

An Phoblacht

Iml. 4 Uimh. 6 5p

16 Marta 1973



THE CHOICE IS YOURS



Mr. Edward Heath



Mr. Liam Cosgrave



Mr. John D. Taylor

NO PEACE, UNTIL BRITISH TROOP LEAVE IRELAND

THE choice is yours, Mr. Heath, withdraw your troops or continue with the war against Irish Patriots – you cannot have it both ways – England must recognise Ireland's right to full freedom. Withdrawal means peace – occupation means resistance to British Rule – The choice is yours Mr. Cosgrave, you can continue Jack Lynch's role of collaboration with the British Enemy or you can demand Ireland's Freedom – you can repeal repressive legislation – open jail gates or continue to arrest and harass Irish Republicans – The choice is yours Mr. Taylor, you can come into Dail Uladh with a majority control in the interest of Ireland, and the people.

ONE GOVERNMENT ONE ARMY

Addressing the South Donegal Comhairle Ceantair of Sinn Fein on Tuesday night, Mr. Daithi O'Connell Vice-President said:—

The Border Poll will be viewed as one of the most stupid acts of the British Government. It is an insult to all Irish people that a foreign government should usurp the inalienable right of the people of this country to determine their own future. Despite the assertion of that right by every generation, England has once more failed to realise the strength of determination of the Irish people to be masters of their own destiny.

Relentless struggle against British rule is the only honourable course open to our people. Republican resistance over the last three weeks has been intensified and the casualties inflicted on the British forces demonstrates how Operation Motorman has failed so dismally. It must be brought home to the British government that they cannot flout the fundamental right of the Irish nation with impunity. A responsible government in Britain would recognise that a clear cut declaration of disengagement from Ireland is the only sensible policy to pursue and thus put Anglo-Irish relations on a positive course of mutual respect. The people of both islands desire such a state and the obligation lies squarely with the British Government to bring it about.

Messrs. Cosgrave and Corish may have their talks with Mr. Heath but these talks will be as irrelevant as Lynch's tete-a-tete. Cosgrave has no mandate to speak for the Northern people, Republicans and Loyalists alike repudiate his



partitionist beliefs and no matter how much of a sugar coating he may secure for the White Paper, he should be under no illusions as to the reception it will receive. He has the opportunity to tell Mr. Heath that there can be but one army and one government in Ireland and the sooner England withdraws her forces, the sooner peace will come to our country.

Perhaps it is futile to believe that any Free State politician would make such a demand to a British government. The Republican Movement has and will continue to do so. We will secure Britain's disengagement and reconstruct our country along the positive lines of creating a New Ireland.

For the last three years, Republicans have offered a vision of a new Ireland embodying a recognition of the positive aspects of the diverse elements which make up our nation. The New Ireland will be one of self-governing communities in which the people control their own affairs; their own employment, their own natural resources, their own schools, their own wages and prices, their own housing and environment. For Ulster, it means a new parliament of Ulster united in the common and immense task of creating a way of life which will be meaningful, rewarding and satisfying for all the inhabitants of that historic province.

British plebiscites retard the emergence of the New Ireland. It will come through the will and determination of the whole Irish people and from a willingness on Britain's part to recognise that she can no longer deny Ireland her God given right to be a free and independent nation.



Cork Vols. Pipe Band

64 Blarney Street, Cork.

A Chara,

We are holding a Re-Union Dinner and Dance for to raise funds for the Band on the 27th April, 1973, at the Country Club, Cork.

This function will also be a Republican get-together.

Tickets are now on sale, £2,25p each. Guests of honour will be Mr. & Mrs. T. McCurtain and Miss Molly Cronin.

LETTER FROM FRANCE

Stains the 9th of March, 1973.

Dear Sir,

I am very pleased to inform you that you will be receiving soon another money-order that I was glad to send as a personal support for the Republican Movement and also to express my deepest sympathy for the courageous fight of the Irish Patriots in the six counties.

If I often expressed this sympathy for their fight, it is because they react just as I would have reacted if I had found France in a similar situation. Then I probably did tell you too that I considered Ireland as a second home, this Ireland how your great leaders of 1916 made it.

Let me once again reaffirm my warmest support for your Cause and my deepest faith in your final success.

I have just heard with a deepest sadness and grief that more Irish Patriots have been thrown in prison just because they were Patriots, as a Frenchman I can't take position regarding the own Irish affairs, but as a Frenchman too I can't be indifferent about what is happening in Ireland.

So let me once again express to you my deepest sadness and affliction about these arrests.

Be always sure of my strongest support.

Yours truly,
Mr. Lionel Tchermykh,
8, rue Victor Renelle,
93240 - Stains,
FRANCE.

You can still Hurdle
for us-Jack-



FIANNA FAIL LANGUAGE

26-2-73.

Dear Sir,

Should we have contestants for Fianna Fail using abusive and disgusting language, threatening violence to innocent civilians and getting away scot free?

When merely shown a leaflet explaining Sinn Fein Kevin Street's reason for non-participation in the forthcoming general election, Sean Keegan contestant for Longford-Westmeath constituency, retorted - "Little Bastard - This is a FREE COUNTRY". Is this a free country and is it Fianna Fail's policy to uphold this freedom rightly due to all men? This right given from God, and stated within article 40, Section 3 of "Bunreacht na hEireann". The state shall, in particular, by its laws protect as best it may from unjust attack ... the person" and "good name ... of every citizen".

This incident outside a Church gate echoes the dictatorship of the present Government of Ireland which is leading to the ruination of our beloved Country.

Wake up, People of Ireland.

Mise le meas,
Maire Ni Mhaoileoin N.T.
Tyrrellspass,
Co. Westmeath.

A WORTHY CAUSE

TUAM NORTHERN HOLIDAY COMMITTEE
16th February, 1973.

Dear Editor:

We the Members of the Tuam Northern Holiday Committee would like, through the medium of your paper, to appeal to your many readers for assistance in what we think is a very worthy cause. That is the giving of holidays to some of the unfortunate children of Belfast.

This Easter the Tuam Northern Holiday Committee plan, with the assistance of the Belfast Central Relief Committee, to give holidays to 40 boys and girls from Belfast in the town of Tuam. It is planned that the children will stay with local families in the town. A problem which faces the committee at the moment is a Financial one. The money being needed to pay for the transportation of the children from Belfast.

Last Christmas the people of the town supported us generously, both with Financial Aid and with accommodation in helping to give holidays to 30 children, and the Committee now feel it would be too much to ask for their Financial help again. So it has been decided to make a National appeal.

I am sure there is no need to remind you of the hardship the children of Belfast suffer and the enjoyment they can get from a holiday in the South.

So we would ask all your readers to support us in this venture. All subscriptions should be sent to the TUAM NORTHERN HOLIDAY COMMITTEE, Bank of Ireland, Shop Street, Tuam, Co. Galway.

Thanking you very much for your time and space.

Yours sincerely,
John A. Flaherty, (Chairman).
Ryehill, Tuam, Co. Galway.
Eileen McHugh, (Secretary).
Ann O'Neill, (Treasurer).

POLICY DOCUMENT

Letter sent to Morning Star
Newspaper.

WHILE disagreeing in general with the estimate of the situation in Ireland made by R. Williams (February 19) it is his characterisation of the Provisional IRA as "right wing nationalist" that I most strongly object to.

