



'T' SHIRTS



T-Shirt XL, large design	individual post & price	£6.60	40p
Child's T-Shirt (please state age wanted)		£4.20	30p
Poster (approx 12"x17")		50p	30p(per5)
Enamel badges		£1.50	20p(per5)

Birmingham Campaign for the BIRMINGHAM SIX

c/o Birmingham TUC, 8 Milk St, Birmingham B5 5TS.

AVAILABLE FROM SHEFFIELD BIRMINGHAM SIX CAMPAIGN SETS OF FOUR POSTCARDS (IN RED & BLACK) £1.00 per pack (plus postage)

Write to the men....

Billy Power
Richard McIlkenny
Patrick Hill
Gartree Prison, Leicester Road
Market Harborough, Leics.
LE1 7RP.

Gerry Hunter
John Walker
Hugh Callaghan
Long Lartin Prison,
South Littleton, Evesham,
Worcs WR11 5TZ.

CAMPAIGN ADDRESSES

NATIONAL BIRMINGHAM SIX CAMPAIGN
BIRMINGHAM CAMPAIGN FOR THE BIRMINGHAM SIX
c/o Birmingham TUC, 8 Milk Street
BIRMINGHAM B5 5TS.

CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER
SHEFFIELD CAMPAIGN FOR THE BIRMINGHAM SIX
c/o 34 Burngreave Bank, SHEFFIELD S4 7HL.

LONDON CAMPAIGN FOR THE BIRMINGHAM SIX
1 Orlestone Road, LONDON N7 8LH.

NORTH-WEST CAMPAIGN FOR THE BIRMINGHAM SIX
53-55 Glynne Street, Bolton, LANCs.

STOCKPORT BIRMINGHAM SIX CAMPAIGN
c/o Stockport Labour Party Club
2 Lloyd Street, Heaton Norris, STOCKPORT.

NOTTINGHAM BIRMINGHAM SIX CAMPAIGN
c/o Nottingham and District TUC
118 Mansfield Road, NOTTINGHAM.

OTHER CAMPAIGNS

TOTTENHAM 3 CAMPAIGN
79 Tangmere, Willan Road
LONDON N17. 01 885 3752

MARTIN FORAN CAMPAIGN
c/o "Conviction"
P.O. Box 522
SHEFFIELD S1 3FF.

BRIDGEWATER 4 CAMPAIGN
c/o Houndsfield Cottage
Houndsfield Lane
Wythall, West Midlands.
B47 6LS.

GLASGOW COMMITTEE, NATIONAL BIRMINGHAM 6 CAMPAIGN
c/o Clyde Books, 19 Parnie Street, GLASGOW G1 5RJ

DERBY CAMPAIGN FOR THE BIRMINGHAM SIX
c/o 214 Caxton Street, Sunnyhill, DERBY.

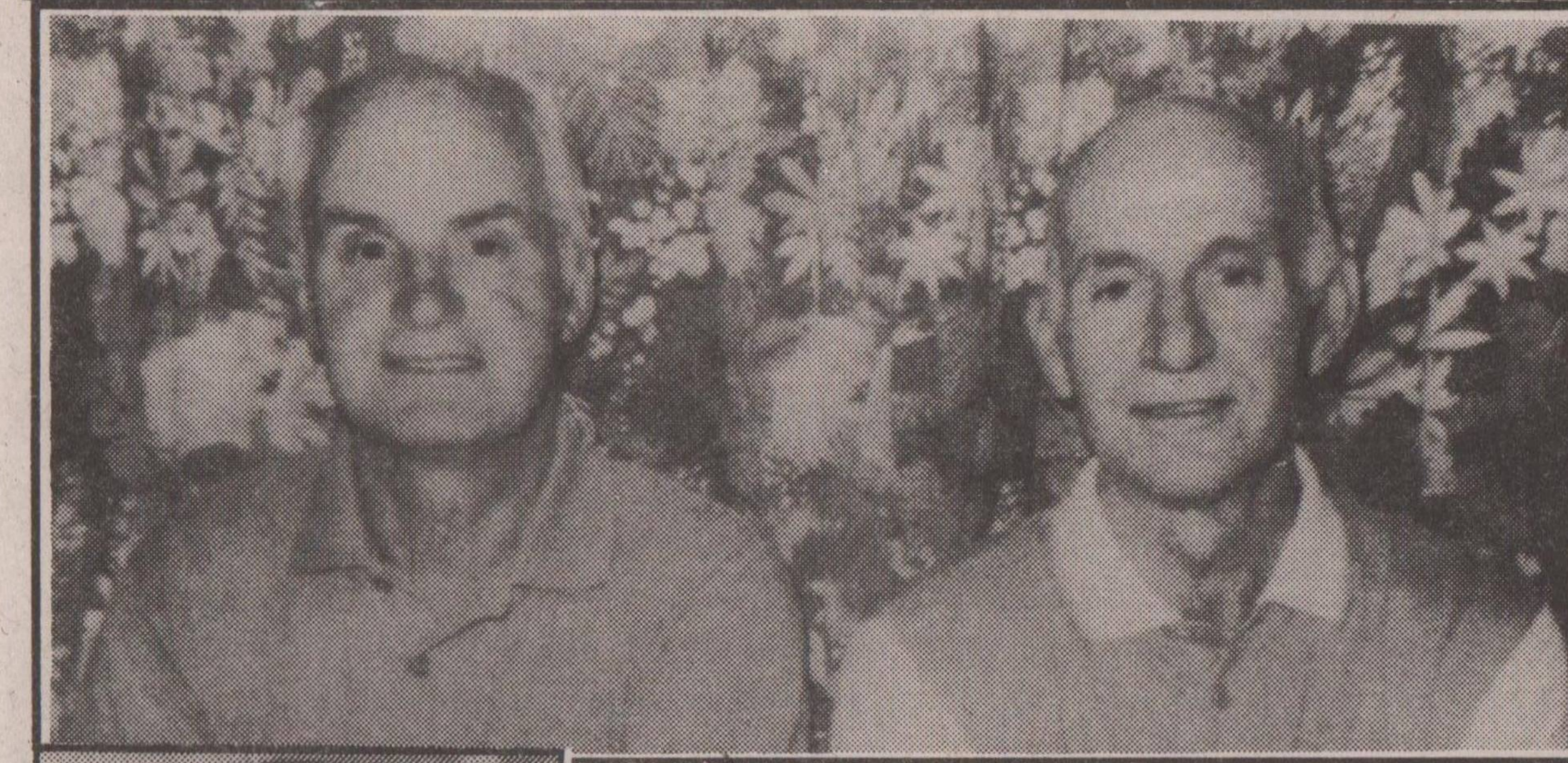
SOUTHAMPTON BIRMINGHAM SIX CAMPAIGN
c/o 55 Avenue Road, SOUTHAMPTON, SO2 1AW.

DUBLIN BIRMINGHAM SIX COMMITTEE
Usher House, 40/41 Usher Quay, Dublin 8, IRELAND.

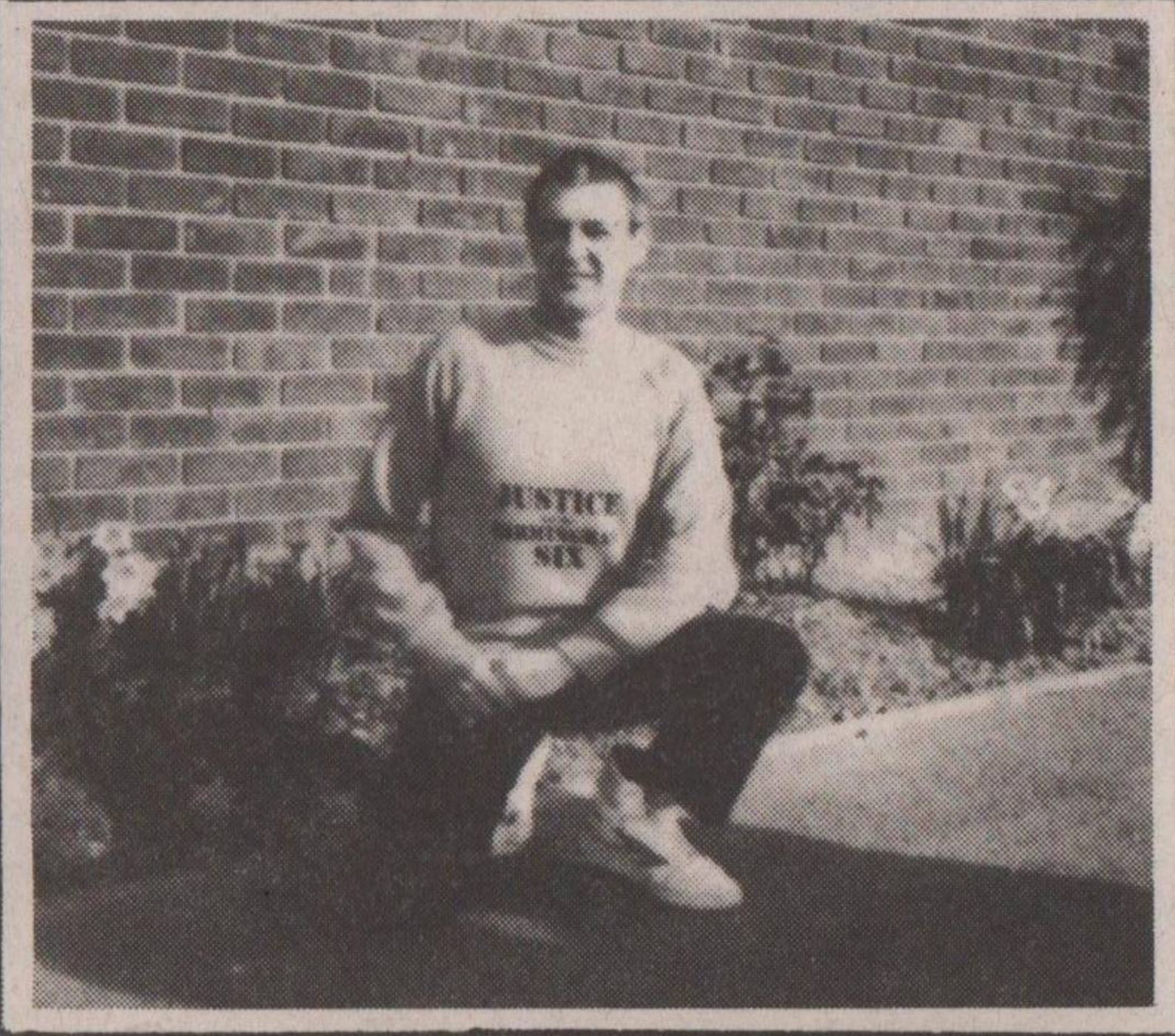
JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

