

1975

## An Eochair, No. 6, 1975

Irish Republican Movement

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



Part of the [Political History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Irish Republican Movement, "An Eochair, No. 6, 1975" (1975). *Materials*. 107.  
<https://arrow.tudublin.ie/workerpmat/107>

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 [arrow.admin@tudublin.ie](mailto:arrow.admin@tudublin.ie), [aisling.coyne@tudublin.ie](mailto:aisling.coyne@tudublin.ie), [vera.kilshaw@tudublin.ie](mailto:vera.kilshaw@tudublin.ie).



# AN EOCHAIR

A BULLETIN OF THE IRISH REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT, LONG KESH

THE KEY TO TRUE FREEDOM -  
SOCIALISM

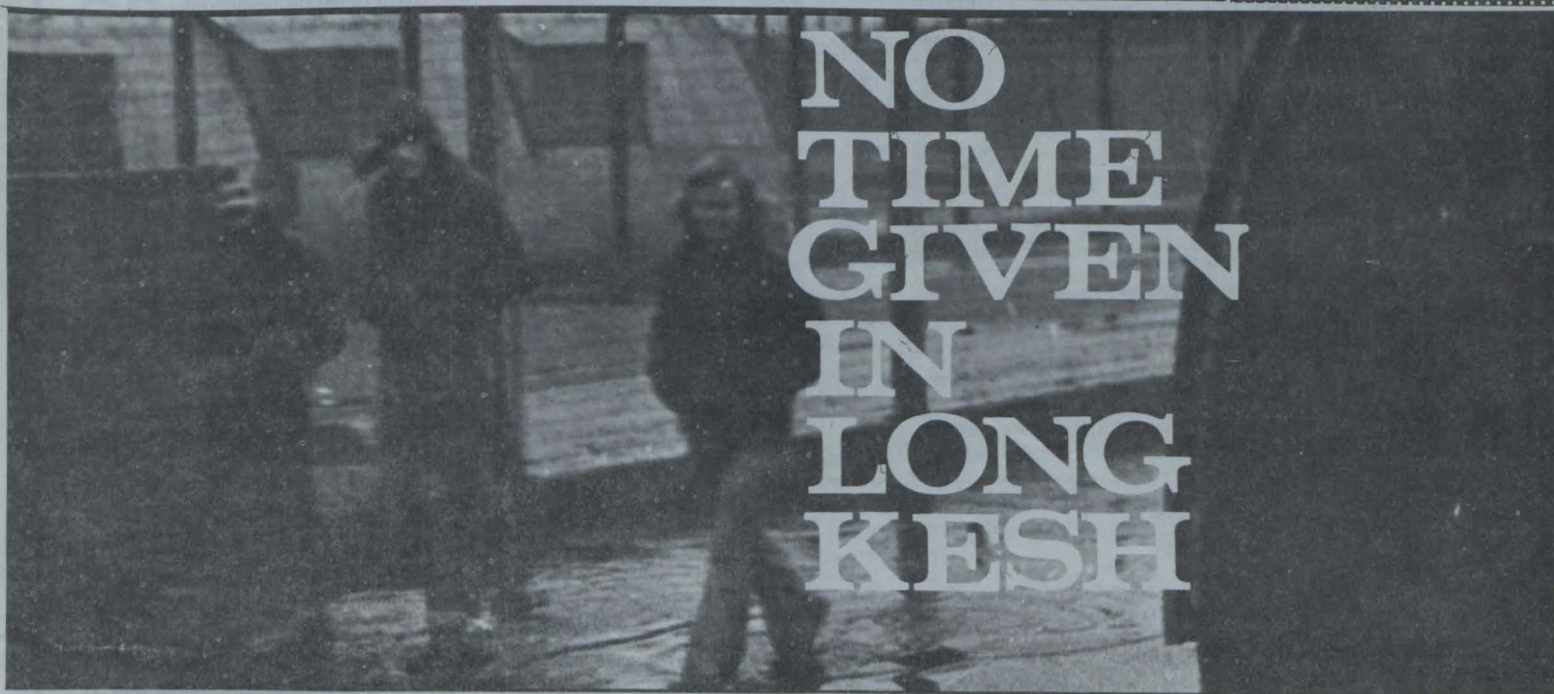
Number 6

Price: 5p



## TO THE READER

This paper is totally written by Republican prisoners in Long Kesh - both sentenced and interned - and represents their views as seen from the world of the prison cell and barbed-wire cage. If you, the reader wish to comment on the paper, its contents, lay-out, etc., write to . . . Kitty O'Kane, 14 Ton St., Belfast, or Malachy McGurran, 56 Brownlow Ter., Lurgan, Craigavon, Co. Armagh. The profits if any, from this paper go directly to the prisoners themselves, in Long Kesh to help finance their co-operative and other activities.



