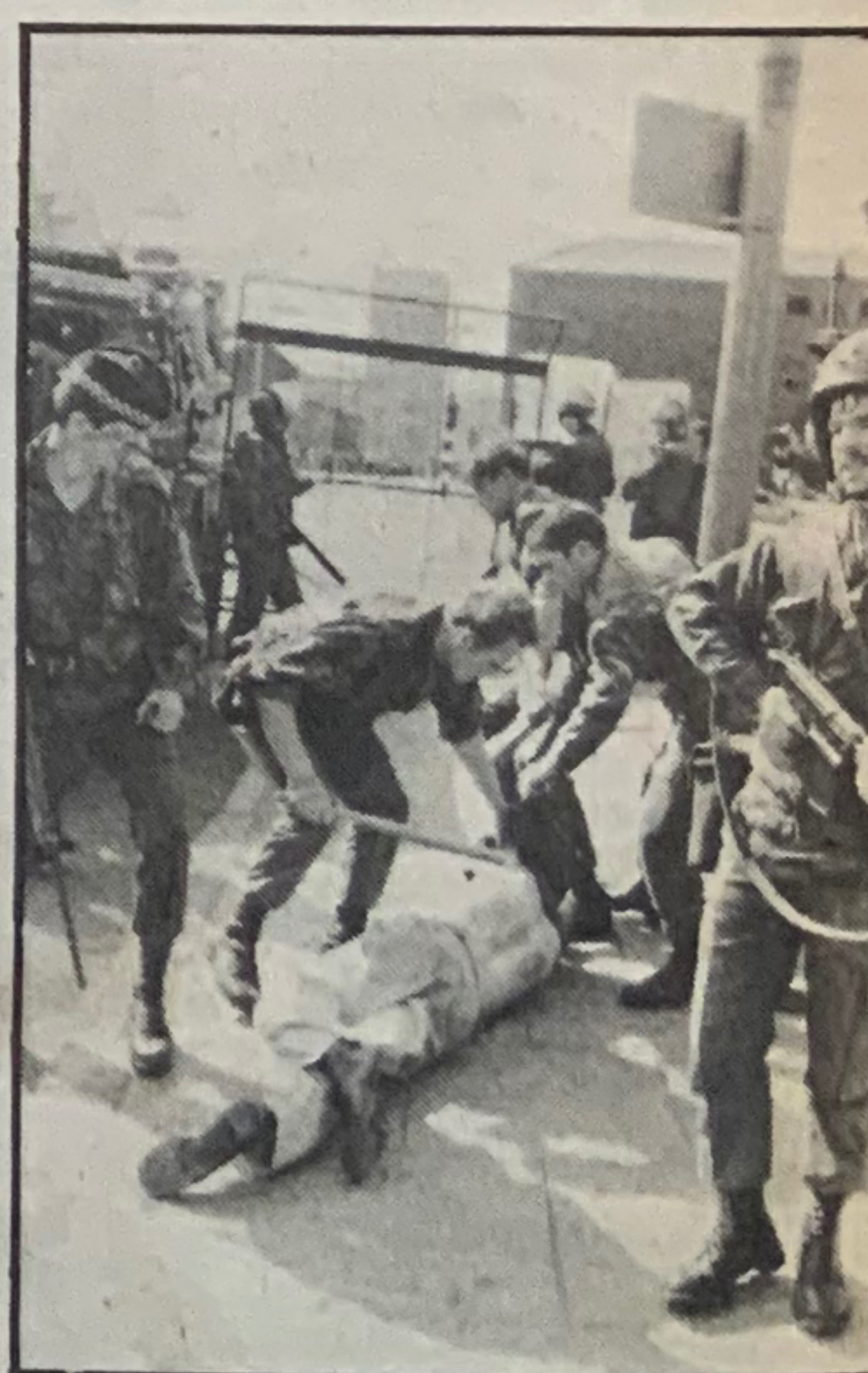
At the same time we are of course going to try and get this film on TV and into the cinemas. There's certainly a chance, although we're limited, as I said earlier on, in that we don't have a lot of money to work on the promotion and the distribution of the film. But the screenings we have had for European television companies have been very positive and I think we just might get some screenings.

**Q. What do you plan to do in the future?**

**A.** Well in the near future I'll be working on the distribution. After that I've got a few ideas in my head for films not about Ireland, but also about films on Ireland, and I think one day I'd like to do a really good dramatic fiction film about the struggle in Ireland.

The advantage of a fiction film is that you can hit a much larger audience than with documentary.