NATIONAL BIRMINGHAM SIX CAMPAIGN

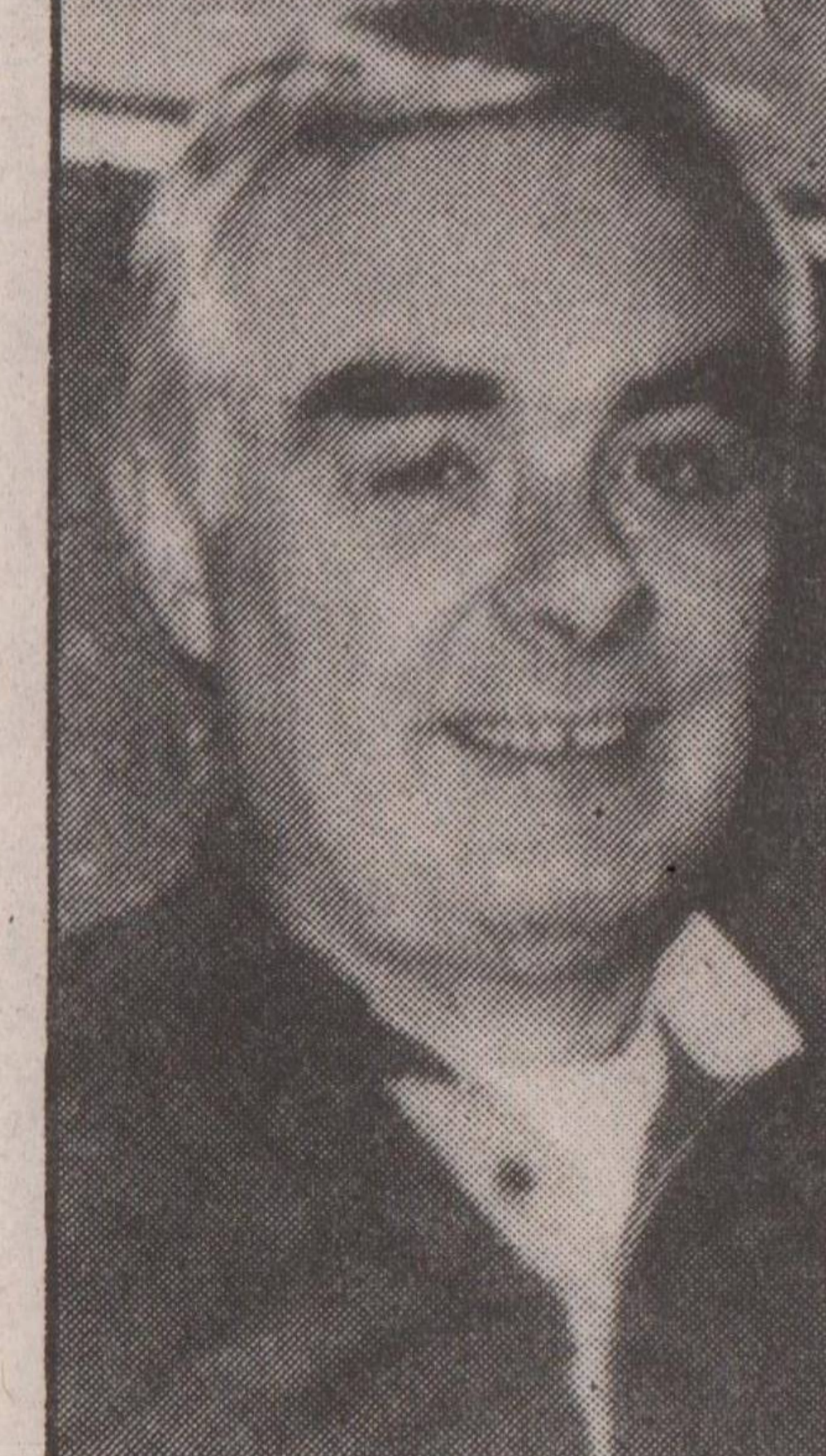
Nov'90 NEWSLETTER 30p



Hugh Callaghan John Walker



Paddy Joe Hill



Billy Power



DICK Richard McIlkenny

A lie is an evil thing
That destroys both faith and trust
A lie is a rapier-like tongue
Used to cut and thrust.
A lie is contempt of the lowest kind
For all that is freely sworn
And can be the cause of a thousand cuts
Whose pain is forever born.
A lie can fell the strongest man
And bring him to his knees,
A perversion of the truth
Blown about on every breeze.
A lie will break the truest heart
And change love into hate
A lie can be the first step
Through the inferno's fiery gate.

THE FAMILIES OF THE BIRMINGHAM SIX HAVE ISSUED AN URGENT APPEAL FOR MONEY TO COVER THE COSTS OF THE APPEAL FOR THE MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES. " WE'RE NOT CONVINCED THAT THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS WILL NOT CONTEST THE APPEAL. THE LAST APPEAL LASTED SIX WEEKS AND ALMOST BANKRUPTED THE CAMPAIGN... WE'RE NOT COMPLACENT. WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO AND COMPENSATION - EVEN IF THEY DO GET IT - WILL TAKE MONTHS..PLEASE HELP."

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Cartoon courtesy of the Sunday Business Post

Home Secretary Refers Case Back to Appeal

It is now nearly a year since the men's solicitors presented a 45-page document to the Home Secretary. In March he announced that there was to be a new police inquiry by the Devon & Cornwall police into at least 10 issues - mainly to do with the timing and conduct of police interviews at Morecambe, and the fresh witness statements which further confirmed that the men were beaten while in police custody.

INQUIRY WIDENED

Over the summer, rumours started circulating that the inquiry was being widened to include material from the West Yorkshire police inquiry into the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad, specifically to do with the 4 officers who were still in the squad at the time of its disbandment and who had taken part in the Six's interrogation (see page 5). More evidence has been passed to the Devon and Cornwall inquiry by other sources: evidence relating to the fact that the West Midlands police have known since 1975 that they have the wrong people; and the results of research commissioned by *The Scotsman* from two separate linguistic experts, which conclusively demonstrates that the police must have fabricated the confessions (see pages 6-7).

In fact so many disturbing aspects of the case have now been aired publicly that the Home Secretary must have found it difficult to find an innocuous enough "technicality" on which he could base a referral back to the Court of Appeal.

'NEW EVIDENCE'

But he managed it: on August 29th, following an interim report from the Devon & Cornwall inquiry, Waddington announced that new evidence had come to light which "might be thought to cast doubt on the safety of the convictions and therefore the case has to go back."

The "new evidence" was the result of an "ESDA" test performed on notes of an alleged interview with Richard McIlkenny at Morecambe. The test shows whether all police notes were taken contemporaneously or not. The police (including George Reade) testified at the trial that they were. The results of the ESDA test show that they were not. The interview notes referred to were *not* those of the interview in which Richard is alleged to have made a confession, but were supposed to pertain to a previous interview which actually never took place.

So the virtue of this "new evidence", as far as the Home Office is concerned, is that it makes no concession to the fact that the contents of the interview itself were fabricated, as were the actual confessions.

DPP'S DECISION

The DPP is awaiting the full report from the Devon & Cornwall police inquiry before reaching a decision as to whether to contest the Appeal or not. Apparently he is being advised by a team of legal experts, under a senior treasury secretary Graham Boal.

One DPP spokesman is quoted as saying (*Independent* 30/8) that the Birmingham case is different from the Guildford case, which was more "straightforward... In the Birmingham case there was also forensic evidence and circumstantial evidence."

Even if all the DPP's office is as ill-informed as this, it is difficult to see how the DPP could possibly contest the Appeal. If he does, it's bad news for the authorities, given that the Six could then raise with the court "any matter which they consider relevant". This would mean that every aspect of the case would be thoroughly aired in front of a now very sceptical public here and abroad. At least 8 Lancashire officers now contradict the Crown's version of events as regards the interrogations at Morecambe (and therefore the credibility of Reade's version of events). As for the forensic evidence, Dr Janet Drayton (see August newsletter) has now made it clear that her evidence before the 87 Appeal was given a significance by the prosecution which was completely out of proportion to its weight.

NIGHTMARE

But it would be worse news for the Six and their families because such an Appeal would take many months to prepare, thus prolonging this nightmare unnecessarily.

However, pressure on the DPP can be counterproductive. The recent BBC report (see page 5) resulted in statements from the DPP's office that "this will be a long haul, the issue is by no means clearcut" and "A decision is some way off and the ultimate decision is open-ended".

Meanwhile Waddington has done his best to suppress discussion by declaring the case "sub judice". This is nonsense of course because in an Appeal court there is no jury.

CAMPAIGN NEWS

The Campaign has achieved its initial aim of getting the case re-opened. While we await the DPP's decision we are concentrating our efforts on two main areas:

1. The spreading of information about the case to as many people as possible within this country. It's important for the general public to be alert to *all* the facts of the case, in order to counter any suggestions that the men are being released on a mere "technicality" (see also MEDIA NEWS page 8).
2. To organise ourselves in readiness for the DPP's decision and to raise the funds we need: either to continue fighting on behalf of the men and their families in the event of the case going to a full Appeal hearing, or to support the men and their families through the media hype which will inevitably accompany the men's early release. This will involve the financial support of the families while they are away from home, transport and childcare etc. And the making available of funds to the men themselves, to see them through the first weeks of freedom.

