

1974-6

Civil Rights : the Journal of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association

Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association

Follow this and additional works at: <https://arrow.tudublin.ie/workerpmat>



Part of the [Political History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, "Civil Rights : the Journal of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association" (1974). *Materials*. 65.

<https://arrow.tudublin.ie/workerpmat/65>

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the Workers' Party of Ireland at ARROW@TU Dublin. It has been accepted for inclusion in Materials by an authorized administrator of ARROW@TU Dublin. For more information, please contact yvonne.desmond@tudublin.ie, arrow.admin@tudublin.ie, brian.widdis@tudublin.ie.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-Share Alike 3.0 License](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS



PEACE THROUGH JUSTICE

The Journal of The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association

JUNE 74

Price 5p

Loyalist political leaders now believe they have in their power to prevent peaceful constitutional progress for all time. This is the clear message which emerges following the Loyalist Lockout.

United Ulster Unionist Council leader, Mr. John Taylor has said that the essence of Unionism is to prevent the unification of Ireland, even by consent. He has warned that in the "new Ulster" which the U.U.U.C. envisages there can be no place for peaceful competition between advocates of a united Ireland and the U.U.U.C. Such is the blue-print for an Irish final solution.

DEFEAT REACTION - UNITE FOR DEMOCRACY

The fall of the Executive and the collapse of the Sunningdale agreement shows that British policy is now in ruins. The

Civil Rights Association will waste no tears over this development. But all genuine democrats must share our

alarm at the dangers which are inherent in the present situation. There is now

the very real danger that Messrs Craig, Paisley, West Taylor and Co.

will no longer be seriously challenged by Britain as they work to put the clock back and prevent the progress of democracy here.

The massive intimidation on which the Loyalist Lockout was based has already been commented upon. Civil Rights branches throughout the North reported a frightening amount of either actual or apparent collusion between the Security Forces and the intimidators. In large areas of West Tyrone the U.D.R. went berserk and their progress through the countryside resembled the exploits of the Orange militias of the days of the United Irishmen.

Intimidation was only possible because of the widespread discrimination and sectarianism existing in Northern Ireland. Since 1969 successive British Governments have refused to admit that this was a problem.

No effective legislation is on the Statute books to deal with discrimination and incitement to religious hatred except the ludicrous Prevention of Incitement to Hatred law which is totally inadequate to deal with a problem of such proportions. Even existing British Race Legis-

lation does not cover Northern Ireland. The British Government are now suffering from the consequences of their blindness.

The British government have re-introduced Direct Rule. This gives them time to produce a settlement in their interests rather than in the interests of the people here. This is the lesson of the last period of Direct Rule.

The vast majority of the Loyalist workers return to work after the lock out uncertain of what has been achieved but certain at least that they have lost two weeks wages.

British Army murder and harassment, SAS assassination squads, internment and repression are every bit as real today as they were at the start of the lockout. The UUUC leadership have given no pledges that they will seek the end of these evils despite the fact that they are major problems for wide sections of the Loyalist population. Over the next few months the British government has a clear responsibility to take the necessary measures to come to grips with sectarianism and discrimination. It is now clear that all restraints on the free exercise of democratic rights must be removed forthwith. Internment must be ended. The Loyalist lockout revealed once more the reactionary role of large sections of the Civil Service and the RUC. It also showed the totally sectarian nature of the UDR. There must be serious effort made to weed out of the civil service and the RUC all those elements who are not prepared to accept democratic advance here. The UDR must be totally disbanded. Only on this basis can a new fresh start be made to end the legacy of 50 years of Unionism. Never at any time has there been a greater need for the maximum dialogue and unity of purpose between all democratic and progressive organisations. At no time has there been a greater need for the support of the widest sections of British public opinion for our just struggle for peace and democracy.

In the next months a practical unity can be built up on the issue of the Emergency Provisions Act and the related issue of internment. All efforts must be directed to exposing the nature of the Act and having it repealed. The Civil Rights Association firmly believes that a united opposition to this Act can provide the basis for a developing and strengthening campaign for democracy. Such a campaign must be totally free of sectarianism either religious or political. Only in this way can we defeat reaction and make a united advance towards justice and democracy. A United people cannot be defeated.

REPEAL THE EMERGENCY PROVISIONS ACT

In July the British Government will seek to renew the Emergency Provisions Act.

THIS ACT ALLOWS

- *Imprisonment without trial
- *Arrest and search without warrant
- *Detaining in custody for 72 hours
- *Banning of organisations, publications, and assemblies.
- *No protection to any child over 10 years of age.