Once you've been to Ireland and you've seen the struggle and you've seen the spirit of the people you just can't forget it. And what I'd really like to say is that I think it's something that goes far beyond Ireland — I mean everyone can learn from that struggle, simply on how to fight, how to organise people. So I'm thinking of another film on it.





Cuid des na teachtaí a bhí i lathair ag Ard Fheis Shinn Féin.

# ARD FHEIS SHINN FÉIN

TOMAS O SE

Bhí mé i lathair an tseachtain seo caite ag Ard Fheis Shinn Féin. Bhí sé ar an Ard Fheis ab fhearr le tamall de bhlianta. Músclaíodh sprid nua sna teachtaí agus cíoradh na rúin go doimhin.

Bhí beocht agus úire sna díospóireachtaí thar mar is gnáth. Spreag an doiciméad, Éire Nua — An Ghné Shóisialta a lán teachtaí chun cainte. Bhí go leor rúin agus leasaithe ar an doiciméid le plé.

Léirigh cuid des na teachtaí go raibh eagla orthu nach nglacfaidh an pobal leis an doiciméad. Labhair siad ina coinne ach má labhair bhí teachtaí eile ar a gcosa chun an doiciméad a mholadh.

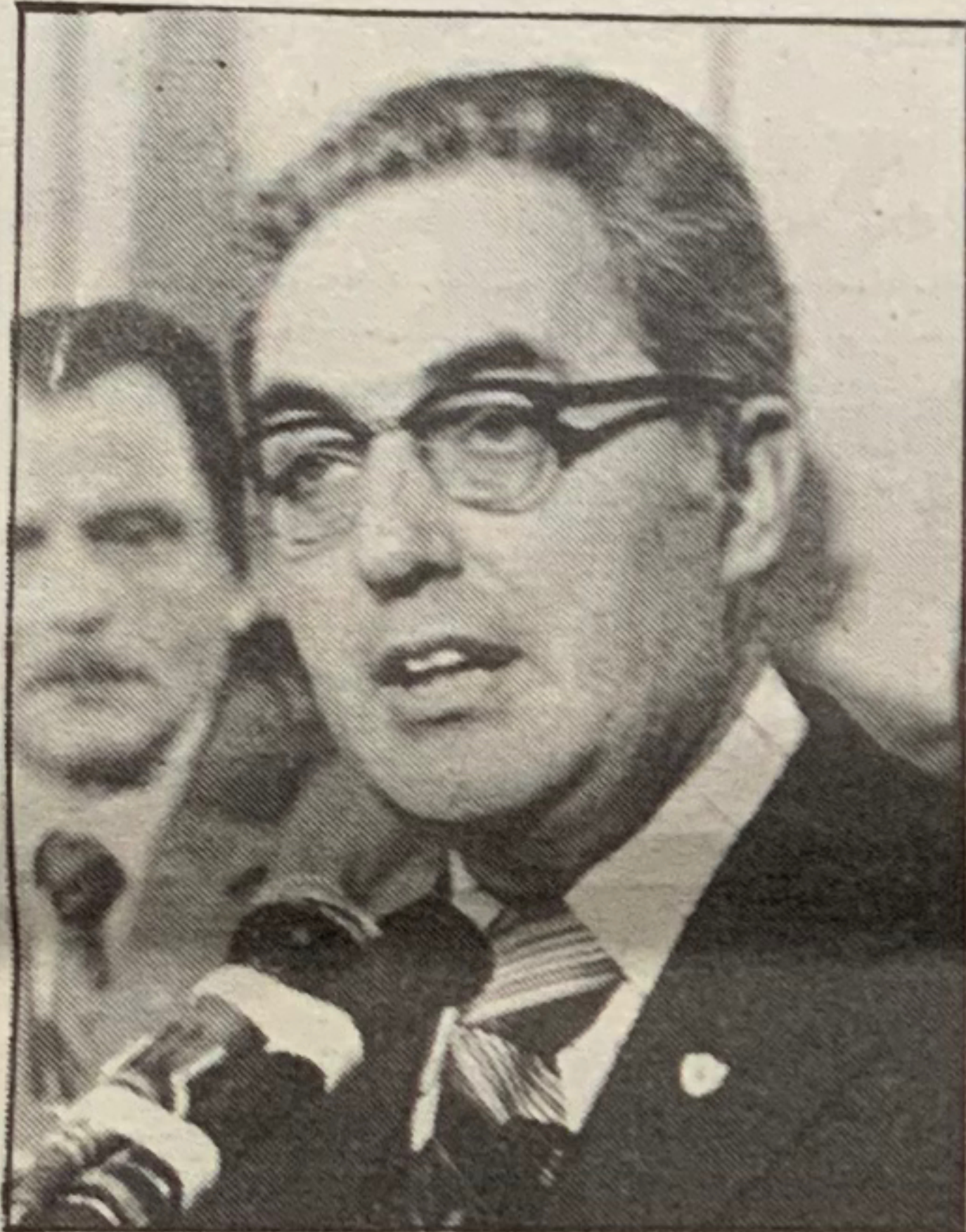
Sa deireadh glacadh leis an doiciméad mar chuid de pholasaí Shinn Féin agus gan ach cúpla leasú beag déanta air.

