

HARDLY had the blood been cleaned off the neat paving of the play area and garaging of Rossville (High) Flats, Londonderry (or Derry if you prefer it), than Fleet Street resumed its supply of hot and cold running blood. Indeed Fleet Street's main function seems to be to supply the public's Dracula-like needs. Alternately it supplies the hot blood of 'public' indignation and the cold blood of public analysis and judicial calm.

The most cold-blooded item of the week was a picture of a soldier observing one-minute's silence for the 13 dead in Londonderry. We think the headline in somebody else's *Sun* said 'Reverence Knows No Boundaries' but it was something just as cold-blooded. Bernadette Devlin, our least unfavourite politician, gave a display of justifiable hot-bloodedness; so did those who burnt down the British Embassy.

The week separated the men from the boys. If the IRA did not exist, the Paras would invent them. If the Paras did not exist the IRA would

IN COLD BLOOD

return the compliment. Jeremy Thorpe and Edward Kennedy found reasons not to be in Newry on Sunday. Conor Cruise O'Brien changed his mind and decided that British troops were best out of Ireland. *The Irish Press* pictures Richard T. Daly, Mayor of Chicago, giving £10,000 to Derry relief, stained with the blood of Abby Hoffman?

Fleet Street made our blood cold with a story that the British uniforms (stolen from a dry-cleaners) would be used by the IRA in Newry. Somebody trying to plant an advance alibi or just squeezing out a story?

A one-man tribunal, L. C. J. Widgery, was appointed for the enquiry into the Londonderry massacre. Lord Balneil, the Minister of State for Defence, put the Government's excuses. The people of

the Bogside declined to give evidence before L. C. J. Widgery. Remembering the content of the Compton Report, one concurs.

Immediately, on announcement of the tribunal, Fleet Street darted into its favourite *sub judice* funk-hole. The posh Sundays vied with each other to be more *sub judice* than thou. We cannot omit a reference to Alastair Cooke, soured liberal, who in his BBC radio talk relayed from USA freely and frankly admitted that it was an outrage that pressure had been put upon internees to make them talk. Courageous Cooke, always one outrage behind!

This wasn't really the week for it—but Professor Telford Taylor, former chief United States' prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crimes trial, described as absurd the conviction of Lt. William Calley in the My Lai massacre case. Telford Taylor said, 'It is unfitting and unprincipled to punish one man for the

crimes of many.'

The *Observer* did a spot-check survey of the silent majority and succeeded in polling almost 100% anti-Irish opinion. The *Guardian* had staff trouble with John O'Callaghan who resigned from the paper for its advocacy of a military solution in Ireland. The *Guardian* apparently forgot its story of January 25 that 'At least two British Army units in Belfast have made informal requests to brigade headquarters for the Parachute regiment to be kept out of their areas.

Senior officers in these units regard the paratroops' tactics as too rough, and on occasions brutal'.

A doctor reported that, from post-mortem examination, a large number of the persons killed had been shot in the back whilst running away.

It was reported that a soldier had deserted from the Parachute regiment, it was claimed that he was only a cook and since the Irish Government are holding him on an arms charge it is not known whether it is a morally-inspired desertion.

Fleet Street tried to chill our blood with what was going to happen on Sunday at Newry. Not only was the story of the stolen uniforms given a build-up but a poster on Saturday read: 'IRA Sneak into Newry.' . . . The rotters!

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No Political Solution in Ireland

THE LONDONDERRY massacre and the consequent reaction of horror amongst at least some of the great British public have brought one step nearer the day when the Westminster politicians decide to cut their economic losses and save their worthless political necks by withdrawing from N. Ireland.

No one really believes any longer that the British Army can score a military victory against the IRA in the present circumstances. The last desperate trick is a speciality of the British Army developed over years of 'defending' a crumbling empire: the increasing harassment of unarmed civilians inevitably leading to the killing of unarmed demonstrators, whether accidentally or not.

As always the politicians hover like vultures waiting to pick the corpses for political advantage. Wilson hypocritically moves into a cautious position of 'opposition' as it becomes

clear that the British voter is increasingly favouring the withdrawal of troops. Lynch is breathless at the prospect of a 'united' Irish state under his control. The Catholic Church looks forward to extending its power. The IRA has more justification for its own brand of murder, or 'armed struggle', or whatever you like to call it, depending on your stomach for such things. The stage is set for what is euphemistically described as a 'political solution'—all at the expense of the Irish worker.

When the shooting finally stops, and the dead are buried, and the wheeling and dealing is over, the Irish people will discover that everything has changed to stay the same. They will, that is, unless they decide now that the only acceptable 'solution' is their own emancipation from economic exploitation and the authority of the Church and State.

In Ireland, as elsewhere, all workers have a common cause against a system which deprives them of all initiative and responsibility, and brings nothing but economic insecurity and frustration. The Irish people must not allow the fruits of their suffering to be harvested by the politicians. The civil disobedience campaign has shown the possibilities of a people united against the State. That is just the beginning, a step towards the self-organisation of workers and the creation of a society based on voluntary co-operation and mutual aid: workers' control and a federation of free communities.

The factories and workshops are yours of right, my Irish brothers. Take them, hold them and build a truly free Ireland without capitalists, politicians and priests. That would be a worthwhile memorial to Ireland's martyrs.

TERRY PHILLIPS.

poses. The Central Electricity Generating Board have started to make voltage reductions of 3% over the whole country. In some areas further reductions have been made and near black-out was only just avoided.