INFORMATION

The new information packs are now ready and available from the Campaign for £2.00. Leaflets are available from all the campaign groups, and these should be distributed as widely as possible. The Campaign's exhibition is also being displayed around the country in town halls, libraries etc.

FUND-RAISING

We are seeking donations large and small, from individuals and organisations. We will need about £15,000 to cover our expenses in the event of an early release. More, if we need to sustain the campaign for another year. N.B. We are *not* seeking funds for legal expenses, as those connected with any Appeal will be met by legal aid.

DAY OF RELEASE

If the DPP announces that he will not contest the Appeal, the formal hearing will take place a few days later, probably at the Old Bailey. Supporters of the Six will assemble as near the Court as possible, from 10am onwards. All welcome.

CAMPAIGN IN SCOTLAND

The Glasgow Campaign would like to point out that it is a popular misconception that the Six would not have gone down in Scotland, where "uncorroborated confessions" are not admissible as evidence. "Well-praised though our legal system is, we are clear within the group that the Six would have been convicted in Scotland. The (now discredited) forensic evidence would have been corroboration."

APPEAL FOR THE APPEAL

I/WE ENCLOSE A CHEQUE/POSTAL ORDER FOR £..... TOWARDS THE EXPENSES OF THE FORTHCOMING BIRMINGHAM SIX APPEAL. I WOULD LIKE A RECEIPT (TICK BOX)

I/we would like to affiliate to the Birmingham 6 Campaign (Rates £5.00 Organisations: £3.00 individuals)

NAME/ORGANISATION

ADDRESS

SIX NIGHTS FOR THE SIX

MONDAY OCTOBER 29TH

8.00 pm

CIRCUS ARCHAOS BENEFIT

Clapham Common. Bar opens 7.30pm
Tickets £10 Box Office: 071-498-8124/5

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 4TH

8.00 pm

MASS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

St Aloysius Church, Phoenix Rd, London NW1.
Main celebrant is Bishop Victor Guazelli, President of Pax Christi - who have been long time supporters of the mens' case. There will be readings from poems and meditations written by the men

8.00 pm

JUSTICE - WHAT JUSTICE?
A THEATRE BENEFIT FOR
THE BIRMINGHAM SIX.

At the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.
Actors performing include Julie Christie, Roger Daltry, Lindsay Duncan, Ben Keaton, Patrick Malahide, Jonathan Price, Stephen Rea, Alan Rickman, Fiona Shaw, Anthony Sher, Juliette Stevenson, Harriet Walters. Hosted by Helena Kennedy (Barrister for the Guildford Four)
Tickets £12.50 £10 £8 Box Office: 081-741-2311

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7TH

8.00 pm

MUSIC NIGHT WITH MARY BLACK

TOWN & COUNTRY 2, ISLINGTON
Tickets £10 T&C2 Box Office: 071-607-5620

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8TH

FILM NIGHT FOR THE SIX
Scala Cinema Kings Cross

Details from Scala Box Office: 071-278-0051

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 9TH

8.30 pm

IRISH NIGHT

Kennedy Hall, Irish Centre, Murray St, NW1.
With Irish Mist and traditional musicians. Tickets £2 from London Campaign, or pay on the door.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11TH
VARIETY EVENING

At Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon St, London WC1
Performers include Billy Bragg, Arnold Brown, Hugh Cornwell, Jeremy Hardy, Kit Hollerbach, Kevin McAleer, Tom Robinson. Skint Video Tickets £10, £8 concessions. Box Office: 071-487-9629

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ABOVE EVENTS AND ALSO THOSE OUTSIDE LONDON (SEE PAGE 11)

IRELAND

CAMPAIGN

The Dublin-based Birmingham Six Committee has set up a special trust fund for the men's Appeal and release.

They have recently released a single by Irish Rock singer Brush Shiels, about the Birmingham Six called "I Don't Know". Obtainable from Dublin Committee (see back page for address). All proceeds to the above trust fund.



Brush Shiels

Breda and Lizzie Power have visited BOOTERSTOWN SUPPORT GROUP to thank them for all their hard work. This group has maintained a picket on the British Embassy in Dublin every Saturday, since the 87/88 Appeal, and often on weekdays as well. Visitors to Ireland travelling into the city from the ferry port cannot miss them, and they have been a continual source of irritation to the British Embassy staff to whom they regularly hand in letters from concerned members of the public about the case.



Boosterstown Group Picket on British Embassy



HAVE you got friends living abroad who might be interested in helping the campaign? Do you have professional contacts in legal, union or student organisations in Europe? Or do you know people who should read about the Birmingham Six case before it goes back to the court of appeal?

Copies of Derek Dunne's book, "The Birmingham Six", are now available in

French, Spanish and German, as well as Irish and English.

They cost £2 each or £2.45, inclusive of post and packaging, from the Committee's Dublin office. The recently updated booklet is an objective, factual account of the men's arrest, conviction and 16-year struggle to prove their innocence.

See back page for address

GOVERNMENT

Gerry Collins has at last found an "appropriate occasion" (see newsletters passim) to raise the case of the Birmingham Six internationally: the UN General Assembly, New York, on September 26th 1990, a month after the case had been re-opened by the British authorities anyway. Brave move, Gerard, but it might have been more useful in 1988 or 1989.

On August 23rd, he was still maintaining that "the Government's view is that the most effective way to work for a satisfactory conclusion of the Birmingham Six case is to pursue the matter directly with the British Government" (letter to TD Roger Garland) This was why the Irish delegation at the CSCE Conference (see August newsletter) did absolutely nothing except express their "deep concern" to other Government delegates who approached them about the case. Perhaps the sheer disbelief and amazement of these delegates over the Irish Government's pathetic failure to mobilise the international community (the work has had to be done by organisations like ourselves and the Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas) shamed Gerry Collins into belatedly raising the case at the UN.

EUROPE

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

When the European Parliament passed its resolution of support for the Six, last November, it instructed its legal affairs committee to inquire into and report back on the case. The "rapporteur" Rinaldo Bontempi who, according to MEP Christine Crawley, is now producing his final report as a "matter of urgency" in the wake of the Home Secretary's decision to refer the case back to the Court of Appeal. He has also let the Campaign know that he is keeping a close eye on developments.

Christine Crawley has tabled another resolution in the European Parliament, to be included in a debate on human rights. The resolution calls for the British DPP "to make his recommendations on this issue as a matter of urgency" and, should he rule that the case must go before the Court of Appeal, "that the Appeal should be heard without further delay."

HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE IN PRAGUE

In October, Fr. Bobby Gilmore, National Campaign Chair, addressed a session of the above conference, part of which was on the rights of National minorities in Europe. He covered the situation of the Irish minority in Britain, concentrating on the case history of the Birmingham Six.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Council of Europe Parliamentary Grouping Human Rights Sub-Committee is working with British MPs and Irish TDs to get the men's case on the agenda of the next meeting in January - though all hope that they will be free by then.

USA

MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATE has reaffirmed its support for the Six (it was the first state body in the US to do this - in 1987) and, following an address by Rev. Bobby Gilmore, Chair of the National Birmingham Six Campaign, made a donation to the Campaign.

BBC REPORT

Chief Constable Ron Hadfield met the Crown Prosecution Service in early September to discuss the case but any recommendation as to whether the DPP should or should not contest the Appeal has not been made public, and will not necessarily play a large part in the DPP's eventual decision. The BBC however reported that Hadfield had received an internal report advising him that the convictions could no longer be upheld. It has become clear that no such report existed, and the BBC based their report on rumours circulating within the West Midlands police force - where it is now obvious that there exist at least two factions - for and against contesting the Appeal.

While Ron Hadfield busied himself with writing an outraged letter to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission, Assistant Chief Constable Frank Wilkinson must have been preparing his speech to a seminar of the Association of Chief Police Officers in London, in which he conceded that the case against the Birmingham Six had collapsed, and was part of "a series of major disasters in the Criminal Justice system". He added that "the Guildford Four, the Birmingham Six and related cases have fallen through improper interviewing techniques". His remarks brought an immediate reaction from Deputy Chief Constable, Paul Leopold, who told the *London Irish News*: "Mr Wilkinson's comments appear to be very much his private and personal view and do not represent the official force position" So now we know.

READE AND THE DISPUTED INTERVIEW

The Devon & Cornwall inquiry has been reported as having interviewed Ex-Supt George Reade under caution, though this has been denied by the West Midlands police. George Reade who 6 months ago was declaring ebulliently that "there are no skeletons in the cupboard over this one whatsoever" seems to have gone into hiding, as has his partner in crime Dr Skuse.

The evidence which supposedly tipped the balance for Waddington was an ESDA test on notes of an interview with Richard McIlkenny, conducted by DS Colin Morris and DC Terence Woodwiss (now both retired) at which Reade was also supposedly present. All swore in court that the notes were taken contemporaneously, whereas the ESDA test showed that some of the notes were added later. In the interview Richard is alleged to have denied knowing the men with whom he was travelling to Belfast.

Richard has consistently denied that this interview ever took place, although he was roughed over by the Birmingham police at about the same time that the interview was supposed to have happened. In fact at the '75 trial, Lancashire police officers reported that Richard had already told them - in an earlier interview with them - that he *did* know his companions and that they were his friends.

It appears that the interview was made up to fit in with the scenario of Richard gradually being worn down by the Squad's questions in one interview, leading to his confession at Queen's Rd station in a later interview. The Reade Schedule (see newsletters passim) includes this bogus interview, with the rider "Notes made at time".

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE NEWS

CRIME SQUAD NEWS

In August Jeff Crawford of the Police Complaints Authority told a press conference that the Devon and Cornwall inquiry had asked for "details of the substance of allegations against a handful of officers". These are supposed to relate to the four officers involved in the Six case who were still members of the squad when it was disbanded. The report went on to say that "several officers involved in the original pub-bombing case have been identified as the subjects of a wide range of complaints over the years" (see August newsletter for the probable candidates). Two were named in the *Sunday Correspondent* (19/8): DI Paul Matthews and Detective Sergeant Michael Hornby (see newsletters passim). The latter has been on sick leave for about a year, as have about a dozen other key officers being investigated by the Shaw Inquiry. This fact, said Jeff Crawford, has tended to hamper the investigation.