The men who run Long Kesh Concentration Camp outside Belfast are so determined to break the moral of the hundreds of prisoners held behind the barbed wire in dreary compounds and cages that they have banned time.

The only time that a man knows is the time that he was given by a judge in a mock trial.

Time which passes in days, hours and minutes has been outlawed. Even calendars are prohibited in the gray stark world of Long Kesh where your horizons are no further than the barbed wire fence surrounding your compound.

Before a prisoner is put into a cage to do a sentence, which may be twenty five years imprisonment, he is stripped of his watch.

He then finds himself in a cage of seventy to eighty other prisoners also without any mode of time. No clocks are allowed into the cage either. Not even a sundial or the stones of the Stone Age used for working out time of day, days, seasons and years all of which belonged to their system of politics and religion then.

Without watches or clocks or any system of time, prisoners are completely unable to run educational, recreational, work and ordinary every day functional programmes in the cages. This state of affairs creates a continual and terrible frustration among prisoners.

But that is not all concerning the restriction of time keeping methods by the Camp authorities.

They have launched a new campaign against calendars which show the days, months and weeks for a year. One prisoner, whose wife left him in a picture calendar on a visit, was refused it.

The prisoner pointed out that he only wished to get the calendar in for the purpose of using its pictures for handicraft designs. He was then told he would be permitted the pictures only, and so there was the spectacle of him being forced to cut the months of the year off the calendar under the supervision of warders.

So it has come to pass that, along with watches and clocks for measuring day, we are not allowed calendars to measure months or years.

We may now do as Robinson Crusoe did when shipwrecked on his island - cut notches on sticks to count days, weeks, months and years. Otherwise, we must depend on the dawning of day and the coming of night and the different types of weather to discover time such as it is. Certainly, the scientists will not feel flattered by the similarity of the Camp's Staffs conclusions about time being unmeasurable for the scientists used methods and intelligence to produce their conclusions while the Prison Staff is using ignorance and viciousness.



We, the Official Republican Movement, Long Kesh Concentration Camp, support the Price sisters and their comrades in their struggle for a simple basic human condition.

We condemn the vicious and callous acts done by British Imperialism against these hunger strikers.

We demand the repatriation NOW of all Irish Political Prisoners from English prisons to Ireland.





# WE DARE NOT ASK TO SEE THE DOCTOR

"I have a sore throat," I heard one of my fellow inmates say. I advised him to go to our prison Doctor (?) What a sorry day it turned out to be for him, because of what seems to be the doctors non-existent medical experience.

Through no fault of his own, due to no medical knowledge, the prisoner decided to follow the Doctor's instructions, these being to get an injection of Penicillin every day for four or five days. Not knowing what to expect, the prisoner took his first taste of the needle and left the surgery.

On his return to his compound, he looked very pale and said that he was feeling very heavy all over. He then took to bed.

Thinking that this treatment would cure him, he decided to do as the doctor said, so he continued getting the injections. But every day he was feeling worse.

It was one of my visiting days and when I was called, I got ready and went to see my visitors, one of whom was a close friend. Having much the same trouble herself, I advised her to go and see her own doctor who would maybe put her on the same course as my fellow prisoner.

She agreed to take my advice.

On her return the following week, I asked her what the doctor had said. She told me that he would not put her on that

treatment because it would be of great risk to her.

Explaining to the doctor what I had told her, his reply was that anyone who prescribed such treatment must not have much medical education.

You can imagine how the prisoner felt after I told him what my visitor had said.

After making further inquiries with other prisoners, I found out that several of them had undergone the same treatment, I have been referring to, for different types of illnesses. So it seems that these injections are being given out indiscriminately for any illness leaving us prisoners in the situation of not knowing what to do to get proper medical treatment, or attend this so called doctor.