*Torture, blackmail and intimidation

- *Trial without Jury
- *Evidence in court without the right of cross examination
- *The defendant to be considered guilty rather than innocent
- *Limitations on the right of Bail

WHAT HAVE YOU OR YOUR ORGANISATION DONE ABOUT THIS?

*Has your organisation signed the petition against the Emergency Provisions Act?

*Has your street or neighbourhood formed a 'Repeal the Act Committee' to campaign against the Act?

IF NOT, WHY NOT?

No British Government is going to hand us democratic rights on a plate. We must unite to win these rights.

START NOW. OPPOSE THE EMERGENCY PROVISIONS ACT

The death of hunger-striker Michael Gaughan underlines once more the true nature of the British government's policy towards Irish people. The Labour Government now seems to be totally under the influence of the worst elements of the British Army and Civil Service. Mr. Wilson and his friends no longer have any moral authority to refuse political status to Irish political prisoners. Those who want to return to serve their sentences in Northern Ireland should be allowed to return immediately.

TYRONE NEWS

TYRONE CRA STATEMENT: Tyrone CRA has condemned the policy of the British Army officers who allowed the UDR to play a major role in a massive search operation on homes in the Altamuskin, Sixmilecross, and Beragh areas on Sunday last at a time of acute political tension as a result of the Loyalist strike. The timing and extent of the operation seem designed to increase high feelings among people of a peaceful area. Many residents were prevented from attending Sunday Services and others had to make detours as a result of roadblocks.

Sunday's actions were in marked contrast to that taken earlier in the week when Loyalist gangs including elements in the UDR felled trees across the roads in the same area. Four people were assaulted by the UDR and one was subjected to a particularly brutal attack and was seriously injured. To cloak this cowardly action the UDR after planted ammunition during a search in this man's house.

No one who genuinely desires peace can believe that this operation was other than to allow thug elements in the UDR to vent their frustrations on helpless people. Those who carried out this brutal attack should be dismissed from the UDR and charged with this attack.

If these activities are an example of how Britain intends to deal with those in open rebellion then there is little hope for a future which guarantees equal rights for all in Northern Ireland.

OTHER INCIDENTS

In the early hours of Friday 24th a British Army patrol passed a crowd of Loyalists erecting a barricade across the main Omagh/Ballygawley road. The Army did not interfere but proceeded to raid the homes of Mr. Wm McCaffrey and Mr. John McLaughlin for four hours asking such questions as 'Who do you drink with? Who visits this house? Will our raid cause resentment in this district?'

FINDRUM LANE:

In the evening of Tuesday 28th May Loyalists erected a road block on the main Omagh/Ballygawley Road. An Eskra man Mr. Wm Kelly in attempting to go about his lawful business was set upon in an attempt made to smash his car. He succeeded to escape only to be stopped by the Army which was proceeding to the roadblock. Upon their arrival they made a vain attempt to disperse the crowd but the RUC intervened to say that a peaceful protest was taking place and it should be left alone.

AUGHNAGAR

(near Sixmilecross) On Sunday night May 26th a UDR patrol opened fire on two young men whose car backfired. On that morning they had beaten up two other young men planted ammunition on them and stolen gold coins from an old woman.

ALTAMUSKIN

Two local men on their way to fodder cattle were beaten by the UDR and told to run for it. They were asked how they would like their names on a headstone inscribed "These men died for Ireland"

LOCAL ALLIANCE COUNCILLOR

Mr. P. Bogan, Roscavey, hearing rifle shots during the night investigated early the next morning. He discovered empty bullet cases beside bullet marked road signs. He gave them to the RUC who described them as SLR bullets Army issue 1973.

ALL AREAS

Roads blocked, trees felled and public offices closed by men protesting about the laws of the British government. Some of these same men afterwards donned the uniform of the British Army to uphold these same laws which an hour previously they had thrown their milk down the drain to break. In the name of their law they beat up their neighbour wreck his property wrongfully imprison him, place him under house arrest, prevent him from attending his Sunday service and intimidate him by terror, indiscriminate shooting and wrongful arrest.

ARE THE UDR BEING USED?

In the face of such contradictory behaviour two questions must be asked. Has the British Army lost control over its UDR regiment? Or are they deliberately using this bigoted sectarian outfit to polarise the whole community and poison community relationships for years? No one, least of all Civil Rights people will deny anyone the

right to protest provided that the protest is carried out non-violently and is free from sectarian bias. But when this strike is over and the celebrations past when the cost of lost wages, spilt milk and wasted food is added the ordinary Loyalist must ask himself what has been won? and was it worth it?

