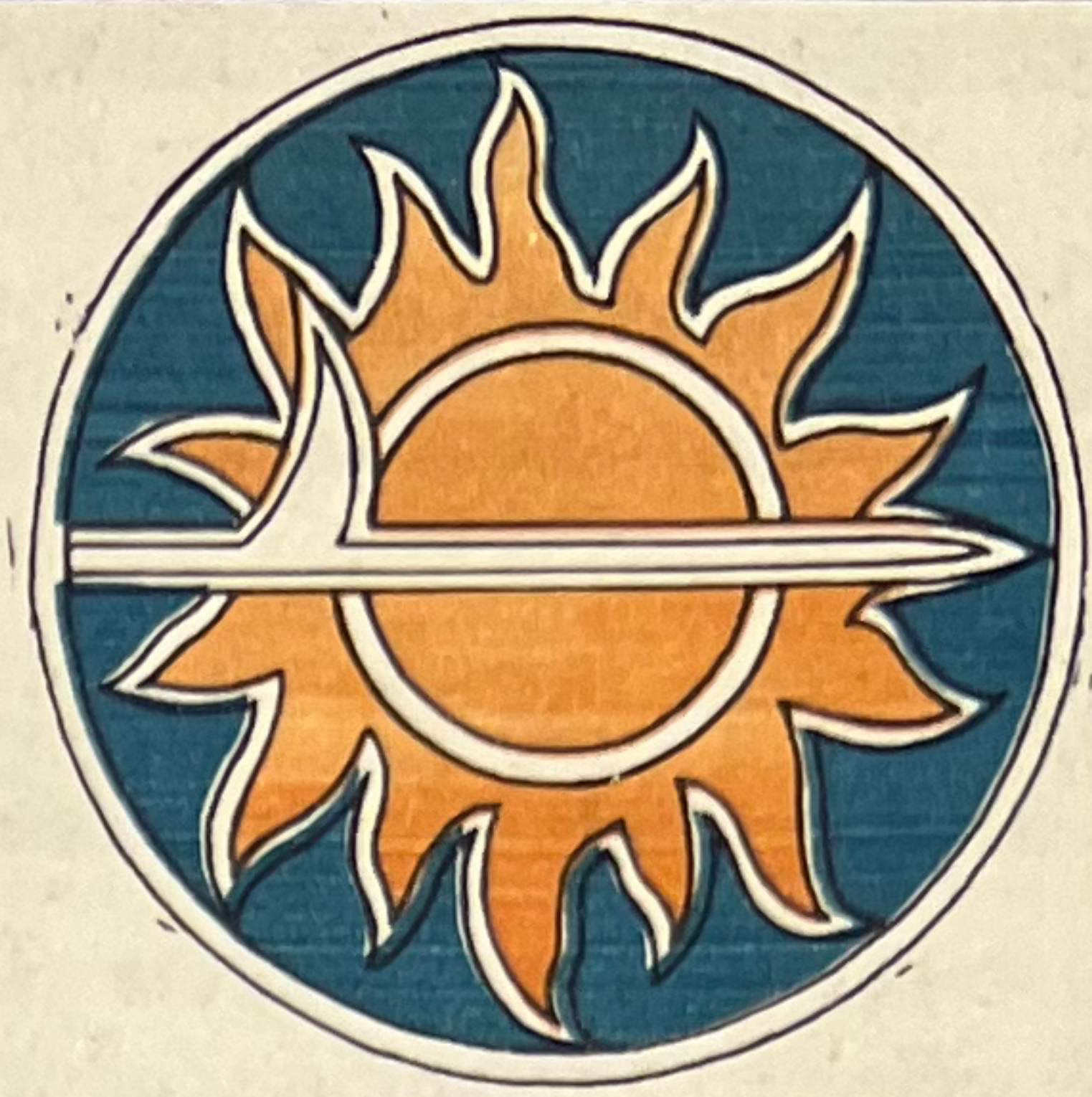


YOUNG REPUBLICAN

NEWSPAPER OF NA FIANNA ÉIREANN (REPUBLICAN YOUTH MOVEMENT)



SUMMER 1983



EXCLUSIVE IRA INTERVIEW

Statement from Fianna leadership	Page 2	IRA interview	Pages 4 & 5	Photo from the past	Page 7
Women and Ireland	Page 2	Na Fianna Oga	Page 6	Cormac	Page 7
Youth unemployment	Page 3	An Ógchiontacht	Page 6	Join Na Fianna Éireann	Page 8

Statement from the Fianna leadership

NA FIANNA EIREANN (Irish Republican Youth Movement) remembers with pride our 19 comrade Fiannaidhe who have given their lives in the present phase of the struggle for Irish freedom, and their grieving parents. Their selflessness and their sacrifice is a continuing source of inspiration to the youth of this country.

We take this opportunity also to salute our members imprisoned in juvenile detention centres, remand jails and prison camps throughout the country. They are the children of war, the imprisoned youth of a nation in struggle, a thorn in the side of our country's oppressors, unrepentant and defiant.

Na Fianna Eireann exists to promote the principles of Irish Republicanism among young people. And in every generation, from the days of the Great Lock-Out of 1913 and the Howth gun-running to the present day, Na Fianna Eireann has passed the torch of militant separatism and democratic socialism to young people. The passing years have seen each new generation denied its birthright, deprived of freedom and of justice, taking up that torch and fighting back with every weapon at its disposal.

Today, the welfare of young people is under attack as never before. With rising unemployment and increasing poverty, the most vulnerable section of society, the young, are being hit the hardest.

Young people are discriminated against on the basis of their age and sex.

Pathetic Youth Training Programmes in the North and industrial training schemes in the South offer no solution and no hope to young people. They are aimed at cutting the numbers on the dole queues without creating *real* jobs with *real* pay. The only people fooled by these schemes are the hacks and dupes of the establishment parties. Our youth are both astute and articulate and will ultimately show their



contempt for this shoddy farce.

In the North, young people face the naked repression of the British army and the RUC. Stopped and questioned on their own streets by foreigners or loyalists; brutalised, humiliated and intimidated, young people have borne the brunt of the continued British presence in Ireland. Little wonder then that they are the back-bone of resistance to British imperialism.

Na Fianna Eireann sees its role in the future as training its members for further involvement in the Republican Movement and bringing to the youth of this country, and to all freedom-loving peoples, the message of Wolfe Tone, James Connolly, Liam Mellows and Bobby Sands.

We call on the young people of this country to support the struggle for Irish freedom, to stand up and be counted on the side of justice and peace because there is no peace where there is injustice, and there is no justice where there is no freedom.

Women and Ireland

"THIS is not a man's war, but a people's war and very, very much suffering has been borne by the women, be they mothers, wives, political activists or Volunteers and the men ought to remember that without the sacrifice of women there would be no struggle at all."

The above is the first quote in the book *Notes for Revolutionaries* and is the one that stood out most in my mind. It is a statement made by the IRA which is very true and very important to women nationalists today. It is important to us as it shows that as far as the armed struggle is concerned the roles of both men and women are equal.

However, in society women are not treated equally.

The role of women is generally looked upon as that of a housewife, one who spends her day at home cleaning the house, minding the children and having her husband's dinner ready for him when he comes home from work.