## WHY THE UDA TURNED AGAINST THE BIG HOUSE UNIONISTS

United Ireland is no longer a misty dream. There are new moods spreading in Ireland, North and South — moods, feelings and militancy which bode ill for British imperialism.

Southern Ireland once thought of as only boggy fields and crumbling farms deserted for the streets of Camden Town or New York, is now Western Europe's biggest mining centre.

The wealth of the under-ground riches cannot even yet be guessed at. Nickel mines in particular can be the basis for an economic transformation backed up by off-shore oil finds that could make Ireland's people one of the richest.

United Ireland independent and free is no longer a misty chimera but a concrete possibility. Yet, as always, the British government has an ally in Dublin prepared to do its every bidding.

The coalition government there may include the Labour Party, but it is dominated by the right-wing Fine Gael, inheritors of the old pro treaty leaders who accepted partition after the war for independence. The fact that there is a cabinet in Dublin fully prepared to fall in with Westminster's plans is an essential feature in Heath's "law and order" Council of Ireland approach.

Its willing acceptance of Heath's proposals parallels the development of the "peace-at-any-price" coalition in Belfast. Westminster has consistently blocked and thwarted the establishment of elementary political rights in the North, is that would be the basis on which working class unity could be built.

The Provisional bombing, the right wing's assassinations and attacks and the violence of the British army, is tolerated to a certain extent and even deliberately geared, to confusing the working class, to obscuring the real issues.

Violence in Northern Ireland is based on the anti-democratic system rooted in the structure of sectarian divisions playing

Catholic against Protestant, created, nurtured and built up by British imperialism.

Westminster may well have found that this devil of its own creation can be a double-edged sword whose excesses and extremes it may well be wanting to modify and temper down, yet it cannot remove it altogether, for the Unionist right remains its main political support in the North.

It remains a whip to be used in the interests of British imperialism. There the disillusionment comes in. The Ulster Defence Association has been used — its strength exploited by the Westminster politicians — to scare the Catholic section of the working people into accepting the White Paper package.

Once its "job" was done it was tossed to one side. U.D.A. leaders feel that very much now and are coming up with some interesting ideas as a result.

They realise now that they have been sold out. Of course the charge of "Lundy traitor", has been a frequent one in Unionist politics, especially over the past few years, but now the Lundys are legion and the Unionist working people find themselves very much on their own.

None of their leaders can bring home the goods. Either because to do that they must bomb, shoot and kill, which only costs the Unionist working people more than it benefits them. Or because if the leaders from the businessmen, landlords and rich were to mount a mass movement strong enough to present a real challenge they would have to mobilise the working people using working-class issues and forms of struggle.

That was the fate of the U.D.A. It became too strong for the businessmen and their friends to be sure of controlling it. So Paisley, Craig and the anti Faulkner

Unionists now hope to keep the fight against the council and Faulkner's executive firmly in their own hands within the assembly or in rallies and protests they can manage.

They are trying to re-establish the Loyalist Association of Workers but without any of the former Northern Ireland Labour Party figures like Billy Hull who retain at least some trade union and working class feelings.

Pushed out into the cold by their former leaders, rejected by Britain's leaders who clearly favour some "Irish dimension," the U.D.A. leaders have been forced into a rethink — a rethink that may lead them toward Socialist ideas.

They are still trapped within the sectarian ideas built in over years, but the new mood and understanding has taken root. The sense of betrayal is too deep to be erased since it stems directly from the fact that after all the fighting and campaigning of the past four years the working people are still at the bottom of the pile, worse off than ever.

The Belfast ring-road scheme marching round the city centre with six unnecessary lanes each way, the threatened application to the Housing Finance Act on the back of miserable housing, the growing gap in wages, the inflation that advances even faster than in Britain — all this cannot be covered up.

Heath may well be prepared to add to the capital he has poured into the North to try and cut down the dole queues, but so long as the investments are on the basis of capitalist profit the problem will remain. British spokesmen are quick to say that despite the troubles the economy in the North is prospering and buoyant.

It should be put the other way round — because of the troubles profits are high, wages low and social costs small. Even

when it comes to unemployment the success has been minimal — the main factor keeping down the jobless figures continues to be emigration.

If one adds the numbers interned or in jail for political offences, the numbers involved in keeping them there, the numbers who have emigrated over the past three years and the numbers in dolled-up versions of the old road stone-breaking relief work, the current jobless figure of some 27,000 would reach over the 60,000 mark or something like 20 per cent.