THE DAY OF THE 25p

For without any clear demands having been made to improve his lot in life the ordinary Loyalist will soon discover that "his day of the 25p" came quicker to him than it came to the non-unionist learned, that the Politician whom he thought was on his side sold him out for a higher wage and a position of privilege on the Executive. When that day arrives (shortly) he will still have to live with the neighbour whom he kicked and battered and when the impending court cases are over not only himself but also his children will have to live in public shame or ask the forgiveness of those offended.

CIVIL RIGHTS FOR ALL

The Civil Rights Movement has already raised the demand for the release of all internees both Loyalist and Republican. UUUC politicians are paying lip service to it now. Is it too much to hope that those whose efforts and sacrifices over the 12 days strike have put these same politicians into better positions will realise that only united mass action just demands can secure improvements from Westminster for any section of our community?

BIGOTRY IS ALWAYS WRONG

This has not been the first area of Northern Ireland in which the things referred to above have happened. It is but a short step to Aughnacloy, or Caledon, to the Moy or Congo, to Lisnaskea or Newtownbutler where sectarian feelings ran riot. The moral should readily be apparent to those who in the face of provocation might be prompted to take the law into their own hands. In this time of tension, innocent lives are at stake and nothing should be done to make the present nasty situation more explosive. Bigotry is always wrong. No progress can be made on the seeds of vengeance but people working together understanding the problems, considering the other person's viewpoint and taking the proper decisions collectively can mobilise to fight injustice. In connection with these latest raids and beatings names have been named. At present court cases are proceeding and with the evidence available there would seem to be a strong case against those who have done wrong. The people concerned have taken the wrong action - wrong advice from unthinking people or rash words dropped before impressionable youth - could not only hinder the course of justice but could also sentence the entire district to future generations of bitterness.

THE WILD GEESSE

The CRA is well aware of how the misuse of the forces of "Law and Order" have in every generation driven the bravest into positions of death flight or dungeon. There are people alive today in the above mentioned areas who because of this have suffered the prison cell in every generation. Now the children of one small area alone four of them, Pat Mullen, Pat Morgan, James Conroy, and James Tierney are in prison each on a trumped up card. Others have been forced to live in fear of their lives, of further beatings, and brutality. Only mass public opinion can overcome this evil. NICRA has always stated and proved to a limited extent (One man, one vote, the disbandment of the B Specials) that only a United people organised and disciplined can achieve limited demands and put pressure on politicians. Small groups or individuals soon find themselves exterminated or isolated. Regarding the recent strike, the raids and beatings, the CRA is appreciative of the help given by many to their less fortunate neighbours (regardless of religious or political differences) to the doctors, solicitors, and local clergy who acted promptly to alleviate suffering and to the local councillors Alliance and Republican who voiced their concern to the military authorities.



ON PATROL

Since 15th May, when Loyalist extremists brought N. Ireland to its knees by the instigation of a "lock-out" of workers from their place of work and introduced a new 'reign of terror' - one could have safely assumed that British Army presence in anti-unionist areas would have diminished slightly.

In the welter of law-breaking, including murder, hi-jackings, road-blockings, beatings up, intimidation etc., through which loyalist extremists expressed their distaste of the Assembly Executive - surely we were not being too naive in the thinking that with the stretching of the British Army to their limits, their presence in nationalist areas would be somewhat relaxed. But if anyone did think that - then they were being naive! Not only was British Army presence not relaxed - but in some cases it was actually increased!!

Extra Brit road blocks were seen up in anti-unionist areas and maintained in some cases for 24 hour stretches. Blackened faces of foot patrols crawled all over nationalist areas in broad daylight - raids continued as did arrests. The Assistant Organiser of NICRA, whose home was raided 3 times over Xmas past, again had her home raided on day 5 of the 'strike'. When she politely inquired if the soldiers indeed had nothing better to do in re-establishing law and order, ending intimidation etc., in Loyalist areas - the officer in charge made it quite clear that no orders were given to move against Loyalist extremists. Another soldier, calmly 'observing' a Loyalist road block expressed the opinion that if the road-block had been set up on the Falls Road by republican sympathisers - then they, (the soldiers) would have been in there 'bashing hell out of anyone in sight'.