This so-called role of women is backed by the state in many ways, for example, the Free State constitution of 1937 states

that *"by her life within the home, woman gives the state a support without which the common good cannot be achieved."*

Many laws have been made by the state, which is predominantly male-dominated in thought and social standards, which prevent women from achieving an equal place in society. Some examples of these are: the Factories Act which control the working hours of women, laws governing contraceptives and divorce, the weak laws supposed to enforce equal pay, the absence of child-care facilities, the continued denial of legal aid in separation cases, and indeed there are many more.

THE SIX COUNTIES

In the six counties women are much worse off than those in the Free State.

As well as being socially oppressed they

are oppressed by the foreign forces on their streets. Many of them have to suffer the loss of husbands, fathers or children who have been locked up or gunned down by these so-called peace-keeping forces. The burden these women have to carry is something which will never be known fully.

Through the years many women rejected the roles which were accorded to them by this capitalist society, dominated as it is by British imperialism, brave women like Countess Markievicz, Maire Drumm, Volunteers Anne Parker, Pauline Kane, Ethel Lynch, and today by the women in Armagh Jail.

Now it is up to us to break the chains of oppression and end discrimination.

The only answer is an Ireland free from oppression where all will be equal. In order to achieve this we must stand side by side with our male comrades and fight (both politically and militarily) for a society free from capitalism and imperialism where there will be liberty and equality for all.

Youth unemployment - Time to fight back

BY TONY BARRY

TODAY, in Ireland, North and South, there are over 300,000 people out of work. Young people, as always, are the last to get jobs, and the first to be laid off. The unemployment rate for the 15 to 19-year-olds age group is double that of the overall rate, and is rising fast.

In the twenty-six-counties, school-leavers have only a 50/50 chance of getting employment in their first year of looking for work. 20,000 of last year's school-leavers were still out of work by April of this year.

NO NEW JOBS

The desperation of young people to keep off the dole queues and avoid the stigma of unemployment caused nearly 2,000 people to apply for jobs in the post office - in spite of the fact that no new jobs have been offered in the postal service for the last two years.

The banks report the same thing - thousands applying for jobs, when the last school-leavers to be offered full-time employment by any Irish bank were the school leavers of 1981.

STORM

With fewer and fewer jobs available, and more and more jobless applying for them, many young people are seeking shelter from the storm of unemployment in continued and higher education.

7,000 young people took part in

pre-employment classes on 1982 a big increase on previous years. And in 1981 nearly 20,000 people applied for 7,380 places in 3rd level colleges in the twenty-six-counties.

The response of the twenty-six-county government to the huge and growing problem of youth unemployment has been pathetic. There is, for example, no co-ordinated policy on youth affairs, and when it comes to employment and training schemes (many of which have been set up only as a result of election gimmicks), there is a complete lack of co-ordination and direction.

CONFUSION

For example, the Work Experience Programme is run by the Department of Labour, while the Temporary Youth Employment Scheme is run by the Department of Education. The Environment Improvements Scheme is run by the Department of the Environment, while AnCo runs the Community Youth Training Programme, and the National Manpower Service (which, like AnCo, is a division of the Department of Labour) runs the Employment Incentive Scheme.

Confused?

Many of these schemes exploit young workers, and none of them guarantee a job at the end of the course.

The trade unions and many youth organisations, including Na Fianna Eireann, have pointed out that work experience programmes are a source of cheap labour for employers, and only result in unemployment for older workers who had held their jobs at union rates of pay.

In the North, the Youth Training Programme was introduced by the British government last year in a vain attempt to cut the numbers on the live register of unemployment. A government report estimated that without such programmes as the YTP by September of next year half of all 16 and 17 year-olds would be registered as unemployed.

But the figures of those on the dole continue to rise. One in five is now out of work in the six counties. Unemployment among the nationalist population is twice the rate of that among unionists.

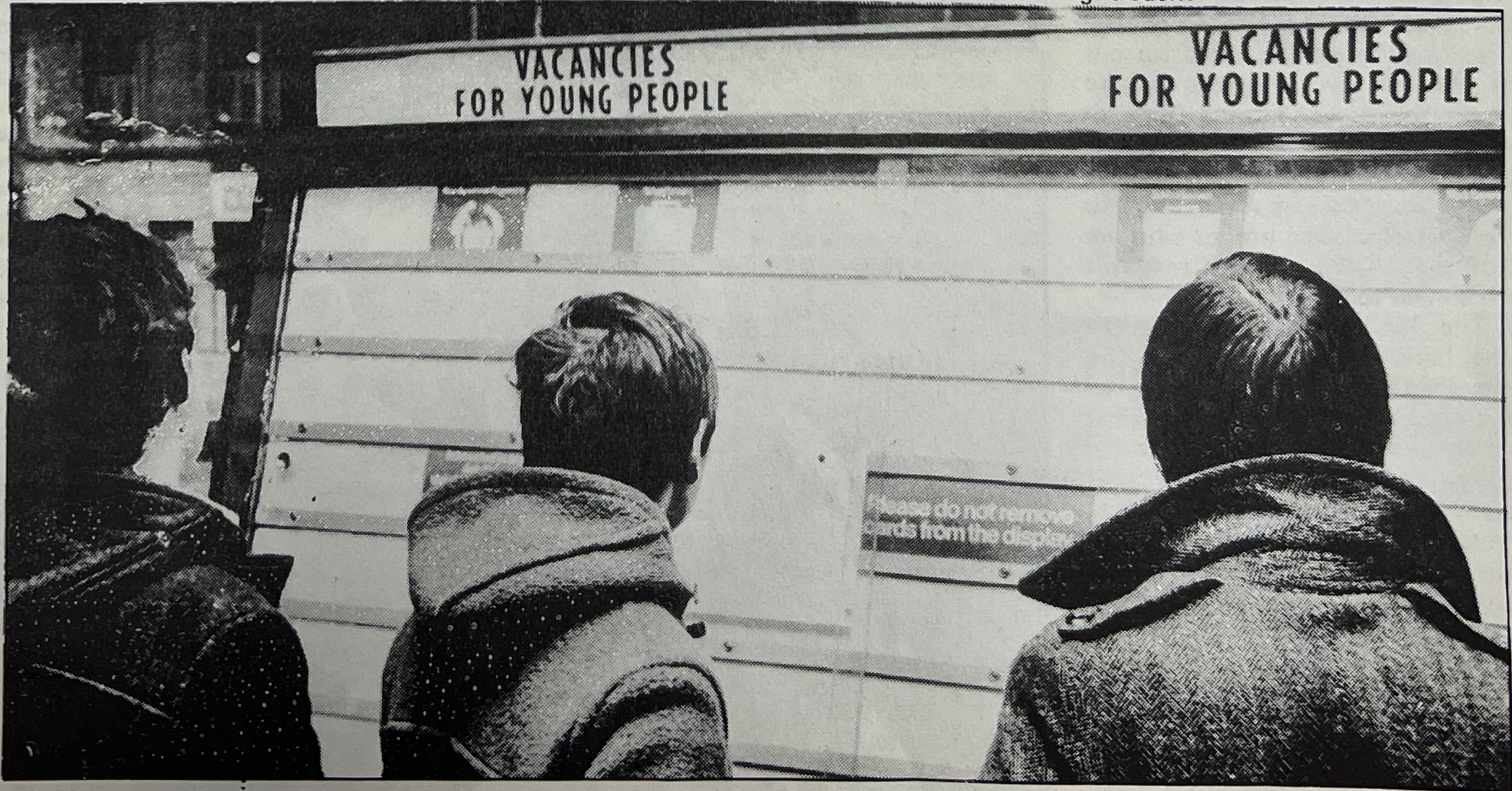
CAPITALISM

North and South, the problem is the same. The cause is capitalism: a system in which a small group of people use and exploit the rest of us, competing amongst each other for the wealth of the nation.