Even a casual glance at the Provisional Republican movement's policy document "Eire Nua" must confirm the incorrectness of such a statement.

In the section entitled "Programme for Social and Economic Development" it is stated "The (Republican) movement seeks to establish a system free of any exploitation of man by man and which will be truly democratic right through society".

Further, "that the means of production, distribution and exchange must be controlled by the people and administered democratically. Finance, insurance and all key industries must be brought under public control".

The proposals for federal and provincial government would ensure that within the six counties of Ulster the people of Ulster would have considerable control over their own affairs, that power would be the surest guarantee of their civil and religious liberties within a New Ireland.

This policy has been developed in the best traditions of Irish left republicanism, and could provide a genuine basis for the unity of the working people.

If fought through, it would go a long way towards establishing the Ireland envisaged by James Connolly.

David Gollop
Surbiton (Surrey).

TWO FACED HUME

29, Newdene Ave.,
Northolt,
Middlesex.

The Letters Editor,
An Phoblacht,
44, Ceasrag Parnell,
Dublin 1.

A Chara,

During a telephone conversation with a spokesman at the Irish Embassy, in which I expressed my concern at the murders of Catholics in Northern Ireland, and the unwillingness or inability of the Dublin Government to do anything about it, I suggested they release all Republican Prisoners in the 26 Counties, as these appear to be the only people who are willing and able to defend our people in the North.

The spokesman informed me he had been speaking with John Hume the previous evening and Mr. Hume stated he would like to see all I.R.A. men locked up. I have no doubt Mr. Hume would like to see this happen in spite of his hypocritical statements on internment etc. But I challenge Mr. Hume to get on a public platform in his own city of Derry and make this same statement.

Is mise,
Eileen Grogan.

SUPPORT THE PRISONERS

SEND A SUBSCRIPTION TO

*An Cumann Cabhrac
44 Parnell Sq. Dublin 1*

Guardians of What?

Donall Mac Amhlaigh

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT is to appoint a new body to look into complaints about police behaviour, the sad fact of the matter is that the once-bright image (bright in Britain at any rate!) of the English bobby has become badly tarnished over the past few years. Instances of police corruption on an unprecedented scale - in Britain - have come to light, and more seriously, instances of discriminatory and repressive practises mainly directed against minority groups. It is well known now that the London police in a great many cases lean very heavily indeed upon the black people in Notting Hill and other areas; more dramatically we had the terrible case in Leeds some time back where a poor, inoffensive African was literally hounded to his death by policemen. One could go on endlessly drawing from published and well-substantiated cases like that of the young McCarthy boy in London who died as a result of rough handling on the part of the detectives who



arrested him and whose parents are still battling to get justice done in this matter. Any Irishman who has caused the police a bit of bother will tell you that it is not at all uncommon for the prisoner to get 'done up' in the cells. So that unless public faith in the police force is to evaporate completely there must be a genuine source of correction and it is surely in recognition of this - and not for the pure love of the public - that the Tories in Britain have got round to appointing an inquiry group.

That is Britain, but what of the position in Ireland - a state which is fast vying with Greece, Spain and the Soviet Union as a place where the police hold sway. In a recent issue of the Irish Times an article which in spite of its obvious fairness showed all too clearly that the Gardai Siochana can be as brutal as any foreign police force, particularly in the



GREEN STREET COURTHOUSE.

suppression of public dissent which the Gardai seem to see as something directed against themselves. Let me set the record straight at once here by saying that I am not one of these biased or irrational people who see every policeman as an enemy. The 'kick the fuzz' attitude so common here in Britain among certain sections of the Revolutionary movement I find silly and non-productive to say the least because policemen are workers like ourselves though all too often it is against their fellow workers and on the side of the exploiters that their strength is directed. When and if we get a socialistic republic there will still be need of a police force and it is unhelpful to say the least to regard the guardians of the Law as being necessarily on the other side of the fence to those of us who want to create a more just and humane society to live in.

The Gardai Siochana, it can be fairly said, are very rough indeed in the performance of their duty. That is to put it very mildly and let us substantiate this with a handful of well known instances. (Many republicans reading this will say that I'm stating the obvious but there's nothing like spelling it out). Some years back when the farming community in the Twenty-Six counties challenged the Government with a concerted display of strength an Irish Times photographer was told by a Garda Sergeant that he and his so-and-so camera would be broken if he dared to take a picture; the Gardai were noticeably less willing to use rough tactics with the hefty, well-fed farmers, by the way, that they have shown themselves

on other occasions when dealing with students, the homeless of Dublin, and others less in a position to protect themselves. When the Dun Chaoin protest marchers straggled into Dublin and sat down in peaceable protest outside the G.P.O. - over the closure of a Gaeltacht school still kept open now by the self-sacrifice and devotion of a group of real Irishmen and women - they were savagely assaulted by the Gardai and later prosecuted in court. Brid Bean Ui h-Eigearthaigh, who, together with her late husband Sean slaved like a hercules in the interest of the Irish Language and literature, was pounced upon and manhandled as though she were desperate criminal and carted off, cuffed and kicked, in the police van. More recently there was that horrifying photograph on the Irish Times of a brawny Garda smashing his baton across the spectacles of a Linfield supporter at a match in Dublin where trouble had broken out. And anybody wishing to extend the list should look up Mairin



de Burca's article together with the rush of letters which followed it, all backing her out with cases of police brutality in the so-called Republic of Ireland.

But let us try and be constructive - to list the shortcomings of the Gardai Siochana though educational in a way, is not a particularly useful exercise. What must be done is to get the message across to the police that they are our equals and not our masters, that they are doing a job which they are reasonably well paid for and that we, the people of Ireland, will not tolerate a police force which sees itself mainly as the ally of the repressive government, the exploiter or the reactionary. If they accept that and perform their duties fairly and humanely then they will have our support and respect; if they think to walk upon us then they will find that a very rough road indeed.

JUDGE 'O' THIEF



THIS CRIME THAT YOU'RE GUILTY OF IS AN OUTRAGE AGAINST DECENT PEOPLE AND HONEST SOCIETY EVEN IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS -



BLAH-BLAH... AND YOU WILL BE TAKEN TO A PLACE WHERE YOU WILL BE HANGED BY THE NECK NOW IF YOU SOLD SECRETS I'D LET YOU GO - BUT

EXCUSE ME YOUR HONOUR BUT THIS MAN IS CHARGED ONLY WITH HAVING NO LIGHT ON HIS BIKE - - - -



THIS IS A CASE FOR THE E.S.B. - - - - HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE THAT'S IN THE DARK - EH - SUPER.

A Ray of Hope

TO MOST PEOPLE the situation in the Six Counties does not lend itself to optimistic hope. Violence and counter violence, repression and resistance, sectarian murders and hatred combine to form a vicious circle, the kernel of which being the seemingly irreconcilable conflict between Nationalist expectations for A United Ireland and Loyalist attachment to the Union.

The ray of hope referred to above is regionalism. The basic precepts of this new proposal are the establishment of four provincial parliaments in Ireland and the concentration of as much power as possible in the hands of the people. This would involve the establishment of an Ulster Parliament and it is this in particular which is seen by more and more people, to contain the key to the solution of the impasse in the 6-Counties.