It is quite obvious that orders from 'on high' i.e. Westminster had been given not to antagonise the Loyalists - in fact to adopt a softly-softly attitude to their actions, - quite a contrast to Britain's attitude in July 1970 during the Falls Curfew, or more so their jackboot tactics during internment operation in August 1971 which reached its peak when the Brits murdered 14 civil rights marchers on Bloody Sunday.

This 'double standard' behaviour of Britain is symptomatic of their policy in relation to discrimination and sectarianism. Successive British Governments have refused to deal with the very real existence of discrimination and sectarianism which is rampant in Northern Ireland.

They made a show when they introduced legislation banning discrimination in Public Employment, and the Prevention of Incitement to Hatred Act. One can gauge the effectiveness and sincerity of Britain by examining how many cases have been brought to Court under this Law. ...One against John McKeague for blatant incitement to religious Hatred failed and since then ne'er a word has been heard of it.

The British Government need look to no-one here for sympathy at the failure of their "Executive Experiment" - for we say that the seeds of sectarianism which were sown in N. Ireland and nourished by the indifference of British Governments are being reaped in a harvest of reaction - the responsibility for which is no-one's other than the British Government. If we are to avoid the very real possibility of the rise of Fascism in the North - then the British Government must waste no time in acting decisively to institute democracy in the North - this will include an end to internment, abolition of the Emergency Provisions Act and the enactment of a meaningful Bill of Rights to guarantee that Democracy.

STATEMENT FROM MR. TERENCE HALPIN OF BELFAST II

"On Saturday 4.3.74 at 12.30a.m. I was at Casement Social Club and went to the chip shop. We were told there was a commotion and a crowd of people. The soldiers (2 jeep loads) were there and this young girl said my mother was

looking for me. I went over and this soldier had a young girl by the hair, dragging her towards the saracen. She looked about 22 years old. I ran up saying "that is a right way to treat a woman! The soldier threw her into a saracen. She was hysterical. He grabbed me by the hair and pushed my head towards the ground. Another soldier ran over and kicked me in the mouth. Other soldiers joined in. I felt kicks on my arm and felt a blow on the back of my head. I think it was a rifle butt. They were Scottish soldiers. One was tall with glasses. He was the one who assaulted me first. I was taken to Fort Monagh with the girl and kept while a soldier was making a statement accusing me of hitting him to the Redcaps. They said I was being charged with assault. I was then handed over to the plice at Anderstown Barracks to make my statement. I complained of the assault. I complained about 2 soldiers taking Patrick Murphy out to the other side of the door in Fort Monagh. The redcaps said 'no bruises' I could hear sounds of blows and groaning. About 2 minutes later they threw him back in and said 'goodnight' to the Redcaps.

Then Patrick Murphy, myself and three Redcaps were taken to Anderstown Barracks where I made the 2 complaints above. The sergeant there said I would have to go to Townhall Street to see and be examined by a police doctor. I was so examined and the doctor noted the bruises. I was taken back to Anderstown and released at 8.00a.m. I never struck any soldier. I have 2 witnesses and will give their names.

Since this column began in the Civil Rights paper readers of 'On Patrol' will have noted the recurrence of the names 'Francis McGaghey and David Adams' from Abercorn Street North. A terror campaign has been directed towards these young boys by successive regiments of the British Army. We continue the saga - but this time the harassment in one case has reached its logical conclusion.

STATEMENT FROM FRANCIS MCGAGHEY

"On May 8th I was passing Northumberland St. with my girlfriend. There appeared to be some stone-throwing and sectarian trouble across the peace line. The Army arrived just as we were passing. A group of soldiers grabbed me and trailed me up Northumberland Street. 3 soldiers threw me on the ground, spreadeagled. They beat me with a baton raising 3 large lumps on my head. They took me over the barrier and into a vehicle. I was taken to Hastings St. with a girl. I was photographed and given a medical check. The Army said they would prefer charges but later changed their minds and I was released!"

Regular readers of this column should scan their past copies to see where the harassment of David Adams was building up and now it has reached the ultimate.

STATEMENT ABOUT DAVID ADAMS OF ABERCORN ST. NORTH

On May 18th 1974 David Adams, in the company of a friend was in the Cullingtree Road. It was there that he was shot by the British Army and it was there that he lay in his own blood for over half an hour until he was taken to hospital. Fortunately he was not shot dead, but was seriously wounded. The Army allege that they were gunmen and in order to prove their allegstion - they 'found' in the vicinity a Thompson Machine Gun with ammunition. David Adams is very lucky to be alive today - for it was clear that the Army were shooting to kill. They have had a grudge against David for almost six months now and have stated in times past that they would get him sometime. It is high time that the licensed murderers of the British Army were exposed for what they are. We hope that our column helps to do just that.



