



Sir Norman Stronge

MURDER AT THE ABBEY



Mr. James Stronge

The double murder of Sir Norman Stronge and his son James plunged Northern Ireland and many places farther afield into deep gloom and sorrow.

Once again the Provisional IRA have demonstrated their ability to assassinate "soft targets," and in this case also destroy one of Ulster's most historic houses and so much of the irreplaceable treasures which it contained.

Former Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution he was at the age of 86 one of the "old oaks" of Ulster Unionism.

His services to his native Province as politician and local representative in Co. Armagh, both at Parliamentary and local government level, were of inestimable value to the public weal, and in his years as Speaker of the House of Commons at Stormont he brought dignity and a sense of purpose to the proceedings of the Chamber.

In all his services, and they were many, he

had the fullest support of his wife, Lady Stronge who died last year.

Mr. James Stronge, former M.P. for Mid-Armagh following his father's retirement, was a much respected figure in the County and Province. Like his father he served in the Army and later took over the management of the 800 acre estate which runs down to the border with Co. Monaghan.

The manner in which they died and the destruction of their splendid mansion evoked feelings of revulsion, disgust and shame that an old man, in failing health, should end his days with his only son in such horrendous circumstances.

The Stronge family had close ties with Co. Armagh for eight generations. Their example of loyalty to and love for the Ulster way of life will long be remembered and will outlive the evil which led to a crime which, like so many others in the past 11 years, stains the pages of Irish history.

Ulster's Security Abject Failure

The following resolutions were adopted by Grand Lodge on December 10: "We, Orangemen in attendance at Grand Lodge, condemn the Northern Ireland Secretary, and his advisors on security for their abject failure to provide safety and security for our law-abiding citizens. The easy movement of terrorists, arms, and explosives from the Republic, and the intimidation of Border Loyalists which drives them from their homes are an indictment of the Government.

"We demand that greater

use be made of the security forces by putting into effect the proven methods of counter terrorist operations such as the SAS and locally recruited forces.

We deplore the credibility given to the terrorist inspired H. Block protest movement because of the initial weakness, and prevarication of the Secretary of State.

"We call on Her Majesty's Government to stand firm on its declared policy of no surrender to terrorists especially on the granting of political status."



G.M. Attends Ceremony

Among those attending the Inauguration of Mr. Ronald Reagan as President of the United States was Most Wor Bro. Rev. W. Martin Smyth, our Grand Master.

During his trip he carried out a number of speaking engagements, including a major one in Philadelphia.

Arrangements on the other side of the Atlantic were in charge of R.W. Bro. Harold Alexander a Belfast man, who attended the 1979 meeting of the World Orange Council in East Kilbride.

We hope to record the Grand Master's Impressions of his visit in the March issue.

NOW ITS 15p

The inflation which has affected against every facet of the economy has not left the "Orange Standard" untouched.

It is, therefore, with some reluctance that we now feel it necessary to raise the price from 10p to 15p per copy.

We have long refrained from taking this step but the time has now arrived when the inevitable future consequences must be faced.

Since the first issue was published in 1973 we have striven to keep the price of the paper at its lowest possible

level, and in that we would seem to have been reasonably successful.

Circulation has shown a reasonably steady flow throughout the troubled period in Northern Ireland, and in addition we enjoy a large measure of support from jurisdictions beyond our shores.

We are confident that our readership will continue their valued patronage, and ensure that the true voice of Orangeism and all that the Orange Institution in Ireland stands for will continue.

Light for our darkness

by S. E. Long

The Holy Bible teaches us many things — about the ancient world, about the national, political and economic aspirations of a people, the Jews; about Kings and Queens, rulers and leaders, scholars and saints; about ordinary people, good, bad and indifferent, with their hopes and fears, desires and needs, attitudes and reactions.

It has incomparable gems of wisdom, and grand rules for personal and national conduct. It contains the most wonderful prose and poetry to come out of the depths of man's thoughts and experiences. Its language is magnificent. It carries its truth in a golden carriage. It describes the emotions and moods of the human soul in such sensitive, and precise, terms as to make it unequalled by any other literature.

CHURCH'S TASK

It has always been the case that people have admired the Bible, for its literature, philosophy, sociology and history. And they were grateful for the information and insights that it brought them. It is possible to look at the Bible as some people look at the Church. They admire its architecture, delight in its magnificent furnishings, rejoice in its inspiring music, and miss the reason why the building is there at all.

The desire of the Church, who meet in a Church, is to have communion with God in the company of their kin, to learn about Him, to worship Him, and to claim His promises of help for their lives. The task of the Church is to proclaim God's truth by word and deed, conversation and conduct, to all men everywhere all the time.

The Bible is not properly valued until it is seen for what it is, a book about God, about

His dealings with men, and especially with men who are responsive to His claims on them. It shows us how to live, how to suffer and how to die. It tells us about responsibility, dignity, and equality in our relationships with our fellowmen. It shows us Jesus Christ.

The primary lesson the Bible teaches is that God is, and that He is living and loving, that He can supply the deepest needs of men, and He wants to do that all the time and everywhere.

BOOK ABOUT MEN

The subject of the Old Testament is the righteousness, justice, mercy and love of almighty God.

The subject of the New Testament is that God intervened in human history, uniquely, in the Person of Jesus Christ, to tell men in the language of flesh and blood that God is like Jesus.

The Bible is a book about God, about men, and about the man who is God, about creation, reconciliation and salvation. It is the book of the past, present and future. It is always relevant and topical. It has the timelessness of God. It is like God Himself, "the same yesterday, today and forever."

The voice of God, as the Bible conveys it to the reader, is always saying something to him that is for him and new to him, and is always speaking to him in his situation and circumstance. C.H. Spurgeon made the point, "No-one ever outgrows scriptures; the book widens and deepens with our years."

God does not change. Man does not change. He is fundamentally the same in his needs and aspirations.

PIERCES THE VEIL

And the Bible speaks to him as a being who lives and

shall go on living eternally. It has hope and expectancy in it. It pierces the veil between this life and the next. It takes a man by the hand just when Nature fails him and shows him the way through the Valley of the Shadow to the land of Eternal Light. It persuades us to have faith in God, to be obedient to Him and to be charitable in all our dealings with our fellowmen. It shows us why we may hope, and man is constantly in need of hope.

The Bible is the ground of hope. It is God's ordinary means of conversation with men. It is "the Word from the Beyond for our human predicament." It gives us the word of assurance that in all our sin and suffering the Great Being, who made all things, really cares about it all. The assurance is in the best known verse in the Bible, St. John 3:16, "For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him many not die but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to be its Judge, but to be its Saviour." (and 17. TEV).

Not only is there God, not only is it that He cares for men but that once in history He came among men as a man to take their nature, to show them what God is like and to die as a man to bind men to Himself for ever.

ONE MESSAGE

The one message of the Bible is that God came in Jesus Christ into our world "for us men and for our salvation." It argues that everything points to this fact and everything finds fulfilment here. It is a record of progressive revelation. It tells us how God showed Himself to men as they were able to see Him. The methods, and

the people, He used are all here.

The Bible claims that in Jesus Christ we have the clue to the meaning of the world; that behind it is not fate but a Father. It contends that God's will is that men should live in friendship with Him; that He has given His Son to bring men back to Him and to a proper, loving and caring, relationship with one another.

Trust in God is the first essential. To provide the knowledge of God is the purpose of the Bible. To the extent that we neglect the Bible we are careless of our well being, spiritual, mental and physical, and negligent of the needs of other people.

And people neglect the Bible. For in spite of the large number of modern, easy to read, translations of the scriptures, the Bible remains a closed book to many people and to some who talk glibly about the value of the "open Bible."

WHY SHUT?

The Attitude compels the question: "If God is a reality, and the soul is a reality, and you are an immortal being, what are you doing with your Bible shut?"

Of course the question only has meaning to those who believe in God. Many people are agnostic or atheist. Some of them put words to their unbelief, more of them speak by deeds. "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." (Psalm 14:1).

When men live as if there were no God, it becomes essential to them that there should be none, and then they persuade themselves that it is so. And atheism thrives where wealth, health and power are the things which people live for. They covet these things without regard to their perils. Jesus said, "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the

whole world, and lose his own soul." (Matthew 16:26).