Capitalism is an economic rat-race in which the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

Socialism (where the wealth of the country and the means to make wealth are owned by those who produce it - the workers) is the only answer to unemployment, poverty and injustice.

Unemployment is here to stay. If it doesn't affect you now, the chances are that it will in the future. It's time for all of us, workers and unemployed, to fight back!



EXCLUSIVE IRA INTERVIEW

IN THIS frank interview, exclusive to *Young Republican*, a spokesman for the leadership of the IRA talks about the use of force, sectarianism, international 'terrorism', the INLA, abstentionism, partition and youth. Banned from access to RTE (along with Sinn Fein and Fianna Eireann) under Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act, and vilified in the 'popular' press, this interview gives a rare insight into the IRA's thinking, as opposed to what their enemies say of them.

That the IRA have retained and won over the allegiance of tens of thousands of Irish people there can be no doubt, despite 14 years of propaganda against them, and the hostility of the Church and political establishment. This interview goes a little way to explaining how and why.

Young Republican: How do you defend the use of force in the six counties today?

IRA: Firstly, if there was a peaceful road to a united Ireland, and if the Brits allowed the Irish people to exercise democracy and if they would abide by the result, then the use of force would not arise.

This has been the traditional view of veteran IRA Volunteers, and of the generations which handed down this tradition since the days of the Tan and Civil Wars, and, of course, since the time of partition.

But for the generation which grew up in the North in the '60s, the attempts at reform through peaceful protest, and the response of the loyalist state to their fairly moderate demands was so violent and reactionary that Volunteers of my generation were given a fresh justification for organising for defence.

Then came the realisation that there was no hope of reforming the six counties, that we could not achieve our rights on mere appeals to loyalist 'reason', and that we had no choice, that is if we wanted to hold up our heads and not live as slaves, but to resort to the use of limited force to achieve our just demands.

YR: If the IRA is genuinely non-sectarian, why does it shoot Protestant farmers along the border who are also in the UDR and RUC? Aren't they Irishmen too?

IRA: The IRA does not attack people on the basis of their religion - we are engaged in a war against the British occupation forces, and against those who militarily join with them in oppressing our people.

Even the Church of Ireland Primate (in respect of this question which you've asked me), Dr John Armstrong, said in June 1980 that there was no evidence of a pattern in attacks along the border.

Those who we have attacked have been connected with the RUC or UDR, or who, because of the rate of demoralisation and resignation from those two forces, have been recent

associates of them. It matters little to us, although obviously it is of great propaganda benefit to the British, that these British gunmen just happen to be born in Ireland. They support privilege, sectarianism and imperialism, and they attempt to shove it down our people's throats through the muzzles of their guns and through the paraphernalia of the state (i.e. the law, the courts and the moral order).

'INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM'

YR: Is the IRA involved in an 'international terrorist network', and does the IRA support groups like the Baader-Meinhoff Red Army Faction in Germany, and the Italian Red Brigades?

IRA: The IRA is not involved in any 'international terrorist network' and does not support these small European groups you mention which do not have a nationalist or a working-class base.

Although it suits the British government and EEC states to conjure up an international conspiracy controlled by whoever is the most fashionable hate-figure of the day is be it Yuri Andropov, Fidel Castro, or Col. Gaddafi - for the purpose of increasing repressive legislation used to curtail legitimate freedom fighters,

YR: In such a Republic would retaliatory

we know, and they know, that the Irish Republican Army is a nationalist organisation.

In fact, the British were very embarrassed when we published in May 1979 a captured British intelligence document compiled by the then commander of land forces in the North, Brigadier James Glover, which said that there was no evidence of the IRA having links with these groups, and that the IRA was too nationalist and too independent.

While he over-emphasised our nationalism, he was correct about us having no such links. But we do have an internationalist conscience, and we pledge our political solidarity to the struggling peoples of this world.

That said, it should be noted that in achieving victory in Ireland, the IRA, in the words of the 1916 Proclamation, will be relying first and foremost on our own strength.

YR: In the Socialist Republic the IRA would like to see in Ireland, would there be democratic, multi-party elections?

IRA: It is impossible to accurately describe what form an eventual united Ireland will take.

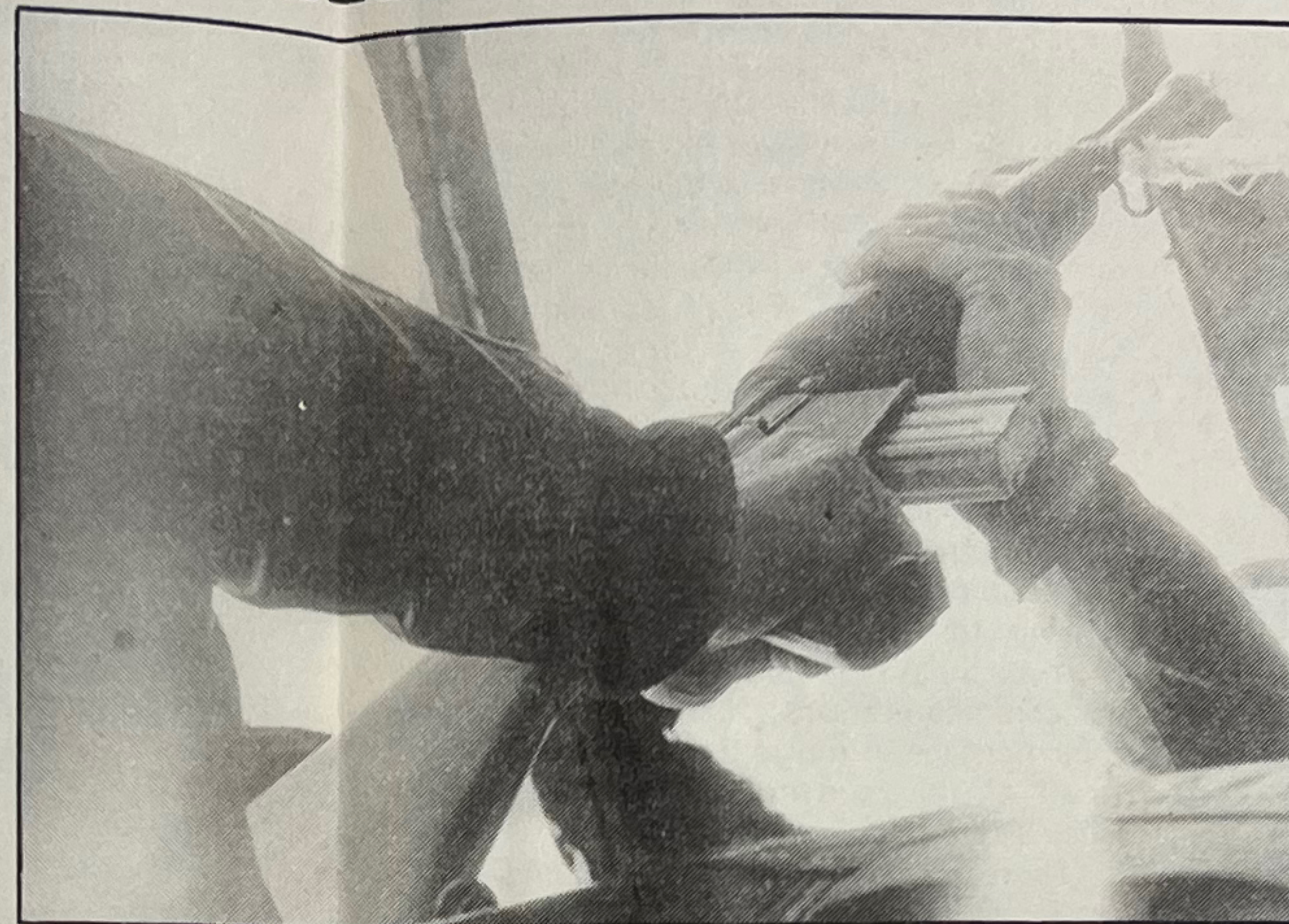
For a long, long time, there will be many political forces competing for supremacy. We are interested in the freedom of the people's hearts and minds, their freedom from economic oppression and degradation.