## CEARTA NA MBAN

Chuireas spéis sa Díospóireacht mar gheall ar Chearta na mBan. Bhí na mná ar a gcosa ag cur in iúl nach raibh siad sásta an tarna áit a thógaint a thuilleadh. Bhí siad ag lorg a gcearta agus ag lorg cearta do mhná na hÉireann agus dos na mná i bPríosún Ard Mhaca.

Luadh ráiteas Shéamais Uí Chonghaile gurab ionann mná agus sclábhaithe sclábhaithe. Dúirt na mná nach raibh siad sásta lena stadas laistigh den Ghluaiseacht.

Glacadh le rún go ndéanfaidh an



RUAIRI O BRADAIGH

Ard Comhairle polasaí a ullmnú mar gheall ar chearta na mBan le plé ag an gCéad Ard Fheis eile de Shinn Féin. Léirigh an díospóireacht go bhfuil neart ban i Sinn Féin atá ina gcainteoirí maithe agus go bhfuil siad agmacnamh go doimhin ar chúrsaí.

## BLOCANNA H

Pléadh ceist na bPríosúnach Choghaidh go mion agus ghlac na

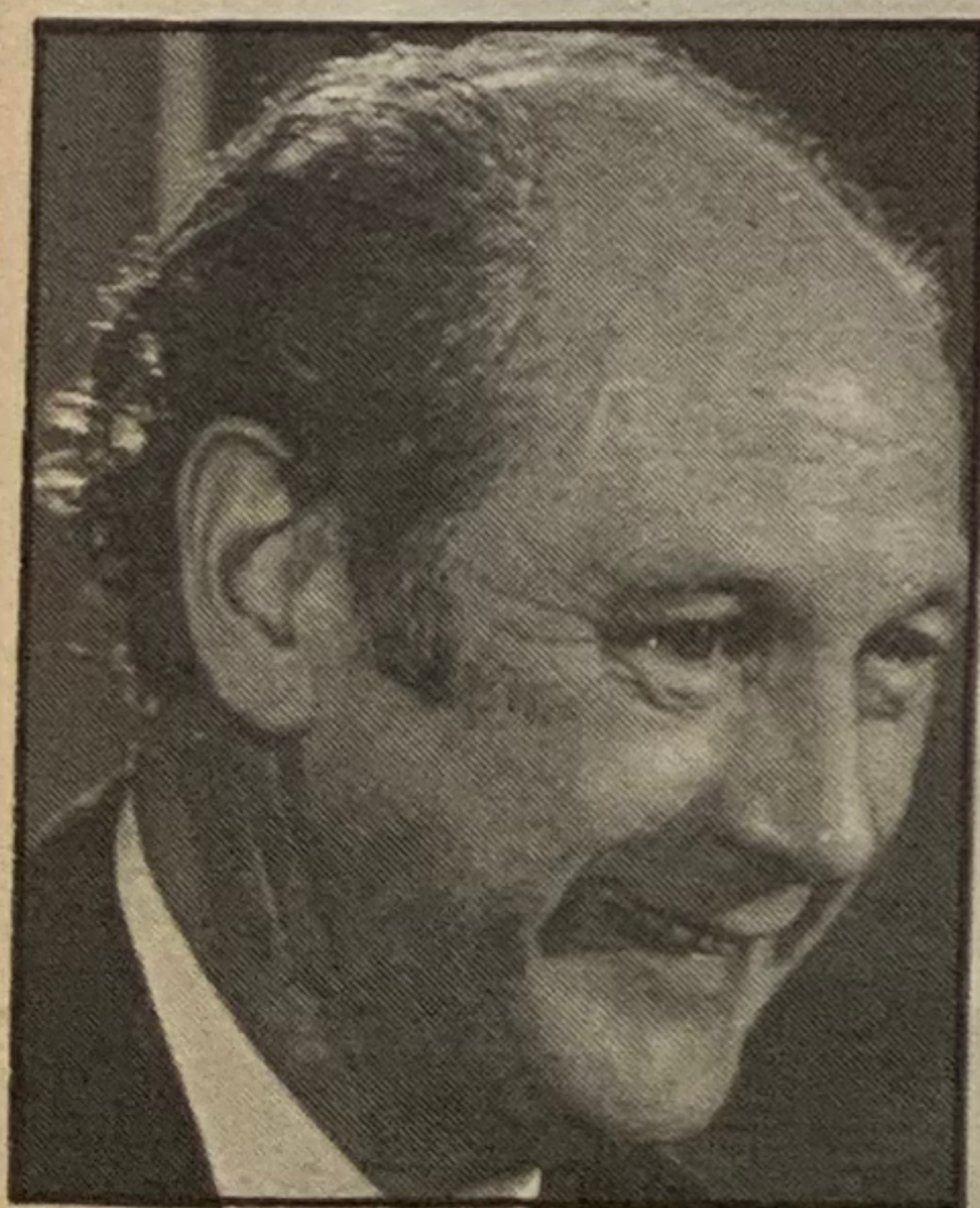
teachtaí nach raibh dóthain á dhéanamh chun stadas polaitiúil d'fháil dos na príosúnaigh sna Blocanna H. Moladh dos na teachtaí leanúint ar aghaidh lena bhfeachtas féin agus gan dul a imuinin feachtas an Choiste Náisiúnta amháin.