The Bible puts everything into perspective. Man's fundamental need is of God. "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him for ever." (Westminster Catechism). St. Augustine said it, too: "Thou hast created us for Thyself, and our heart is not quiet until it rests in Thee." And Jesus said: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33).

ANSWERS TO ALL ILLS

The Bible has the answers

to all our ills. But we must read it, and heed it, if we would be cured as individuals and as a society.

We need to take to heart the words of St. James. "Submit to God and accept the word that He plants in your hearts, which is able to save you. Do not fool yourselves by just listening to His word. Instead, put it into practice." (1:21,22. TEV).

The philosophy of reconciliation, man with man, has never been more clearly enunciated than by St. John. "This, then, is the command that Christ gave us: he who loves God must love his brother also." (1 John 4:21 TEV).

ALCOHOL AND ITS DANGERS

Alcohol, or the over indulgence in its use, remains a big problem in our society.

The effects of alcohol abuse are so many and so well recognised that there is need for a constant campaign, sensitively conducted, in favour of the utmost care in its use.

If total abstinence is the safe attitude to alcohol it should be recommended by example and precept for church people.

There is the other view that the temperate use of alcohol is more in keeping with today's social attitudes and necessities and the recognition that good things may be used and not abused.

Whatever the approach to the adult the incidence of teenage drinking makes it imperative that the church adds its voice to responsible agencies which try to educate, and warn, young people on the uses and abuses of alcohol.

It may not be possible to assess the value of teaching on this subject in schools but it seems to be a desirable practice to use accredited speakers as visiting lecturers

in schools and colleges. The Temperance Education Board, with the churches, had a programme of the kind which was regarded as useful by many teachers and welfare workers.

We commend the attempt of Fr. O'Hare, Armagh, to introduce soft drink pubs, as an alternative to the traditional Irish drinking houses, with a similar atmosphere.

He seems to be proving that the drink is less important than the setting.

The abuse of drugs is a problem of lesser importance only in size. The losses by drugs are no less real and tragic.

The church's views should be known on social questions as they surface — abortion and homosexuality; investment and inflation; employment and unemployment; leisure and recreation; social justice and political patterns; peace and prosperity.

It has things to say about the whole of life. It must say them with clarity and precision and without apology.

(SEL)

Welcome to the Albertbridge

Wor. Bro. the Rev. W. Martin Smyth, the Grand Master of the Orange Order in Ireland, was welcomed at the half-yearly meeting of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland in the Albertbridge Road Orange Hall, Belfast by Bro. Arthur Best, District Master of Ballymacarrett. Included with the various

County Grand Masters of the Order are Rt. Wor. Bro. Richard Roberts, Grand Master of England (centre); Rt. Wor. Bro. Sir George Clark, Past Grand Master; Grand Secretary Rt. Wor. Bro. Walter Williams, and Grand Chaplains Bro. the Rev. Ernest Long and Bro. the Rev. Dr. Michael Dewar; County

Grand Masters are: Wor. Bros Lt-Col. George Liddle (Fermanagh), William Boal (Down), Alfred E. Lee (Londonderry), Jack Ashenurst (Tyrone), Adam Bustard (Donegal), and J.A. Anderson (Armagh). Photo courtesy "Belfast News Letter."



— Despicable Deeds —

No Papal visit Call

The Sheffield Orange Lodge has been delivering the leaflet "Ten Reasons Why the Pope Should Not Visit Britain" by hand to homes in the east end of Sheffield. So far 2,000 have been delivered, and it is hoped to deliver a further 20,000 before the Pope's visit.

The lodge arranged for Rev. David Samuel, General Secretary of the Protestant Reformation Society, to address a meeting at the Wycliff Independent Calvinistic Church. Mr. Samuel covered a range of topics, including the Protestant Succession and the Pope's visit.

The meeting was well-attended, and it is intended to hold more meetings in the future.

Speaking at the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland December half yearly meeting the Grand Master, the Rev. W. Martin Smyth, said we were in the midst of a carefully orchestrated campaign, not to improve prison conditions, desirable though that may be, but to pressurise Her Majesty's Government to grant moral approval, under the guise of special category or political status, to some of the most despicable deeds and abhorrent acts ever performed by humans.

Although there has been powerful pressure, especially through intimidation, to gather support for the campaign; although some sincere but muddle-headed 'do gooders' have lent credibility to it; although a coterie of politicians, left wing, Irish-backed in England and some paying political debts in the United States, have given it backing, the bulk of mankind have treated it as it deserved to be treated. They have ignored it and they abominate the space given by the media to it while their victims scarcely are mentioned and soon forgotten.

"BEEB" BOOBED?

"Was it not significant that a report from New York on last week's session in Congress reported that the media there had largely failed to mention it. Cable television in fact only began to broadcast it when the BBC reporter contacted them to find out why they were not carrying the story. Is this another case where someone in the 'Beeb' boobed and acted irresponsibly?"

"Tension does however exist. We note that it has been largely created by the same street campaigners whose student voices, and brick throwing sought to change the status of our country in 1969. As Socialist Republicans join their fellow travellers they may well celebrate in 1981 the Sixtieth Anniversary of the

N.K.V.D. the Secret Soviet Police.

"Ulster Unionists will maintain their free society, and repeat the determination of their fathers who in 1921 refused to go into an Irish Free State. Not persuaded to join it within the British Commonwealth they most certainly are not prepared to join a Republic of Ireland outside the British family."

"If Charles Haughey wishes to join the immortals, redeem his past political follies and contribute something positive to the future wellbeing of this Province, let him repeal the Constitution of his State and remove the tendentious claim over Ulster. Far more than the simple pledge which recognises the reality of Unionists convictions this claim feeds the fires of anarchy, and encourages fresh out-breaks of violence.

At this time we are also aware of the suggested Papal Visit to the United Kingdom. Orangemen and other citizens, while recognising the non-Christian views and errors of Islam and the eccentricities of the King of Morocco, did not protest about that Royal Visit. They are prepared to recognise proper diplomatic courtesies.

MODERN PAPACY

Eight hundred years after the launching of the Crusade against the Albigenses and six hundred years since Wyclif denounced the doctrine of transubstantiation at Oxford we note similar trends in the

modern Papacy. Furthermore until the Papacy renounces its territorial claims and recognises the boundaries of the Kingdom such a visit cannot be construed as pastoral. We cannot, and will not, consent to any diminution of our country's Sovereignty.

"May I say a word concerning some who claim to speak for Ulster Loyalists. Our Institution is democratic and respects freedom of speech and religion as well as other freedoms. Such freedom should not be abused. I note that we have been accused of holding 'kangaroo' Courts. This we repudiate completely.

It seems rather a case of 'As you live your life, you judge your neighbour.' Attacks on our Orange position should not allow any to be blinded to the reality of the situation.

NO NARROW OUTLOOK

We stand with our brethren, kith and kin, in Scotland as in England, against a narrow provincial nationalism, especially when it is part of the policy of our enemies to break our British family. Until other members of the family break the link it is not for us to sue for divorce. Perhaps that is the problem. Our Institution maintains its

stance for time-honoured values based upon the Word of God.

"As we move into 1981, and remember the issuing of the Revised Version of the New Testament in 1881, we would all be better employed in revising our lives in the light of the New Testament. This is the timely message of Christmas — Immanuel God with us. Jesus, shall save His people from their sins. May God forbid it that we join the indifferent inn-keeper, or the hostile Herod. May we seek Him as wise men, worship Him as shepherds, and submit to God's Will as did Mary."



50 YEARS SERVICE

Veteran Sandy Row Orangeman Bro. William Meharry (centre) has just completed 50 years service to the Junior Orange Order movement and in recognition of his work the members of Sandy Row District Junior LOL No. 2 presented him with a rocking chair. Bro. John McCrea, left, the Junior Grand Master of Belfast, made the presentation, and others present were; Wor. Bro. George Watson, District Master of Sandy Row District LOL No. 5; Bro. Tom Ross, District Master of Sandy Row Junior District LOL No. 2, and junior members Bros James Teggart and Nicholas Denton. (Picture courtesy 'Belfast News Letter'.)