That, with the application of Heath's Phases 2 and 3 to the North, unlike the Industrial Relations Act, has created a mood of anger in the North's union branches the like of which has not been seen for a long time.

Lack of job training and high emigration in the past have created a situation where even with only 18 months real expansion there is now a shortage of skilled workers of astronomic proportions.

The Harland and Wolff shipyard needs 400 steel workers immediately and by the New Year they will need 2,000. It is the same story in firm after firm. As long as British imperialism intervenes in Ireland, that is the kind of thing that will happen. The crisis is too deep to be simply tampered with — it needs Connolly's Axe to the Root.

But Westminster has successfully caught the people of the North in a pincer. Collaborationist government in Dublin, "peace at any price" leaders in the North, a Labour leadership in Britain that appears to cheer on each repressive step more vigorously than the Tory right, all have left the people of the North isolated, out on a limb.

The British labour movement must help the people of the North prise open that pincer and push home the democratic struggle.

## LONG KESH -- A STRANGE SHIP AND ITS CREW

What a wonderful crew they are!  
And what a wonderful ship they man,  
They come from England, Scotland and Wales,  
Kenya and Pakistan,  
Freebooters all with some loot in mind;  
They follow their dark course,  
'Neath a captain named S.A.S. Truesdale;  
A rascal there never was worse.

They sail all seas o'er politic waves,  
Flying high the skull and crossbones;  
And press their captives as only can knaves  
Thriving from the wars of funky thrones.  
This shower of greed tramp o'er grim decks —  
We watch with hope and in wait  
And see them work to scavenge old wrecks,  
The institutions of state.

Oh, what do you knaves know of your fate?  
You're judged by the conscience of Man,  
How do you think you'll wipe clean the slate?  
When sentenced by History's hand.  
On day your children will you disown,  
And remember you as we know you now;  
Oh, what is it worth when you are gone?  
What justice did you ever allow?



Republican prisoners parade inside Long Kesh in silent memory of the 13 civilians who were gunned down in Derry by British paratroopers during a civil rights march in the city on January 30, 1972.

## PATRICK JOSEPH CRAWFORD

(Found hanged in Long Kesh? 1973)

*And I'll draw tight about me  
My cloak of loneliness  
That numbs my limbs and senses  
Till one breath on another  
A dreamless sleep releases me  
To sweet oblivion.*

*Reality or Fantasy, I know not  
Heed not, care not.  
As I sip my cup of life's experience  
That crushes my love of life.*

*The harsh cold edge of nerves  
That feel their eyes upon my neck  
Won't reach me there,  
There still remains one freedom,  
Mine alone  
And I'll escape the tortured images  
Of once proud men,  
In soft embrace with death.*



# The Markets—Belfast's forgotten slumland

The slums of Glasgow and Dublin are infamous and the callous exploitation of the American ghetto dwellers has been internationally recognised and highlighted. In Ireland the armed campaign for bourgeois nationalism has obscured many of the real and pressing problems of the ghetto dwellers.

The Markets, Belfast, is one of the North's oldest and most decrepit slums. Stuck smack in the centre of the town, the Market takes the full brunt of city centre noise, traffic and smoke.

For years, the gasworks, the bakery and the hide stores have pumped their noxious fumes and gasses into the lungs of the population there.

Forgetting the ill health, the only consolation was that these places provided employment. The gas works is closed now as is the hide stores.

The once busy cattle market which ran the entire length of Stanfield Street is now empty and employs only a growing squad of rats and mice; the bakery has paid off most of the local workers and is stumbling along at half pace — soon it will move out altogether.

People also are moving out to estates like Twinbrook, or even Ballymurphy, where there is at least the luxury of baths. The houses left behind soon go to seed and simply cave in, or are bulldozed

down by the authorities. Heaps of the rubble and the shells of derelict houses pock mark practically every street.

Re-development schemes outlined for the area have been little short of impractical, if not downright ridiculous. One such suggestion was high rise density flats of the stilted variety with traffic flowing underneath, a new more sophisticated though equally brutal form of plan.

The signs are that the new Housing Executive intends to continue in the same blinkered tradition of the old Unionist government.

It's quite clear they have now no intention of seriously considering the Market for redevelopment. In all likelihood their current plan is a phasing out of the community, probably to be replaced by office blocks and supermarkets which have been hit by the bombings.

