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FIRSTAFF



Miriam Curtin, Cork, at the final auditions for the European Community Youth Orchestra at St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin, at the weekend. —(Photograph: Tom Lawlor)

Leading solicitor shot dead by loyalist gang

From Martin Cowley, in Belfast

ONE OF Northern Ireland's leading solicitors, Mr Patrick Finucane, was murdered by loyalist gunmen who burst into his north Belfast home last night. His wife, Geraldine, was wounded in the leg.

As politicians denounced the murder, there was also widespread criticism of remarks made recently by a British Home Office junior minister, Mr Douglas Hogg, when he questioned the political motivation of some Northern Ireland solicitors.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Brian Lenihan, strongly condemned "the brutal killing". "I was deeply saddened to learn that the attack on the Finucane home also resulted in injury to Mrs Finucane. On my own behalf and on behalf of the government I offer our deepest sympathy to his bereaved family."

The Northern Ireland Secretary, Mr King, said that he was horrified by the murder. No civilised society could tolerate it, from whichever vicious extreme it came, he said.

The FG leader, Mr Dukes, denounced the killing. "I deplore this savage attempt to discourage people from exercising their legal right to defend themselves in court. This is a fundamental right in any democracy."

Belfast solicitor was a target for years: page 11

The Official Unionist MP for north Belfast, Mr Cecil Walker, described the murderers as "psychopathic killers" who were intent on creating havoc in the community.

Mr Finucane was shot dead in front of his children as they were at their evening meal. He was wounded through the glass door of the kitchen and his killers fired more bullets into him as he lay on the kitchen floor. Mr and Mrs Finucane and their three children, aged between seven and 16, were having their tea in the kitchen at the back of the house when the gang charged in on them.

Police believe that three men ran through the house but that only one of them was armed with a semi-automatic weapon, possibly a sub-machine gun.

The killers parked their hijacked Ford Sierra outside the house and as the driver remained in the vehicle the other three approached the house. The front door was open and they forced open the porch door and ran down the hallway towards the kitchen.

They fired several shots through the glass in the kitchen door and they fired again as they burst into the room. A police source said: "It looks as if he was opening the kitchen door when they fired through it. When he fell they went in and fired a few more shots and one of these hit his wife's ankle."

Mr Finucane was hit between three and five times in the body and head. The killers' getaway car was later found in the loyalist Woodvale Road.

Police sealed off the area around the detached house at Fortwilliam Drive, a secluded residential district off the Antrim Road.



Mr Pat Finucane

A resident in the street said: "I heard a number of shots and then a car going off. Apparently it was Mr Finucane who had been shot, and his wife."

Mr Finucane became widely known throughout the North last November when he figured prominently in the "shoot to kill" inquest in Craigavon. He represented the family of one of the victims of the controversial RUC shootings, Gervaise McKerr, and mounted a successful challenge to the coroner's ruling that the RUC men involved in the killings could not be called to give evidence.

The SDLP councillor for north Belfast, Dr Brian Feeney, said the killing was the "first fruits" of the Common's statement by Mr Hogg who said last month that certain Belfast solicitors were "sympathetic" towards the IRA.

Dr Feeney said Mr Hogg's sentiments were seen by loyalists as "clearly legitimising" their actions in attacking Catholic solicitors who represented republicans in court.

A Sinn Féin spokesman, Mr Danny Morrison, expressing his regret at Mr Finucane's killing, claimed that Mr Hogg's comments had "provided loyalists with the pretext for slaying Mr Finucane, who was a leading civil rights lawyer."

Mr Tom Campbell, an alliance councillor in north Belfast and also a solicitor, said: "Recent statements such as those relating (Continued on page 11)

89,374

NET daily sales of *The Irish Times* for the period from July to December, 1988, were 89,374, the highest in the history of the newspaper.

This compares with 87,352 for the six months from July to December, 1987, and 86,337 for the six months from January to June, 1988.

Dublin Bus to bar trouble makers

By Frank Kilfeather

DUBLIN BUS is to clamp down on "drunken hooligans" and known trouble makers by refusing them entry to buses following the increase in violence and vandalism in recent months.

The company imposed a late night curfew on 23 routes in north-east Dublin last Friday and Saturday nights — two of the worst nights for trouble. This week the company will review the curfew, but it is hoped that it will not have to be used again. The buses were taken out of circulation at 10.30 each night.

Dublin Bus already has the legal power to refuse troublesome members of the public entry to its vehicles. Inspectors and crews, backed up by the gardai, will in the future enforce the regulations to the full. However, this may not be until the end of March, when the training of crews is completed.