Jeff Crawford also voiced concern over the number of files, documents and notebooks that have gone missing since the beginning of the West Yorkshire inquiry - the failure to seal the squad's HQ for several days after its disbandment did not help. To date, no charges have been brought as a result of the inquiry, though 4 officers now face charges of perjury as a result of cases which collapsed prior to the setting-up of the Inquiry.

Meanwhile the chairman of the police federation, Alan Eastwood, told the AGM of the West Midlands branch (meeting at the Tally Ho! [sic] Police training school) that the treatment of the Squad during the Inquiry's investigations was "intolerable and outrageous".

TRUE STORIES FROM THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE. NO. 1.

In May 1983, West Midlands Police were quick to mobilise when a caller rang to say that a safe had been abandoned on a grass verge at Halesowen. A uniformed officer arrived immediately to stand guard for over an hour, until the arrival of the CID who dusted it for fingerprints.

Then it was time to take it to the police station, but all attempts at lifting it failed. A team of uniformed constables was summoned, but even they couldn't move it. Then the traffic division sent a Landrover with towing gear. Twenty fruitless minutes later, the safe still wouldn't budge.

"That", said an officer, "was when we realised it was a Midlands Electricity Board junction box concreted into the ground."

HALF THE PIECES ARE MISSING.



The Guardian

New Evidence: The 'Confessions'

Important new evidence has emerged as a result of two pieces of research commissioned by *The Scotsman* newspaper. Andrew Q. Morton's work demonstrates that the four confessions were fabricated (see right); Malcolm Coulthard's work compares Billy Power's account of how his confession statement was produced with the police account, and concludes that only Billy could be telling the truth.

Andrew Morton, a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, is accepted as an expert in this field in courts all round the world, and has yet to fail in any of the "blind" tests he has been asked to undertake. His report has been passed to the Devon & Cornwall inquiry and to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Morton himself says of it: "I realise my reputation is involved in this matter, but I would never put my name to a report unless I was convinced it was absolutely true. In my opinion, none of the confessions can be accepted as the utterance of the accused - in layman's terms, these statements are fabrications."

Dr Coulthard's Research

Dr. Coulthard examined the police accounts of Billy Power's interrogation, the confession statement itself, and the transcripts of Billy's evidence given in court. He says: "Linguistic analysis has no way of evaluating the truth of what was said in a text but can at times evaluate the truth of claims made about a text." Because Billy Power and Officers French and Watson gave conflicting accounts of how the statement was arrived at, it is possible, by analysing the statement itself, to see which version of events is most likely to have produced it.

DS Watson and DC French claimed:

that they first interviewed Billy between 9.30 - 10.10am on 22nd November, during which time he admitted his guilt and implicated the five others, and described how and where he had planted his bombs. They said that the notes of this interview, compiled later, took about 40 minutes. They returned at 11.00am and asked for a written statement which Billy dictated and Watson wrote down. They read it to him and Billy signed it. This interview lasted until 12.55; they said the process of taking the statement took 1hr 45 minutes.

Billy Power's version is completely different:

The "interviews" lasted over a much longer period and can be divided into roughly three stages: 1) beatings and threats; 2) Watson taking notes on one set of pages for about an hour to an hour and a half and 3) Watson writing for about 20 minutes on another set of pages which Billy later signed as the confession statement. Billy said that this statement was compiled from what he had said while he was being beaten, together with the notes made at stage 2) and answers he gave to supplementary questions during stage 3). At no time did he dictate the statement.

Dr Coulthard found that:

~ The text of the notes of the first interview, which the police said took 40 minutes to compile, was 13 and a half pages long. It would have taken some 65-80 minutes to write down. This fits Billy's account (Stage Two).

~ The confession statement is short - 900 words. At normal dictation speed, it would have taken about 25 minutes to write down (less than 5 minutes to read out) It could not have taken the 1hr 45 minutes which the police say it took. Billy thought it took about 20 minute (stage three).

~ 11 parts of the confession statement match word for word the passages in the notes of the "first interview". The police say that Billy repeated himself word for word when re-telling the events for dictation. Coulthard says this is impossible. Billy says parts of the confession were copied from the 1st set of notes.

~ the phrase "two white plastic carrier bags" was used three times in the confession statement. This sort of detail is very unlikely to be given at all in a verbal account, let alone repeated. Billy says it was put in by the police. (n.b the bombs were later shown by forensic evidence to have been planted in hold-alls).

~ Billy's companions are referred to by their surnames alone on 19 separate occasions in the confession. Yet Billy never referred to them without using their Christian names, even in Court when Counsel used their surnames only.

Coulthard's conclusion is that Billy's alleged "confession" is in fact a compilation of what was said on at least two different occasions, and that some of it was written by the police officers who interviewed him.

As the Birmingham Six case goes back to the Appeal Court, John Mullin reveals scientific evidence which finds that their confessions were fabricated

ANDREW Q. Morton is an expert's expert. Unassuming, single-minded, with little interest in self-promotion, he has been working on his technique of speech analysis for almost 40 years. Now a retired Church of Scotland Minister, his interest in studying text, and in particular in settling debates over authorship, began some 40 years ago. He wanted to clarify who wrote key sections of the New Testament, but, as his method of analysing sentence composition has been honed, so he has looked to other applications. While his techniques were initially regarded with suspicion by police and solicitors, he has worked on major court cases in the United States, Australia and Britain, and given advice in several more countries. Now, he is key witness in a fresh application to the Home Office by lawyers acting for three men serving life sentences for the murder of Carl Bridgewater in 1978.

Morton's techniques indicate everyone has an individual pattern of speech and writing as distinctive as a fingerprint. His method is intuitively simple. It is a form of stylometry, which examines sentence syntax and word patterns. Through his accumulated sum system, Mr Morton is able to check for a number of variables and then convert the result into a graph-like form.

Where a passage is in doubt, it can be compared with examples of an individual's spoken or written word by running them together in the one graph and re-calculating the key variables to take account of the enlarged sample. If the dubious text is the work of the individual, the two lines on the graphs should always co-incide. If not, the two lines on the graphs diverge.

In the case of a statement which has been made by more than one individual, the lines will diverge without any need to run undisputed text in a re-calculated graph. The shape that the lines make on the graph is unimportant. What is vital is whether a gap exists between them.

The method is based on a running total of deviations from the average of both sentence length and a person's habit of using certain forms of words, like two or three letter words or words beginning with a vowel, to compose that sentence. The main benefit of the technique is that it strips out non-significant deviations and produces a "pure" pattern for each individual.

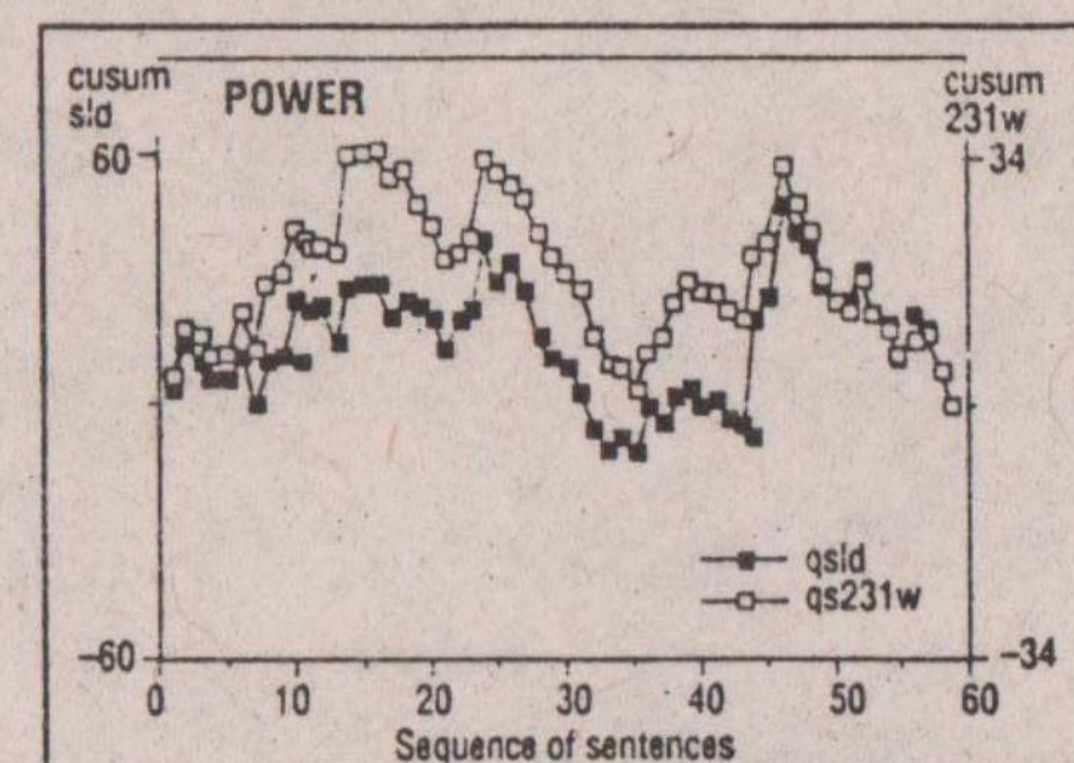
The graphs opposite compare those accumulated sums. Because an individual's habits are constant, then the two lines should coincide throughout if the text is genuine. While this sounds complicated, the results speak for themselves. In more than 600 trials, Mr Morton's method has been confirmed.

In several blind tests, he has never made a mistake. Morton has had to dis-appoint those who have turned to him to prove that a confession is false or a fabrication by demonstrating that it was genuine. In around 30 approaches he had received in Britain, only a handful of confessions proved to be anything less than accurate.