Paisley on same path

Cllr Wm Bleakes, press officer of Official Unionist District Councillors, says that the Rev. Ian Paisley's latest outburst is a "typical act of desperation from yet another Unionist leader who has been enticed down the same path as O'Neill, Chichester Clark and Faulkner by those whose eventual aim is the betrayal of Ulster."

"The Secretary of State has described his latest proposals

as novel; in fact they are simply rigged structures which will lead to an eventual united Ireland. All Unionists must unite in demanding political structures based on normal British democratic principles which will not put republicans into positions of power which is the essence of option 2 of the Atkins White Paper which the DUP have fallen over themselves to accept."

Real aim of H-Block Row

Cllr. William Bleakes, Hon. Secretary, Association of Official Unionist District Councillors, told a meeting of North Antrim Unionists at Ballymena that the true nature of the H Block Hunger strike portrayed as seeking political status is becoming more apparent.

"It is" he said, "nothing less than a highly sophisticated campaign of international dimension to put pressure on Her Majesty's Government to make further political concessions to a rebellious minority."

visit to Dublin has been mistimed and has given succour to those whose political intentions are detrimental to Northern Ireland.

"However, Unionist politicians must not over react and give credence to any discussions involving Eire, with the exception of those of mutual interest and concern. Instead Unionists should demand that democratic institutions of government as outlined in the Tory manifesto and related to in the Queen's speech be implemented without delay."

"Any proposed institutions in connivance with the Republic will receive the same fate at the hands of Unionists as did Sunningdale in 1974."

STANDARD BEARER

T.V. SERIES ON IRISH HISTORY

All the breath-taking camera work, the fascinating interviews with "survivors" of the Easter Rebellion and the so-called Anglo-Irish war of the early 1920's or the wealth of film material available from the archives, cannot disguise the fact that neither of the two current television documentaries on the Irish troubles can claim to be a comprehensive history of this island.

The BBC programme "Ireland," by Robert Kee, in conjunction with RTE, is by far the more exhaustive of the two programmes as regards research. Indeed, one wonders why Thames Television bothered to announce its series so boldly, unless it wanted to divert some attention from the BBC programme, as the ITV effort cannot pretend to be more than a brief summary of Irish history.

It is Robert Kee's programme which has commanded the greater attention, and it must be said that Kee, already the author of several books on periods of Irish history, has done a very good job, within the limits imposed on him by time and expense.

But having said that, there is no doubt that the series "Ireland" still contains a lot of serious omissions, and it also has taken a notable pro-Roman Catholic and republican slant in some respects.

Take the earlier episodes, notably the one dealing with the siege of Derry. The programme, in all fairness, gave a vivid account of the hardships suffered by the defenders within the walls. But for an item on the siege to leave out such things as the Governor Lundy incident, and the names of most of the prominent Apprentice Boys is inexcusable. In the same programme, the Battle of the Boyne, acknowledged to be one of the dozen battles in European history which had a profound effect on history, was dismissed in a matter of a few minutes.

In contrast to this, the sacking of Drogheda by Oliver Cromwell's men was given the full treatment, and no punches were pulled by Kee in describing the deeds of the Ironsides in both Drogheda and Wexford.

Earlier, Kee had dealt with the great rebellion of 1641, and to be fair, his programme did succeed in getting across to the British audience, at which the programme was beamed, the impact of 1641 on Protestant thinking, and the horror which the memory still evokes in that community's thought process.

But why did Kee have to fall into the old trap, into which some previous historians have fallen, of playing the numbers game? Apologists for the terrible atrocities inflicted by the rebels at Portadown, Loughgall and scores of other places in the North, have, down the years, tried to put a better face on it by claiming that the number of English planters and Protestants murdered and tortured in the most horrible ways, has been grossly exaggerated. The fact is that enough evidence was produced at Crown tribunals following the suppression of the rebellion to show that tens of thousands of Protestants were exterminated, and it is not fair to their memory, or to the facts of history to try to distort the fact.

In the programme on the rebellion of 1798, Kee dealt at great length with the preparations for the uprising in Wexford and

other parts of the South, and told of the deeds committed there, and also dealt at some length — and in vivid and gruesome detail — with the tortures allegedly perpetrated by the Crown Forces after Vinegar Hill.

In contrast, the Northern rising, in Antrim and Down, was dismissed in a couple of sentences.

Very little reference was made in the same programme to the formation of the Orange Order in 1795, or to the fact that Orangemen and Yeomen from the North played a leading part in putting down the Wexford rebellion.

Moving to more recent episodes, the Kee programme on the Easter Rising was very interesting indeed, including interviews with old IRA men and British ex-servicemen who had fought in the Easter Rising on opposite sides.

The same can be said of the Thames Television programme on the 1920-22 conflict, which contained interviews with former Black and Tans and IRA men.

It is a sobering thought that all the people interviewed, agreed on one point — there there was little or no support for the IRA cause before the execution, by the British, of the leaders. How different the course of history might have been had the British acted differently.

How different, too, had the Crown Intelligence units been more competent in the South during the 1920-22 conflict. The fact that Collins was able to recruit spies or "agents" inside Dublin Castle, including, apparently one English officer, and that Collins was able to cycle around Dublin in broad daylight, planning the murders of policemen and soldiers, is proof that security bungling is not confined to any one era of Irish history.

The programmes, which are still attracting a lot of viewers and comments, will no doubt make a big impact in Britain, as a "know your Irish history" synopsis for the man-in-the-street, but they will not have influenced many Ulster Protestants into thinking that the course adopted by their forefathers, notably in the 1912-14 period, in resisting Home Rule, was wrong.

The programmes have generally failed to convey the full depth of feeling of Ulster people over the fear of their incorporation into a state which came into being during a campaign of murder and other outrages. Present-day historians may try to put a better gloss on it, but the fact is that the majority of the men who founded the Irish Republic had little mercy for their victims, whether civilian or military.

Little mention has been made in the programmes of the mass exodus of Irish loyalists and Protestants from the South in the years following 1922. Some 40,000 alone left the three former Ulster counties of Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan, within a few years of partition. The same was true of Dublin, and places like Kingstown and Bray. The programme could have shown this as an example of what present Ulster loyalists fear would be their fate if thrown to the wolves by a British Government indifferent to the feelings of people in the Province.

Alas, the opportunity, like so many, was lost in these two TV "spectaculars," but then, bearing in mind the path taken by previous historians of the period, it is hardly surprising that these two latest efforts have the same shortcomings.

Protestants losing out in housing

Current "leaks" from inside that vast bureaucratic organisation, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, would indicate a serious state of affairs, if our informants are to be taken seriously, and we have no reason to doubt the validity of their claim.

Our sources tell us that recruitment in the Executive at most levels is working at a ratio of four Roman Catholics to every Protestant, and if this, or anything like it, is true, then it is a classic case of discrimination.

THOSE MISDEEDS

When the monolithic structure was created in 1973 we were assured that it was necessary, in order to correct the "misdeeds" of Unionist-controlled bodies like Londonderry Corporation.

It was a classic case of the big lie succeeding, because the facts would not have stood up to close examination. What were the facts? They were that the Unionist majority on Derry Corporation had allocated many more houses to Roman Catholics than to Protestants.

Also, in 1969, another fact played down was that in Northern Ireland as a whole, more public-owned houses had been allocated to Roman Catholics than to Protestants. In other words, even when the total housing schemes for Protestant areas like Portadown, Ballymena, Newtownards, Carrickfergus and Belfast were added to those of Nationalist dominated Councils, the "downtrodden minority" still has succeeded in getting more houses than the majority community.

The Unionists failed to get that message across in 1969 with

drastic consequences, and now they must not fail again. They must expose the current trend in the Housing Executive, not just in relation to staff, but in the location of housing schemes.

Ulster Unionist and DUP spokesmen have spotlighted the fact that Protestant East Belfast needs 2,000 new houses, yet is being fobbed off with a paltry few hundred, mostly re-development. Yet, in Roman Catholic West Belfast, houses can go up in thousands, and new land gobbled up in places like Poleglass, while Protestants in Lisburn have to wait for years.