THE COURSE OF "JUSTICE"

April 30th - At Belfast City Commission a former soldier is acquitted of assaulting Robert Gibson and William Redfern on the Shankill Road last August. Judge Chambers ruled that Maurice Arthur Jones (31) did not use unreasonable force when he hit the men over the head with a pistol. The Judge stated that members of the security forces could not carry out their duties adequately if they had to consider the legal consequences of their every action. **THE COURTS SHOULD BE SLOW TO FIND FAULT WITH POLICE OR SOLDIERS WHO HAD TO USE FORCE IN THE EXECUTION OF THEIR DUTY**

The Security Forces were genuinely trying to keep the peace and should not be held accountable for errors of judgement or outright mistakes.

MAY 6th 1974 - A lance corporal in the Royal Anglian Regiment is cleared at Belfast City Commission of assaulting Mr. Paddy Docherty of the Bogside Community Association last December. Mr. Docherty stated that when he had gone to restrain a woman who was arguing with a soldier the soldier hit him with a rifle butt. The soldier maintained that he had been struck with a fist by Mr. Docherty and had struck him in self defence with his rifle. Witnesses however testify that Mr. Docherty had been struck for no apparent reason.

In announcing his acquittal, Judge Roy Watt stated that the soldier may have struck Mr. Docherty harder than he had intended with his rifle but this was something which happened in the agony of the moment. Mr. Docherty required eight stitches to close the wound in his head.

MAY 8th 1974 - A charge of assault is dismissed against Private Anthony Leach of the Devon and Dorset Regiment in Dunmurray Magistrates Court. A man from Andersonstown maintained that he had been butted and knocked semi-unconscious by the soldier as the British Army searched his house at 5.30am last January 3rd. The man stated that when he complained of the early hour at which the Army called he had been called an "Irish Bastard" by the soldier who then butted him.

The soldier claimed that the man was going after his rifle and he had put his head forward only to ward him off.

An RUC constable testified that when the man was brought before the police station he had facial injuries. In dismissing the charge the Resident Magistrate said that the soldier **HAD USED ONLY WHAT FORCE WAS NECESSARY TO PROTECT HIMSELF.**

May 13th 1974 - A man found in the Shankill Road area with a loaded pistol in his pocket is jailed for five years at Belfast City Commission. The man had pleaded guilty and said he kept the gun only for his own protection. In passing sentence Lord Justice Jones said "IT IS UP TO THE COURTS TO PROTECT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES"

May 14th, 1974 - Charges against Mr. Sean Convery of escaping from custody on the prison ship Maidstone in January 72 are dropped at Belfast City Commission. No reason was given. Upon leaving the courtroom Mr. Convery was rearrested under the Emergency Provisions Act and taken into custody. **NO REASON WAS GIVEN FOR THAT EITHER.**

The Saga of super Special Branch Man George McKinney continues. Constable McKinney you will remember was charged with causing grievous bodily harm to three Belfast men in April 1972. Following their interrogation the three men had to spend considerable time in hospital with injuries which included a broken arm and internal injuries. Their case became internationally known as "the case of the Broadway Three" and has been accepted at the international Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg as part of the NICRA, ALJ, and NCCL sponsored case against British Army torture in Northern

Ireland. McKinney was however acquitted of the charge in March 73.

In December 73 McKinney again made the news when he was beaten up by some of his colleagues who alleged they mistook him for a terrorist.

Then in March of this year McKinney was again charged with assault and causing grievous bodily harm this time to Terence Henry Austin whom McKinney had "interrogated" at Castlereagh last September 18. Apparently it was only at the insistence of a visiting English dignitary who was passing the room at the time where McKinney was "interrogating" Austin and heard Austin's screams that a charge was brought at all.

When it was decided to try McKinney before a no-jury Special Court the Police Federation protested that terrorist courts were not the appropriate place to try Special Branch men and threatened to strike. There was no need for them to worry. On May 14 despite testimony from a Royal Army Medical Corpsman corroborating the extent of Austin's injuries McKinney walked out of court a free man. Terence Henry Austin was led, handcuffed, away by prison warders.

May 8th 1974 - Two British Army Intelligence officers Warrant Officer Robin King and Sergeant Michael Harold Jarrett of the First Battalion Devon and Dorset Regiment stationed in Lisburn were cleared at Dunmurray Court of assaulting a Maze Prison detainee (18) of Bingnian Drive Andersonstown Belfast while he was undergoing interrogation at an Army post last December.