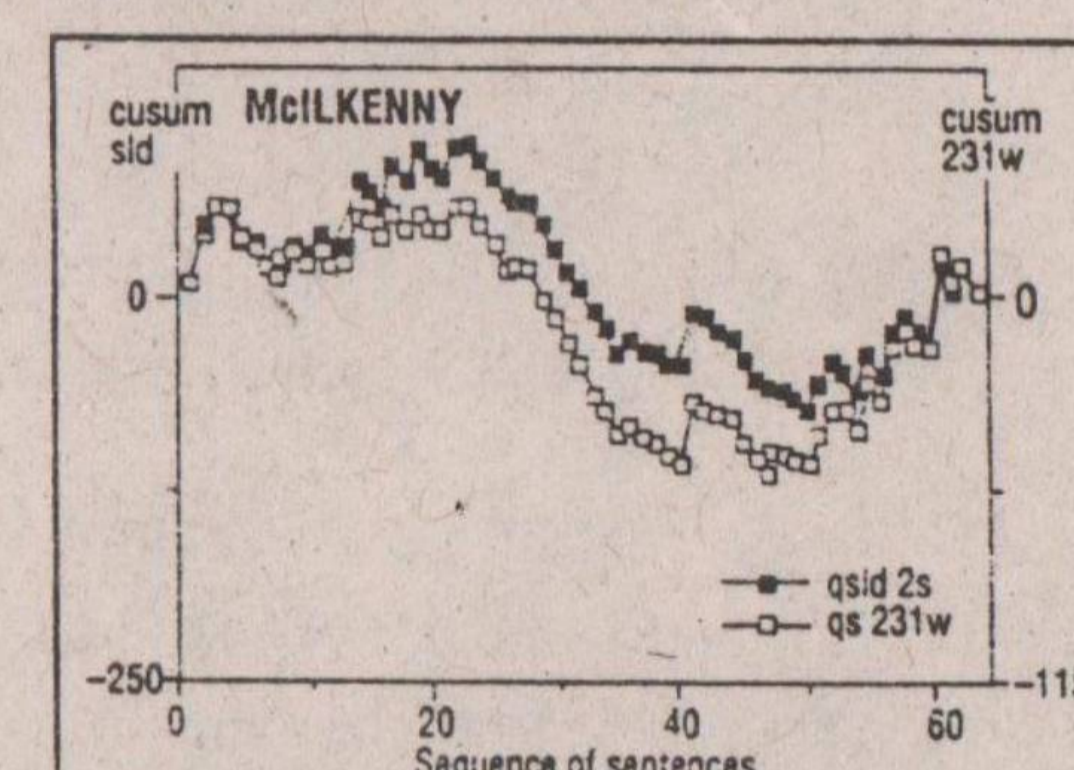
The writing on the wall for justice



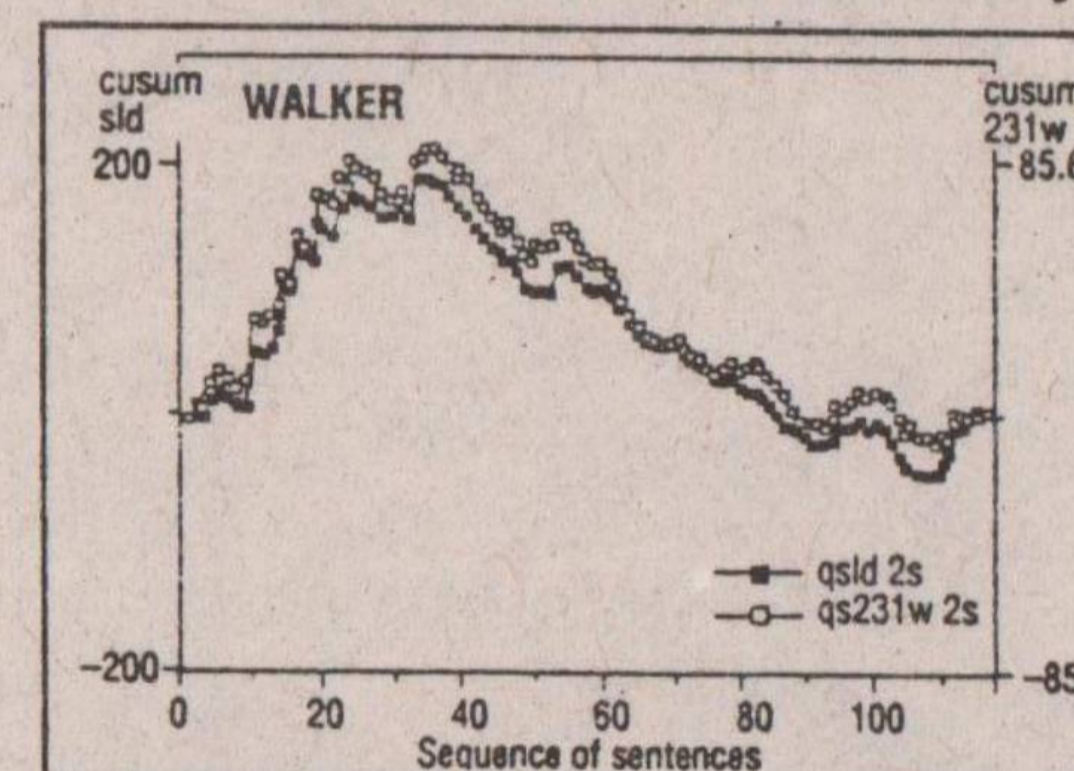
Power's statement: If Power's confession was produced by one person, the line with white squares and the line with black squares would match throughout. Instead, the lines are widely divergent. Among the dubious areas of the statement are the sections referring to the planting of bombs.



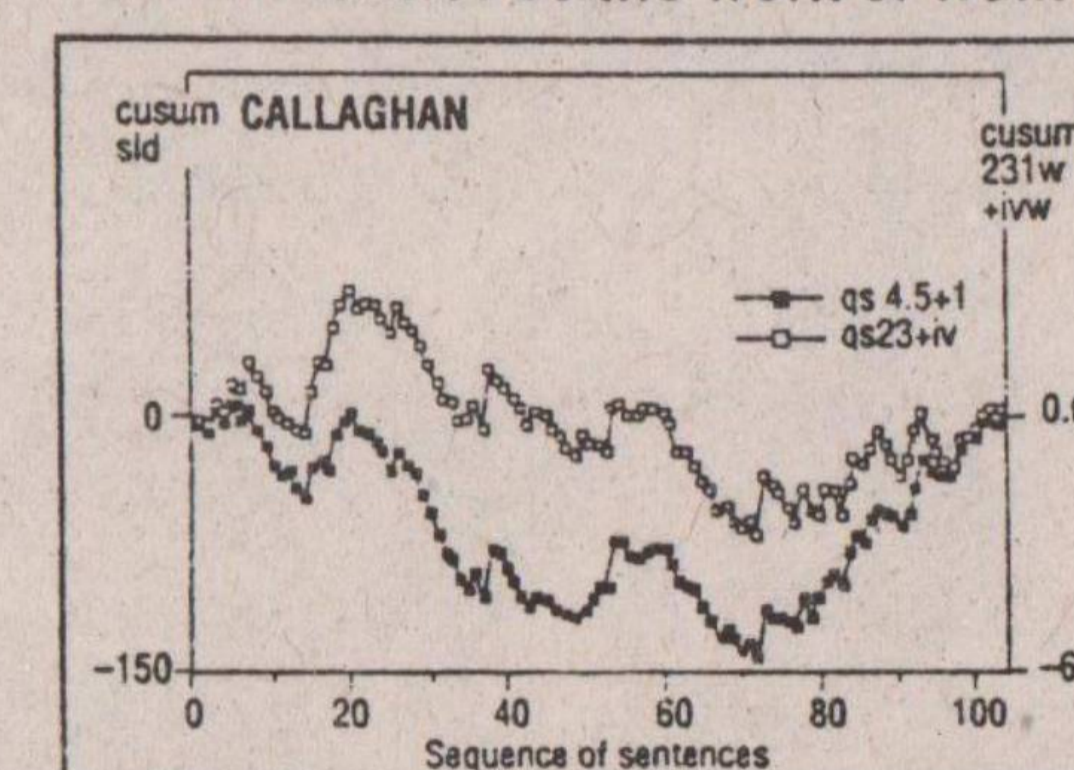
McKenny's comparison: McKenny's confession is the work of one person. But the lines show that the individual who produced it was not McKenny



Walker's comparison: Walker's confession is produced by one person. But the comparison above shows the confession cannot be the work of Walker



Callaghan's comparison: Callaghan's confession, by one person, is compared to Callaghan's courtroom evidence, and Morton concludes Callaghan could not have dictated his confession. The white squares refer to sentence length trends and the black to trends in two or three letter words within that.



He was initially cautious about the Birmingham Six case, but now has no doubts about his conclusions. Clearly someone had been lying in the case. Either it was West Midlands detectives, who resolutely deny all allegations of impropriety in their treatment of the six Irishmen, or it was the men themselves, who consistently argued that they were assaulted, threatened and intimidated on their arrest.

Four of the men had signed confessions admitting to the mass murder of 21 people in two pub bombings in November 1974. But, as soon as they could, they claimed resolutely that they had been forced, through a variety of brutal tactics, to put their signatures on those statements.

Until last Wednesday, nobody had been able to shake the police version of events. Then, Devon and Cornwall police, using electro-static techniques, threw doubt over one interview, involving Detective Superintendent George Reade, the officer who led the questioning. Supposedly contemporaneous notes, they concluded, had been added to afterwards. That evidence, concerning an interview of Richard McKenny, was sufficient for David Waddington, the Home Secretary, to refer the case back to the Court of Appeal last Wednesday.

Morton's own, very different, analysis had begun well before that revelation. But his conclusions go far further. They show that the key confession of Billy Power, who broke down at Morecambe Police station, was put

together by up to four people. The subsequent confessions of Richard McKenny and Johnny Walker, both at Queen's Road in Birmingham, and of Hugh Callaghan, at Sutton Coldfield, were each the work of one person, according to Morton's report. But, in each case, that person could not have been the accused.