PRIORITY FOR STRABANE

Another example. In the same week that the Housing Executive told Craigavon Borough Council that no new houses are planned for the next five years in Protestant Portadown, the same organisation told Strabane Council that 75 more houses would be starting shortly in that town, to go with the 60 currently under construction.

Portadown, with a population of 22,000 has 300 names on its waiting list, and scores of young couples have to go outside the town for their housing requirements. Strabane, with a third of the population of Portadown, and nothing like the same waiting list, has done remarkably well as regards housing recently.

Is it a mere co-incidence that loyalist and Protestant areas seem to be losing out heavily in such matters? A close examination of the whole Housing Executive structure and its method of personnel recruitment would seem to be a priority for loyalist politicians and organisations.

Murder most foul

Terrorism took a new and more sinister turn with the double assassination of Sir Norman Stronge and his son James, and the destruction of their home, one of Ulster's stately houses, and its priceless treasures.

To murder an aged and ailing Loyalist and his son in such circumstances and for the Provisional IRA to seek to justify their dark deeds in the name of antipathy to "symbols of hated Unionism" reaches down to the nadir of inhumanity and brutality.

So strange it is that Sir Norman who braved and survived the heat of battle and open warfare in the first World War should have met his death by gunfire at his own fireside.

His contribution to Ulster and to her way of British life will be assessed in detail by historians, but just at this moment when we await a military funeral for him and his gallant son we can say that it was immense.

He was a great Constitutionalist, an outstanding Imperialist, a word which now seems to be regarded with some distain in certain Parliamentary circles, and he was a staunch Protestant and Unionist as well as a devoted member of the Orange and Black Institutions.

Mr. James Strong was cast in the same family mould. He

loved his estate set in the beautiful countryside close to the border with the Irish Republic, and chose to remain there in spite of the obvious dangers which were to materialise in their most violent form on January 22.

Violence breeds violence, and the murder of the soldier in Londonderry, the murder of Mr. Ivan Tombs, the Warrenpoint Major in the UDR and senior Customs officer, the hooded murder by the Provisionals of an "informer" in their ranks, as well as the attempted murder of Mrs. Bernadette McAliskey and her husband Michael are no less reprehensible.

Evil is evil, and there is no disguising the fact, no matter which "side" is responsible. The people of Ireland in the main have refused to give their support to or to countenance these purveyors of hate and vengeance. PIRA speak only for their miserable groupings and they achieve nothing only sorrow and suffering on a public which has had more than enough.

The time has come when the distraught people of Northern Ireland ought to be rid of this scourge. To that end all civilised movements must combine to bring murder and destruction to a long overdue end.

Royal Black thanks to Portadown

Happy memories of the successful "Black Saturday" demonstration in Portadown by the City of Belfast Chapters were revived recently, when a delegation of senior officers from the city travelled up the motorway to Portadown.

The officers, led by the Rev. Victor Ryan, Grand Master, were attending the annual meeting of Portadown District Royal Black Chapter No. 5, to say a huge "thank you" to the County Armagh Sir Knights for their hospitality, and for the arrangements made for the demonstration.

Presentations were made on behalf of the city Chapters and Preceptories to Sir Knight Herbert Whitten, WDM, Portadown, and Sir Knight John Brownlee, district registrar, Portadown, for the tremendous effort they had made to ensure the smooth running of the demonstration.

Sir Knight Ryan said that the Portadown demonstration, the first since 1958, had been a huge success, and it reflected great credit, not only on the Portadown Sir Knights, but on the townspeople as a whole, who had played their full part in offering hospitality on a lavish scale.

Sir Knight Whitten, in thanking the Belfast officers, assured them that it would not be many more years before Portadown would be playing host once again to the City of Belfast Chapters.

He said that the department and behaviour of the tens of thousands of visiting Sir Knights, the bandsmen, and their supporters, had been commented upon favourably by all sections of the Portadown population.

The Belfast visitors also thanked Sir Knight R.H. Bell, of Epworth Temperance RBP No. 232 for the part he had played in organising the service in Thomas Street Methodist Church, and thanks were expressed to the RUC for their assistance during what had been a truly memorable day.

STANDARD COMMENT

Thatcher — NO STRAW LEADER

The debate among Ulster politicians as to whether or not Mrs. Thatcher made accommodations with the H-Blockers continues. Those who have some confidence in her integrity seem to be justified to the extent that the H-Block campaigners are patently dissatisfied with the settlement. The others are still crying "sell out" and attacking the lady unmercifully.

Because the whole area of political negotiation is a minefield for the unskilled and the unwary we shall make one comment only. The form of Mrs. Thatcher is such that the punter must feel confident that she has the strength of will, courage and determination, to win any encounter with whoever runs against her. She may be wrong in her judgements on many things — time and events will prove or disprove that — but she is unflinching in her determination to pursue the course she has set herself and her government. And that course includes the policy that Northern Ireland will remain part of the United Kingdom while its people want that political arrangement. And it entails an Army presence in Ulster no less than it would in any other troubled part of the UK.

As to a political settlement here Mrs. Thatcher's efforts by her Secretary of State for NI has not been productive of any meaningful result. The Atkins conference produced nothing. Those who attended it appear if anything to be even more estranged than previously. And the public attacks of leading Unionists on one another is the evidence that a united Unionist front is a dream of other days.

The charges and counter-charges are such that we can only deplore their indelicacy and determine to stay out of their wranglings. But it has to be said, that those of us who take an interest in political postures are often amazed at how easily some of our politicians can change course. The arguments of today are not always those of yesterday. In a few cases followers have a hard time keeping their leaders in sight.

This, too, is necessary for us to say. The Orange Institution has not questioned the need of the Union. It has not given any

time to the consideration of any alternative to that. It has been wholeheartedly in support of devolved government for the Province and anxious for an administration of the sort with a British orientated basis and form.

We have not been satisfied with Direct Rule — no party or organisation has been more vociferous in condemnation of the inadequacies and incompetencies of what is overloaded with bureaucracy — but we prefer it to the kind of amalgam administration which would have merit only in having in it representatives of the political interests in the country, however disparate, and disloyal, to the principle of the N.I. state within the U.K.

We reiterate our determination that the Convention Report remains the one document which promises a devolved government of a type with potential to last and with built in opportunities for minority groups to influence government at every level.

Unjust economic plight of Ulster

In common with many others we deeply deplore the economic state of the Province. The policies of the Thatcher government may be necessary to make the U.K. adjust to realities which it has refused to face for years.

But it seems to our untutored minds to be morally wrong to pursue policies which make unemployment the most contagious disease of the times and the destruction of businesses an inevitable consequence of measures which seem to be insensitive to the needs of the people. We are left with the feeling that the situation is most unjust, for those who are suffering most from the country's ills are the least able to bear it. And we cannot be convinced that money spent in unemployment and other like benefits would not be better spent in strengthening ailing industries to keep people in work.

It is beyond belief that none of them are potentially viable and the more likely to be that with the realisation of the need to survive and with modernisation, too.

But we must agree with Mrs. Thatcher, speaking to lady questioners on an afternoon television programme, there is much room for self-help in the country. She deplored the lack of competitiveness in British industry, the dissatisfaction of British buyers with British goods, and the restrictive practices of British workers. There are bad managements everywhere and lack of trust between even good ones and their workers.

Whatever else is needed to restore confidence in British industry there is clamant need for British people to do their utmost to make it what it could be — a force again in the world. As Mrs. Thatcher says the markets are there, we are not competing in them.

Of course none of this reduces government social and economic responsibilities. The buck will not be passed.

Dublin's silence on vital questions

Experience has taught us that the Provisional IRA keeps its promise when it threatens terrorist action here or elsewhere. The bombings in England in the early days of the year, for which it claimed responsibility, are likely to be the earnest of another campaign to try to compel British withdrawal from Ulster.

The address of the communication to the London police — Dublin — is the continuing evidence that if the Provos do their work elsewhere the brains behind the deeds are in safety in the Irish Republic.

The failures of past efforts of the kind have not dissuaded the PIRA from their belief that Britain can be bombed into a change of mind.