A Socialist Republic dictated by a minority, albeit with enough force to hold power, is not an expression of socialism in our minds.

A Socialist Republic must be built by the masses, for the masses, and defended by the masses.

We see ourselves as a catalyst in a process which hopefully will bring about a radical change in thinking, a change which must always precede a true revolutionary upsurge and the conquest of popular democratic power.

YR: In such a Republic would retaliatory



action be taken against people like H-Block prison officers, and Special Branchmen?

IRA: Vendettas carried into a Socialist Republic could possibly tarnish the attempts to build freedom. Nevertheless, there are those who would advocate that justice to those who have tortured, imprisoned, killed or repressed, involves retribution against those responsible - should they not be living in Surrey at that stage. We'll see.

YOUNG PEOPLE

YR: What is the IRA's attitude to young people and the problems they face in Ireland today?

IRA: Were it not for the support of young people, and remember, the bulk of our imprisoned comrades and the vast majority of our fallen comrades have been young people, there would not be a struggle today, Britain would not face the challenge it does, and there would be no hope of freedom in Ireland.

The problems which youth face today are different in quality and quantity from those which faced our fathers and grandfathers. These problems are not just a product of the evils of capitalist society, but of the failures of those who purport to lead morally and politically the saving grace of the young, of course, is a burning sense of revolt and concern for their fellow human beings.

Old comradeship is often boasted about, but the comradeship of youth and the struggle of politicised youth are never properly acknowledged. The Republican Movement was one of the first movements to attempt to cater for young people through the formation nearly 75 years ago of Fianna Eireann.

Na Fianna, right up to this day, have played an extremely important and underrated part in the struggle.

YR: Turning to the twenty-six counties, do you think that the Republican Movement will ever succeed in winning people over to its position with a policy of abstentionism? And if you do, how?

IRA: Abstentionism is part of our tradition, and while people like the Sticks (Workers'

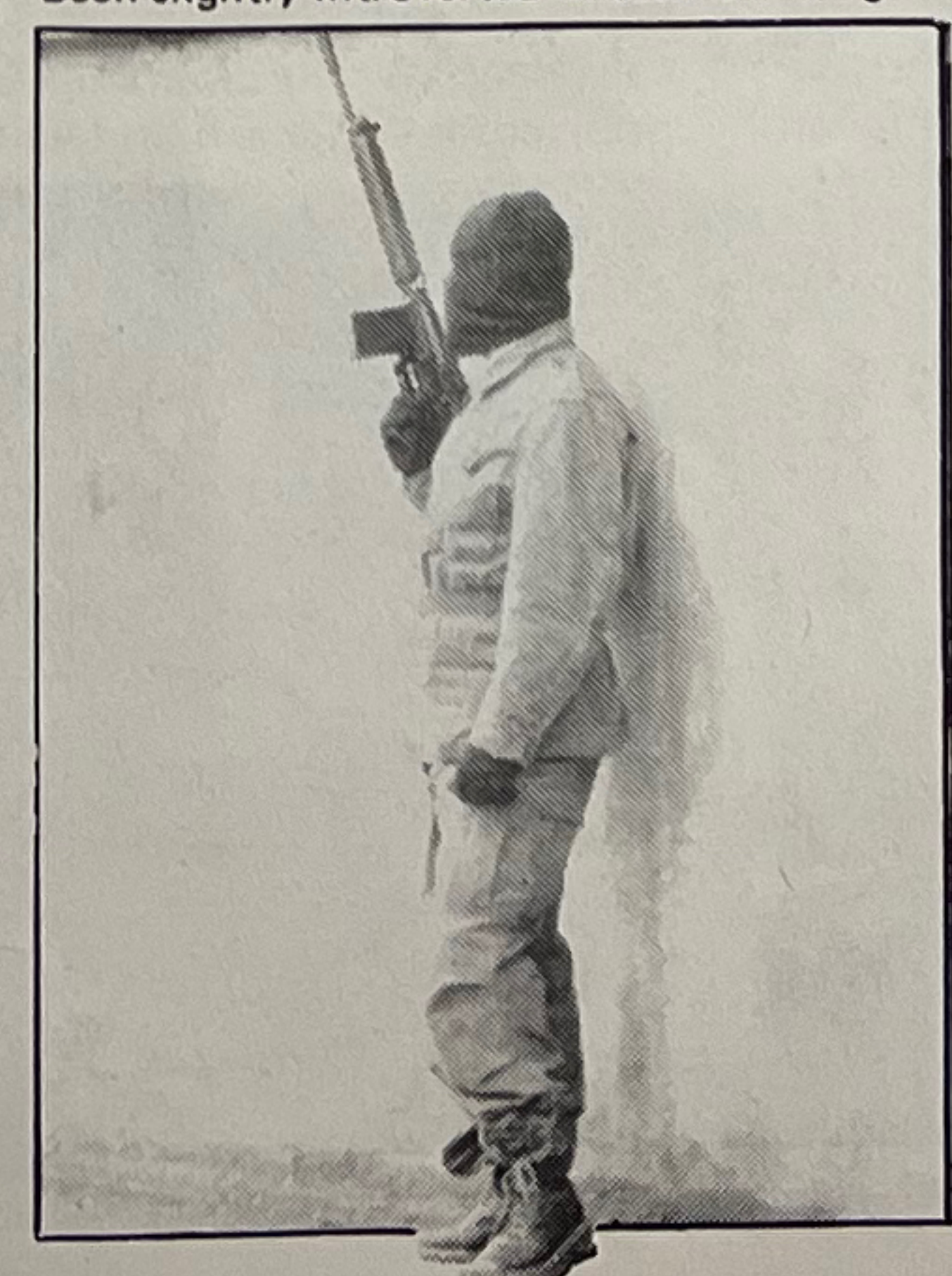
Party) have gained prestige and coverage by entering Leinster House, we have no intention of following that road, nor do we believe that Leinster House can be made to assist in the struggle for freedom. That struggle requires hard work, sacrifice and suffering. Apart from the cleaners in Leinster House, we would find no one else there to fit those revolutionary prerequisites.

If we can convince enough people through agitation and propaganda of the justification of our struggle, then we can successfully by-pass Leinster House and win people over to our position. It will not be easy.