ALL ULSTERMEN

An Ulster parliament would offer to the Protestant population both security and power. As Britain and the United Nations would be guarantors for their rights and liberties and as they would constitute a majority of the Ulster population, their security would be guaranteed and reinforced. In addition to this, an Ulster parliament would give all Ulster men far more control over their own affairs than they were offered in a United Kingdom context when the White Paper is

published.

FEDERALLY LINKED

On the other hand, the Ulster parliament would be federally linked with the rest of Ireland which would satisfy the national aspirations of the majority of Irishmen. Not only would it do this, but Munster, Leinster and Connaught would have the same provincial benefits, the same local control as would Ulster. This would be of immeasurable importance to Connaught and indeed to any area where centralised government means regional abuse e.g. the proposed Dublin Bay refinery, the underdevelopment of the West etc.

BRIDGE THE GAP

Loyalists will have to recognise that on purely economic grounds, Ulster would have to have federal ties with the rest of Ireland. Just as Protestant security and civil liberties will have to be guaranteed so also do those of the Catholics. Even though there is still a gap between the Ulster Bill Craig and John Taylor aspire to and that envisaged by Daiti O'Connell, Frank McManus, Paddy Kennedy and Desmond Fennell, there is hope in the fact that all are thinking in terms of Ulster and what is best for Ulster. Let common beliefs, agreements, and aspirations - and common sense prevail.

BAD MEMORY

"We must not overlook the fact that the I.R.A. started all this" - Mr. Whitelaw on the violence of the recent one day strike. That was Mr. Whitelaw's attempt to white-wash the actions which led to five deaths on February 7 last. But he must know or ought to know that those who voted on "Black Wednesday" were the people who started the trouble. Let the record speak for itself.

- Did he never hear of the sectarian murders in 1966,
- Are the Cameron and Scarman reports unknown to him,
- Has he never heard of October '68 Civil Rights march and the attacks mounted against it,
- Does Burntollet not mean anything to him,
- Has no-one told him about the bombed water mains that torpedoed O'Neill?

Does he not even know why, the British Army was first sent to the North? It was to allegedly protect the Catholics, but why? Did he never hear of Bombay Street, 600 burnt out Catholic houses, when far from there being an I.R.A. there was not even a barricade to keep out the orange, mobs and B. Specials who invaded the ghetto? Whitelaw doesn't even know the cause of Ulster's ills - how can he possibly prescribe a remedy?

MISSILE ATTACK

BEELEEK R.U.C. barracks came under rocket attack again on February 28th but the police denied suffering any casualties. The missile, fired from a Russian R.P.G.7 launcher struck one of the barracks walls and exploded, causing shrapnel to smash into the station. It was the second rocket attack on the barracks in just three months. Last November, the R.U.C. suffered one fatal casualty and several wounded during a similar attack.

The past week also saw ambushes and attacks in the Lurgan and Newry areas as well as in Belfast and Derry. The security forces suffered several U.D.R. casualties as well and were unable to get to grips with the extremely versatile I.R.A. campaign.



THE I.R.A. ROCKET LAUNCHER

ARMY HARASSMENT

ABOUT 200 women besieged the Ballymurphy Community centre just over a week ago following a raid on the building by the Coldstream Guards during a disco for local teenagers.

The women continued their protest for several hours, during which time the army questioned everyone in the centre and refused to admit concerned parents while the raid was in progress. Local women expressed their anger in no uncertain terms to the troops outside while the teenagers, aged between 12 and 15 were being interrogated inside.

A spokesman for the Local Liam McParland - Patricia Campbell Sinn Fein Cumann disclosed that about 20 of the youths were taken to two army posts for further interrogation. "The women who protested at the army's action were quite justified" he said. "Practically every time this community holds any social function there is an army raid on the same pretext of searching for 'wanted men'."

"Tonight the teenagers at the disco were lined up according to where they lived - Ballymurphy, Turf Lodge, or Whiterock. When the girls refused to be searched boys were lined up, finger tips against the wall until the girls consented to this humiliation."

The Community Centre has been built by funds raised over seven years in Ballymurphy and has been raided many times in the past. Yet the army request parents to keep their children off the streets. How hypocritical can you get?

What can I do to help? is a question I have been asked repeatedly since I gained my "freedom" (the small 'f' is mine!). I'm not sure I know myself. After all Long Kesh is only one of the many places where Republicans are incarcerated. Takes I heard from the Curragh make me wonder is there any use in asking people to protest. People have been protesting since internment about jail conditions. My answer is to keep bringing pressure from whatever source your conscience agrees with. I know there are people who are afraid of being publicly involved, what with the Special Powers in the North and the O.A.S. in the South. But if you have a conscience, then you can not turn a blind eye to this, "Institutional violence" sanctioned by the State. In conclusion I can only ask you to remember this quotation:-
"Whilst there is one soul in Prison
Then You and I can never be free."

HOME FROM LONG KESH

Gerry O'Hare, interned in 1971. Released when his wife Rita was shot. Rearrested in August 1972 for taking part in protest meeting at Casement Park. Sentenced to 9 months. First man to be released for a 2nd time from Long Kesh. Here describes the Kesh as it is today.

It is a dubious honour to be labelled as the first man to be released for a 2nd time from Long Kesh, its the sort of history making record that I could have done without. However I feel I can speak with authority on conditions as they prevail in the Kesh today. My first impression on returning was that nothing had changed, except there were more cages. Political prisoners (a Special Category as the Authorities call us) were herded into cages 6, 8, 9, & 10. Loyalists were in No.12. Interned Loyalists were in No.11 which was unusual as Truesdale informed us through one of his minions that there were two separate parts of the Kesh, one for internees and one for sentenced prisoners and "ne'er the two shall meet". One immediate impression was that there were hardly any Irish "screws", mostly English and Scots. During my "sojourn" the attitude prevailing was that if they didn't bother us we wouldn't bother them. A healthy attitude when you think there were 90 of us and maybe only 4 of them. What was not healthy was that there were 90 of us in Cage 9. We had three huts, one being practically a half hut, to live in and space was at a premium. When you have man living "cheek by jowl" (Red Cross report 1972) you have to have great patience and understanding with your comrades. We were fortunate enough to have the veteran Republican Billy McKee as our elected "Representative". With his vast experience he quickly informed the men that the foul conditions we were forced to suffer was just another part of Truesdale's plan to break our morale and resistance and as Republicans he called on us all to bear with conditions until such time as our plight would be universally condemned and rectified. Billy McKee knew Truesdale from Crumlin Road Jail and if its a compliment to Billy, past experience in fighting for the men's rights, Truesdale to this day has refused to meet Billy, but instead, sends along an English Officer who is using Long Kesh as a training ground. When I left the men were refusing to meet him as he was completely and totally useless.

You may have read various reports from Red Cross and others that

the Governor is always agreeable and ready to meet the men and conditions have improved since their last visit. Well let me on behalf of all my comrades in Long Kesh say that the Red Cross's credibility must be seriously questioned. Their report was similar to the white-washing that Whitelaw has attempted with Kilfedder and Mr. Browne of the Press Association. So angry were the men at their latest report that they will not allow the Red Cross back to visit the Republican Cages. Its not that we have anything to hide but rather Whitelaw and the British Government have suffered so much adverse worldwide opinion on the Kesh that they actually "got" to the Red Cross. I have repeatedly challenged Browne and the R.C. since my release to discuss publicly their reports. To-date neither have taken up the challenge. I ask you the people of Ireland to decide on the credibility of their reports in view of their failure to substantiate their reports with a "witness".