There are those who believe that the Thatcher-Haughey Dublin talks, with the speculation on them that the British Prime Minister is showing sympathy for a Southern Irish involvement in the settlement of Northern Ireland, have encouraged the Provos to think that a bit more pressure of their kind would bring nearer a united Ireland.

The determination of Mrs. Thatcher to prove her promises that Ulster will not be propelled into an all-Ireland republic is likely to be tested to the full. And in the process the question of relationships between Haughey and Thatcher will be answered. How she reacts to threats from an organisation with its headquarters in the Republic and with personnel who are wanted men in the UK but safe from extradition there will be of interest in itself.

We have asked the questions from Haughey and his predecessors — when is the Republic going to stop its territory from being used as a haven for terrorists, and when will it take the real measures necessary to stop its territory being used as a base for terrorist attack on the UK? Whilst these questions are not satisfactorily answered there can be no honest working arrangement between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

CAMBRIDGE DEBATE

The BBC Panorama Cambridge Union Debate of 8 December was titled "Irish Unity — the only Answer?" The presenter was David Dimbleby and the motion, "The declared long-term aim of British policy in Ireland should be Irish unity." Speakers for the motion were Jack Lynch, the former Eire Prime Minister and John Hume, MEP, Leader of SDLP, and against, William Craig, former Minister of Home Affairs, Stormont, Conor Cruise O'Brien former Eire Cabinet Minister and now Editor-in-chief of the 'Observer' and Michael Mates, MP, Vice-chairman of the Conservative Northern Ireland Committee.

The motion was lost by 276 votes to 182.

The debate was interesting with a few good "performances" from the participants. Conor Cruise O'Brien and John Hume, taking very different stances, were most effective, though in fairness the debate was so edited that extracts from speeches may not have given a true reflection of their quality.

The case against the motion was the better one and the presentation of it proved the more convincing to a student audience which appeared to be suitably impressed by the seriousness of the subject and the personnel of the debate. This televised version may have helped viewers in Britain to understand better the Northern Ireland problem. But the subject is so fraught with difficulties that we are not hopeful of that outcome.

A POPULAR GM

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland elections resulted in the return of the main officers. The Grand Master, The Rev. W. Martin Smyth, was made to realise again how highly he is esteemed by his brethren.

The office, which has been held by the most estimable of Orangemen, has never been held by one who has put more into it in ability, enthusiasm and sheer hard work. If leadership demands setting patterns in devotion to the cause he has done an excellent job in that particular. And his courage is a by-word. He has never shirked an encounter of whatever kind when a statement of position or an explanation of attitude was necessary to explain Orange thinking on something.

His work in the mass media — predecessors are not faced with its pressures — has been particularly valuable. And his journeyings around the world have provided opportunities for people to hear the Ulster story as it is. Because good leadership is essential, and so hard to find these days, the G.O.L.I. is fortunate to retain the services for another year of Most Wor. Bro. the Rev. W. Martin Smyth as Grand Master.

Pope's UK Visit

The following statement has been issued by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland on the proposed Papal visit to Great Britain.

"We receive the information of the proposed visit of the Pope to the United Kingdom with feelings of deep regret. It is stated in the Thirty-Nine Articles of the National Church of England that 'The Bishop of Rome hath no jurisdiction in this realm of England.'

"Since Her Majesty the Queen is 'on earth the Supreme Governor of the Church of England' it follows that there would be a conflict between the Queen's Majesty and the presence of the Pope, since he cannot be 'Christ's Vicar upon earth' in her realm.

"In Scotland the established church recognises solely the Headship of Christ, and, therefore, utterly rejects any papal or other spiritual pretensions to such implied headship in that part of Great Britain.

"In those other parts of the United Kingdom, Wales and Northern Ireland, there has been no established church for 60 years and 110 years, but the same objections could be raised by the majority of their populations who undoubtedly profess some form of the Protestant Reformed Religion.

"It is, therefore, inexpedient that the Pope should be encouraged to make any visit 'state or pastoral' to any part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the appendages of the Crown in the Channel Isles and the Isle of Man."

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R.C. BIRTHRATE

Pressures which fall far short of persecution can lead to the decimation and decline of communities, and this applies on racial, cultural or religious grounds.

It also applies to all parts of the world, whether the industrialised West, or the under-developed East.

There are many well documented examples, and the decline of communities can follow political upheaval.

The withdrawal of the French from Algeria, for example in the early 1960's, led to one million French settlers returning to the mainland, due to fear of persecution by the Moslem Algerian majority.

In the wake of British

withdrawal from India, millions of Moslems crossed the frontier into Pakistan, and millions of Hindus moved to be with their majority co-religionists in the newly independent India.

In the aftermath of World War Two, an estimated 12 million Germans were forced out of their homes in East Prussia, Silesia and Pomerania, as their territory was taken over by Poland.

Closer to home, in the years following the creation of the Irish Free State, over half of the 300,000 Protestants living in the 26 counties vacated by the British, left — many of them fled with little or no possessions — to other parts of the world, including Ulster.

Rarely, if ever, has a community which has suffered real, or imagined persecution, or intimidation prospered, and prospered to such an extent that it becomes a threat to the majority community.

Yet, if recent figures issued by the Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland are to be taken at their face value — and there is no reason to doubt them — the interesting fact is that there are now more Roman Catholic babies being born each year in Northern Ireland than all the other babies of Protestant or "non-denominational" persuasion.

The Bishops claim that there are now 53 per cent of births to Roman Catholic mothers, and that it was in 1978, for the first time, that RC births passed those of the other faiths. In other words, the half-million Roman Catholic community are now producing more births than the one million majority population.

The higher birthrate, which is a natural phenomenon of Roman Catholic communities, cannot be the only reason for the fact that the minority community is prospering. That community must obviously feel confident and it cannot feel under any great threat, because communities which are under dire pressures of one sort or another, almost invariably go into decline.

Roman Catholicism has never been in that condition since the border was established, and each successive census since 1921 has shown its numbers to rise steadily, and its percentage as a part of the population to rise as well.

The decline in the Protestant birthrate 28 per cent in the last decade, as opposed to a slight fall of 2½ per cent in the Roman Catholic birth rate — has been attributed to the fact that Protestants have

been showing a reduced birth rate since the early 1960's.

Can there be other, and more worrying reasons for the trend? It would be interesting, for example, to know just how many young Protestant couples have been forced to emigrate from parts of Northern Ireland since the Troubles began in 1969. It would also be interesting to know how many have had to seek housing accommodation in other parts of the world, because they cannot qualify for a house under the Housing Executive's points system.

There is good reason to believe that the Troubles have had a more devastating effect on the Protestant community as regards movement of population and emigration, than the RC community.

The Protestant presence, for instance, has vanished in large parts of Belfast — Grosvenor Road, New Barnsley, New Lodge Road, Oldpark etc, and from other parts of the province — the Foyle side of Derry City, and border areas of counties Armagh and Fermanagh. Many of the Protestants forced to flee their homes in Belfast moved to North Down and South Antrim, but many others left the province completely, to Canada, Australia and Great Britain.

Farmers forced out of their border farms in Armagh and Fermanagh have also gone further afield to find security for their families — the Galloway and border counties of Scotland have attracted a large proportion.

In contrast, while many individual Roman Catholic families have been forced from their homes in Protestant districts, no Roman Catholic territory or community has been surrendered. That fact cannot be disputed, and this could be one of the reasons why the majority birthrate is now falling behind that of the Roman Catholic's.

'Standard' An 'Outstanding Publication'

We have received the following appreciative letter from Most Wor. Bro. Bishop C.K.S. Moffatt, Bishops House Brandon Manitoba, Canada.

"I do enjoy reading the Standard. My reading would not be complete without this outstanding publication. It is a production that clings tenaciously to the message of Protestantism and Orangeism. It is great because it is willing to ever tell the alluring story of our great fraternity.

Lodge Officers should always stress the importance and value of Orange reading material, because without an enlightened membership, little improvement will be made in our profession as Orangemen. Through the pages of the "Standard" we enjoy the luxuries of intellectual association and instruction from a noble army of writers, orators, parliamentarians, clergy and reviewers with whom we delight in holding fellowship and profitable converse.

"I am proud of our Imperial Grand Master Brother Smyth, a great leader with a great message. "For such a time as this" He has my prayers and best thoughts for the year ahead — 1981.