A spokesman said there would have to be consultation with the unions about the "get-tough" policy, but he was sure that the unions would be in agreement, as it was in everyone's interests to stand up to the "thugs" who were terrorising crews and passengers, and smashing seats and windows, causing thousands of pounds worth of damage every year.

Union spokesmen yesterday said they were prepared to talk about the new moves. They appealed to the public to help crews stand up to the hooligans. They also expressed concern that many buses now had only one crew member on board and implementing the new system would be difficult.

Dublin Bus apologised for the inconvenience caused to its well-behaved passengers for the loss of late-night services on Friday and Saturday, but stressed that the situation was so serious that it had no option but to take such strong action. The drastic step was taken after consultation with the unions and gardai and following numerous complaints from bus crews and passengers.

The matter is to be raised in the Dail next week by the Fine Gael spokesman on Transport, Mr Brendan Griffin, TD.

INSIDE TODAY

Money matters

Money '89, a 12-page colour supplement, looks at various aspects of personal finance.

Law Report

A weekly service of official reports of recent judgments delivered in the higher courts starts today. The Irish Times Law Report will appear every Monday — and also occasionally on other days to provide immediate access to judicial decisions of exceptional public interest ■ page 18.

Mawhinney profile

Gordon Mawhinney, in the middle of controversy over the Dubsburg talks, is profiled by JIM CUSACK ■ page 10.

5 killed in Islamabad

Five people were killed outside the US cultural centre in Islamabad when police fired on several thousand protesters demanding the banning in the US of the controversial novel "Satanic Verses" ■ page 8.

Money for informants

A garda summit about combating the IRA was told that money is available for informants ■ page 11.

Derry beat Limerick

Derry City strengthened their challenge for the League of Ireland championship with a 3-1 victory over Limerick City yesterday ■ page 4.

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TOMORROW

Options tomorrow includes an American's reasons for moving to Dublin, and the Craft Council's role following the sale of Kilkenny Design Workshops.

Extradition demands renewed

By Sean Flynn, Security Correspondent
RENEWED Anglo-Irish strains over extradition have emerged after a series of British demands for major changes in the operation of the 1987 Extradition Act, which have been formally placed before the Government.

The British demands, which were discussed at last week's Inter-governmental Conference, centre on the need for longer detention periods and the abolition of the Attorney General's role in extradition cases.

British Government sources say that these demands must be met to ensure that extradition is workable and to address the problems which emerged in the cases

involving the Rev Patrick Ryan, Mr Patrick McVeigh and Ms Evelyn Glenholmes.

It appears extremely unlikely, however, that the Government will agree to any such changes. Last night it was clear that there is some irritation in Government circles about these British demands for further concessions — when the existing arrangements have already caused some political difficulty for Fianna Fail.

The British demands are threefold. Firstly, they are seeking an extension of the present 72-hour period under which persons can be held under a provisional extradition warrant.

Secondly, they are demanding new procedures whereby persons can continue to be held in custody pending an appeal to a higher court — even if their

extradition had been rejected by the District Court.

Thirdly, the British have formally repeated their objection to the Attorney General's power under the 1987 Extradition Act to effectively veto all extradition applications.

The British case is made in a formal submission to the Government in advance of the review of the workings of the 1987 Extradition Act, which is expected to be completed by the Dail later this month.

British Government sources told *The Irish Times* that they are merely holding the Taoiseach, Mr Haughey, to his public commitment in 1987 that the Act would be amended if it was not working effectively.

No extradition of paramilitary suspects has taken place under the Act, although Robert Russell

Tallaght strategy row hyped-up by media—Dukes

By Sean Flynn

THE KERRY North deputy, Mr Jimmy Deenihan is unlikely to face any disciplinary sanction at Wednesday's meeting of the parliamentary party as the Fine Gael leadership seeks to defuse the controversy over its Tallaght strategy of conditional support for the Government.

In an interview on RTE's "This Week" radio programme yesterday, the party leader, Mr Dukes, played down any question of a challenge to his authority, saying that Mr Deenihan's criticisms of party policy had been hyped up by the media.

In effectively ruling out any disciplinary move against Mr Deenihan, the party leadership appears to be hoping that this will defuse the controversy, although party sources expressed concern that no action at this stage could clear the way for other critics of the Tallaght strategy to go public.