PARTITION

YR: Do you think that, on a hearts-and-minds level, partition has succeeded, and that people in the South are now more effectively cut off from the people in the North (and vice versa) than ever before?

IRA: Partition has been extremely successful in creating, amongst a certain amount of people in both states, a partitionist mentality. It's not just Free Staters who have this mentality. Some Northern nationalists, in despair of the Free State, have been slightly introverted in their thinking.



It is in the interests of the powers-that-be in the Free State to encourage a 26-County ethos, and what is most annoying about those in Fianna Fail who claim to be republicans is that very few of them, outside of seeing British soldiers on TV, know where Belfast or Derry exactly are.

They have absolutely no understanding of the suffering, and this ignorance contributes to their failure to understand the IRA and why it can survive repression.

However, the conscience of nationalist Ireland and the Republic is a living reality in the souls of Irish Republicans from Cork to Crossmaglen.

YR: Do you think that with the increasing politicisation and radicalisation of the Republican Movement, there is a danger of a split between socialists and 'traditionalists'?

IRA: The Republican Movement, whilst being made up of diverse trends, has always been overwhelmingly radical. It was radical for Wolfe Tone to adopt revolutionary ideas from America and France. It was radical for republicans to demand the extension of the franchise to women. It was radical to strike a blow for freedom in the middle of the First World War. It was radical to defend the Republic in 1921, and so on to date.

But it was not progressive for the Sticks to attempt to take and manipulate the nationalist aspirations of the people, and railroad them behind Stalinist politics. They alone have done more to damage the cause of socialism in Ireland than any other group since 1916.

There is no chance of a split in the Republican Movement because we know what the balance is, we know what is possible, and we are realistic.

All true socialists keep faith with the history of oppression as they have experienced it in their country. Those that do not are, in some cases, mere theorists, and in others, potential dictators.

THE INLA

YR: What is the relationship between the IRA and the INLA, and what keeps the two organisations apart? Is there a danger of a feud in the future?

IRA: The IRA, and the INLA (which is a very small organisation) live in the same areas, and, because the IRA carries out the bulk of military operations, there have been very few clashes on the same types of targets.

There are political differences which history tends to make insurmountable. There was comradesly co-operation in the 1980 and 1981 hunger-strikes.

Feuds arise only when one organisation attempts to assert itself over another, or when the larger organisation treats its minor with contempt.

We respect the right of every Irish person to resist oppression in the fortress of occupation although, obviously, as the organisation with a consistent history of resistance, and with structures that can absorb all bouts of repression, we would prefer that those considering taking part in the armed struggle would join us.

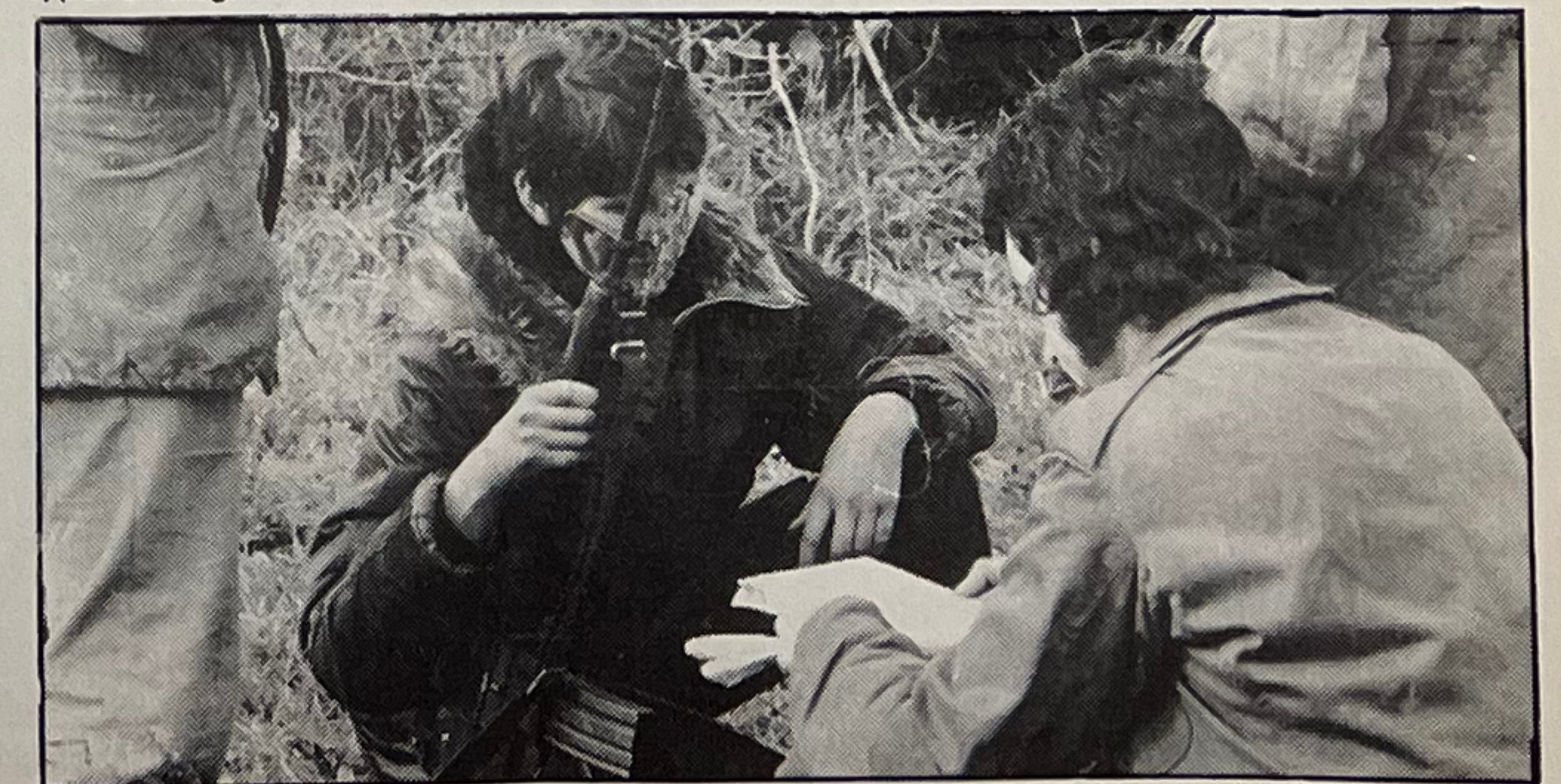
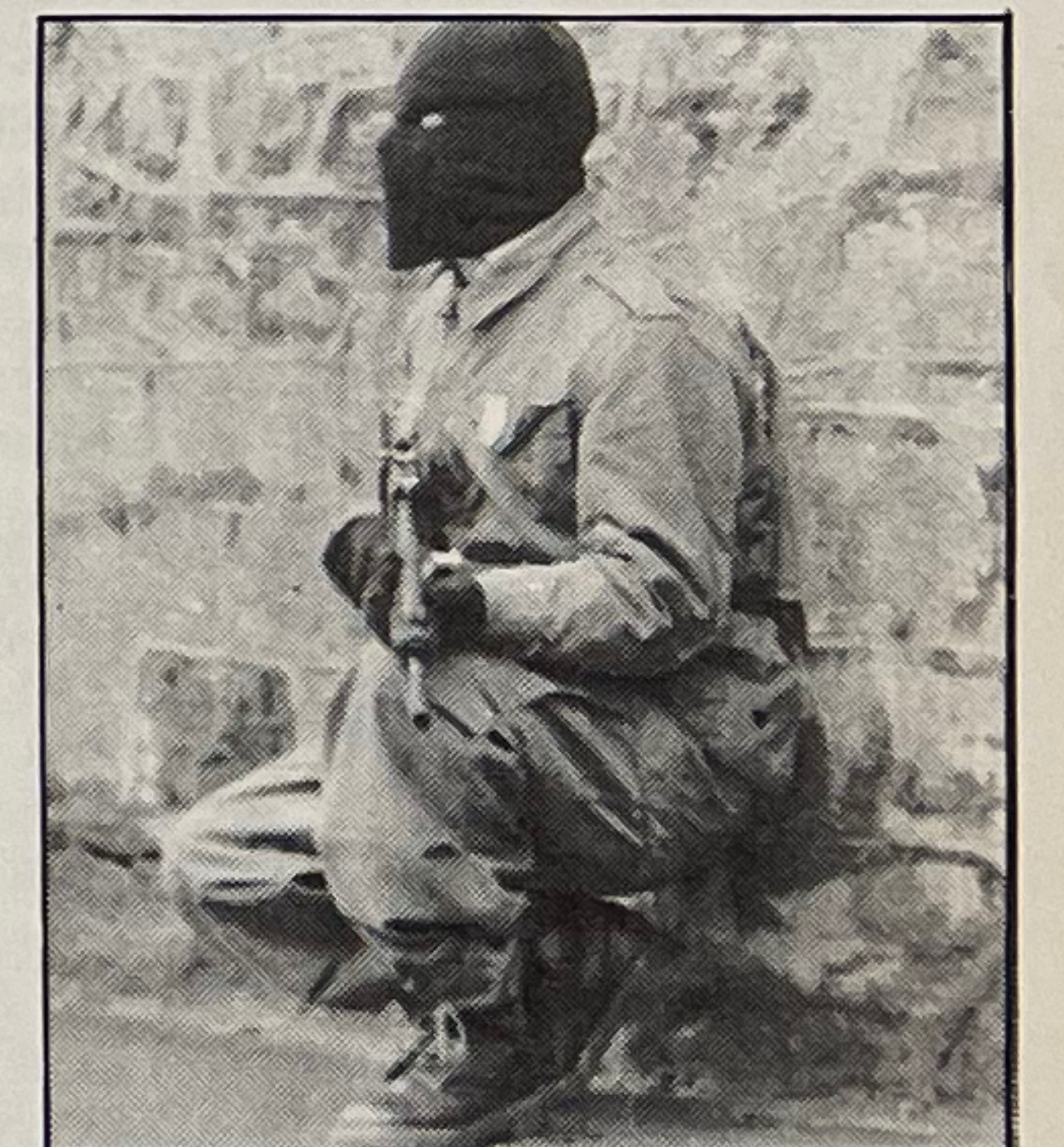
YR: How long do you think the war will last, and how confident are you of the outcome?