The Nissens huts that were temporarily erected in 1971 are now the permanent fixture of 1973. Recent rumours that new compounds with "Private Cubicles" will be built shortly, must on the past record of Truesdale be treated with severe scepticism.

To-day water cascades in through leaks that were first reported in 1971. They are always going to be fixed "Tomorrow".

Food in 1971 was even worse (if thats possible) in 1973. In fact we discovered that food the internees refused was then put on our "menu" (sic!) next day. Indeed its one thing to read about our daily menu and another thing to eat it. Promises in 1971 are still being repeated verbatim in 1973. In short, all the horrors you have read about the Kesh continue unaltered today.

Recreational facilities are a joke. Two football matches a week between 90 men. A room called "The Gym" with a few weightlifting bars is the only other diversion and, only 10 at a time twice a week.

Education facilities are non-existent despite repeated requests for priority in this field. "Maybe tomorrow" you will have good news" is the usual catchcry. Despite these setbacks Education is the most popular demand of the lads. Gaelic classes are overcrowded. Irish History and Political debates are highlights of the week and they generate the only heat to be found in the Kesh.

In short readers, you read it all in 1971 and in 1972. Now in 1973 the story is the same. Perhaps if you knew that Truesdale has publicly admitted that he will "break" the Republicans you can get a fair idea of the "deliberate" situation in the Kesh.

British Casualties

To date the British Army has suffered the following casualties in the Six Counties: 158 soldiers, 31 UDR, — dead with over 2,600 wounded.
The RUC have lost 31 dead, and also, 4 police reserves.
These are the highest casualty levels inflicted on British forces since the Second World War.



STUDENT ACTION

SIX HUNDRED N.U.U. students have signed a petition which calls for a more lenient view to be taken in the case of Peter Cosgrave, a student recently imprisoned for three years under the Special Powers Act.

Peter Cosgrave, a 20 year old second year student was charged with "collecting and recording information of such a nature as was calculated to be useful to

persons hostile to the maintenance of order". In December 1971, Mr. Cosgrave was found in possession of car registration numbers and descriptions of cars belonging to the R.U.C. men. He claimed to have been harassed by the R.U.C. both in his home town of Cookstown and at university. He had been followed by cars, the reg. number of which he noted

and brought to the attention of his solicitor, who affirmed this in court.
Not denying the possession of the documents, Mr. Cosgrave was sentenced to 3 years. Under the Act, the prosecution does not have to prove "subversive intent" or other illegal activity. Merely collecting the information which might be used against the security forces is an offence. The Students

Council has unreservedly condemned "the legislation and the system of sentencing which resulted in this savage sentence".
Mr. Cosgrave is now in Long Kesh, sharing a Nissenhut with 27 other men. He has no study facilities and is uncertain whether he can continue his academic career. The National Council for Civil Liberties has agreed to support his case and an appeal will be made.

Law and Order Moderates

Belfast Reporter.
Mr. Paddy Kennedy, Rep. Lab. M.P. said on February 26th that the people who talked about

'the return of law and order' in the North to either shut up or shout protests from the rooftops at an "extremely serious violation of the whole principle of Criminal

Law" in the re-arrest of five men, who had been granted bail at Belfast Magistrates Court, under regulation 11 of the Special Powers Act.

He said that the detention of the five men, who had received bail, made a mockery of the whole judicial system. He went on:

"We have heard many so-called moderates, talk about the restoration of law and order, but where are those people now when the whole process of law is brought into disrepute by the Special Branch?"

"When some of us talked about the Six Counties being a police state, we were called extremists and told there was no evidence to substantiate such a claim. What more evidence does anybody need to prove the courts, and the decisions of magistrates and judges, can be over-ruled by the employment of this regulation, when they do not accord with police thinking?"

"People who talk about law and order and its return should either shut up or shout protests from the rooftops about this extremely serious violation of the whole principle of criminal law.

No Thanks!

THE WHITELAW administration found it almost impossible to staff some of the polling stations for the Border "referendum", to be held on March 8th — despite the payment of large extra bonuses. The fee for senior officers was £20.00 for the day, more than three times the normal fee of £6.30 at local and government

elections. Pole clerks received £13.00 compared to the normal £3.15.
But as one presiding officer said — "Its like being in the front line, I wouldn't entertain it under any consideration. It's almost as hard to get civil servants as it is soldiers", was (not) the comment of a Stormont official.

FROM THE FIRING LINE

By our Northern Staff

REPUBLICAN CHRONICLE

SAVAGELY BEATEN

ON February 28th, six Ardoyne men were arrested by the army and were badly beaten during interrogation at the military post in Alliance Avenue. The men were M. Savage (18), P. McKibben (19), J. McGurra (17), F. Fusco (22), T. Holland (16), and D. McAuley aged 12 years.

Mrs. Sarah Murphy, Press officer for the McCaughey — Saunders Sinn Fein Cumann, said that the men were lifted during an army invasion of the Ardoyne. She said, that while in the army post, their screams brought both Catholic and Protestants onto the streets to see what was happening. After two hours, two of the men were taken from the post, bleeding profusely and carried off in a Saracen armoured car. The incident led to several demonstrations in the area.

OTHER CASES.

Patrick Murphy, of Louth, remanded on February 23rd to Newtownhamilton Court — possession of two detonators.
Samuel Miller — remanded.
Benedict Smith — remanded.
John Smith — remanded.
John Smith — remanded.
Charles McAuley — remanded.

THERE ARE OTHERS — DO NOT FORGET THEM"

NO DISCRIMINATION?

When one hears officials of the new administration in Stormont Castle claiming that religious discrimination in the allocation of jobs had been dealt with, one should remember that of the 13,000 men in Belfast ship yards, only 200 are Catholics. This

industry is a heavily subsidised one which makes Whitelaw and his officials a party to religious apartheid.

GALLANT RESISTANCE

A fierce gun battle broke out in the Lower Falls last September after soldiers rammed a car, a City Commission jury was told in a recent case. Two men, Joseph Linton and Malachy McCarry were charged with possession of firearms and resistance to arrest. McCarry said that he did not recognise the court.

The court was told of how the army saracen rammed the car on September 14th last. In the gun fight that followed, Linton was wounded but the army was forced to retreat until reinforcements arrived. The men were then isolated and captured.

CONTRASTING CASES

GREEN LAW

5 men were detained under Regulation 11 of the Special Powers Act, after being granted bail in a magistrates court. The men were:—
Kiernan O'Neill, Michael Walsh, Henry Joseph Fagan, Oliver Cunningham, Matthew Bradley.
The initial charge was possession of firearms.

ORANGE LAW

At the same court however, John Weatherall, Shankill Road, was released when the Crown withdrew charges relating to the possession of a pistol and 46 rounds of ammunition. Weatherall was awarded £7.35 as compensation. He was not detained by Special Branch — need we say more.

Andrew Johnson was charged on February 28th with possession of a revolver and six rounds of ammunition on January 9th last in Maherafeit Magistrates court and was remanded.

Anthony Rooney (18) was remanded on blast charges to Lisburn Magistrates Court at Belfast's Magistrate Court on February 28th. Anthony, from Andersonstown, refused to recognise the court.