IT IS hard to overestimate the importance of what Morton is saying. Officer after officer, on oath, maintained that each statement was made voluntarily by the accused. The detectives argued that the confessions were dictated and that they had simply written them down. Under the Judge's Rules then governing the admissibility of confessions, an officer writing such a statement had to use the accused's exact words. No prompting was allowed, and any questions had to be confined to points of clarification. There should, therefore, have been no doubt that each confession was what the men had said.

Morton began by looking at uncontested statements, letters and court evidence of the four confessors. He found statements they had given to statements later taken down by Lincolnshire police who were called in to investigate the men's allegations of maltreatment. Those statements matched each of the men's established word patterns, indicating that the officers who took down the statements played exactly by the rules.

Then he turned to the original confessions. The first he looked at closely was that made by Billy Power, then 29, an unemployed father of four, and the first to confess, less than 12 hours after arrest. His admission came soon after detectives were told that tests carried out by the forensic scientist Dr Frank Skuse had shown conclusively that three of the men, including Power, had recently handled nitroglycerine.

Though grave doubt has subsequently been cast on those tests, at the time they were a shattering piece of evidence which convinced the detectives that they had the guilty men in their hands. Power was interviewed by Detective Sergeant Alan Watson and Detective Constable Michael French,

both members of the now disbanded and discredited West Midlands Serious Crime Squad. Both officers described Power's reaction when confronted with Dr Skuse's findings. Power said: "Oh my God, Oh my God. Jesus - not these hands." And, say the police, he agreed to make a statement, taken down by DS Watson. Power claims that he signed a confession because he was terrified into it by a series of threats and beatings. The statements he signed, he says, were false.

Morton's tests indicate the confession was written by up to four people. Power, who had admitted dictating some of the statement, relating to how he had spent the rest of the day on which the bombings had taken place, is one.

The multiple authorship of the statement is enough to make the statement inadmissible. With further tests, Morton believes he could identify the police officers responsible. Richard McKenny was the second to confess. After seeing Power's statement after the men had all been taken back to Birmingham, he told Detective Sergeant Colin Morris and Detective Constable Terry Woodwiss, both of the West Midlands Regional Crime Squad: "It was a mistake, nobody should have been killed. There should have been a warning. I don't know what went wrong." After a cup of tea, he agreed to confess, and, say the officers, DC Woodwiss took down a statement dictated by the suspect.

With the Reade schedule, named after the detective superintendent leading the questioning, under the microscope following last week's developments, campaigners last night called for Devon and Cornwall Police to investigate Morton's analysis of the confessions for *The Scotsman*. One said last night: "This could be the final nail in the coffin of the prosecution's case."

McKenny, then 40 and with six children, tells a different story. He claims that a gun, loaded with wax bullets was fired at him, and was told that detectives had Home Office permission to shoot him. This time Morton found something rather different.

He concluded, after the initial test, that McKenny's statement was composed by one person only. But by comparing the statement with a picture of McKenny's undisputed word patterns from four letters bridging ten years, he concludes the statement could not possibly be McKenny's work. The diagram shows how the lines began to diverge when the figures for the confession are fed into the McKenny letters. The accused man, he believes, dictated nothing.

Johnny Walker, then 39 and with seven children, confessed after he was interviewed at Birmingham by Detective Sergeant James Kelly and Detective Constable Tom Sutcliffe, both of the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad. After being confronted with the statements of Power and McKenny, he broke down. DS Kelly said he wrote down Walker's statement as he dictated it.

Walker, like the others, claims he was subjected to ill treatment. A gun was placed against his head, and somebody clapped. At first, Walker thought he had been shot. A burning cigarette was also placed against a blister he had on his right foot. A statement, apparently brought from outside the room, was put in front of him. He signed, with DC Sutcliffe guiding his pen.

ONCE again, Morton's analysis bears out the claim of a fabricated statement. It was, he found, composed by one individual, but Walker was not that person. The pattern was consistent, but it did not compare to Walker's own style of speech or writing, which he had deduced from other material. According to Morton, Walker dictated nothing.

Hugh Callaghan, then 45, the man who says he tagged along with the others for a drink, was arrested the day after the bombings, and taken to Sutton Coldfield station. A nervous and confused man, suffering badly from ulcer problems, he was the last to confess. He was interviewed by Detective Sergeant Michael Hornby, Detective Sergeant Richard Bryant and Detective Constable John Davies, all of the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad.

According to the police officers, Callaghan agreed to confess of his own volition with the words: "Yes, I want to confess - Mary Mother of Jesus, help me and forgive me." Callaghan had dictated the statement, said the police.

That contention is wholly inconsistent with Mr Morton's analysis. He says one person composed the statement - and, although officers may have drawn partly on what Callaghan said, the confession fails to marry up to Callaghan's own syntax habits.

The men's lawyers maintain the Reade schedule, a sequence of interview timings after the men were arrested but before they were charged, is a blueprint for a grand conspiracy, and the statements contradict each other throughout. They conflict on who planted what where, on how many bombs there were, and on the forensic evidence which came to light later.

With the Reade schedule, named after the detective superintendent leading the questioning, under the microscope following last week's developments, campaigners last night called for Devon and Cornwall Police to investigate Morton's analysis of the confessions for *The Scotsman*. One said last night: "This could be the final nail in the coffin of the prosecution's case."

MEDIA News

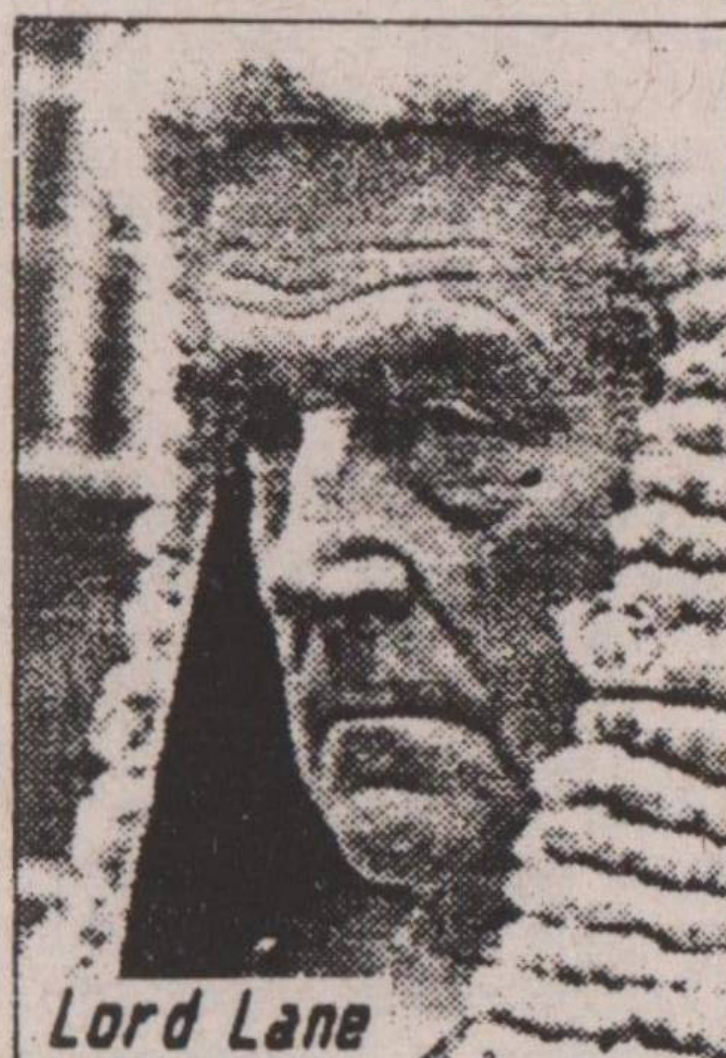
The Whispering Campaign...

The general view from most sections of the media now is that the Birmingham Six will soon be free. This has already set in motion a whispering campaign, which seeks to cast doubt on the men's innocence in the event of their release.

Lord Denning's remarks in the Spectator about the Guildford Four are an example of what may well be floated around to lend support to a similar smear campaign against the Birmingham Six. The threat of writs for libel may have stopped the public airing of such views but this has not stopped the time-honoured practice of feeding lies and innuendos to favoured journalists.



Lord Denning



Lord Lane

A profile of Lord Lane (Guardian 19.9.90) stated: "There are some indications that he is finally learning the ways of the modern world, so that sources close to the Lord Chief Justice seem to be smuggling out hints to journalists that the Birmingham Six case is not as clear cut as the campaigners would have us believe."

There can be a no more blatant example of this than Melanie Phillips' article in the Guardian 7/9/90, ("A notion that dare not be entertained") which is believed to have been inspired by conversations with various senior legal dinosaurs.

It is an article riddled with inaccuracy and innuendo in which she suggests that a "sophisticated and sustained" campaign may force the release of six guilty men on some technicality. This is such an absurd conclusion to anyone who has studied the case that one must question her real reasons for writing such a piece.

All is revealed when she ponders the terrible dilemmas facing Lord Lane over the possible Appeal hearing: Should he sit? What might other judges think? How could he possibly quash the convictions after his absolute dismissal of the 1988 appeal? The Lord Chief Justice should take heart at the concern shown for him by Ms Phillips. Any such concern for six innocent men wrongfully imprisoned for the last sixteen years is conspicuous by its absence.

Because both the forensic and the confessional evidence has been discredited, Ms Phillips concentrates mainly on the circumstantial "evidence" in her vain attempt to provide substance to her assertions that there remains a case against the men. The fact is that these "unresolved questions and contradictions" have never seriously been

In July, a syndicate of sub-editors at the *Morning Star* won *Marxism Today's* World Cup competition. They nominated the British Justice XI, comprising the Guildford Four and the Maguire Seven, with the Birmingham Six as substitutes.

part of the case against the men (even at the 1975 trial!) and each question that she raises has a perfectly reasonable answer, easily available to anyone who seriously studies the facts of the case.

Q: Why, she asks, if they were innocently on their way to Ireland, had none of them let family and friends know that they were coming?