The Markets people have a great contempt for authority. They have shown staunch resistance to the B.A.'s more direct methods of depopulating the

district, for the Markets people have a great enthusiasm too. But it is time now to adopt new tactics if they are to have any hope of rehousing, and if they are to have any hope of employment or even survival.

Organised as a united body, and with intelligent use of pickets and protest of various forms, it would be possible to pressurise and embarrass the Catholic politicians to re-appraise the whole situation.

Demands to breathe clean air, to live free of the decay of houses and streets that are a hundred and fifty years old, to work for and in a new community that would retain the fundamental character and culture of the Markets are no less than demands for fundamental rights.

In identifying too with the plight of slum dwellers and the downtrodden peoples of the world, it can be seen that there is a common struggle. We can only raise ourselves by our own strength and it is true we have nothing to lose but our own chains.

## Is it the miners next?

On Thursday, February 27, an Army exercise took place in the Brit's base surrounding our Concentration Camp. The exercise consisted of a number of helicopters dropping smoke bombs at certain points, the smoke being several colours.

Then Sections of the several hundreds of Brits taking part started firing rubber bullets, guns, rifles and machine guns. Helicopters unloaded troops here and there and patrolled all around.

Prisoners spent the evening breathing air heavily polluted by the smoke coming from the bombs. But what was it all about? The troops in Northern Ireland should have had plenty experience by now at Paddy bashing' and marauding.

But is it possible that the Irish situation is a cover for training troops to deal with the British miners in their struggle for justice. Knowing of recent political and military leaders in Britain such a course of events could take place in the not too distant future.

**'HELP FREE US . . . . .**  
**JOIN YOUR LOCAL REPUBLICAN CLUB**



## Civil Servants

### The Faceless Powermen

What does the civil service mean to you? We would like to take a look at this vital institution in N. Ireland for a moment in order to see how the establishment survives crises and runs more smoothly.

The civil service is the machine on which Government runs the affairs of the country and as was the experience of places like France in the fifties, the civil service is quite capable of running the country without a government in office.

The men and women who fill the key positions in it are specially chosen from among the finished products of the education system.

They must have the right political inclinations because some of the information they have access to is being prepared for the minister in charge of their particular departments like defence, finance, foreign affairs etc. The chancellor of the exchequer for instance bases the budget on the statistics he receives from an army of civil servants.

The same goes for any other government minister and it is a political fact that, if the civil service wishes to, they can prevent by sheer bureaucracy the effective implementation of any law the government of the day may wish to put on the statute book.

In N. Ireland the experience has been that any position of influence is filled by some one who is not only faithful to the Unionist party but a determined bureaucrat as well. These pre-conditions are there to ensure that 'protestant ascendancy' remains to myth to protect their class interests from the working class protestant.

Any worker who has had any experience of dealing with the civil service knows that it is not there to protect his interest.

If we look at the record of the N. Ireland ministry of home affairs we can see why the British government feels justified in withholding this power from the N. Ireland assembly.

For instance, the banning in 1966 of any club with the word Republican attached to it or the indiscriminate issue of licences for heavy calibre guns to people of one political affiliation, or allowing the forces of law and order to open fire with machine guns on unarmed civilians in a built up area.

Their catalogue of indiscretion reads like an unending litany of doom.

In 1968, the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, came out on the streets to democratise Stormont, or failing that, to topple it by militant passive protest. We point out that in order to oust a corrupt system you need to do a lot more than bring down the ruling party.

You must also have a thorough and exhaustive re-organisation of the civil service on which government runs.

If we leave it to the normal process of retirement and promotion it will take several generations. N. Ireland does not have several generations to spare and we call for an immediate impartial inquiry into and re-organisation of, that legion of faceless, nameless men without whom Stormont could never have functioned.

## LONG KESH CO-OP HOUSE RAIDED

POLICE HAVE RAIDED the house used by Clann na h-Eireann for its Long Kesh CO-operative which sells goods made by the internees in our Concentration Camp.

The raid on the house in Birmingham lasted two hours and was carried out under the warrant issued under the Explosives Act. Nineteen detectives took part, digging up the garden and searching a car as well as the house.