Mrs. Mary Smith, (70) of Portadown accepted bail on March 2nd having been on hunger and later hunger and thirst strike for over a week. When charged with kidnapping on February 23rd, Mrs. Smith claimed that she and her family had been harassed by the R.U.C. for over two years and described the charges against her and her two sons and daughter as "ludicrous".

Miss Bernadette Devlin was refused admission to see Mrs. Smith on March 2nd. When she appeared in court that evening she looked weak and despite this was manhandled and dragged screaming from the court house after the hearing by police who appeared to enjoy the entire affair.

In contrast to these cases, thirteen Protestants arrested on July 12th last in Belfast on arms charges were acquitted on March 2nd, at Belfast City Commission. One other who had pleaded guilty received the minimum six months sentence. Another was given a suspended sentence while the sixteenth man had been acquitted earlier.

Why don't the moderates speak out on this "impartial" administration of the law — or are they too busy advancing their rhetorical platitudes to even notice.



JOIN SINN FEIN

IT is enough for certain Belfast evening papers to print R.U.C. "Wanted" notices but it is positively disgusting for them to give free space in their columns for this purpose.

Yet, this is what the Belfast Telegraph did on February 27th when, not content with its R.U.C. add the previous day, it published a photograph of Jim Bryson the man who escaped twice from British "hospitality", with a request for information, to be sent to the police. Even the "Daily Telegraph never did free felon-setting, which is the latest space filling tactic of its Belfast counterpart.

Felon Setting

"Educate that you may be free"

IN the Economic Democracy which Sinn Fein aims to establish, it rationally follows that education up to the highest academic and technological levels will be available to all who can benefit by it. Adequate grants will be provided to every student, so that he may pursue his studies without worry or hardship.

Social, aesthetic and cultural courses will also be provided, in addition to qualification orientated studies, for adults on an intramural and extramural basis.

It is envisaged in the Comhar na gComharsan philosophy that every boy and girl between 17 and 20 years - that is, between finishing secondary school and taking up a job or continuing on to third level - should devote one year to "National Service".

Their activities during this year would include basic defence training, attendance at a "folk high school" type of course, in which they would be taught the principles of patriotism, social democracy, and co-operation, and actual social involvement, by visiting and helping old or sick people, by assisting mothers with housework and children, by befriending the mentally ill, and by voluntary labour of various sorts. There would also be involvement in athletic activities including adventure sports, and social pastimes, such as music, drama, discussions and debates. By these means it is hoped to fit young people to play their part in the free social and economic democracy of the 32 County Irish Republic.

In the chapter on "Education" "Eire Nua" states - "Sinn Fein educational policy will aim to ensure the development and equipment of all the moral, intellectual and physical powers of our children, so that they will become God-fearing, and responsible citizens of a free independent nation. The rights of the family as the primary and natural educator of the child, and the spiritual interests of the various religious denominations shall be acknowledged within the framework of an educational system whose philosophy shall be to unify the people into one nation with one national consciousness".

"Pre-primary schools (age 3-6) will be established by local communities so that children may have the opportunity of learning social responsibility and become familiar with the learning process at the earliest possible age. As in Wales these schools will have an important role in the restoration of the national language".

The idea of the pre-primary school is a good one but there are certain reservations.

These are the most impressionable and formative years of a child's life. It is also the time when it is most dependent on its parents, particularly the mother. It is therefore imperative that it should have as much contact with home life and as much parental care and affection as possible. On the other hand an only child needs to learn to live with others and a child in the middle of a large family gets less attention from adults and its vocabulary and general intellectual development tend to be restricted to that of its young brothers and sisters. Here the pre-primary school fills a need inasmuch as it brings the only child into contact with its fellows and the child of a large family into direct contact with adults specially trained in child education. Care is needed here to ensure that teachers at this level are well balanced mentally and fond of children. Cantankerous teachers whether lay or clerical are harmful to the child at any stage but in the pre-primary section they may well blight the child's educational life. It is therefore important that parents should have control of these schools and that unsuitable teachers be removed to some other sector without fear or favour. Both parents and their assistants i.e. girls of 17-20 doing their National Service should be allowed free access to and participation in all school activities. Young people of this age are generally bubbling over with enthusiasm and generosity and could be given basic training in child care and education.

Learning at the pre-primary stage should not be formal but by play and finding out. Thus water, sand etc., would introduce ideas of quantity, liquidity, and solidity; building blocks and other construction toys together with paint and plasticene would stimulate creativity and a sense of order; games, slides and swings would teach children to take their turn in communal activities and have respect for the rights of others. To the Jesuits is attributed the saying "Give me a child until he is seven years of age and it matters not who has him afterwards. There is a lot of truth in this and as in Wales these nursery schools would be an invaluable means of establishing Irish as the vernacular among the children as well as fitting them for a life where service to the community would be placed above personal gain. The aim would be to teach Irish not by set lessons but simply by using it in all activities. At the other end of the scale this would be of great benefit to the young assistants doing their national service as they would realise that the speaking of Irish does not end when they leave school. In point of fact all national service work should be done through Irish.

Attendance at these nursery schools should not be compulsory and children under ordinary circumstances should not be expected to attend for more than one and a half hours in the morning and afternoon. However the schools could be kept open from 8.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. with two shifts of teachers to facilitate parents in difficulties and free meals provided for children who could not go home for lunch.

FORMAL EDUCATION

Formal Education should begin at six, Eire Nua states "Primary education from six to twelve years will be so organised that no class shall exceed 30 and no teacher shall be expected to teach more than one class at a time. In many rural areas this will require the acceptance of inter-denominational school. This should present no problem given the level of goodwill which even at present exists in many parishes between Catholics and Protestants even in the Six County Area".

Education is one of the most rewarding of State investments as it leads to better standards of living and work.