A number of Mr Dukes' critics within the party were last night contrasting the expected treatment of Mr Deenihan with that meted out to the Galway deputy, Mr John Donnellan who was expelled from the parliamentary party last April. Unlike Mr Deenihan, the Galway deputy voted against Mr Dukes in the election for the party leadership and he has not enjoyed a good personal relationship with the party leader.

Fine Gael sources, including those opposed to the Tallaght strategy, all agreed last night that Mr Dukes would have little diffi-

Full conference report: page 10.

culty in staving off any threat to his authority within the party, at least in the short term. However, there is also widespread agreement that a continuing decline in the party's standing in the opinion polls, coupled with the expected loss of one or more seats in the European elections in June, will revive the pressure on the party leader.

In Dublin the party has been casting around for a high profile candidate, such as the former EC Commissioner, Mr Peter Sutherland, to revive its prospects of holding two seats, but there appears no prospect of such a candidate emerging. There is now little confidence that both Ms Mary Banotti, MEP, and Mr Chris O'Malley can retain two seats for Fine Gael. In Munster, meanwhile, the party faces additional problems after the announcement by former Minister Mr Austin Deasy that he will not go forward.

In his interview yesterday, Mr Dukes denied that the party had paid a high price politically for its conditional support of the Government. He said that the opinion polls had shown that the party's support had remained at the level it achieved in the last election.

The Government, he said, were getting approval for implementing policies which they could not have implemented without Fine Gael.



Dr Dermot Clifford

Thurles plea by archbishop

The Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, Dr Dermot Clifford, has appealed to the Taoiseach, Mr Haughey, and the directors of the Irish Sugar Company to grant a stay of execution on the Thurles sugar factory.

Speaking on behalf of the workers, farmers, hauliers and the whole community for which, he said, the factory was central to life around Thurles, Dr Clifford urged that the plant be kept open for at least another year. He said this was necessary to allow replacement industries to be set up. Otherwise, Dr Clifford said, the community around Thurles would be devastated.

(See also page 9)

EC to investigate alleged British milk monopoly

By Seán Mac Connell

BORD BAINNE, the milk export board, has asked the European Commission to investigate the British Milk Marketing Board's relationship with its subsidiary, Dairy Crest, to determine if that relationship is in breach of EC monopoly regulations, a Bord Baine spokesman confirmed yesterday.

The Commission's investigation will focus on the finances and market power of the British board and Dairy Crest, its wholly-owned subsidiary, which some weeks ago agreed to pay Unigate, an independent dairy, £152 million for seven processing plants and almost half its milk delivery business in Britain.

The deal, which is currently being examined by the British Office of Fair Trading, means that 30 per cent of the British board's milk will be sold daily to its own company which is also its biggest customer.

In some parts of Britain, according to a report in yesterday's *Sunday Times*, like East Anglia and the British Midlands, that figure could rise to almost 60 per cent.

This has led to concern in Britain and here that the British Milk Marketing Board could exploit this position to control wholesale milk prices to further Dairy Crest's interests.

The report said that the Irish board in particular was worried about the new power of Dairy Crest which might allow it increasingly to keep out non-British products, especially butter.

The secretary of Bord Baine, Mr Peter McKimm, said Bord Baine had raised the query in Brussels because it saw Dairy Crest as the commercial arm of the British Milk Marketing Board.

"We have, of course, no objection to the operations of Dairy Crest and don't mind competition but it has to be fair and at the moment we feel we are not playing on a level pitch," he said.

Because of that, he said, the Commission had been asked to examine the links between the board and the company to ensure that there were no cross guarantees or other business practices which would breach European law. "That is all we are doing," he said.

Dairy Crest and the board in Britain have denied any allegation of breaches of monopoly legislation and say that the milk marketing scheme and its services has ensured that Britain has the highest quality milk in the world.

Mr Larry Goodman, the Irish agri-businessman who holds a 7.89 per cent interest in Unigate but was not present at last Wednesday's shareholders' meeting when shareholders approved the sale of the dairy plants to Dairy Crest.

RTE profits fall

High expenditure during the year, including the Olympic Games and Eurovision contest, are cited by RTE management sources as the reason for a drop in profits to £4.5 million from £9.5 million in the previous financial year.

Listeria risk low, say Irish food experts

By Dick Ahlstrom, Science Correspondent

POOR HYGIENE and improper food handling are to blame for the recent rash of illnesses arising from foodstuffs, according to specialists who claim there is no need to avoid foods or to "panic" over outbreaks of salmonella here or listeria in Britain.