The magistrate said that although bruises were apparent on Keiran's body some time after the interrogation he had not reported the matter himself and did not agree to a medical examination after being questioned.

In cross examination he said that he was not a member of the Provisional IRA but he was at present detained at the Maze. He agreed it could be a tactic of the Provisional IRA to produce injuries as part of a smear campaign against the security forces. His story had not been concocted to smear the interrogating officers.

FROM OUR AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT

In his recent whirlwind 'sell Sunningdale' jaunt throughout the United States it is reported that Mr. John Hume was not his usual smooth talking self when responding to certain questions from his audiences. According to a member of one of his Boston audiences, 'he had a very difficult time answering many of the questions particularly those relating to internment camps, persons being arrested and detained indefinitely without charges being levelled against them absence of counsel etc. He felt there would be a gradual elimination of these abuses of rights which we have always believed the British regarded as their birthright. He could make no satisfactory response to the proposition that every prisoner held should as a first step, either have specific charges brought against him and be immediately brought to trial or be immediately set free. Just what Mr. Hume meant by 'gradual elimination of these abuses he did not make clear. But perhaps he envisages that as the supply of internees decreases (through old age, maltreatment, etc) then the demand for their release will naturally diminish. Obviously with Mr. Hume's here again, gone again, record of commitment to Civil Rights those words of wisdom will be the extent of his contribution to the ending of internment. 5

Catholic Anti- Discrimination Association



Former head of the Catholic Ex-Servicemen, Phil Curran has launched a new organisation called the Catholic Anti-Discrimination Association. The Association has been formed at a time when it is becoming more and more obvious that discrimination still exists in Northern Ireland. The Association says that "the pernicious evil of sectarian discrim-

ination" must be "mastered and ended". So far NICRA is in agreement. Where the Association must part company with CAFA is in the type of solutions needed to solve the very real problems of discrimination. NICRA has never believed that it is either morally or politically right to approach the question of discrimination from a sectarian point of view. That is why NICRA never works with organisations which seek members on a sectarian basis. Discrimination is merely part of the broader democratic question. Therefore whatever the present political alignments in Northern Ireland it is unwise to cut off any potential support for the democratic cause by limiting it to Roman Catholics.

CADA proposes the introduction of a quota system of job allocation to beat discrimination, although it admits to having no great enthusiasm for this measure. The Civil Rights objective is to have jobs on merit. A quota system would make this impossible because it would merely replace one form of discrimination with another form.

CADA also proposes the formation of a Catholic security service. Initially this force would be independent of the British Government, but CADA envisages its eventual dissimilation into the regular security forces.

This is not the first time that this has been proposed. Indeed not so long ago plans were well under way in the Andersonstown area to set up a Catholic police force complete with special blazer and radio controlled mobile cars. It was widely reported at the time that a large number of business men were going to finance the force and that the Dublin government were also interested in the project. Mercifully the scheme never materialised and the Catholics of Belfast are still awaiting their home grown 'Keystone Cops'.

There are two possible roles for such a force. One is to police Catholic areas dealing with theft, vandalism

and other forms of anti-social activity. The other role is to protect the Catholic areas from possible Sectarian attack. One is role of normal police service and the other is the role of the Army. The responsibility of the British Government to ensure that both these rules are properly carried out cannot be avoided. All energy should be concentrated on putting pressure on the British Government to create a proper police service and to give adequate protection against sectarian attack. A Catholic police force even if it was integrated into the regular police system would only contribute to a further aggravation of sectarianism. As such it does not provide any solution to the problem of the lack of an acceptable police service but would rather help to postpone the emergency of such a service.

Other proposals of CADA such as requirements that firms employ two personnel officers - one a Catholic and the other a Protestant are both impractical and the wrong way to tackle discrimination.

Discrimination can only successfully be tackled through legislation. Since 1969 NICRA has called for the extension of the Race Relations Act to Northern Ireland. The Act should be suitable amended to cover religious and political discrimination. Mr. Cooper when he was Minister of Community Relations should have strengthened the Community Relations Commission rather than abolish it. He should have done this by insisting that the Commission act as an arm of the Race Relations Act.

Intimidation, Sectarianism and discrimination are major problems in Northern Ireland. It is the responsibility of the British Government to tackle these problems through legislative action. Such legislation is sorely needed here. Unfortunately organisations such as CADA will prove more of a hindrance than a help in getting this legislation.



Believe it or not

Fables for voter consumption only became rampant as the British imposed settlement collapsed.