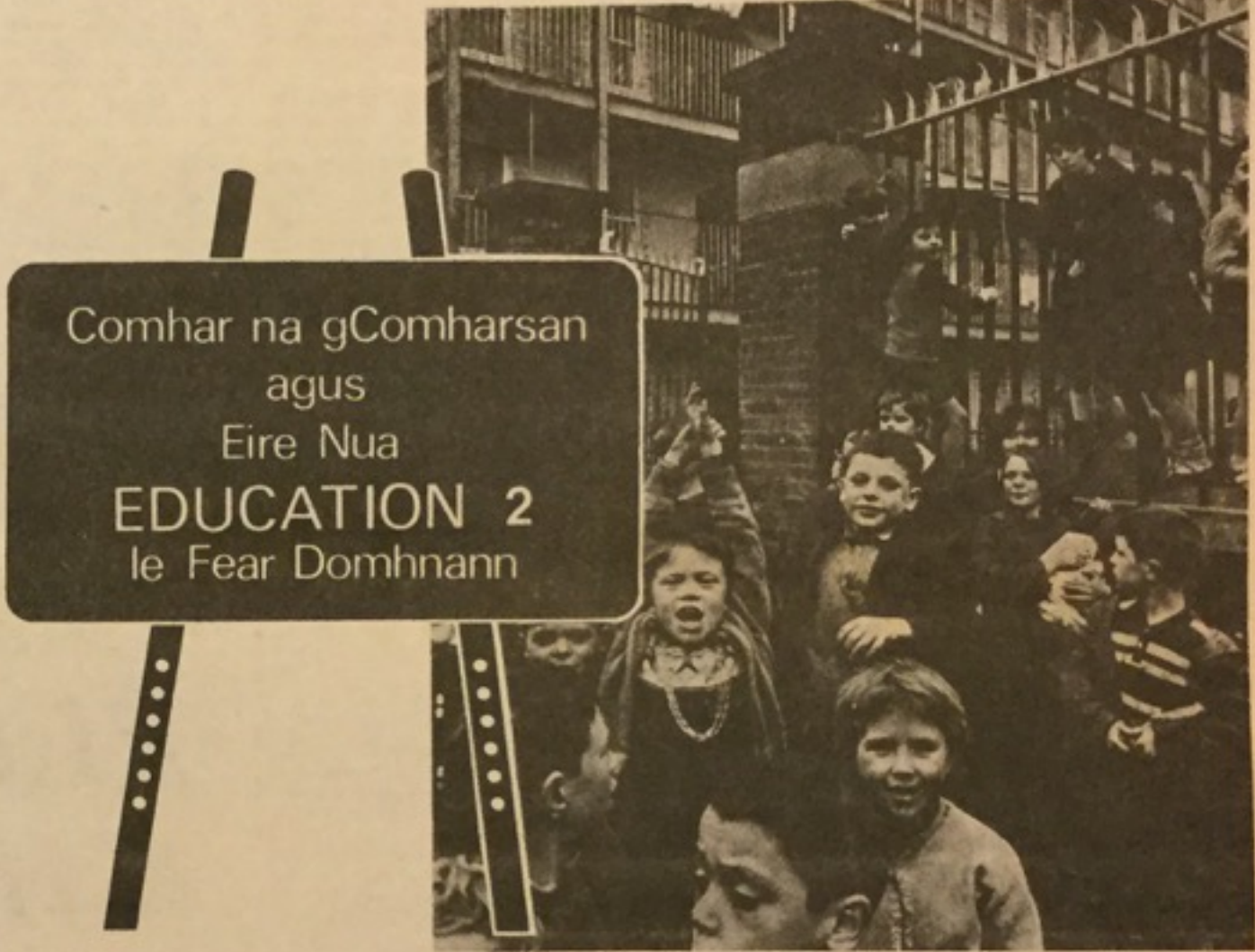
At present an intolerable burden is placed on the people of a parish, especially in newly developed areas, as on top of heavy house payments and rates they have to raise finance to build new primary and secondary schools. This also means that the schools are limited by the amount it is possible to raise by private means especially in country areas, with the consequent closure of small schools like Dun Caoin and Dubhloch in the Kerry and Mayo Gaeltachts regardless of their cultural and community values. The British instituted managerial system also leads to inefficiency and sectarian deviation.

Department of Education by a committee composed of Department nominees, clerical representatives, teachers representatives and parents representatives none of whom should be a politician. The proportions should be such as to give parents and teachers the greater voice.

With regard to the primary curriculum "Eire Nua" states - "Teaching methods will become the subject for scientific research in an Educational Research Institute which will have close contact with the educational system. The objective of this institute will be continually to improve teaching methods especially in the case of language and mathematics where existing methods are weakest.

"The key "to the restoration of Irish will be its treatment as a living language and not as an academic subject so that it will be taken seriously by adults". In this respect it is as well to emphasise that irrespective of other qualifications every teacher should be required to have a fluent knowledge of Gaelic in either of the dialects or in standard Irish. Standard Irish has little to do with text books. It is a modification and blending of the various dialects which has developed almost unconsciously among educated Irish speakers, from Gaeltacht and Galltacht.

"Eire Nua" continues "The introduction of Irish to small children whose home language is English will be by newly



Finance for the building of adequately equipped schools in town and country should be provided by the state, channelled through the four regional Dala. These would be more conversant with regional needs and schools could be built and sited with regard to such factors as cultural and community value, and hardship on children travelling, rather than on roll numbers. All teachers in primary and post-primary schools should be required to have a University degree and undergo a common training course in the theory and practice of education which would qualify them to teach in first and second level schools.

"Eire Nua" says "The level of qualification required of teachers would gradually be raised to the honours university degree". Personally I doubt if this is necessary for teachers or primary or post-primary classes up to Leaving Certificate pass standard as holders of pass degrees in general subjects frequently turn out to be better teachers than the narrower, more specialised honours graduates. Honours graduates however would be necessary for honours courses. Also in the event of the university course being extended to five years as suggested in "Eire Nua". The first year in "general studies" could well be conducted in the second level schools, by adding a sixth year taught by honours graduates under university direction. The present haphazard method of appointing teachers should also be abandoned and a national roster set up whereby available teachers would be appointed to posts in rotation, dependent on the subjects being suitable and on interview with the school authorities being satisfactory. All positions of responsibility should be open to all teachers within the system. Furthermore where a teacher becomes redundant he should be automatically eligible for any suitable vacancy in another school.

Control of the educational system in each province should be exercised, under the over-riding authority of the

developed methods so that it will not initially be a barrier to the acquisition of knowledge. For example the vocabulary of the first year's Irish lessons might be so chosen to provide a medium through which in the second year some other subject might be taught. Thus Irish would become the vernacular of an increasing proportion of the subjects taught as the pupil progresses. This is only one of the many possible approaches; the main idea is that the best methods can be discovered by objective research and there will be set up a body technically fitted to carry out this research. An understanding of the scientific basis of all crafts techniques, agricultural and industrial processes, as well as the natural processes at work in the world will be developed at an early age. The teaching of Geography would be broadened in order to do this; expeditions outside the schoolroom will help to convey the idea that knowledge is more than the content of books". History is another important subject which for some reason has received scant attention in "Eire Nua". In my opinion the story of a people's past, especially that of the common people and a knowledge of their economic and social development throughout the ages is most important. How do we know where we are going, if we don't know where we came from? And to my mind history is the nation's loadstone on the sea of eternity. It also lends itself as does geography, to teaching through Irish with a consequent broadening of the children's everyday vocabulary as do also physical training, art, music, handicrafts and drama.

The closing statements of "Eire Nua" on primary education are as follows - "Discipline shall be imposed by methods other than corporal punishment. The learning process for small children will be made an interesting and exciting pastime".

"The salary conditions and professional qualifications of the teachers will be raised and made commensurate with the nobility of the task that they undertake".

FORMAL EDUCATION

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inside

Prison Walls

Why not Adopt a Prisoners Family

12th March, 1973.

Dear Editor,

In the campaign for the support of Republican prisoners would it not be feasible for sympathetic individuals, street groups, clubs and organizations to "adopt" a prisoner? Contributions to the Fund, however regular, can easily be an automatic reaction whereas the pride of having one's very own prisoner, by adoption, might well engender a more responsive concern for the plight of all the prisoners interned under the brutal Special Powers Act.

In Britain alone there are hundreds of Irish clubs and societies that might welcome the opportunity of adopting a prisoner if such a scheme could be organized.

Each adopting party would be reliable for the collecting of money for their own prisoner's family only; and the support given to the prisoner (i.e. letters, birthday cards, books, etc.) would be more comforting and spiritually uplifting than the mere expectation that somewhere someone was probably going around with a collection box on his behalf.