Thug Ruairí Ó Bradaigh a aithasc mar Uachtarán. Mar is gháth bhí an oráid thar a bheith go maith. Thagair sé do imeachtaí na bliana agus thug sé léargas ar staid na hÉireann faoi lathair. B'fhiú do ghach duine é a léamh. Bhí sé i gcló in eagrán na seachtaine seo caite den nuachtán seo.

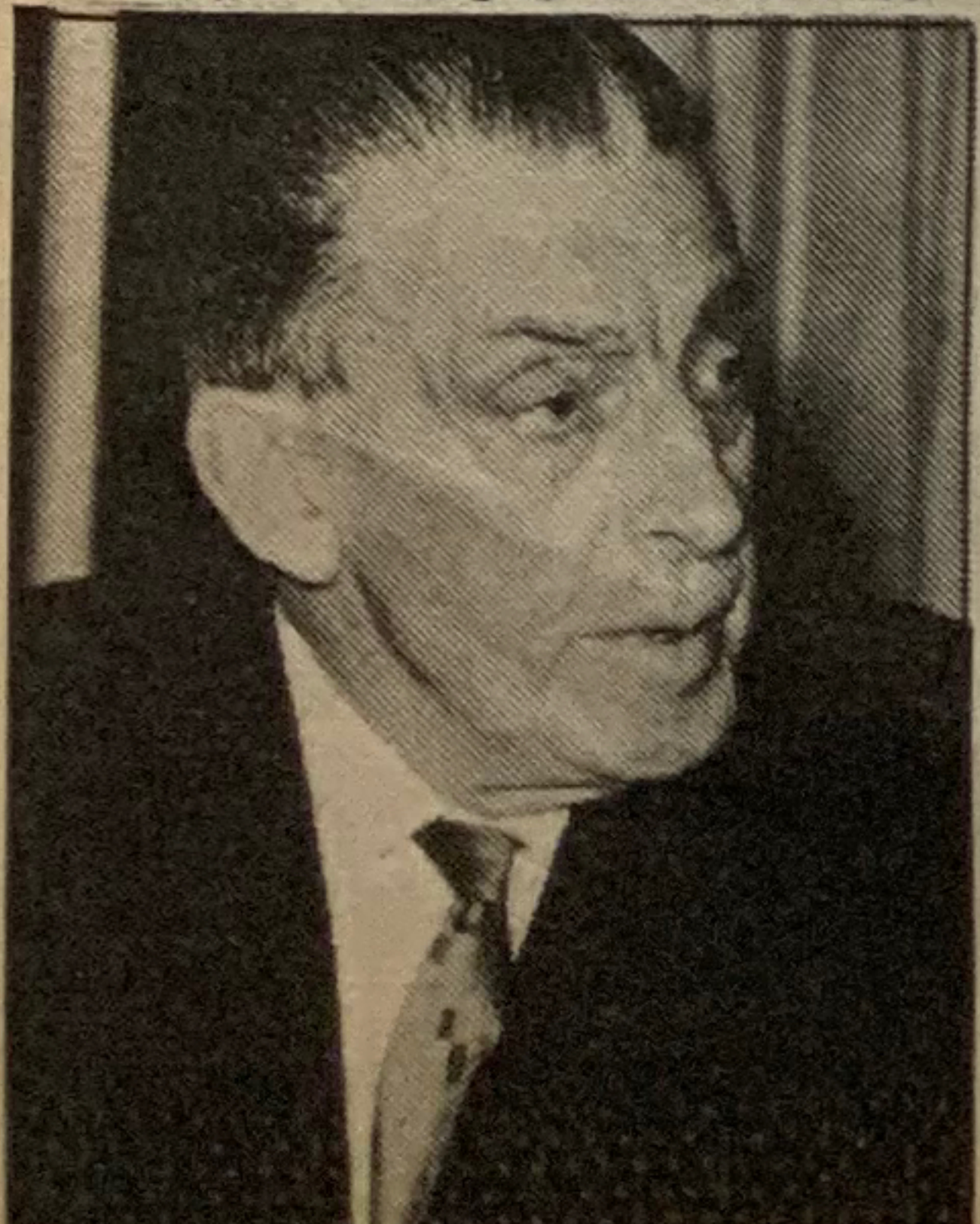
Bhí teachtaí i lathair ó ghrúpaí thar lear. Orthu siúd bhí Bascaigh, Francigh, Sasanaigh, Gearmáinigh, agus daoine ón Danmhairg. Fuarthas beannachtaí ó mhórán ghrúpaí ar fud an domhain. Bhí Oteló ceannaire Réabhlóid na Portaingéile i lathair. Mhol sé an Réabhlóid atá ar siúl sa tír seo agus dúirt sé go raibh tábhacht ag an Réabhlóid don domhan ar fad.