"These organisms are nothing new," stated Mr Gerry Heraghty, chairman of the Environmental Health Officers' Association. The cases of salmonella and listeria coming to light now are a result of better surveillance and not necessarily because more foods are infected.

"There is no need for anyone to avoid eating cheese," he said, adding that very few cases of listeria poisoning had been noted in this country. And in spite of the new health guidelines issued by the British Government, particularly in rela-

tion to listeria, infection by this organism remains comparatively rare there.

Association members began testing for listeria only last year, he said. "Before that we were not very familiar with it at all."

Move to calm French anger over cheese allegation: page 9.

Recent outbreaks of salmonella are attributed to improper storage of foods, cross contamination and poor personal hygiene. "It is very difficult to convince food processors and handlers of the importance of hand-washing," he added.

"These aspects are more important because of the sophisticated way we deal with stored foods," he said. A survey completed by the association in 1987 showed that almost half of refrigerated cabinets tested in food outlets were far too warm to keep the food stored in them safe from infection, and there are no

legal standards for these appliances, he said.

"It is crucial that the proper chilling temperatures are reached during storage," according to Professor Paul McNulty of the agriculture and food engineering department at University College, Dublin.

Foods that are cooked and then stored fresh until eaten are a particular problem, he said, and improper storage has led to many outbreaks of listeria infection. When foods were eaten soon after cooking listeria did not have a chance to multiply. "There has been a failure to inform people about food handling technologies," he said.

Listeria grows readily in foods chilled at between 5° and 10° Centigrade, but won't grow when temperatures are at 4°C. For this reason it is "commonly encountered in chilling systems here," he said.

Professor Ferg O'Gara of the food biotechnology unit at University College,

Cork, said that the quality assurance aspects of food handling become particularly vital when the shelf life of fresh foods is extended. Foods that traditionally were eaten within a week or two after processing are now often held for four or five weeks, thus lengthening the period during which infection by organisms can develop. He added, however, that fears about eating chilled foods were "unfounded," provided the buyer had confidence in the source of the food and the outlet where it was purchased.

"The whole thing comes down to a matter of food hygiene," stated Professor Irene Hillary, professor of medical microbiology at UCD. Salmonella and listeria are common organisms on the foods we eat, but usually only affect those who through pregnancy or illness have a diminished ability to cope with infection, and then only when large colonies of the bacteria are present.

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Senior gardai told money for informants available

By Sean Flynn,
Security Correspondent

THE GARDA Commissioner exhorted his senior officers to ensure that all intelligence on the IRA was properly distributed throughout the force and he reminded them that large sums of money are always available for good quality informants, during Friday's special security summit in Templemore, Co Tipperary.

Mr Crowley made his comments during an address to over 40 senior colleagues during the day-long meeting which reviewed the security situation and the administration of the force. The conference was not a decision-making one and the commissioner set the tone in his opening address by reminding officers they should feel free to speak candidly. In the event virtually every one of the 45 or so present made some contribution. It was clear last night that the meeting has further bolstered Mr Crowley's reputation in the eyes of his colleagues.

In his address the commissioner, while praising gardai on their success in uncovering IRA munitions, stressed there was a great deal of work still to be done. He was concerned that, on occasion, intelligence information could be "pigeon-holed" within particular districts, and not properly disseminated to senior officers in the force.

Each item of intelligence, he said, should be assessed, logged and distributed by senior officers to their colleagues. The conference made no decision about a new system for collating intelligence, but last night a number of those present said they were left with the impression that the commissioner or one of his senior colleagues would present reform proposals shortly.

Both the commissioner and the deputy commissioner in charge of operations, Mr Patrick Cullen, stressed that large sums of money are readily available for informants. In recent years, the secret service fund for such payments has increased by some 500 per cent to its present level of £160,000. The emphasis placed on the cultivation of informants at the conference underlines the commissioner's belief that good intelligence is the key element in successful anti-terrorist policing.

During his afternoon address, Mr Cullen gave a lengthy overview of the IRA's present armory. He said he could not pinpoint the exact amount still in their possession, but estimated they held between four and six tonnes of Semtex and a huge amount of rifles. It is widely believed the IRA retains over 900 Kalashnikov rifles, although Mr Cullen did not quote an exact figure.

He said the gardai estimate of the IRA weapons was based on the best intelligence pointers. This



Mr Crowley

was taken to mean statements made to French police as part of the investigation into the Eksund seizure and the fact that there were over 150 tonnes of munitions on the coast. Gardai estimate that an equivalent amount of munitions were, most probably, imported into the Republic in four smaller shipments in 1985-86.