The Prisoners' Aid Committee in England said that the raid, late on Tuesday, 29th January, was particularly worrying since the police appeared to be using the style of comprehensive sheet

since the police appeared to be using the style of comprehensive question sheet used by British troops on harassment raids in Northern Ireland

The Co-Op in Long Kesh prison Camp is almost at a standstill in leatherwork production. The sales manager Pat O'Hare wishes to say that outstanding orders will be filled as soon as basic materials for producing leatherwork items are obtainable again.

These materials have disappeared from the market outside since the economic crisis started. He hopes that the Co-Op's customers will understand the situation, but he adds they can rest assured that their orders will receive proper attention in due course.

## GERRY AND BRIAN SPLIT UP THE SPOILS

**Brian Faulkner has made it to the top again with Gerry Fitt sitting behind him in the saddle of power — supposedly the Assembly.**

Brian and Gerry, along with the Establishment politicians of the South, are on the way to running a united Ireland as Britain unobtrusively withdraws her military presence in the North, all in accordance with the Sunningdale agreement.

Yes, a united Ireland built on the terms of Ascendancy Unionism, the Southern government and the British Tories, indeed, Tories all who hope to continue exploiting for their benefit our workers, North and South.

But the Northern Assembly gives no power to the ordinary people of the Six Counties. It is but a rubber stamp invented and approved by the British Government to camouflage a vacuum till John Bull's united Ireland becomes a reality.

There is not much use over emphasising the charade of Brian Faulkner being made Assembly chief while he was the man who introduced internment and more than anyone else contributed to the present sorry state of affairs in the Six Counties.

It is only right that Ascendancy Unionism should show its true form through him for it has betrayed the ordinary people, Protestant and Catholic: it never did otherwise.

But the recent and blatant treachery of the S.D.L.P. has been a sound lesson that these hypocrites words can never be taken in trust for anything. They promised they would take no part in the institutions of politics till internment would end and an amnesty given to people on rates and rents strikes. But they went through fire and water and broken promises to facilitate British policy by taking part in the Assembly.

They formed an alliance with Brian Faulkner and his Unionists who started internment; this is an aspect of power

sharing.

After Paddy Devlin supporting the rents and rates strike he has now taken on the job of enforcing the collection of rents and rates from the strikers.

After Austin Currie squatting in a house in Caledon, he has now taken on the job of ejecting squatters.

John Hume, Ivan Cooper and Paddy O'Hanlon, one time campaigners for civil rights along with other certain Assembly members, now avoid the issue like the plague.

What are the Assembly members going to do about the conditions of Long Kesh Concentration Camp. Nothing. They have visited the camp, saw its conditions, had complaints from the prisoners and then departed to carry on the work of improving their personal positions in the outside world leaving the prisoners as they were.

If these Assembly members did as much to remove internment and close down Long Kesh Internment Camp, for this is the only solution to its problems — than to attain personal wealth and position, then these matters might be already resolved.

For the moment, the S.D.L.P. members are trying to justify themselves to the ordinary people with windbag promises of thousands of houses, thousands of jobs, thousands of this and thousands of that, all dust thrown in the peoples eyes.

The people who earn money, who build houses, who work factories and work the land are the ones who will create wealth and employment and raise the qualities of their lives, and not humbug politicians.

A unity of the ordinary people of Ulster can oust the enemies of their class, the Unionist party, the S.D.L.P. and the British Tories. These traitors and their manner of running things must go and be replaced with a system of democracy, protected by the ordinary people.

There is hope now that this can be done but the groundwork will need much attention and careful consideration to achieve worthwhile results. All concerned must be wary for the S.D.L.P. and Unionists will put every obstacle in the way to dash this hope to maintain their own position of aggrandisement.

But it is believed their final exposure and downfall is on the way and that a uniting of Protestant and Catholic working class interests will seal their fate. Only by this will a proper solution be found to both the Northern Irish problem and the Irish problem as a whole.

## Would you believe it?

Last night there was a large turnout for the emergency Unionist meeting held in Leinster House and which was summoned by Mr. Faulkner to discuss viable tactics against attacks by the dissident faction of 'Mr. Paisley and his prancing bears.'