Glacadh le rún ó chumann Sheáin Uí Threasaigh comhdháil a reachtáil chun óige Shinn Féin a thabhairt le chéile laistigh de bhliain.

Tríd is tríd b'fhiú go mór an Ard Fheis agus thug sé spreagadh dos na baill chur chun oibre le díogras nua. Deimhníodh seasamh sóisialach na Gluaiseachta, agus beidh a thoradh san le feiscint amach anseo.



LYNCH — Happy at making up the difference



SEAN LEMASS — Also took directorships

# Lynch on board

SINCE LEAVING the Fianna Fail top job, Jack Lynch has not been standing idly by when it has come to making up the difference between the salary of a Free State premier and that of a Leinster House backbencher. Since the beginning of this year he has acquired three directorships (at fees of around £1,000 per annum each) with Irish Distillers Ltd, the Dutch Algemene Bank and the Smurfit Group. Several more are expected.

Lynch's duties as a director will be very light — attendance at a few board meetings each year — but the influence of a former premier with Leinster House departments is considerable and it is in this area that Lynch's 'advice' will be of most value.

Fianna Fail's links with big business have always been extremely close, although naturally kept behind the scenes wherever possible. Major contributions to Fianna Fail's last election campaign from business interests are said to have resulted in the axing of the controversial 'wealth tax' when Lynch came back to power.

Lynch's predecessor, Sean Lemass, was the only other Free State premier to have taken directorships after his spell in power. During his term in office there was regular speculation about his close involvement in mining deals and the direction of Industrial Development Authority grants. In fact it was during this period that some wag coined the phrase 'we have the best Taoiseach money can buy'.

## Sympathy

**DELANEY, Kevin (Dee).** Volunteer Dee Delaney, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann. Killed while on active service. All men must die but death can vary in its significance. "Though death befalls all men alike, it may be weightier than Mount Tai, or lighter than a feather." Beidh bua againn, slán a comrádaí, ní bheidh síocháin ann gan saoirse. From Mary, Eileen, Ann-Marie and Terry.

**DELANEY, Kevin (Dee).** Volunteer, 'B' Coy. Belfast Brigade. Died as the result of an accident while on active service. Thug sé a raibh aige ar son saoirse muintir na hÉireann. To his wife and family we offer our most sincere and heartfelt sympathy. From the Fennell-McDonnell Sinn Féin cumann, Twinbrook

**DELANEY, Kevin (Dee).** Volunteer, 'B' Coy. Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann. Killed while on active service 17th January 1980. Chaith sé a shaol ag troid agus ag obair ar son an Phoblacht Shóisialach. To his wife and family we offer our deepest and heartfelt sympathy. From the Twinbrook RAC.

VOL  
DEE  
DELANEY



**DELANEY, Kevin (Dee)** Volunteer, 'B' Coy. Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann. Fuair sé bás sa Bearn Bhaoil de bharr tionoisc. Eanáir 17, 1980. Ní dhéanfaimid dearmad ort, Dee. To his wife Edie, son Sean Paul and family circle we offer our most sincere and heartfelt sympathy. From all his many friends and comrades in Twinbrook.

**McNAMARA.** The Seosamh O Donnacadha Sinn Féin cumann, Limerick extend sympathy to the McNamara family, Sycamore Avenue, Rathbone and the O'Byrne family, Colbert Avenue, Jonesboro on their recent bereavements.  
**SHEEHY, John Joe.** Cavan Comhairle Ceantair extend deepest sympathy to the relatives of the late John Joe Sheehy.