IRA: The war is motivated by, firstly, the desire for freedom, and secondly, as a means of alleviating the people from the ills which Britain has foisted on Ireland. It will last for several years to come. We have told all our recruits and Volunteers to be prepared for a long war of attrition.

Obviously, a shift in the balance of military hardware, or political crises in Britain, the North or the Free State could have far-reaching effects on the duration of the war.

Our strength is fuelled by the dispossession of the nationalist people of the North, although increasingly we want to be identified as defenders of the working class and small farming communities.

Of a victorious outcome, we are totally confident.



Na Fianna Oga

NA FIANNA Éireann is an organisation for all young republicans, not just teenagers. Na Fianna Oga is the junior section of our youth movement, and is open to boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 15. The 'Ogs' are involved in scouting and cultural activities. Drawn from Republican families, they are the bedrock on which the Fianna organisation is built.

In August of this year, Na Fianna will be 74 years in existence.

In 1909 Countess Markievicz, a great fighter for the rights of Irish women and Irish workers, founded the



Fianna "to train the youth of our country to fight Ireland's fight when that fight comes."

Na Fianna Éireann was to be an Irish and a Gaelic alternative to the pro-British Baden-Powell boy scouts of the day.

The Fianna of those early years looked on the legendary Fianna of Fionn MacCumhaill as their inspiration and took for their own motto *Glaine inar gcroithe, neart inar ngeaga agus beart de reir ar mbriathar* (Purity in our hearts, strength in our arms, and truth on our lips). Today Na Fianna Oga continues that tradition, one which Markievicz so carefully fostered.

City kids from Dublin, Cork and Limerick hiking across mountains, fording streams and camping in glens; children from Passage West, Shannon, Tralee, West Limerick and Dundalk writing to Republican Prisoners on their birthdays; marching in uniform at commemorations; learning about their heritage in music dance and song - all of this, and much more, is Na Fianna Oga today.

There is a place for young children in Na Fianna Oga.

We urge all Republican families in the 26 counties to send their children to enrol. What is a success for the Fianna, be it a local hike, or a national march, is also a success for the Republic.

Ní beag a bhfuil ráite agus a bhfuil scríofa faoin ógchiontacht ins an lá atá innu ann. De réir gach dealraimh ní tharlaíonn faic inár gcath-racha ach mionghadaíocht, gadíochtaí ghluais-teáin, ionsaithe ar dhaoine neamhchiontacha agus cogáíocht idir ghasraí. Chun críoch a chur leis an ógchiontacht, d'oscail Rialtas an tSaorstáit Loughan House cúpla bliain ó shin.

Ní dóigh linn i Na Fianna Éireann gurb é seo fuascailt na faidhbe mar is as príosún sóisialta a dtagann na h-ógchiontóirí seo agus níl mórán difríocht idir a bpriosún agus a gceantair-ducshais (ach amháin b'fheidir, go bhfuil níos mo aiseanna le fail i Loughan House).

Chun freagra don cheist mhór sóisialta seo a fháil, caithimid a thuiscint nach bhfuil ins an ógchiontacht ach drochthoradh ar fhadb níos troime. Ní tharlaíonn sí gan cúis, agus dar linne i Na Fianna Éireann, is é an córas neamhionann caipitleach a chuireann brabach roimh daoine príomhchúis an ógchiontacht.

Rinneadh súirbhéireacht anuraidh i measc páistí ó lár Áth Cliath a raibh an seans is mó acu dul isteach Loughan House, agus fuarthas amach nach raibh obair ag 84 dá n-aithreacha. D'fhág na páistí go léir an scoil agus iad 13 bliana d'aois - ní raibh 68 dóibh in ann léamh, agus ní raibh 64 dóibh in ann scríobh. Ní raibh obair ach ag duine amháin dóibh - cén fáth a d'fhanadís ar scoil?

Chun post a fháil tá a fhios ag gach duine nach dtabharfaidh fostóir obair do duine as ceantair míchlúiteacha. Chun oideachas maith a fháil

... ní bheadh siad in ann táile na holl-scoileanna a íoch agus bia agus éadaigh a cheannach i gcóir a gclann ag an am chéanna in aon chás ní úsáidtear Greigís nó Laidin go minic i Sr. Ghardnar nó Sr. Sheáin Mhic Dhiarmada.

Gan obair, gan oideachas, gan brí, gan aird, ina aonair i bpobal crua - níl mórán eile le déanamh ach troid lena chéile agus iarrachtaí rífíneachtaí agus robáil a dhéanamh.