Significantly, Mr Cullen made no reference to the IRA as having surface-to-air missiles. There is now some doubt as to whether the provisionals actually possess such weapons.

In his address the deputy commissioner in charge of garda administration, Mr John Paul McMahon, said that Government financial policy laid particular responsibility on the chief superintendent in each division to ensure that his area was policed in the most cost-effective way.

The gardai have often complained in the past that they enjoyed no direct financial control on the force and, while the present restrictions on expenditure created difficulties, it at least gave them some element of autonomy in financial matters. He reminded chief superintendents that they were now effectively the accounting officers in each division and that it was up to them to make the best possible use of available resources.

The only other formal address was given by Chief Superintendent P. O'Driscoll, who reviewed increased use of computerisation in the force. There was a lengthy debate on the legal problems which confronted gardai in the workings of the Road Traffic Acts and other legislation.

The conference also heard that a special conference to review policing in the Dublin area would be held, probably next month.

Doherty chosen for European election

THE former Minister for Justice, Mr Sean Doherty from Roscommon, was yesterday selected to contest the European Parliament elections in the Connacht-Ulster Constituency in June. Both he and the sitting MEP, Mr Mark Killilea, were the unanimous choice of over 1,100 delegates at the Fianna Fail convention in Castlebar.

The session, which proved somewhat of a non-event since the withdrawal of the third candidate, Mr Pat the Cope Gallagher, was chaired by the Minister for the Environment, Mr Flynn.

The convention had the task of appointing three replacement candidates from a list of six names. Senator Tom Hussey of Galway, the East Mayo TD, Mr P. J. Morley, and a Sligo RTC lecturer, Mr Daniel McHugh, were nominated.

Mr Doherty (44) is seeking the seat to be vacated by Mr Sean Flanagan who is retiring from political life.

During a rousing address, Mr Doherty referred to his "difficult period", which ended with his resignation as Minister in 1982. He said: "I relied on Fianna Fail when I had all the things hurled at me. I will withdraw nothing in the future for Fianna Fail."

Commenting on demands for transatlantic flights to be allowed to land at Knock airport without first landing at Shannon, he said: "My commitment will be that Knock gets equal status with all other airports in this country."

Mr Killilea, who replaced Mr Ray McSharry in the European Parliament two years ago, pledged if re-elected to fight to ensure that family farms continued to form the nucleus of rural communities.

Man charged in US forgery case

From Sean Cronin,
in New York

MR Donald Patrick Moyna (29), who "appears to have ties to the IRA," according to the US Attorney in Brooklyn, is being held without bail for a federal grand jury after arraignment on charges of carrying \$13,500 in counterfeit \$50 bills.

FBI and secret service agents had trailed Mr Moyna, a native of Co Monaghan, for two days and observed him pass counterfeit bills, a US Assistant Attorney,

Mr Charles Rose, told the magistrate, Mr John Cadden, in a US District Court in Brooklyn.

They stopped him at La Guardia Airport as he was about to board a plane for Providence, Rhode Island. The FBI had been investigating Mr Moyna's travels, which allegedly took him to Chile, Thailand, Uruguay and Argentina.

US Attorney Mr Andrew Maloney said the counterfeit \$50 bills were similar to the two million counterfeit dollar bills seized in Dublin last September.

Anglers protest over rod licence

From Michael Finian

WITH THE trout-fishing season due to open on Wednesday, about 3,000 anglers and boatmen opposed to the rod licence took part in a rally and protest march at the weekend in Ennis, Co Clare, in the constituency of the Minister for the Marine, Mr Daly.

The Fine Gael spokeswoman on the marine, Mrs Madeline Taylor-Quinn, TD (Clare), and Mr Bobby Molloy, TD (Galway West), of the Progressive Democrats, were among those who addressed the rally at which

strong criticism of the Government was expressed for failing to settle the long-running dispute which now seems likely to be escalated in the new season.

After the rally, Mr Molloy said that he would have no problem in supporting a private members' Bill motion, tabled by Mrs Taylor-Quinn, calling on the Minister to amend the legislation so that fishery development could be financed through angling club contributions rather than a licence. Mrs Taylor-Quinn repeated her assertion that the

Asbestos waste dumping in Laois deferred

By Dick Ahlstrom

ASBESTOS waste from a disused ESB plant will not be dumped in Co Laois until a consultant's report on the project has been examined by Laois County Council, the county manager, Mr Michael Deigan, told a public meeting at the weekend.