Mr. Basil McIvor, well known pettyfogger and collector of baked bean cans, put forward a motion that each member at forthcoming Assembly meetings should carry an umbrella as defence against being bombarded by phlegm-like missiles from opposing quarters. Mr. Faulkner, who fell victim of such an unhygienic assault, seconded the motion but added an amendment that in the interest of personal safety, the motion should embody a clause making it compulsory for each member to watch television series Kung Fu. Anne 'Emma Peel' Dickson said she was adequately equipped to deal with such matters and refused to vote. Last night, Professor Kennedy Lindsay, dab hand karate chopper and silver medalist in the long distance spitting event at the Commonwealth games, was not available for comment.

Meanwhile, Harry West at last settled as Official Unionist leader declined an offer from Metro, Nixon, Mayer to star in their forthcoming epic gullivers Travels. Outside Unionist Headquarters, he denied rumours that he was changing his allegiance to Mr. Paisley's D.U.P. "I have done enough moving for one year," he said, climbing onto his tractor.

Mr. Paddy Devlin, Minister of Health and Social Services, was spotted by our reporter running like blazes over the rugged quagmire of Cave Hill, Belfast's most scenic spot. Thinking that some of his constituents were chasing him, our man decided to investigate. On being informed that Paddy was only keeping fit, he asked the Minister why he was tackling such a strenuous programme, Paddy, tracksuited and twiddling his Luger, answered that in his capacity as Minister of Health he had to show an example to the people he came in contact with. "I can't go around looking like a big fat slob in this job," he lamented. He was then asked why he had chosen this out of the way place to exercise. "Well," replied Paddy sadly, "If I did them in the districts where I was elected, I'd get lynched. Besides, I feel at home here."

N.B. Cave Hill is also the site of Belfast Zoo.





SOME MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT PICTURED IN THE COMPOUND WHERE THEY ARE HELD IN LONG KESH CONCENTRATION CAMP.

The place Long Kesh: Forlorn and desolate stretches its iniquitous wires on a secluded morass on the outskirts of Lisburn. The name Long Kesh unscrupulously and obtrusively stretches its increasing infamy to every corner of the world.

It is a monument commemorating shame in the North of Ireland. It is anathema on the lips of all decent thinking people. They deplored its opening in August 1971, but consoled themselves with the thought that it could not last.

But they were wrong. It did last and in February 1974 it malevolently marches into its third intangible year.

Since the callous inception of internment in 1971, over sixteen hundred untried and innocent people, men, women and children, have been dragged from their homes, brutally tortured and incarcerated in inhuman conditions indefinitely without trial.

Presently, there are some six hundred untried and innocent people unconditionally held under the draconian legislation of the Emergency Provisions Act, their only crime being that they embody sincere political beliefs that are not in accordance with the Imperialistic constitution of Westminster, or its now constructional protegee, the Northern Ireland Executive.

Whether held in Long Kesh, or Armagh; whether Catholic or Protestant, these unfortunate people are completely innocent in the perceptive eyes of the law.

# LONG KESH INTERNEES MUST BE RELEASED

By Jimmy Dog

If they were guilty of any kind of felonious activity, legal action would be undoubtedly taken against them if only to save more embarrassment to the already discredited British Government. No charges can be preferred because none can be found. Why are they imprisoned then? Evidently the unequivocal and simple truth is that these people are being held as political hostages.

Every month or so, Westminster promulgates a ludicrous statement to the effect that detention without trial is the surest and safest way to alleviate the high measure of violence. In other words cessation of violence signals the end of detention.

And so once again, the detainees are being abused and used by capitious bureaucrats as bargaining factors in the political sphere.

As a consequence to Sunningdale and as an appeasement to the S.D.L.P., Mr. Pym, Westminster's latest trouble shooter reverently promised to release a large number of detainees before Christmas.

The result: a ridiculous sixty five from a total of six hundred and fifty enjoyed their Christmas dinner at home while the rest were left to feed on the antiquated promises of more releases in the subsequent period. As yet, there has been none forthcoming.

The S.D.L.P., who climbed on the sagging backs of the detainees to their present 'exalted' position, seem by their silence on the subject of internment to regard false promises as a chivalrous inducement to the electorate who gave them their mandate.

They continually boast to be the only party to secure releases, however small, but contesting the elections on the detainee issue they promised and were expected to obtain a lot more. With their prestige tarnished and under extreme pressure from the minority, they will have to produce something more concrete.

While Fitt and company conjure up more devious calumny, and with Faulk-

ner and his fragmented Unionist party fending off attacks from Paisley's prattling colleagues, the detainees still wallow in the morass of Long Kesh.