## Solidarity Greetings

**AGNEW, Paddy.** (H4-Block). Congratulations on completing one year on the blanket, (late again Paddy). Your courage is an inspiration to us. From your old mates, Arthur Burns and Dominic Quinn Portlaoise prison.

**CALLAGHAN, Rosemary.** (Armagh gaol). Thinking of you, Rosemary as you end your second year on protest. "Each time they beat you and throw you on the boards, try to smile and keep your chin up for victory will soon be yours." Lots of love Rosemary. From aunt Eileen, uncle Walter and family.

**CALLAGHAN, Rosemary.** (B Wing, Armagh gaol). Congratulations on completing two years on protest. "They may lock you away and refuse you your rights, but Ireland's brave sons and daughters continue to fight." From Deirdre, Sean and son Sean.

**CARLIN, Liam.** (H-Block). Congratulations Liam on completing three years on the blanket on January 28th. "They took you to a prison cell, cold and damp inside. They handed you a blanket which you wear with endless pride." Victory to the blanket men. God bless you. All our love from mum, dad and all your brothers sisters and all the family circle. xxxxx

**MOLLOY, Marty; DOHERTY, Marty; FARELL, Tony; DEVINE, Jim.** (H-Block). Congratulations to our son Marty Molloy and his brave comrades Marty, Tony and Jim on completing one year on the blanket. "They put you in a prison cell cold and damp inside and handed you a blanket which you wear with endless pride." Love and God bless, from mum, dad, family and friends.

**MORGAN, Chris.** (H3-Block). Two years on the blanket on 24th January. "It is not they who can inflict the most but those who can endure the most who will ultimately triumph." Your courage is an inspiration to us all. From Turf Lodge R.A.C.

**ROONEY, Phillip.** (H5-Block). Congratulations to our brother, Phillip on completing one year on the blanket. Victory to you and your comrades. Love and solidarity from Marie, Tucker and family, Eddie, Maisie and family, Betty, Ray and family, Dolores, Thomas and child, Brendan, Bernadette, Paula, and Stephen. Also from Teresa, Sam and Gerald (Portlaoise) and Hughie (H5).

**ROONEY, Phillip.** (H5-Block). Congratulations to our nephew, Phillip on completing one year on the blanket. "Your courage is an inspiration to us all." Solidarity from Minsie and Willie.

**ROONEY, Phillip.** (H5-Block). Congratulations to our son, Phillip, on completing one year on the blanket. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. Love from mother and father.

**ROONEY, Phillip.** (H5-Block). Congratulations Phillip, on completing one year on the blanket. Love and solidarity from Eilish, Lisa, Karen, Tony and Bernie and Frankie (H5).

**ROONEY, Phillip.** (H5-Block). Congratulations to my fiancée, Phillip, on completing one year in the blanket. "They have you in their keeping, I have you in my heart." All my love, Sinead.

**ROONEY, Phillip.** (H5-Block). Congratulations, Phillip on completing one year on the blanket. Love and solidarity from the Mackin family.

**ROONEY, Phillip; ROONEY, Hughie; CRAINE, Teddy.** (H-Block). Short Strand RAC send solidarity greetings to Hughie Rooney, Phillip Rooney and Teddy Craine on completing three years, one year and two years (respectively) on the blanket. Victory to the blanket men. Your fight is our fight.

**ROONEY, Phillip.** (H5-Block). The Martin-Treacy cumann, Short Strand send solidarity greetings to Phillip Rooney and congratulate him on completing one year on the blanket. "We may have had good men but we'll never have better."

## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

**CUSHINAN, Henry.** (H5-Block). Happy 23rd birthday, Henry. We are behind you and your brave comrades all the way. From mum, dad, Brian and Frances.

**HODGINS, Gerard.** (H5-Block). Birthday greetings Gerard on 30th January. May your next one be spent in freedom. Freedom and justice is hard won but with courage and determination we shall overcome. From Turf Lodge RAC. Victory to the blanket men!

**O'NEILL, Eddie.** (Parkhurst). Happy birthday Eddie. (21 again!) Your in my thoughts today and everyday. All my love, Marie.

**O'NEILL, Eddie.** (Parkhurst). Happy birthday, Eddie. Your always in our thoughts and prayers. From Eilish and family.

### PUBLIC MEETING AND SOCIAL

Defend the Armagh 11!  
Support the Armagh prisoners!  
8 p.m. Saturday 9th February  
Tailor's Hall  
DUBLIN  
Organised by Armagh Defence Committee

### H-BLOCK DANCE AND CABARET

Pound Loney Social Club  
BELFAST  
8.30 p.m. Friday 15th February  
Featuring Philomena Quinn and the Gamblers and guest artists.  
Admission £1.