"The Orange Order has a great responsibility to shoulder in these times of trial, bloodletting and death. It is unthinkable that Orangemen in other countries should stand apart from the tragedy in our beloved Ulster, which is also their tragedy.

"I believe that Orangeism has a great opportunity for influencing public opinion. Our fathers of the past studied, and also discussed the problems of freedom and truth. They reached definite conclusions and pressed forward with passionate will-power to get them into action.

I have always believed that the Orange Order is essentially fellowship; brotherly interest in others, companionable association. Our Order makes for community. It is

community. Every Loyal Orange Lodge can be a creative centre of fellowship and brotherhood.

"We must continue to let our light shine forth in this hour of darkness. Tomorrow is the sum of all our yesterdays. May the experience and victories of the yesterdays guide us in the New Year 1981.

We often talk about you and the House of Orange. We pray that God will protect you all. This is our prayer! Greet your staff at the House of Orange.

"I close this letter with the words of Abe Lincoln, President of the United States, the martyred and beloved son of the USA. 'Let us then be what we are And speak what we think And above all things Keep ourselves loyal to the truth.'

Orange Award For Newcastle

Bro. Vic Hope, W.M. of Tyne Lodge No. 777, which serves Newcastle-upon-Tyne and North Tyneside, writes to say that this lodge is a new addition to the 46th Tyneside District, having been inaugurated on June 7 last.

The letter proceeds: "Being a new Lodge we are mindful of the need to generate interest and a sense of achievement. We encourage our members to play their part to the full in the Institution, and associated Organisations.

"There are many different jobs to be done to make our various Districts, Lodges, Bands, etc, a success, not only are these related things of importance to us, the Church, the community, and the basic principles of our Order in general are always in our minds.

"We are seeking to recognise and reward with an award individuals, a Lodge, Band, Club, or Association, who in our opinion have advanced the Orange Institution, or the principles of the Orange Institution. Nominees, therefore, can be non members of the LOI.

Work for Orangeism

At a meeting of Killaloo True Blues LOL No. 621 the Grand Master of the City of Derry Grand Orange Lodge Wor. Bro. James Guy presented Bro. R.A. Baird with a copy of the Holy Bible after completing sixty years long and faithful service in our Institution.

Bro. Baird was initiated into Killaloo Lodge on October, 1920, and over the years has held various offices being Wor. Master for a number of years. He was also a valuable member of the City of Derry Grand Lodge Committee until two years ago, a Past Master of RBP 94, and a very active member of the Free Presbyterian Church since its opening in Londonderry.

Bro. Guy said he was delighted to be asked to present Bro. Baird with this gift as he had admired him since he himself joined the Order. He joined in wishing Bro. Baird every happiness for the future.

Bangor Installation

Right Wor. Bro. William Boal, County Grand Master and DGMI, was the principal installing officer at Bangor District LOL No. 18 on January 16 in Bangor Orange Hall.

He was assisted by W. Bro. John Shields, PDM, James Crockard Secretary Upper Ards District No.11, E.T. Young, DDM Newtownards District No.4 and A. McKee, Secretary No. 4 District.

The Officers installed were, WDM Richard Weir, DDM R. Norvel Browne, Secretary W. Canmore, PDM, Treasurer David Bryans, Chaplains the Rev. Henry Cooke, the Rev W.S.K. Crosse, Lay Chaplain W.J. Faulkner, Asst Secty., G. Martin, Asst Treas G. Burns, Lecturers D. Ballard and J. Gregg, Committee, D. Maguire, chairman, G. Burns, J Rollston, G. Martin, Tyler C. Lee, County Representative Fred Hutchinson.

Supper was provided by the District Master.

A 50 year service medal was presented to W. Bro W. Canmore PDM, by Bro Boal. to the surprise of the recipient When he gained his voice he thanked the brethren for their generosity and promised to continue to do his best for the Orange Institution.

The customary toasts were honoured. There was special mention of the ladies who prepared the meal, Mrs. Gore, Mrs. Carvill and Mrs. Spratt and the District Committee who served as waiters.

Visitors included Bro. Robin Galway Holywood, Sister G. Gibson WM No.2 District and Sisters June Goldie, D. Mooney, D. Rutherford (Groomspout W LOL) N. Browne and O McClean. There were two members of Cottown Pipe Band there. The band had led the parades of the district in 1980.

Presentation of District Regalia to Hillsborough District



AN ULSTERMAN BY ADOPTION

In the Autumn of 1957, when I first met the Rev. Michael Willoughby Dewar, who is the subject of our Portrait Gallery this month, he had been rector of Scarva, Co. Down, for a little over two years. In the days and years which have intervened there has grown up between us a friendship which I will always cherish.

An Englishman by birth, but an Ulsterman by adoption, it was fitting that during his five years incumbency at Scarva the rector should have made a welcome contribution towards putting the "Sham Fight" village on the map through his illustrated booklet, "The Scarva Story," followed in quick succession by "A Brave Thirteen," and other historical works.

I was perhaps one of the very first outside the Rectory to learn of the award of 1960 of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Queen's University, Belfast, for his treatise on "How far is the Westminster Assembly of Divines an Expression of 17th century Anglican Theology?" — a work which was indicative of his sympathy with the other Reformed Churches.

It was to the great regret of his parishioners in Scarva and

a wide circle of friends, both clerical and lay, that he decided in 1960 to return to his native Hampshire, there to become joint headmaster and chaplain of Harcourt Preparatory School, Weyhill — a position he was to hold for some four years.

During this period he was privileged to hold the Bishop of Winchester's Licence and also the Archbishop of Canterbury's Licence while on holidays in Kent.

But his love of Ulster and of the Ulster way of life led him, like Saint Patrick of old, to return to the premier County of Down, which is proud to count him amongst its very own.

And so, in 1964 he returned, on this occasion to take charge of the Parishes of Magherally and Annaclone, near Banbridge — an appointment which meant that for 8½ years until 1973 he was to occupy the lovely old Georgian Rectory at Magherally, almost within a stone's throw of the ruined 18th century Church, scene of the run-away marriage of Hugh Bronte and Alice McClory, and where in comparatively recent times the last earthly remains of that renowned mediaeval scholar, Dr. Helen Waddell,



were laid to rest.

That one of such literary gifts and skilled penmanship should have held the post of secretary of the Lurgan Clerical Union and the Banbridge Ministers' Fraternal during his years at Magherally is not surprising.

It was equally fitting that shortly after taking up office as Bishop of Down and Dromore, the Rt. Rev. G.A. Quin should have appointed Dr. Dewar to be an examining chaplain in Church History of candidates for ordination.

For some 16 years he has been a member, and for 13 years secretary, of the Belfast Eclectic Fraternal, a fellowship of Protestant clergy of all dominations.

In the Spring of this year he had the honour and privilege — though a sad one — of paying tribute at a service of thanksgiving in the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church at Dromore, Co. Down, to "his other self," an Oxford man, the late Rev. A.E. Peaston, M.A., B.Litt., F.R.Hist.S., author of "The

Prayer Book Tradition in the Free Churches."

Dr. Dewar's appointment to the incumbency of the seaside Parish of Helen's Bay early in 1973 was in the opinion of many a long over-due recognition of his outstanding ability.

A pillar of Orangeism, for many years now he has held office as District Chaplain of Banbridge District LOL, and it was with tremendous pleasure that the brethren learned of his election to be one of six Grand Chaplains of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland on the death of the Bishop of Connor, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Cyril Elliott in 1977.

It is a measure of the esteem and affection in which he is held that since moving to Helen's Bay he has been called on year after year to return to the Banbridge District to unfurl and dedicate numerous banners for both Junior and Senior Lodges, and his services have also been much in demand not only as a "Twelfth" speaker, but also as guest preacher at local Orange services.

How delighted all his friends were when in September, 1972, he qualified as the "Mastermind" of Northern Ireland in Magnus Magnusson's programme "Mastermind of the United Kingdom," winning his way through to compete against the rest of the UK in the semi-finals.

Much interest has also been aroused by the "Round Britain Quiz" BBC radio programme in which he and others from Northern Ireland on numerous occasions defeated the London resident team.