FABLE ONE: Paddy Devlin really was not in the Executive which imposed a 25p fine on Rent and Rate strikers. According to Mr. Devlin he had resigned on May 17th because the Internees were not being released Ho Hum!

FABLE TWO: Austin Currie did not really mean it when he called the rent and rate strikers 'spongers' and imposed a 25p fine on them. According to Mr. Currie he tried to withdraw the fine.

after he had lost his job. Ho Hum!

FABLE THREE: Mr. Fitt did not really say after the Assembly Election that he was not in favour of ending internment. After he lost his job he said he was greatly disappointed that Internment had not been ended. Ho Hum!

THE SDLP HAD A LESSON IN THE REALITY OF BRITISH POLICY IN NORTHERN IRELAND. WE TRUST THAT THE VOTERS HAVE ALSO LEARNED A LESSON ABOUT THE SDLP!!



Kevin McCorry's Column

"DEMOCRATS" ALL

During the U.W.C. lockout, spokesmen for the organisation regularly claimed that the aim of their action was to get democracy in Northern Ireland. Among the spokesmen for the Council have been three leaders of the United Ulster Unionist Council, Messrs. Craig, Paisley and West, Now that these three men are in a position to call the tune here, it is about time that we reminded ourselves about the 'democratic' pedigree of these three men.

Mr. Craig as Minister of Home Affairs in the Stormont Government of Captain Terence O'Neill was one of the first to introduce violence back into Northern Ireland in 1968. Insisting that the Civil Rights Movement was a front for the IRA, he banned a civil rights march from the centre of Dungannon and he ordered the RUC riot squad to attack the famous 5th October march in Derry in 1968. He gave these orders over the heads of his Cabinet colleagues. Since then he has condoned murder and preached sectarian hatred so vicious that it sometimes bordered on the insane.

Mr. Paisley's democratic credentials are equally poor. His vicious anti-Catholicism led him into alliances with the UVF. In 1966 the UVF claimed responsibility for the cold-blooded murders, known as the Malvern Street killings. These were the first sectarian murders of the current series. He was also connected with the silent explosions which brought down the O'Neill government. Later Mr. Paisley was a prominent opponent of Free speech. He led the famous occupation of Armagh in early 1969 to prevent a Civil Rights march entering the town centre. This is the religious and civil liberty which he recently promised Roman Catholics in a speech in Ballymena.

Official Unionist Harry West is a less charismatic figure than either Craig or Paisley but he is no less reactionary.

He is the Unionist backwoodsman par excellence. He was sacked from his position as Minister of Agriculture in the O'Neill government because of some irregularities involving a conflict of interest between his position as a Minister and his ownership of land which was to be used as a Civil Airport. He returned to his old stomping ground of County Fermanagh where reaction reigned supreme among the lakes and lordly estates. West played a prominent part in local Unionist politics in Fermanagh where local government under the Unionist-dominated Fermanagh Council was the complete negation of basic principles of democratic majority rule. The mantle of democracy hangs uneasily around Mr. West's shoulders.

Another member of the United Ulster Unionist Council Mr. John Taylor has said that the essence of Unionism is to prevent the unification of Ireland, even by consent. This is not a view which it would be possible for a democrat to hold.

The Ulster Workers Council itself has remained a very closely knit and secretive organisation. But the public links which it has are grounds for suspicion.

The UWC is connected with the British based NATIONAL FRONT organisation which is a racist and anti-trade union organisation on the lunatic right of British Politics. The Front has long been seeking a base in Northern Ireland and has recently opened a Belfast Headquarters. During the strike the National Front was fulsome in its praises of the UWC and one UWC spokesman on particular expressed views on television which should have done the national front proud. In Britain the National Front has been involved in demonstrations addressed by William Craig and other Loyalist leaders. In the present confused state of Loyalist politics, organisations such as the National Front can be expected to gain support.

HOW NOW 25p!

The reintroduction of direct rule has not led to an abandonment of the 25p charge imposed on rent strikers by the former Minister of Housing and Local Government Mr. Austin Currie.

Immediately prior to the break up of the Executive Mr. Currie and his Executive Colleague Mr. Paddy Devlin tried to have the 25p decision rescinded. Mr. Devlin had already threatened to resign from the Executive over the British Governments betrayal of the SDLP over the issue of internment. Mr. Herbert Kirk, the Minister of Finance and the other Unionist and Alliance members of the Executive refused to except Mr. Currie's proposals.