Mar sin taibhsítear dúinne i Na Fianna Éireann gurb iad an dífhostaíocht agus an bhochtaineacht torthaí an

An Ógchiontacht

chaipitleachais, agus gurb iadsan cúiseanna an chreachadóireacht agus an ógchiontacht. Tugtar Loughan House don óige mar fhreagra da gcuid fadhbanna in ionad obair míchúil, tithe feilteacha faicheanna imeártha, bia agus éadaigh maith agus oideachas fiúntach.

Creidimidne gurb é fuascuil na fadhbanna atá ag Éireannaigh óga na an fuascailt chéanna i gcóir ar bhfadhbanna go léir beagnach. Is é an cúis ná caipitleachas an tSaorstáit, is í an poblachtas sóisialach an leigheas.



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Belfast youth - defiant in the face of the enemy.

Photo from the past

THIS PHOTOGRAPH, taken in 1914, shows uniformed members of Na Fianna Eireann taking part in the landing of guns for the Irish Volunteers at Howth, County Dublin, which were later used in the Easter Rising.

The Volunteers, who were the forerunners of today's IRA, had been set up the previous year at a public meeting in the Rotunda Dublin, which was stewarded by Fiannaíde.

Na Fianna Eireann was considered, the masterminds of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the masterminds behind the Howth gun-running, to be the only organisation disciplined enough to spirit the guns and ammunition away.

were blocked by Volunteers armed with hurley sticks and clubs, Fianna Eireann members dragged a cart loaded with arms and ammunition over several fields to safe dumps a number of miles away. Perched on top of the cart were two Fianna girls.

One of these was Nora Connolly, of the Betsy Grey Slua in Belfast, and the daughter of James Connolly, the great socialist and trade union organiser.

Up to her death two years ago, Nora Connolly O'Brien remained a great friend of the Republican prisoners, and a strong supporter of the IRA today.