By accepting the responsibility of steadfastly caring for one prisoner, in particular, the adopting party would, through regular contact with him and/or his family, become more sharply aware of the significance of the repressive measures against the Irish people - thus getting involved, to a greater extent, in the fight for the release of all internees and an ending of the Special Powers Act.

Ultimately, this activity must surely open the eyes of the blissfully ignorant to the just cause of the Republican Movement.

Yours sincerely,
N. Roach,
58, Hill Street,
Totterdown,
Bristol. BS3. 4TR. England.

NOTE: Names and address's for this project can be sent to The Editor, who will pass them on to An Cumann Cabhrac.

LONG KESH
MOUNTJOY
BELFAST
PORTLAOISE
LIMERICK
ARMAGH
CURRAGH

AND
OVERSEAS
PRISONS

LONG KESH

through
the
eyes
of
a
poet

They call us madmen. They detain us,
Forge fresh fetters to restrain us,
Phrase fresh mouthings to defame us,
Make destruction and then blame us.
They say they have affection for us,
That, in steel-caged wire-mesh immure us,
Call a witless world to view us,
To stare like monkeys in a zoo,
Shake heads and scratch as monkeys do.
They call Almighty God above them
To witness that we do not love them
But still and all we can not hate them,
Pray their absence to their presence,
We, small of mind, in pride confined,
Would prison us, themselves confined
In arrogance of sad unknowing,
Fresh dragons' teeth their noxious sewing,
Who torture us but, will not see
We, yet, are free, whose hearts are free.

Tomas O Ceallachain.

Bad Food and Rats

THE International Red Cross had caustic criticism of conditions there on their recent visit. They say they noted a deplorable state of maintenance at the various cages. The visitors said on the day of their visit the food was evidently well prepared. However, detainees told them that the food was usually very poorly prepared and inedible. The prison doctor told the delegation that since their previous visit he had to deal with an invasion by rats. This problem has now been solved. Nine internees were on hunger strike and the doctor said they are examined daily.

THE CURRAGH

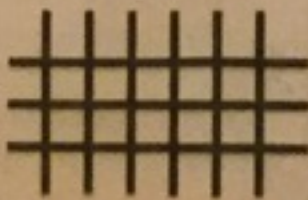
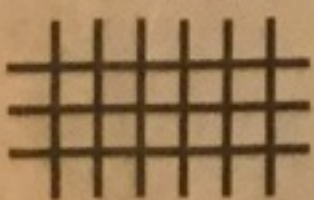
STATEMENT ON CONDITIONS IN CURRAGH MILITARY DETENTION CAMP

- VISITS:** These are a constant source of friction and tension. The P.A. present often tells the prisoner to stop discussing a certain topic or the visit will be terminated immediately. On occasions visits have been cut short with consequent distress to both prisoner and visitors but particularly the latter. Visitors are mainly women relatives and children who travel long distances, e.g. Derry and Belfast, are kept waiting an hour or more and then admitted having to pass by barbed wire, sandbags and levelled sub-machine gun. The tension generated is so high that children have been known to burst out crying in the visiting box. Visitors and prisoner are separated by a table 5'4" wide with a glass partition 18" high in the centre. Batons (20" long) are carried in hand by P.A.'s on visits as on all other occasions and small children have asked "why the man is carrying a big stick". Trouble on visits culminated recently when a prisoner, Patrick Hamill of Belfast, attempted to embrace and kiss his wife at the end of a visit. This was forbidden and the P.A. promptly stuck his baton in between man and wife at the level of their necks. As a result of the scene which ensued this prisoner has had 14 days remission of sentence taken from him by the Governor. A further indignity - now discontinued - was the practice of putting a second P.A., a Sergeant staring through the glass in the door directly at visitors and prisoner alike and apparently attempting to engage their eyes. This had a very disconcerting effect on women visitors in particular.
- CLEAN BEDDING:** This constant request has been turned down continually by the Governor. Mattresses and pillows (both hair) were issued second-hand to prisoners on arrival and all are dirty and stained. Blankets also are second hand and are never changed - some prisoners have developed rashes which they attribute to these. Sheets are also stained and impregnated with dirt.
- RELIGIOUS PRACTICE:** The one Protestant prisoner has for a long time now been harassed in facilities to practice his religion. His minister is known to the prison staff for 20 years yet he is delayed for long periods at the gate and by the time he is admitted has little time to spend with the prisoner as he is working to a schedule.
- HOBBY-WORK:** All leather work is forbidden, unlike Crumlin Road, Long Kesh and the concentration camp here 1957-59. Painting of handkerchiefs and making match stick crosses, harps, round towers etc - cartons of dead matches are allowed in only at the discretion of the Governor and the heads of the last lot have to be cut off and returned before another lot is allowed.
- FRUSTRATION:** Psychological pressure is fast building up among prisoners. They are confined to a small compound with a stairs in the middle. The dining tables occupy the rest of the centre of the compound and are exposed to cigarette ash, and other dirt from the over-head deck. The centre tables are near open toilets with resulting discomfort. Recreation out of doors is confined to less than two hours morning and afternoon. All classes e.g. Irish, also Mass, must take place during these times in a separate building with consequent loss of already severely restricted fresh-air time. Many Saturdays (Sunday visiting is not allowed) the fresh air exercise is disallowed on grounds that staff is not available and as a result the atmosphere builds up in pressure-cooker fashion.

NOTE: Until these very reasonable demands by the prisoners are met, they are from this morning, March 5th, 1973, refusing to take visits or write letters out. Voluntarily cutting themselves off from friends and relations is a serious step and will continue. They ask for maximum support and publicity outside the prison to highlight their demands for acknowledgement of their basic human dignity.

42 prisoners in Glasshouse, over one third of whom are married,
30 prisoners from the Six Counties.

Signed on behalf of the political prisoners,
Dan Hoban (Mayo) O.C.
Martin McGuinness (Derry) Adjutant.



DEMAND RELEASE OF ALL
POLITICAL PRISONERS

An Phoblacht

IMLEABHAIR 4. UIMHIR 6.

WHAT WE WANT

YOU OFTEN HEAR PEOPLE SAY -
WHAT DO THEY WANT - WELL -

We don't want white papers from England - What we want is a Declaration of intent of the British Government to get out of Ireland - We want the release of all Political Prisoners, North, South, and Overseas - We want the Irish People to back this demand for full freedom - We want the Newspapers to act as Irish Newspapers and not as rags of England - We want the lies and slander to stop - We want the Specials to look for British Spies instead of unpaid Irish Patriots - We want work for the unemployed, we want Homes for the Homeless - We want care for the old age people - We want care for the drop outs and the Wino's. We want a fair deal for all men and women - We want free education in every sense of the word - Free Books, Free Buses, and if necessary Free Meals to all the children of the nation - From National School to University - We want one gate into Schools not one for the rich and one for the poor - WE WANT JUSTICE, INTEGRITY, and LEADERSHIP - and we want the people of Ireland to have it as Well

LIAM LYNCH COMMEMORATION

April 10th next will be the 50th Anniversary of the death of Liam Lynch. This outstanding warrior led the Irish Republican Army in the war against the British and Free State and died of wounds received in action. The Republican Movement has made plans for a massive commemoration to be held in Kilcrumper on Sunday April 8th.