Opposition to Mr. Currie also came from the Civil Service. They had devised the plans against the Civil Disobedience campaign and virtually told Mr. Currie to endorse them when he took office. When he therefore proposed to scrap the plans they schemed against him and helped to ensure that the 25p charge would be maintained. This was the reality of 'power sharing'

3 MORE

Three more Belfast women were served yesterday with interim custody orders, under which they can be detained without trial for up to 30 days. This brings the number of women detained without trial in Armagh Prison to 27. The three women one of whom is married with two young children are believed to be from the Divis Flats complex in the Lower Falls area.

The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association expresses its deepest sympathy to our treasurer Miss Ann Hope on the death of her father William Hope after a long illness.

It is with great regret that Civil Rights announce the death of James Prendergast. Jim Prendergast was an Irishman and member of the Executive Committee of the National Union of Railwaymen. He was a firm supporter of the civil rights movement, and never lost an opportunity to raise civil rights issues both at branch and national level.

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAGILLIGAN



The following letter was smuggled out from Magilligan Prison from the non-political prisoners - who in the main are serving smaller sentences.

Dear Sir,

I am speaking on behalf of the prisoners of Magilligan Prison, both Catholic and Protestant alike about the conditions under which we are held.

We are all civil common prisoners and this statement is on our behalf, although there are also political prisoners held at Magilligan. We moved into this 'new' camp in February and it is from that time we note the deterioration of the conditions.

We have taken it upon ourselves and for those who may come to Magilligan when we leave. In order to draw attention to our plight we have decided to go on hunger strike and have been so since 5pm on May 1st. The reason for this drastic action and our complaints are as follows.

1. We are allowed two visits a month and our visitors who come from Belfast and further afield are subjected to the following system.

Train leaves Belfast at 12noon approximately ... arrives Castlerock 1.30pm ... Visitors from Castlerock phone Magilligan for transport to the prison... Transport takes usually longer than 1 hour to arrive... arrive in Magilligan Car Park, ½ mile from prison and are delayed for another hour for searching etc... Here everything is taken off them including feeding bottles for young babies and babies prams. Mothers of young babies have to hold babies crying incessantly throughout the visit because they are hungry... Prisoner receives visit for one hour and his visitors leave for Castlerock... At Castlerock they wait for the 6.30pm train to Belfast which means that visitors often don't arrive home until 9pm depending on where they have to travel to when they reach Belfast.

No tea or food of any description is available for our visitors which means women and children going without food for long periods.

2. We have decided to refuse every meal because we do not get enough to eat. What food we do receive is not fit for Pigs. Last week's teas consisted of: One night two sausages each an inch long and one roast potato. Another night one piece of cheese and one piece of ham which was mostly fat we received this Tea Menu twice in the one week.

Another night we received one small piece of pie which was made up from the scraps we left from our dinner - the pie was accompanied by a spoonful of peas.

For our breakfast we receive one small sausage or one piece of vegetable roll on alternate days with two pieces of Pan bread. We also get porridge every morning but this 'delicacy' is usually left uneaten since our stomachs are not strong enough to face it. The milk with the porridge is mostly water since it is diluted before it reaches us. It is no exaggeration to say that our dinner every day is mostly slops.

3. We all receive incoming mail and this is censored in our compound office. On several occasions prisoners have seen their letters read out in the presence of 5 or 6 different officers who were making jokes about the contents of the letters and jokes about the relatives of the prisoners who were writing the letters. The practice of censorship in Crumlin Road Jail is entirely different. The officers who censor the mail in Crumlin Jail never come into contact with the prisoners, this is how it should operate in Magilligan.

4. Since the new Governor arrived at Magilligan he has been treating us like Borstal Boys. The Governor, Chief, Principal Officers, Senior Officers are all English and the Irish staff here are held in minor jobs. We think we would be better treated if the Irish staff had more say in the running of the Prison Camp. I could go on writing all night about our conditions but I think these are the main complaints from everybody. So we hope and pray that you will publish this statement to let people see what we are going through in this hell-hole.

SIGNED; The prisoners of Magilligan

JOIN NICRA NOW

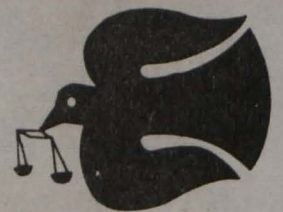
NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

Join Struggle for Democratic Rights

RETURN TO: NICRA., Central Office,
2 Marquis Street, Belfast. Phone 23351



Published by The Northern
Ireland Civil Rights Association,
2 Marquis Street, Belfast 1
Phone 23351