And so back to square one. The people are lumbered with the complex problem of detention which the sententious politicians failed to resolve. But what can they do? Can they succeed where the 'penny Bubbly' politicians have failed?

The greatest thing they can do is to try to take organised action. Initially, they can pester their M.P.s. and demand from them to categorically state their position on detention. Make them work for their thirty pieces of silver.

The people can also make their voices and opinions felt by inundating the press with sincere and cogent letters detailing the evils of detention and by writing to their friends overseas with view to organising anti-internment groups to make foreigners aware of the Northern Ireland's real 'pollution' problem. By continuing the Civil Disobedience campaign and with-holding rents and rates is a mean of effective protest at home.

But probably the most effective protest of all is by supporting the Civil Rights anti-internment marches, or any other marches organised by sincere and responsible people whose sole objective is for the abolition of detention.

Not only are all these actions valid tactics in the fight against detention, but they provide a tremendous morale booster for the detainees by showing them that they are not forgotten. Every person who possesses a moral conscience must support the men behind the wire. Help free these people.



# THE POOR CAN ONLY FIND FREEDOM IN SOCIALISM

When we look at exploitation we must examine world economics to get a clear picture of imperialism and of the people she exploits.

It is an indisputable fact that the world runs on the harsh laws of economics. It is also true to assess a country's relationship with another country by the economic factor involved e.g. America's involvement in Vietnam was to protect her investments in Asia.

In sum there are 137 legally sovereign nations. When we take a closer look at them and the so called freedom they possess, we find that there are only three actual free nations.

They are the U.S.A., U.S.S.R. and China for each can be economically independent. These three nations possess economic freedom of choice from the rest of the world leaving 134 nations who are free only in so far as their relations with any of the other three.

As was pointed out in our last issue, the nations suffering most under this world exploitation are those known as the third world, largely underdeveloped countries. The main reason behind this pattern is that the populations of these countries are mostly agricultural in make up and produce one or two basic foods for consumption by the rich nations.

The economies of these emergent countries are dominated by rich nations. Take for example Brazil produces coffee, Bolivia produces tin and Venezuela's oil. They all provide a cheap supply source for the U.S.A. America is not alone in revealing this pattern. Africa is the same, Nigeria and Ghana produced coco for Britain. Kenya produces tea and coffee.

In return the rich nations export processed goods of all kinds, from cars to canned beans back to the elite of the poor nations' societies.

The stock exchanges where the produce of the third world is bought and sold are controlled by the rich nations. This is known as the so called open market.

The real effect of this domination can only be felt when a third world country tries to break from its traditional role of enslavement to the imperialist countries.

Here again we shall go to the heart of modern imperialism, the U.S.A. When countries under her control take internal decisions that are not in her interest, she imposes sanctions quickly and effectively.

This policy was used effectively against the following countries Peru, Bolivia, Brazil and Ceylon. It must be pointed

## EXPLOITATION — Part 2

out that this is a deliberate policy. The Hickenlooper amendment binds the U.S. government to use whatever sanctions are necessary to protect U.S. firms abroad.

When this imperialist legislation tails then the raw truth of imperialism is brought into focus. Here we just have to look at Salvador Allende's Chile. Allende's democratically elected government has been replaced by right wing puppets with America pulling the strings. America has not even tried to cover up the C.I.A.'s involvement in this crime against humanity.

Allende's only interest was in serving the Chilean people which brought about a confrontation with American imperialism and eventually led to downfall for the Chilean people and their popular marxist government.

A more successful country in Latin America has been Cuba. She came up against all the problems of Imperialism but being able to recognise the forms it took, she overcame it.

When the revolutionary body came to power in Cuba, the countries economy was geared to the needs of the U.S.A. When the pattern of the new Cuban government's politics showed they were not consistent with the U.S. plans for domination the Cuban people felt the weight of all the economic sanctions that the U.S. could bring to bear.

This meant very little to America but it meant all to Cuba because she was totally dependent on America for the sale of her sugar crop. By refusing to buy Sugar America thought she could bring about the downfall of Castro and the Revolutionary Government.



This little boy belongs to the **chircales** in Colombia, subsistence farmers making firebricks. At three, a child will carry two bricks, at six it will be able to deal with five and later, ten or twenty, and this for 13 hours a day provided that he is still alive.