It gives me immense pleasure to pay this very sincere, but inadequate, tribute to a faithful pastor who has adorned the Church of Ireland and Protestantism with his rich gifts of head and heart.

Written by Mr. Andrew Doloughan and published in the November—December issue of "The Churchman's Magazine and Wickliffe Preachers Messenger."

The Standard and the Parties

We have been criticised lately for the amount of space given to the Ulster Unionist Party in the hustings and to its spokesmen when on occasion they deliberate on matters which concern them.

We have a simple answer to the complaint, for while we have always recognised the fact that many Orangemen are not now Ulster Unionist Party supporters but owe allegiance to other Unionist parties, to Alliance and the Northern Ireland Labour Party, we get copy from the UUP when we do not get it from the others.

We have said it on several occasions over the years, our pages are open to anyone who has something to say and who says it clearly, precisely and simply. Of course we reserve the recognised editorial right to publish or not to publish. Submission of material can never have a guarantee of publication for obvious reasons.

A letter to the Editor is often the best way to make a point or plead a case. We ask only that letters be kept short — they may be shortened unless the writer requests that they be published in full or not at all — and that they bear the penman's signature, even though he may use a non-de-plume for personal reasons.

Ulster resistance to decade of terror

Few communities could match the Ulster achievement of withstanding such a 10 year campaign of terror. Indeed it is our refusal to give in which has forced the IRA to transfer the pressure to the Government which is regarded as being the weakest link. I do not believe that Her Majesty's Ministers fully understand the crucial nature of the challenge.

If the Government ignores the demands of the terrorists, currently refusing to eat food which is presented to them, then these criminals will become again what they were originally, political nobodies. If they are consistently ignored, in the end they will over-reach themselves and men will see through them. Terrorism, by its very nature, is the strategy of the weak.

However, if attention is given to their demands through the media, or by politicians and civil servants, it will have the result of making them into heroes in the eyes of certain sections of the population, and rallying popular support to their cause. What is unique about terrorism and the current hunger strike, is that it achieves its goals, not through its acts, but through the response to its acts. It is an indirect strategy that wins or loses, only in terms of how the Government responds to it.

The vital point is that the choice always rests with the Government. That is the ultimate weakness of terrorism. Though it cannot always be prevented, it can always be defeated. A government can, if it has the necessary resolve, refuse to do what the terrorist wants them to do. If the terrorists' demands are fulfilled, they will have succeeded in helping to create a political climate where the future constitutional position of Northern Ireland will begin to appear as an open question.

Extracts from a speech by the Ulster Unionist leader Mr. James H. Molyneux, M.P. to Mourne Divisional Unionist Association.

Ulster expects rule of law

Addressing Killyleagh Unionists Mr. Jeremy Burchill, B.L. chairman of the Ulster Unionist Party Legal Committee said that the people of Ulster are entitled to expect that the rule of law will be rigidly upheld and enforced.

Those who break the law in support of the demands of convicted terrorists must be brought to account. Such people must not be allowed to be above the law, he declared.

"The Prime Minister must be as strident and active in support of the Union, as the Irish Republic is in attempting to subvert it. Ambiguity must at all times be avoided.

"Ambiguity only fuels the hopes of subversives and inspires the fears of the law-abiding who over the years have come to suspect the worst whenever the intentions of Westminster are unclear. This may be regrettable — but it is the inevitable consequence of the Heath betrayal of Ulster in 1972.

"Mrs. Thatcher must demonstrate in tangible form that she is made of sterner stuff — and in the task is not helped by the presence of architects of past betrayal such as Lord Carrington and William Whitelaw.

"Whether or not Mrs. Thatcher stands firm and refuses to make concessions to H-Block terrorists will be the acid test of her ability to command respect from loyal Ulster people."

TORY'S 18 MONTHS OF DRIFT

Mr. Jeremy Burchill, B.L., Chairman of the Official Unionist Legal Committee, addressing Bangor Unionist Association, declared that drift, inaction and indecision have been the hallmark of the eighteen months of Conservative policy in Ulster. It is not good enough. It is not what our people expected from the Conservatives. Let the Iron Lady act to disprove rumours that she is suffering from incipient metal fatigue, he said.

1. Let the Government act to devolve power to elected institutions in Ulster. If not in the first instance to a devolved parliament, then let power over local government matters be restored to democratic local government structures.

2 Let the Government vigorously affirm with pride and with conviction its determination to uphold the territorial integrity of the U.K.

3 Let the terrorism be fought with vigour and determination. Terrorist suspects should not enjoy the right of silence. The Irish Government hypocrisy in its verbal criticism of the IRA, whilst continuing to provide safe havens for these murderers, should be ruthlessly exposed. Unlike the DUP who welcomed his appointment in May, 1979, Official Unionists have never had confidence in Humphrey Atkins. Official Unionists never regarded him as a "strong law and order man." Mr. Birchill said.



Three members of the Rathfriland Branch of the Apprentice Boys of Derry No Surrender Club, who have recorded 50 years of service in the Apprentice Boys organisation, were the recipients of inscribed Bibles at the Branch's monthly meeting. The Bibles were presented to Bros. Robert Bell, Robert Stewart and Robert Davidson by the Chairman of the County Down Amalgamated Committee, Bro. Hamilton. The three are seen

here with the County Down Chairman (seated left) and Bro. Steele, Vice-Chairman of the County Down Amalgamated Committee (seated right). Standing, left to right, are officers of the Rathfriland Branch, Bro. Hugh Bell (Secretary), Bro. James Kinley (Treasurer), Bro. Raymond McCullough (President), Bro. Sandy Trimble (Vice-President) and Bro. David Bell (Chaplain). Photo Courtesy of "The Outlook".

F.O. influence in downgrading

The Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, Mr. J.H. Molyneux, JP, MP, addressing Antrim Divisional Unionist Association stated that one of the most consistent phrases that the Foreign Office has used to insidiously erode the constitutional position of Northern Ireland as a part of the United Kingdom has been the so-called 'Irish Dimension.'

"This phrase," he pointed out, "represents the justification or rationalisation of what could be described as an article of political faith, — that the apparent geographical unity of Ireland presupposes the eventual unification of political power."

ENEMIES' PLOY

"This sentiment is endorsed by a spectrum of enemies of the people of Northern Ireland. It has been the main vehicle of rationalisation of the IRA. It was, and still is, a fundamental article of faith of the main political parties of the Republic of Ireland.

"The Foreign office is a relative late-comer to the use of this geographical dogma which maintains that Ireland is a 'natural' political unit, and the existence of the border is an 'unnatural' state of affairs. Yet despite this relative novelty of geographical dogma in the Foreign office, British Ambassadors to Dublin have attempted to use it against the interests of the people of 'Northern Ireland.'

"Sir John Peck, British Ambassador from 1970-74, stated: 'There are only three geopolitical entities: an island, a land with clearly marked natural frontiers, and a river valley. The corollary is that any other frontier drawn for political, or other reasons, is artificial, probably unstable and, if it involves the partition of a natural entity, is likely to be disastrous.'

"It seems that this spectrum of enemies is united on one thing, the use of the doctrine of so-called natural frontiers which act as a substitute for the total absence of a moral argument with which to undermine the constitutional rights of Northern Ireland.

"In fact," said Mr. Molyneux, "political frontiers down through the centuries have diverged from the lines of physical separation as often as they have followed them. It is a pathetic illusion to deduce that the political frontier of Northern Ireland is inherently unstable because it does not fulfil the requirements of physical geography.

ULSTER, ETHOS

"I would contend that what the Foreign Office, and its allies, have failed to take account of is what could be described as the 'Scottish dimension'. It is often conveniently forgotten that the East coast of Northern Ireland is only twelve miles from Scotland and, historically, the separating North Channel has

performed the function of a strong internal sea-route, through which industrial techniques and ideas diffused from Scotland to Northern Ireland.

"It can be said that the Ulster ethos, which permeates society in Northern Ireland, irrespective of religion, with its emphasis on education, self-discipline, hard work and scrupulous care in financial dealings, is a result of dissemination across this internal sea-route, and immigration in both directions was continuous for centuries before 1609 and was a fact of geography rather than a fact of history.