### BALLYCONNELL DANCE

Friday, 15th February  
Star Ballroom  
music by Blossom Flavour  
Taile £1.25 11 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Proceeds to H-Block Appeal and PDF

### TRALEE SOCIAL

Saturday 2nd February  
Hotel Manhattan  
There will also be a 31 card drive here on March 16th  
Organised by  
Trá Lí Sinn Féin Comhairle Ceantair

### DRAW RESULTS

Winning ticket numbers in draw held by McAdorey cumann Sinn Féin, Dublin were:- 373, 292, 481, 482, 57, 56, 333, 97, 314, 61, 451, 361, 363, 39, 499, 154, 418, 3, 8, 297, 113, 73, 276, 356, 69, 438, 442, 315, 107, 423, 396, 239, 166, 59, 58, 123, 49, 448, 334, 392, 484, 186, 433, 203, 380, 424, 462, 71, 164 and 53.

### COMHAIRLE CUIGE LAIGHIN

Annual General Meeting  
DUBLIN  
2.30 p.m. Sunday 24th February

### COMHAIRLE ATHA CLIATH

Annual General Meeting  
Tuesday 5th February  
5, Blessington Street at 8 p.m.  
Three delegates from each cumann to attend.

### LURGAN SINN FEIN

Anybody in the Lurgan area who wishes to join Sinn Féin should contact the Sinn Féin Advice Centre, 77, North Street, Lurgan, Telephone 6795.

### DEARBHÚ URRAIMHE

TESTIMONIAL BANQUET for Councillor Paddy Ruane (Ball de Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe ó 1955) To celebrate 25 years of dedicated public service to the people of Galway and of Ireland.

### Ostán Flannery's Motor Hotel

GALWAY  
Sunday 24th February  
Ceol: Rodney's Glory  
Aoi - chainteoir:  
Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Uachtarán, Sinn Féin  
Cathairleach:  
Councillor Frank Glynn,  
Chairman, Galway Co. Council.  
Dinnear 8.30 p.m. Taile £6.50  
Bar extension  
Organised by Galway Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin.



## Comhaltas concert tour

The eighth annual Concert Tour of Britain by Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann will be held from February 8th to 23rd. The tour will feature twenty-six traditional musicians, singers and dancers - the largest number of performers ever for this annual event.

The youngest member of the group is eighteen year old concert flute player Sean Curtin of Kerry, who was also selected for the Comhaltas Tour of North America last October.

Uilleann piper with the group is Dublin man Neil Mulligan (picture left) who learned much of his musical expertise from the legendary pipers Leo Rowsome and Seamus Ennis.

Other well known names on the tour are Donal de Barra the Limerick accordionist (above left), Liam Farrell the Tyrone banjo player now based in London, Seosamh MacDonncha the singer from Conamara, and one of the best known personalities of the traditional music world, Tom Glackin (above right), who also acts as tour manager.

There will be fourteen concerts on the tour in Manchester, Northampton, London, Derby, Cheltenham, Leicester, Birmingham, Luton, Liverpool, Lowton, Leeds, Newcastle, Glasgow and Blackburn.



## Ar na Sráideanna Arís

SEOSAMH MAC MATHÚNA

Bhí na céadtha míle ar na sráideanna arís an tseachtain seo caite ag lorg faoiseamh ón gcáin P.A.Y.E. Ní soiléir go fóill conas mar a éireoidh leo ach taispeántas suntasach ab ea é de neart an lucht oibre.

Cuireadh stop le saol eacnamaíochta na Sé Chontae Ficehead. Chuaigh na hoibríthe amach ar na sráideanna le hagóid a dhéanamh in ainneoin na droch aimsire. Bhí pá leath lae ar a laghad a chailliúint acu.

Bhí dáiríreacht le sonrú sna hórdaí agus níos tábhachtaí fós ar na hoibríthe iad féin. Caithefear féachaint chuige nach gcailltear an troid seo.

Mháirseáil Sinn Féin i mBaile Átha Cliath faoina mbrat féin agus

bhí breis is trí chéad ina dhiaidh. Bhí Sinn Féin páirteach i ngach máirseáil go dtí seo i mBaile Átha Cliath mar gheall ar chúrsaí cánach.