A: Gerry Hunter telephoned a neighbour of his mother's in Belfast to ask to be met at the ferry; he made three calls in all before finally arranging that a mutual friend would pick them up.

Q: Why did two of the men, strapped for cash, buy single tickets and not the cheaper returns?

A: Neither Gerry Hunter nor Paddy Hill could afford to buy return tickets which, although cheaper in the long run, were more expensive than one single ticket. Johnnie Walker and Richard McIlkenny paid for half of Gerry's ticket, while Paddy had to borrow the money to buy his ticket. Both intended to borrow the money for their return ticket when they were in Belfast.

Q: What was Johnnie Walker doing with bags of bomb-making equipment?

A: This refers to the bag containing watches and clocks, used as prizes for the raffles that Walker helped to organise in the Crossways Pub.

Q: Why, after the prolonged and appalling assaults by the police, did they appear in the magistrates court with no mark of violence upon them?

A: Many of the men's injuries were to their bodies and so could not be seen in court. Dr David Paul, a specialist in detecting and dating injuries from photographs, testified at the later trial of Winson Green prison officers that the photos of the men taken while in police custody showed many signs of injury. He identified bruises, swellings and marks on all the men. They would, he said, not necessarily have been visible to the casual glance by the untrained observer.

That these questions form the total of Ms Phillips' case against the Six is an indication of how little there is left to sustain even the whispering campaign, let alone the convictions.

PADDY JOE HILL has made it clear that as soon as he is free he intends to go the full length in court against all those who make clearly libellous statements against him (as Lord Denning did against the Guildford Four). Apologies and retractions after the damage has been done will not satisfy him.

8

PRISON NEWS

STILL IN JAIL ... BUT HOPEFUL

"Monday: I wake at 7am. No Monday morning blues in prison - every day is much the same... Tuesday: It's the same old routine Governor's office - I can't believe it: The Home Secretary has referred my case to the Court of Appeal. I'm so excited, I cannot see any sleep coming. It's an exciting day, an important day, one I will never forget."

That was Hugh Callaghan's description of the week in which he heard the news of the referral of his case (published in the *Independent*). Nearly two months later, he and his five co-defendants are still in jail. It's been a difficult but exhilarating time for them. Because of the

pressure on them and their families, and because they want to spend their visiting time with loved ones, they've had to call a halt to the constant demand for press interviews. They have been allowed to spend more time with families and close friends, which has helped them to cope with the waiting. For the first time in a long time they are daring to think ahead, although they also know a decision may be slow in coming.

The tension of the situation has obviously made it difficult for them to get down to writing letters, so they have asked the Campaign to pass on a big "THANK-YOU" to all those who have written to them and supported their case. It means a lot to them, so please continue sending them your good wishes. Let's hope that very soon they'll be able to greet you all in person.

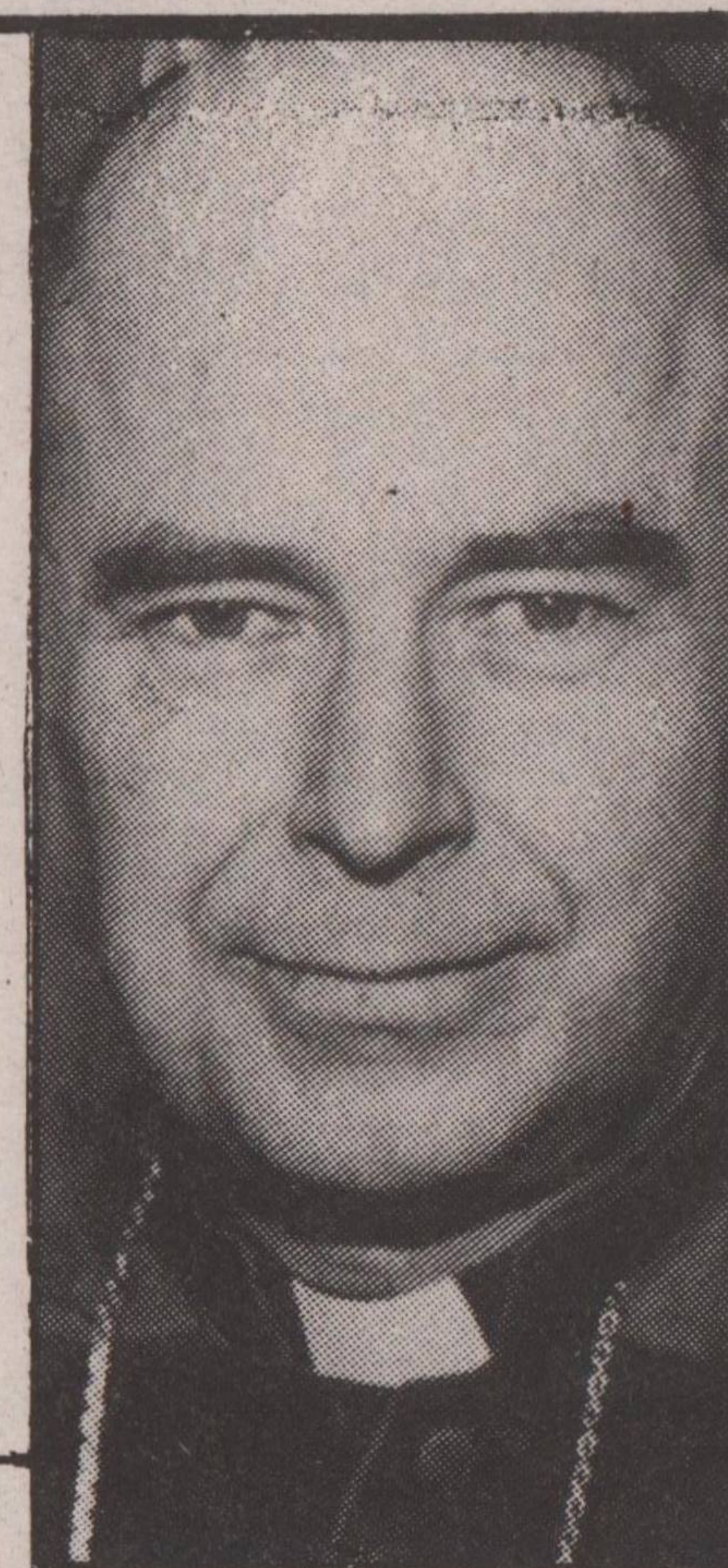
Church News

EVERYMAN

In an "Everyman" programme, broadcast on September 23rd, Bishop Edward Daly of Derry presented a clear picture of the historic injustice in Northern Ireland, and went on to demonstrate how this has seeped into the British judicial system, resulting in the wrongful convictions of many innocent Irish people. He made specific reference to the case of the Birmingham Six, whose '87 Appeal hearing he attended, and he described both his distress when he heard the Appeal Court's verdict and his admiration for the six appellants. "There was more dignity", he said, "in the dock than there was on the bench".

Another "Everyman" programme about the women family-members' campaign to free the Six will go out sometime in late November.

New Leaflet *The Churches sub-group of the London Campaign has produced a leaflet appealing for support from all Christians. Available from the London Campaign group (address on back page).*



● Bishop of Derry, Dr Edward Daly

Leading churchmen say...

Following the legal processes of the Guildford and Maguire groups, the pressure is considerable for re-examination of the Birmingham Six cases. I would not presume to pronounce on the question of innocence or guilt. But there is now sufficient doubt regarding the procedures of the trial, the quality of the evidence, the impartiality of the Appeal court and the availability of alternative explanations to require a fresh examination. The Home Office should not resist this pressure. Our sympathy for the Birmingham bereaved and crippled should not prevent a scrupulous care for justice and that now demands that there be a thorough and unbiased reassessment of the evidence.

The Revd Bernard G Thorogood, MA
General Secretary, United Reformed Church

I urge all members of our society to pray and work hard for the release of these men. There is a growing conviction, on all sides, that they are innocent of the crimes for which they stand convicted. Their continuing imprisonment and unjust separation from family and friends shames our sense of justice. Let us make every effort to get these men free and exonerated. In a healthy society justice needs to be seen to be done, and injustice condemned for its violation of human rights. +Victor Guazzelli

R C Bishop in East London President, Pax Christi

9

The Irish Bishops Autumn Conference, which met September 25-26, issued a statement reaffirming its support for the Six. The statement said:

The Bishops Conference reiterates its conviction that the Birmingham Six are innocent and that grave injustice will continue until their innocence is vindicated and they are free to leave prison.

It called the referral to the Appeal Court "a significant development" and stated that there should be "no inordinate delay in bringing the case to court."

CONFERENCE NEWS

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

A year is a long time in politics Chris Mullin said, referring to the fact that last year the Labour Party, even in fringe meetings at its Conference, refused to air the case of the Birmingham 6, while this year it came up on several occasions during the debate on the Criminal Justice system, and then in the form of a composite motion solely about the case of the Birmingham 6, which committed a future Labour Government to holding an independent public inquiry into the case. This was unanimously adopted by Conference.

Roy Hattersley's conversion to the side of the Birmingham Six is welcome, said the proposer from Boothferry CLP - and left unsaid the fact that, welcome though it is, it is somewhat late. She called for immediate action on the case, and on a system which allowed the police, courts and DPP to ignore significant evidence casting doubts on the men's convictions, simply because they wanted and needed the men to be guilty. How much longer would they have to wait to be freed? And if they were, she insisted that their release not be fenced about with ambivalence, and that there be no doubt that the men weren't being released just on technicalities, but because they were innocent. And she cited Lord Denning's suggestion that though the Guildford Four were free, they were probably still guilty.

Roy Hattersley, earlier in the day, had promised a full review of the case when the Labour Party get into power. So the Birmingham men now know which side their bread is buttered on. Labour will review their case - and may even let them out - when they form a government in 1992. Thanks, Mr Hattersley, that's only in 2 years time. And what's 2 years in politics? And if Labour don't get in in 1992, there's always 1997. So it's time these men got off their backsides in prison and started working for Labour.