CONNOLLY

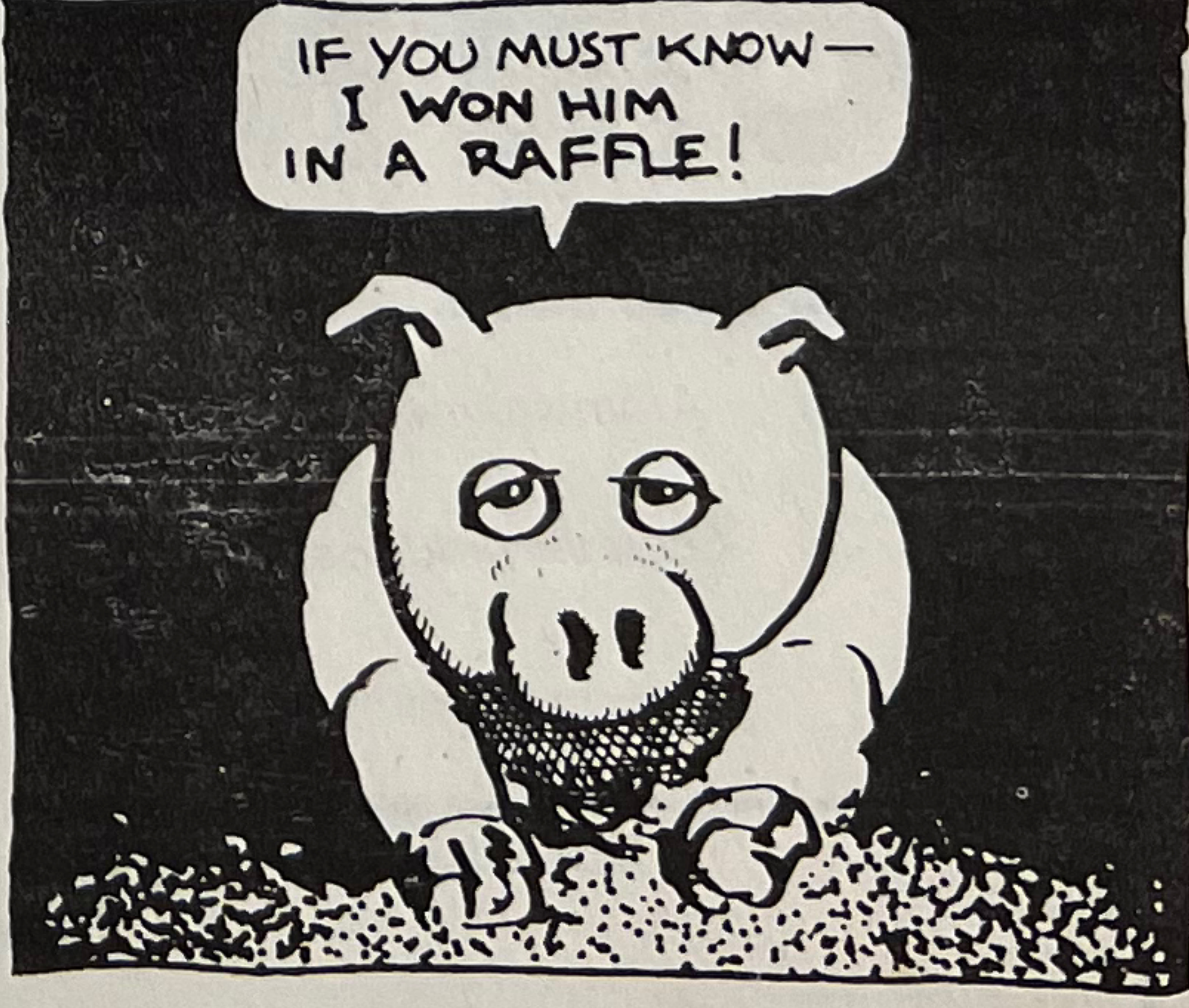
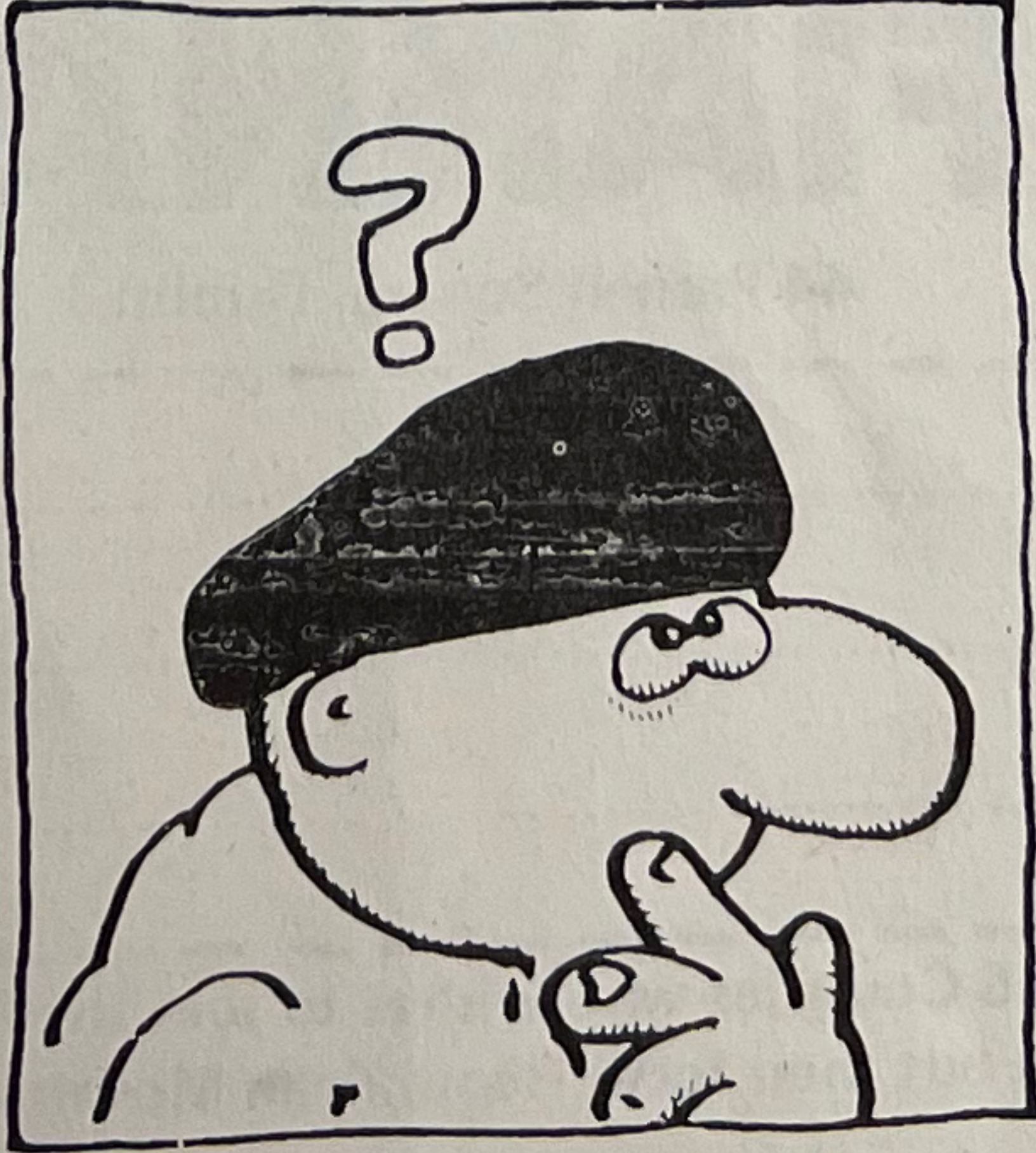
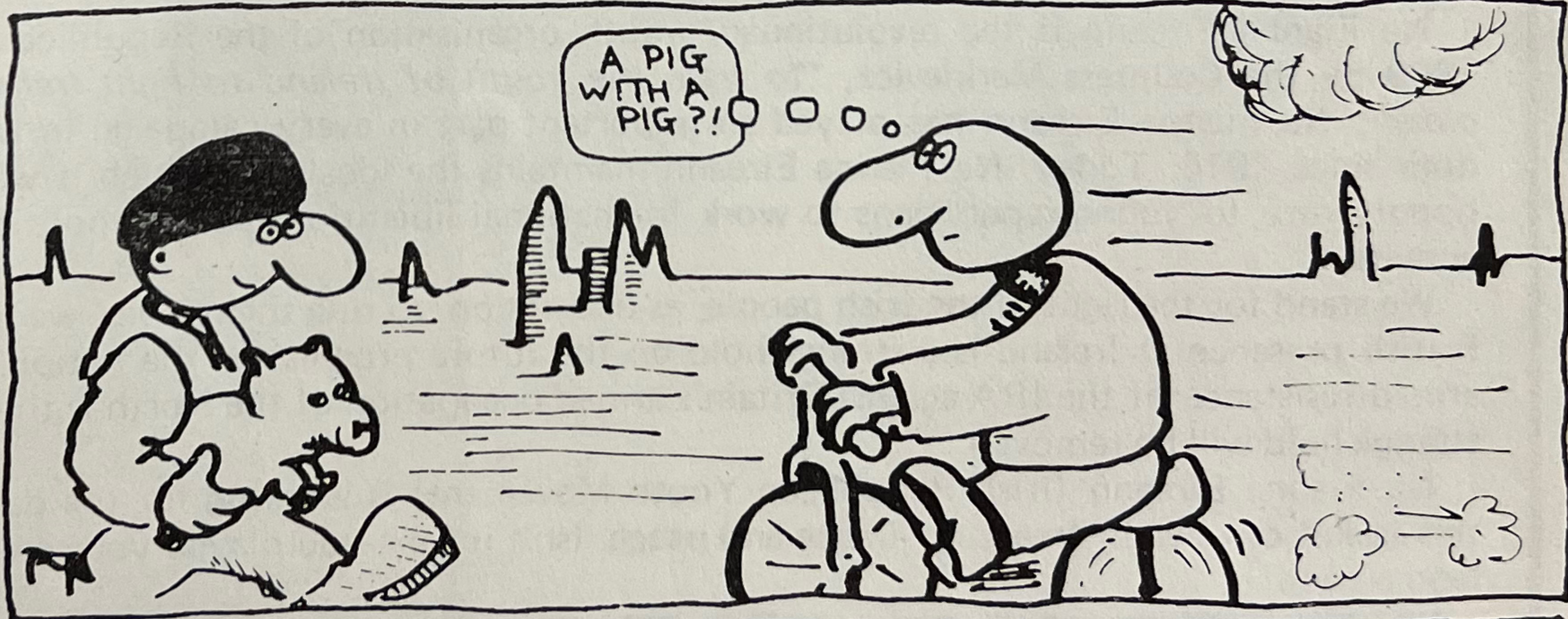
While the main force of British soldiers sent to prevent the gun-running



NOTES
Cormac

THERE'S NO JOKES LIKE THE OLD JOKES!

No 35 23.4.77



THE REAL TERRORISTS



GET THEM OUT!

BRITISH TROOPS patrol the streets of Irish towns and villages every day. Harassing the youth, spying on the people, they lie in wait ready to arrest 'suspects', to interrogate and imprison them. Or, simply, to shoot them dead.....

Since 1969 the British military presence in this country has been responsible for curfews, internment-without-trial, torture, the assassination of dozens of unarmed civilians, the H-Block hunger-strike deaths, and the murder of children by plastic bullets.

Na Fianna Eireann is the revolutionary youth organisation of the Republican Movement. Founded in 1909 by the Countess Markievicz, "to train the youth of Ireland to fight Ireland's fight when they are older", Na Fianna Eireann has played an important part in every campaign in Ireland's struggle for freedom since 1916. Today, Na Fianna Eireann maintains the ideals for which it was founded and offers an opportunity to young republicans to work for national liberation through political, cultural and scouting activities.

We stand for the right of the Irish people, as one nation, to rule themselves, we believe that the continued British presence in Ireland is a stranglehold on the future progress of the nation. And we realise that the armed resistance of the IRA against Britain's armed occupation of the North is the only guarantee that that stranglehold will be removed.

Na Fianna Eireann (Irish Republican Youth Movement) is working for the day when all the people of this island can live in freedom, justice and peace. Isn't it time you played your part? Join the Fianna — and lend a hand!

JOIN NA FIANNA EIREANN

44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1

Ainm (name) Aois (age)

Seoladh (address)

Note: Anyone living in the 6 Counties who wishes to join the Fianna should not contact Head Office but their local Republican Movement instead.

Title: Young Republican, Summer 1983

Organisation: Fianna Éireann

Date: 1983

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