Committees are being established in each county in Munster to organise contingents for the commemoration. The Parade will assemble in Fermoy at 3.00 p.m. and march to Kilcrumper cemetery where the Chief of Staff is buried. Military honours will be rendered and an oration delivered by a prominent Republican.

All Republicans are requested to give full support to the Commemoration. Friends, admirers and former comrades of General Lynch are invited to attend and make the occasion a fitting tribute to one of Ireland's greatest leaders.

Further details can be obtained from:

Liam Lynch Commemoration Comm.,
44, Parnell Square,
DUBLIN.

DEATH OF MR. PATRICK DUNPHY

Mr. Patrick (Pat) Dunphy, Ballincur, Mooncoin, who died on Sunday last at his residence, aged 68, was the only son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dunphy, Do. and had been associated with the farming and political life of the area for many years. As a member of the 6th battalion, South Kilkenny Brigade I.R.A., he was actively associated with the Republican Movement, and was interned at The Curragh during the Civil War. In recent years he was actively concerned with the Kilkenny County Executive of the National Farmers Association, (now the I.F.A.) of which he was vice-chairman for a period. His late father was the first president of the initial Sinn Fein Cumann formed in Mooncoin in 1917, and the family have been closely connected with the republican Movement ever since.

He was husband of Mrs. Dunphy, Ballincur; father of Messrs. John and Liam Dunphy, do.; Walter Dunphy, Middleton Co. Cork; Kevin and Pat Dunphy, London; Mrs. Breda Ryan, Ozanham Street, Waterford, and Mrs. Kathleen Gunnip, Cheekpoint, Co. Waterford, and is also survived by a number of grandchildren and other relatives. The remains were removed to Mooncoin Parish Church on Monday evening, and on Tuesday morning, Requiem Mass was celebrated by Very Rev. John Kenny, P.P., do. The funeral took place subsequently to the family burial ground at Rathkieran. Members of the Republican Movement formed a Guard of Honour by Mr. Sean Heneberry, Chairman of the George Plant Sinn Fein Cumann, Mooncoin, and marched beside the hearse to the outskirts of the village and later to the cemetery. The final prayers at the graveside were recited by Rev. J. Murphy, C.C., Mooncoin, assisted by Rev. Noel Maher, C.C., do. In an oration at the graveside, Mr. Richard Behal, Upper Kilmacow, who was recently released from The Curragh after a term of imprisonment, paid tribute to the deceased for his work on behalf of the Republican Movement and his association with the farming organisations in the country. He also referred to the presence of over thirty members of the Gardaí and Special Branch at the cemetery for the peaceful burial of a man who had done so much for the cause of freedom in Ireland. He conveyed the sympathy of the Republican Movement to the relatives of deceased, and said that his memory would for ever be cherished by them in South Kilkenny. The general attendance included members of the I.R.A., Sinn Fein, the Irish Farmers' Association (formerly the N.F.A.).

THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



PATRICK HOGAN, William Street, Wexford



JAMES PARLE, Clover Valley, Tachmon



JOHN CREANE, Clonerane, Tachmon

EXECUTED IN WEXFORD GAOL, 13th MARCH, 1923

PATRICK HOGAN, WILLIAM STREET, WEXFORD.

The Gaol, Wexford, March 12, 1923.

My Dearest Mother,

I am sending you a last farewell, as this morning I am meeting my doom. Mother, do not worry about me, as I have had the Priest, and made a good Confession, and I am prepared to meet my God, and be prepared to be received into Heaven, where some day we shall meet again and enjoy happiness there.

Dearest Mother, keep brave, and do not fret - only pray for me and my comrades. There is a parcel of clothes in the barracks and there is a brooch in the parcel which I made, and am sending to you as a keepsake, to remind you of a son that was always good and loving to you, and again I ask you to keep brave and do not fret. I know you will be downhearted, but keep up your courage, as I and my comrades are dying happy. God's will be done.

All I hope and pray is that God may watch over yourself and Father, and the children, and guide you all to future happiness and Glory of Heaven, and send you plenty of everything, so that you may not want for anything in this world.

Forgive the men who are carrying out this, because they think they are right; so my last prayer will be that you forgive them, as I have done, and God will settle for all.

I will write my Father my last farewell, so good-bye and God bless you all and protect you all from the harms of this world until we meet in Heaven is your dying Son's prayer and last farewell to my Dearest and Loving Mother.

From your dearest and loving son, Pat,
Good-bye and God bless you all.



JOHN CREANE, CLONERANE, TACHMON.

The Gaol, Wexford, March 12, 1923.

My Dearest Father and Mother,

I must break the news to you that I was trying hard to ward off for the past few weeks. God knows it is very hard for me to do when I think of the pain and trouble it will cause you. I have just learned the news that we three, Jim Parle, Pat Hogan and myself are to be shot in the morning. Before this letter reaches you I shall probably have gone before the firing squad.

I am after making my Confession with Fr. Wickham, also Fr. Walsh, and we will receive Holy Communion in the morning. I hope my soul will be prepared as it should be. I pray God will give me strength to bear up. I will die happily if you both promise to do your best to bear this heavy cross which God has sent you. God in His infinite mercy was very good to me in giving me such time to prepare. He will also help you both to bear up, and it will be my dying prayer that he may.

Fr. Walsh has promised to go and see you, also Fr. Wickham. I have written to Jim and Pats; I told them all. Dearest Mother, I hope for my sake you will do your best to bear the awful trouble I have cast on you. Remember me in your prayers. All that I have here belonging to me, I have made arrangements to be sent home to you. Give my love to Dolly and Sonny; tell them I won't forget them when I go to my Father in Heaven.

I trust you will bear no ill-will to anyone connected with by arrest, as I freely forgive them all. Give my best wishes and my prayers to all the boys. Remember me to Kate Whelan, and all around. Tell all, with God's help and grace I will die like a live soldier. Tell Dolly that as a special favour I ask her to make the "nine Fridays" for me. Fr. Walsh has promised me to remember me in his Masses. As the time is drawing short, and I must get an hour's rest, I must conclude with fervent prayers and best love to all.

Good-bye to all and we will meet in Heaven.

Your loving son,
Jack.

JAMES PARLE, CLOVER VALLEY, TACHMON.

The Gaol, Wexford, March 12, 1923.

My Dearest Parents,

Providence has decreed that I shall be executed along with two of my gallant comrades at 8 o'clock sharp tomorrow (Tuesday). It is a hard trial for you to bear in your old days, but the knowledge that I am dying for a great and noble cause will help to minimise the grief and anxiety which you may feel after my death.

Rev. Fr. Walsh and Fr. Wickham were most attentive to me during my short stay in the cells, and did everything that could possibly be done for my personal comfort, Fr. Walsh hearing my Confession and preparing me for my journey to the next world.

My last request to you, Father, Mother, brothers and sisters, is, that you pray most devoutly for the welfare of myself and my gallant comrades, John Creane and Patrick Hogan, who, with God's help will be happy for evermore in Heaven. I will pray for you all.

Good-bye to you all for the last time.
From your loving and affectionate Son,
Jim.



(Left) Paddy Parle, Wexford.
Killed in action, 1957.

(Right) George Keegan, Wexford.
Killed in action, 1957.



Title: An Phoblacht, Vol. 4, No. 6

Organisation: Sinn Féin

Date: 1973

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