The CEBG have issued statements about their power stations being 'under siege'. The North East Region has gone even further and complained that 'extremists, apparently in defiance of official instructions from the National Union of Mineworkers, have prevented, frequently with a great deal of intimidation, the delivery of supplies of hydrogen, chemicals and other commodities essential for safe operation'. The CEBG goes on to deplore the picketing of power stations and has started to use the plight of pensioners who might suffer in any black-outs. No doubt if cuts take place we will have a repeat of the hysterical stories in the newspapers as we did during the work-to-rule of the power workers 13 months ago. In fact by the time this is printed, power workers could have banned overtime to secure their wage claims.

STATE OF EMERGENCY

It is likely that the Government will declare a State of Emergency if the power workers' wage talks break down and they operate their ban. Even without this added threat the strike is beginning to bite. Not only are more power stations going to be out of commission, but factories are beginning to close and lay off

Tory Totalitarians

TAKING ADVANTAGE of Pakistan leaving the Commonwealth, Mr. Enoch Powell demands that the British Government 'withdraw, with due notice and on a planned basis, the permission by which these Pakistanis, like any other foreign workers, reside in this country'. This might be the beginning of the gradual expulsion from Britain of Commonwealth workers from Africa, Asia and the West Indies whose presence 'was economically unjustified'. He added a curious Powellian phrase, 'even if this country today did not have tragic surplus indigenous labour'.

One wonders how long it will be before the deportation of white people, born in England, is advocated by somebody. Once you can class human beings as 'surplus' in this way anything is possible. Even as far back as the years immediately before the First World War the proposal was mooted to deport the unemployed to Canada and Australia. Nowadays the Common Market offers a possibility of a concealed form of deportation. 'There's nothing for you in Manchester, I'm afraid, but there is in Brussels, or Turin, and you'd better take it. There will be no unemployment benefit if you stay here.'

Mr. Powell is capable of statements that make one want to vomit. He goes on to say, 'The process, if carried out as it should be, would involve no dislocation in this country and would confer substantial benefits upon Pakistan and Bangladesh. Nothing could be of more value to those countries than the controlled and progressive return of their citizens, who have acquired experience and skill in industry in Britain.'

Mr. Powell poses as the plain, blunt Englishman, and has been welcomed

by many other John Bulls as someone who has had the courage to say what they have thought but dared not utter. However the mass moving about of people is a characteristic of despotic states. If Mr. Powell was generally concerned to preserve the traditions of Britain he would not advocate such things. One would have to go back to the expulsion of the Jews from England in the Middle Ages to find a parallel to the policy which he advocates.

When he made this speech he was speaking at a dinner in Banbury, organised by the Oxford University Conservative Club and the Monday Clubs of the university and the county of Oxfordshire. The Conservatives have always had sympathy for Fascism and Nazism, because they are not in fact conservatives at all. They are right-wing totalitarians. The John Bull exterior is a fraud. The concern for 'free enterprise', 'individual freedom' and so forth is a facade. They are totalitarian in the same sense that Stalin was a totalitarian, the 'grand old warrior chief', as Churchill called him. Exactly. This is their style.

Hitherto they have been opposed by a strong body of opinion, which, however muddled and inconsistent it may be, has always been against the high-handed kind of policies which Mr. Powell puts forward. The murder of thirteen Irishmen and fourteen Rhodesians has aroused indignation, but some observers think that it has not aroused as much as it would have a century ago. Once this sort of thing fails to arouse people there is no doubt that Mr. Powell, or those who think like him, will be able to put their schemes into operation.

ARTHUR W. ULOTH.

THE MINERS' STRIKE

We Owe it to Them

IN THE SAME WEEK that the coal-miners' strike was really beginning to take effect, one of their number, Freddie Matthews, was killed by an articulated lorry while he was picketing Keadley power station, near Scunthorpe. This tragic death has brought to the surface much of the bitterness felt by the miners and this has shown itself in the increased number of arrests of pickets on the day following his death. Even the long and

bitter lock-out of 1926 did not bring this kind of tragedy and it is ironic that while miners practically stare death in the face all their working lives, one should have been killed during this dispute.

His death comes at a time when the coal-burning power stations, which are being picketed for 24 hours a day, are getting desperate for supplies of oil and sulphuric acid, used for generating pur-

workers. This has already started in the steel industry and paper mill workers are also affected. Cotton mills have been closed and engineering factories in the Nottingham area are expected to close within the next fortnight if the strike is not ended.

The strike is beginning to take an effect in economic terms. The Government has, I think, underestimated the determination of the miners to win. There has not been a passive action but an active participation of members, many of whom have never bothered about union affairs before. Now the pickets are spreading and they are making sure that it is not only coal that is being held up, but also other supplies necessary for generating electricity. In many places the pickets have had to contend with the police, who, with their usual strike-breaking manner, assisted those who wanted to work or held back pickets who waited to stop lorries. In such situations the true role of the police, as a repressive force and protector of wealth, is shown. The bitterness of the past and the reaction to the death of Freddie Matthews has made pickets even more determined to stop supplies and an increasing number of clashes between miners and police, resulting in arrests have occurred.

In money terms, the Coal Board has offered the miners about 8%. Since their last award, the cost of living has gone up by 10% and so in fact they are being offered a wage cut. Many have had this before, when the power loading agreement cut earnings by as much as £5 a week. In fact this meant a wage cut and subsequent profits for the Coal Board. Over the last thirteen years they have watched their industry being run down and co-operated in its destruction without even the satisfaction of seeing the Coal Board and the Government pay dearly for it. It is small wonder that miners do not seem to worry whether there is a pit to go back to or not. The increased productivity and efficiency has not brought any benefits to the miner, only to the Coal Board and those ex-owners who are still receiving compensation under the nationalisation acts.

The Coal Board, the Government and the leaders of the NUM and the TUC want a settlement. Formulae are being tossed around about the miners being a special case and that they should receive an above-the-normal award. However there is talk of some form of guarantee from the TUC so that other unions will not demand the same as the miners' special case settlement.

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