"The advent of modern transport technology has reinforced the importance of this internal sea-route. It is significant that the first drive-on drive-off ferry service in the British Isles was initiated in 1939 between Larne and Stranraer. To-day four such services link Scotland and Northern Ireland. In view of the factors the Irish dimension represents a superficial dogma.

"The Foreign Office and their allies have made a virtue of the logical evasions inherent in this geographical creed, and have issued themselves with a certificate of apparent soundness. Their aim is more to persuade than to convince, and the upshot of this tendency, when carried to an extreme, is sinister. If you allow yourself to think of your ideas primarily as instruments, or weapons, to be used on other people, you inevitably cease to believe in them yourself.

"The Foreign Office has treated the Irish dimension as a weapon and, consequently, has left itself with nothing to live by but the assertion of its own power. The propaganda machine of the Nazis also used similar geographical ideas such as 'living-space' 'race' and 'blood' and 'space policy' as weapons to justify the assertion of Nazi power over the whole European continent.

NAZI TRICKS SCHEMING

"The Irish dimension is living proof that the Foreign Office and its friends have learnt well the geographical tricks of the Third Reich in a concerted attempt to dupe the rest of the United Kingdom and the international community into helping them to undermine the birthright of the people of Northern Ireland.

"Yet, paradoxically, in ignoring the validity of the Scottish dimension, they have overlooked the unique benefits that have accrued to Ulster people, and which in part has enabled them to endure ten years of unparalleled violence and savagery.

"It has been aptly summed up by General Robert E. Lee, Commander of Confederate forces during the American Civil War, when asked by a visiting Scots minister 'What people do you believe make the best soldiers?' General Lee answered: 'The Scotch who came to this country by way of Ulster.' The Scots minister asked him: 'Why do you say that General?' 'Because,' replied Lee, 'they have all the dash of an Ulsterman in taking a position, and all the stubbornness of a Scot in holding it.'

"There are no geographical dogmas that can be used to defeat this unique combination that the Scottish dimension represents," Mr. Molyneux added.

SAD LOSSES OF OLD LARNE LODGE



THE LATE BRO. THOMAS CROOKS

Shaws' Memorial True Blues LOL 22 of Larne has lost four Past Masters during 1980. Bro. James McAuley, initiated in 1923, passed away in the Spring. He was a faithful attender, supported all Lodge activities, and for many years placed his professional experience at the disposal of Victoria Orange Hall when he served as Secretary. His son Norman is a valued member of his father's Lodge.

The oldest member, Bro. Thomas Crooks died in November. He was initiated in 1922, joining his late father who transferred from Money more True Blues in 1902. Bro. Tommy was well known as a singer, football administrator and bowler. He always organised a singsong as the Lodge travelled home on the Twelfth night. Lately, his indomitable spirit brought him to the Annual Service in the Church where he used to worship and sing in the choir. On the Twelfth, his was a distinguished presence, holding himself erect in his regalia, as he accompanied his Lodge in a car.

November also brought the sudden deaths of Bros.

Charles Buchanan and Jack Moore, Chaplain and Treasurer respectively. Bro. Charles had an outstanding sense of honour, and at the social hour following the installations, was always sought, without fail, for his distinctive story-telling ability. He discharged the office of chaplain for a great many years with quiet sincerity, his scriptural readings always being carefully selected.

It was a shock when Bro. Jack Moore was laid to rest in the same month. Bro. Jack, the faithful treasurer, occupied Lodge office for almost thirty years, and used to mention that he had missed three meetings in that time. He loved to come early and lay out the Lodgeroom for a meeting in comfort. He and Bro. Buchanan were inseparable companions, their special task on the Twelfth being to look after the comfort of the Band. Bro. Jack's son Rodney followed his father into the Lodge and the W.M., Bro. Paul Duffin is a nephew. "And to-night thou shalt be missed, for thy chair shalt be empty."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Please tighten up your organisation so that your paper can be widely and promptly distributed.

I consider the survival and increase of the "Orange Standard" vital for the survival of the Order in to-day's world, for the following reasons:

We need to be able to put the principles and ideals of the Order before the rising generation. Youth will respond to ideals, but it isn't always easy for us middle-aged members to find the right words for our deepest feelings.

Secondly we have a duty to the Protestant community at large. There are many sincere adults who could become friends of the Order, if not actual members, if its principles were laid before them, tactfully yet vigorously. I have been encouraged by the response to various articles in

"Orange Standard" when passed along like this.

Thirdly, in these hard and difficult times, we need reminding that we are not alone. We are part of a world-wide Orange family. Even though this month's edition may not mention my district I rejoice to hear of the successes of brethren and sisters elsewhere.

Fourthly I would look forward to the time when the "O.S." could run a small ads column for things like digs, holiday accommodation, tracing relatives, car-sharing, pen-friends, arranged among the Orange family.

And lastly, the day is coming when it will be impossible to openly advertise a social function exclusive to the Protestant community. Those of us who work day and daily alongside those who would connive at the murder of our loved ones want to spend our spare time among

our own. We need the expansion of the "O.S." for that.

So please get to work, have the "O.S." out to every district on time, make it possible to have some spare copies available, call for volunteers to push the sales and submit local items. Two committed brethren or sisters in each district could work wonders.

Surely with all the possibilities a paper of our own provides, it is not too much to ask.

Yours sincerely
"Border Orangewoman"

Note: Amen to that! For the past seven or eight years we have made these requests. The field is indeed ripe but the labourers . . . Ed.

Border Area Juniors Congratulated

At the half yearly meeting of Co. Armagh Junior Orange Grand Lodge a resolution was passed congratulating lodges in South Armagh Fermanagh and other troubled parts of their area on their continued activity in the Junior Orange Association.

Their dignified manner and support was said to be a credit to their officers and members.

Favourable reports were received from all Districts, and it was hoped the membership would continue its recent trend.

A report of the highly successful sports activities was also well received. The election of Officers, conducted by Bro. John McCrea, assisted by Bro. John Craig, resulted: County Grand Master George Proctor; Deputy County Master Thomas McCullough; Chaplain Isaac Douglas; Secretary George Patton; Treasurer Robert Hughes; Lecturer George Nelson; Foreman Committee Ken Wilson; Steward Noel McIlpatrick; Sports Convener Roger Gill.

EIGHT SCOTTISH CANDIDATES

"Star of the North" RBP 171 held their monthly meeting in the Orange Hall, Sandbank Street, Maryhill Glasgow, were Sir Knt, Hurst Bell (RWM) presided, assisted by Sir Knt, Thomas Bell, D.M. in vice chair.

Sir Knt Thomas McKay (Chaplain) led the devotional exercises. The RWM

welcomed the usual well attended meeting which included many visitors.

Routine business was transacted, and delegates appointed to attend District meeting on the last Saturday in December.

Five members were elevated to higher status, the ceremony being carried

through by Sir Knts T. McKay, R. Cuthbertson and D.H. Boyd.

Eight candidates were passed for initiation at January meeting.

Sir Knt D.H. Boyd, PPGM, responded to a vote of thanks from the chair and passed on the good wishes and Fraternal Greetings of Provincial Chapter.

Who speaks for Britain

We hear so much about the bad or inadequate publicity which Northern Ireland and the Loyalist Cause gets on the other side of the Irish Sea that it is refreshing to read something which warms our hearts.

I quote this article from the "Sunday Telegraph" of recent date and under the heading "IRA's mistake"

"Once upon a time, in the distant days of national guilt and liberal wetness, the IRA might have been right to suppose that terror tactics could panic this country into getting out of Northern Ireland. Today, however, there is a far tougher spirit abroad in the land, and an escalation of violence will have exactly the opposite

results to those intended. "The new mood both in Britain and the United States grows ever more inimical to terrorism and the IRA would be making a great mistake if interpreted the present revival of British television excessively sympathetic interest in Irish history as a sign of growing weakness of will Mrs. Thatcher not Mr. Robert Kee, speaks for Britain."

Incidentally we have a feeling that Mr. Kee, if not an Irishman, may well have an Irish family background. If so that may well explain his considerable involvement with Irish history. He would not be the first to tread on such an explosive minefield!