Contributor: F. Shiels, watching the Labour Party Annual Conference from the bottom of his armchair in Nottingham.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS CONFERENCE

The Liberal Democrats adopted a wide-ranging motion calling for comprehensive reform of the judicial system. Ludovic Kennedy, as proposer, devoted most of his speech to the men's case, calling it a "story of police corruption followed by repeated judicial incompetence".

TUC CONFERENCE

Breda Power and Sean Redmond spoke at a well-attended fringe meeting. Sean Redmond was speaking on behalf of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions which is seeking to work with British Trade Unions on the case (see Aug. N/letter).

TORY PARTY CONFERENCE

Miscarriages of justice were not mentioned once. David Waddington still wants to bring back the rope.

GREAT BRITISH JUDGES: A FINE TRADITION

The present Lord Chief Justice is noted for the tenacity with which he seeks to uphold the "traditions" of the judiciary. One such tradition of course is an implacable hostility towards those who suggest that the courts are capable of convicting innocent people. Another is the acceptance of behaviour by Lord Chief Justices which in virtually any other job would result in dismissal on health grounds.

For the last two years of his tenure, Lord Lane's immediate predecessor, Lord Widgery, became increasingly eccentric: dozing off in court, pulling faces at witnesses and on occasion obviously not knowing where he was. There was no suggestion when he retired in 1980 that a review of the decisions he made when he was clearly not in full possession of his faculties might be appropriate.

In a Guardian article headed, "When a Lord Chief Justice Loses his Marbles", Hugo Young said the reaction of most lawyers to the Widgery story was one of "lofty incredulity that one should think it worth attention."

Pointers to Lord Widgery's subsequent mental difficulties can be found in the text of his 1976 Court of Appeal judgement against the Birmingham Six. Dismissing any question of injury in police custody to five of the men, he said "there was nothing to indicate that they had experienced damage or knocking about beyond the ordinary" except for John Walker's black eye, "the origin of which I have forgotten but I do not think it matters very much anyway." He did not define what might constitute an "ordinary" level of damage at the hands of the police.

He did note the virtual impossibility of "accommodating a large quantity of explosives in a suitcase if the suitcase already contained clothes for a trip to Belfast. But this is such an isolated matter and so unimportant ... that we do not find it necessary to go into it in detail." In other words: we haven't got a clue how to answer this one, so we'll ignore it.

It is perhaps of some consolation that the men's case never came before Lord Widgery's predecessor but one: Lord Chief Justice Goddard (period of office 1946-1958). His hostility towards any defendant having the nerve to plead not guilty was legendary.

His behaviour both in and out of court was - to put it at its most charitable - bizarre. His biographer reports that, while a judge on the Northern Circuit:

He was a frequent and popular guest in the Circuit Bar Mess and after dinner it was his wont to say "Now boys, what about a boat race?" Whereupon seventeen members of the Circuit would arrange themselves sitting with him on the floor in the formation of two eights, each with a cox, in which position to the great detriment of sixteen pairs of trousers ... the competing eights shuffled backwards across the floor until one of them crossed as victors the imaginary finishing line.

Reviewing Lord Goddard's career following his death in 1971, Bernard Levin wrote in the *Times* that "Goddard as Lord Chief Justice was a calamity ... (his) influence on the cause of penal reform was almost unrelievedly malign." The newspaper was deluged with complaints from senior judges scandalised that the actions of one of their number should be held up to public criticism. These included Lord Goddard's successor Lord Parker who wrote of his "shock and distress" upon reading the article.

Lord Parker did not reveal any such distress for the victims of Goddard's prejudiced judgements but then neither did he express any regret that during his own time as Lord Chief Justice, the Court of Appeal upheld the death sentence on the innocent James Hanratty.

Junior prosecuting counsel at Hanratty's trial was Geoffrey Lane - now Lord Chief Justice. A fine tradition indeed.

THE BIRMINGHAM SIX

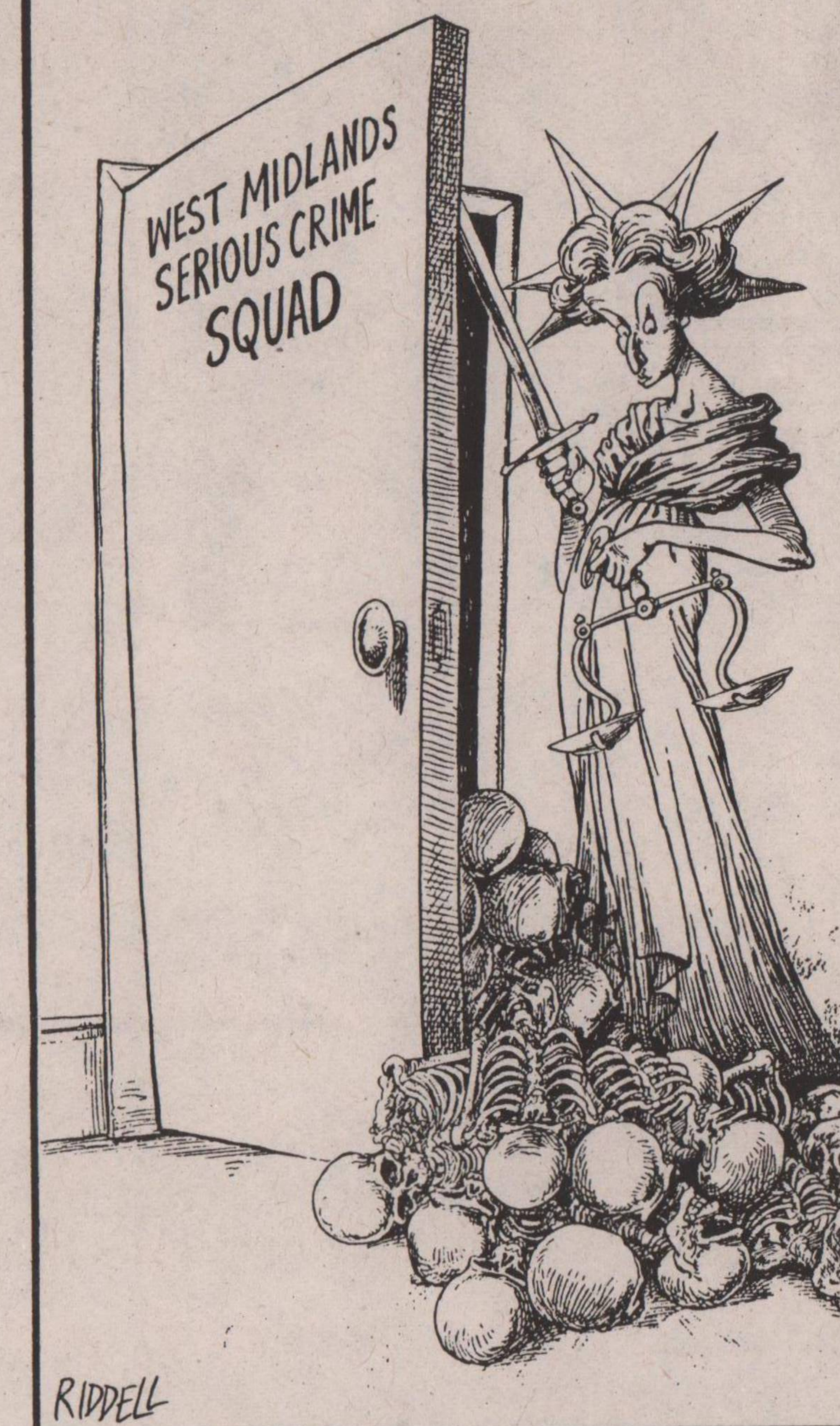
This week I have to tell you
A most unhappy tale
About six unlucky Irishmen
Banged up for years in jail.

They were on their way to Ireland
The night the bombs went off;
As they were climbing on the boat,
They heard a little cough.
"Scuse me, Mr Suspects,
We have a little test
To test for gelly on your hands;
But first, please get undressed."
It's amazing what a suspect,
When beaten black and blue
Will find that he can recollect
And then relate to you.
And once you've got confessions,
All neatly typed and signed,
It won't be long before the sods
Are properly confined.
Of course they'll say you forced them,
They would, though, wouldn't they?
The judges sitting on the bench
Will look the other way.

O, you won't beat British justice
In any court of law -
Provided you're not guilty of
Being Irish, black or poor.

Simon Rae

(Printed in the *Guardian* 10.3.90)



AVAILABLE FROM SHEFFIELD CAMPAIGN
Cards showing the above design,
kindly donated to the Campaign by
Chris Riddell. Card with envelope:
40p or 3 for £1.00

EVENTS

North West Birmingham 6 Campaign

*** SOCIAL ***
December 9th 8.00 pm
with
DERMOT HAGERTY
St Brendan's Catholic Club, City Rd,
Stretford, Manchester. Tickets £3

Nottingham Birmingham 6 Campaign

BENEFIT/SOCIAL
Friday 30th November
with
SOFT TOUCH ** KELLY'S HEROES
at the
MARCUS GARVEY CENTRE
Lenton Boulevard, Nottingham

BIRMINGHAM SIX CAMPAIGN
Friday, 30th November

IRISH CENTRE
DIGBETH BIRMINGHAM

BENEFIT
8 p.m.

Songs for freedom with
IAN CAMPBELL

Dance the night away with

DROWSY
MAGGIE
Compere
JEREMY
HARDY

£5 wagen/£3 unwagen

ickets from
any branch of the Centre
or call 0121 275 2100 for details

MEMBER NOTICE

Sheffield Birmingham 6 Campaign

*** FOLK NIGHT ***
Sun, November 4th. 8.00pm
with
TREASON & FRIENDS
Gallery Bar, Mandella Building,
Sheffield Polytechnic Students' Union

STOCKPORT B6 CAMPAIGN

BENEFIT/SOCIAL
Friday November 16th
Stockport Labour Club
(Details from
Stockport Campaign)

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE BIRMINGHAM SIX IS NON-PARTY POLITICAL AND HAS NO
AIMS OR AGENDA BEYOND THE RELEASE AND EXONERATION OF THE BIRMINGHAM SIX