Dúshlán do pholasaithe Fhianna Fáil ab ea an agóid. Beidh sé suimiúil féachaint cad a dhéanfaidh Cathal Ó hEochaidh anois. Is fiú smaoineamh go ndúirt Gearóid Mac Gearailt le déanaí nach bhfuil sé i gceist aige an cháin ar shaibhreas a chur i bhfeidhm má éiríonn leis teacht i gcumhacht arís.

Níl ceart i gcúrsaí cánach le fáil sa Chóras Caipitleach. Tá an Caipitleachas bunaithe ar an éagóir agus ní chuirfear deireadh leis an éagóir i gcúrsaí cánach go dtí go mbeidh deireadh leis an gcaipitleachas.

## WOMEN AND SINN FEIN

AT THE RECENT Sinn Fein Ard Fheis, motions concerning 'women' were discussed for the first time and the point was made repeatedly, that Sinn Fein have neglected women's issues. The concept of Economic Resistance, however, as outlined in the accepted 'Eire Nua - the Social Dimension' can include problems affecting the daily lives of women: contraception, family law, child-care and education. These problems are both economic and social, and in some cases are heightened, in other cases caused, by British imperialism.

The new Sinn Fein Co-ordinating Committee on Women's Affairs will soon be arranging a meeting for Sinn Fein women to discuss these problems, which may be controversial, but are surely pressing. Women interested should contact the Co-ordinating Committee on Women's Affairs, 85b Falls Road, Belfast, or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin.

### Belfast Officers

At the annual general meeting of Belfast Sinn Fein held on Monday evening the following officer board was elected:  
Chairperson: Tom Hartley  
Vice-Chairperson: Tom Cahill

Organiser: Sheila McVeigh  
Secretary: Dave Simpson  
P.R.O.: Joe Austin  
Treasurer: Mary McDermott  
Education: Harry McSharry

Sheila McVeigh  
Dave Simpson  
Joe Austin  
Mary McDermott  
Harry McSharry

## JOIN SINN FEIN

Anyone interested in joining Sinn Féin should contact their local Cumann; head office at 44, Parnell Square, Dublin; 85b Falls Road, Belfast; or 15 Cable Street, Derry.

I am interested in becoming a member of Sinn Féin

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

### BRINGING IT ALL BACK HOME

Last week *An Phoblacht/Republican News* printed the incorrect telephone number of the Half Moon Photography Workshop, from whom can be hired the 'Bringing It All Back Home' photo-exhibition. The number is 01-980-8798.

### McNULTY COMMEMORATION

The Peter McNulty Commemoration was held on Sunday 27th January in Castlewellan, Co Down. The attendance included members of the McNulty/Cannon Cumann from Dublin on whose behalf Val Lynch made a short speech. The oration was given by Cyril Toman of Newry Sinn Fein who paid tribute to those local Volunteers who had given their lives in the present struggle - Peter McNulty, Francis Rice, Paul McGorrian and Pauline Kane.

### GARTREE PRISON PICKET

Support the POWs!  
Sunday 17th February  
1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.  
Transport leaves Hall of Memory, Birmingham at 11.30 a.m.  
Organised by Birmingham Sinn Fein

### THANKS

H-block £200 acknowledged with thanks for H-block fund from Republican prisoners in Portlaoise Jail, sent via Mary O'Keeffe, Portlaoise.  
Greene Grateful thanks to Eileen Poole, Paraic McNeela, Tom O'Leary and all my friends in Sinn Fein who were so good to me when my house went on fire. Also to my friends in Donegal. Special thanks to the Special Branch who never failed to turn up at the scene of the fire to raid my house. I hope to see you all in the tent at Bodinstown. Mrs Greene (Cumann Cabhrach).

An Cumann Cabhrach The Dublin Committee of An Cumann Cabhrach wish to express their heartfelt thanks to those who have continued to support the Aonach Na Nollag.

### H-BLOCK MEETING

Friday 8th February at 8 p.m.  
West County Hotel  
ENNIS

### YOUTH AGAINST H-BLOCK MARCH AND MEETING

Saturday 16th February  
From American Embassy  
To British Embassy  
DUBLIN  
Organised by Na Fianna Eireann.

### COALISLAND MARCH BUSES FROM BELFAST

Sunday 17th February  
Tickets £1.50 from Art Shop, 85b, Falls Road, Belfast.

### 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REMOVAL OF POLITICAL STATUS

SMASH H-BLOCK!  
MARCH AND RALLY  
Sunday March 2nd

### DUBLIN

Organised by National 'Smash H-Block' Committee

### BELFAST

Jointly organised by six-county co-ordinating committee of the Relatives Action Committee and the Ulster Executive of Sinn Fein



COALISLAND  
SMASH H-BLOCK  
MARCH AND RALLY  
Sunday 17th February  
Organised by National  
'Smash H-Block' Committee