Strong opposition to the plan, which would see asbestos waste from the Portlaurton power station buried at the Kylephalesha dump about a mile from Portlaurton, was voiced by local groups and Earthwatch, the environmental group, which called for an inventory of asbestos wastes already dumped at sites around the county.

Mr John Lowry of the Irish Farmers' Association said he had "grave reservations" about the use of the dump for asbestos.

Mr Marcus McCabe of Earthwatch also expressed concern about a private asbestos waste dump near the village of Ballynnyan, Co Kildare, operated by the Tegal company which manufactures asbestos cement pipes and building materials.

He told *The Irish Times* that he saw uncovered asbestos slates and corrugated sheets at the Ballynnyan dump and a workman at the site was not wearing protective clothing. Tegal officials were unavailable for comment last night.

An ESB spokesman last night said the temporary storage pit at the Portlaurton plant where 17 uncovered bags of asbestos waste were discovered was now filled in with soil in accordance with storage regulations.

FF deny election rumours

By Sean Flynn

ANY Government defeat in Wednesday's Dail vote on the Progressive Democrats' private members' Bill, which seeks to outlaw anti-competitive practices, will not precipitate a snap election, Government sources said last night.

Speculation about an early election began on Saturday after comments by the Minister for Industry and Communications, Mr Burke, on RTE Radio that a Government defeat in next Wednesday's vote would be taken very seriously. Last night, Government sources stressed that an election would only be considered after a Dail defeat on a fiscal or budgetary matter.

The Bill, now in its second stage, is expected to draw support from Fine Gael and other parties. The Government's voting strength stands at 80 seats and PD sources were yesterday expressing confidence that, with the united support of all opposition parties, they could muster at least 83 votes.

The Bill, if enacted, will allow Irish consumers to legally challenge uncompetitive practices, for example the level of interest charged on credit card transactions, and the profit margin enjoyed by publicans on soft drinks. Government opposition to the Bill has centred on concerns that it will suppress enterprise. Progressive Democrats industry spokesman, Mr Martin Cullen, said yesterday that he could not understand Government opposition to a measure which they ought to support in the wider interest of the consumer.

Death of Baron Brian de Breffny

Baron Brian de Breffny, of Castleown Cox, Carrick-on-Suir, the author and publisher, has died aged 60.

Born and educated in Paris, he was co-owner and editor of *Irish Art Review*. His publications include *Bibliography of Irish Family History*, the *House of Ireland*, the *Churches and Abbeys of Ireland*, the *Castles of Ireland*, the *Irish World*, the *Heritage of Ireland*, *My First Naked Lady* (novel), *Ireland, A Cultural Encyclopedia* (editor) and the *Irish Ancestor* (director since 1969).

He was very active in Irish cultural and social life and was a committed fund raiser for the Wexford Opera Festival and the Irish Architectural Archives. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

Four die in weekend accidents

Mr Niall Naughton (17), of Lisnaghlan, Kilkenny, Co Clare was found dead in his family home which was destroyed by fire yesterday morning. On Friday night, Warren Barrett, a toddler aged one-and-a-half died when fire broke out in his home at Larkfield Grove, Terenure, Dublin.

Two people were killed in traffic accidents on Friday. Mrs Margaret Mahon (60) of Devin Reilly Terrace, Monaghan, was struck by a motorcyclist in the town, while Mr Flach O'Brien (31), of St. Patrick's Road, Cabra, Dublin, was killed when his car hit an ESB pole at Blackhorse Avenue.

Belfast solicitor was a target for years

By Jim Cusack

PATRICK Finucane emerged from obscurity as a relatively junior solicitor with a small criminal law practice in Belfast in 1981 when he was chosen by the Provisional republican movement to represent the Maze hunger strikers. He handled the delicate work of representing the hunger strikers in the latter stages of their protest when, the prisoners believed, there would be legal moves made to revive them.

From that period on, Mr Finucane's practice increased, largely with cases of people charged with IRA-related offences from west Belfast, where his family lived. Two of his brothers were sentenced for IRA-related offences and one, Dermott, faces extradition to Northern Ireland from the Republic for escaping from the Maze prison in 1983.



Mr Patrick Finucane

Another relative is an active Sinn Féin figure in west Belfast.

Other solicitors maintained that it was the family connection with the republican movement that helped built up Mr Finucane's portfolio, but he was also regarded in the courts as an adroit and determined legal representative.

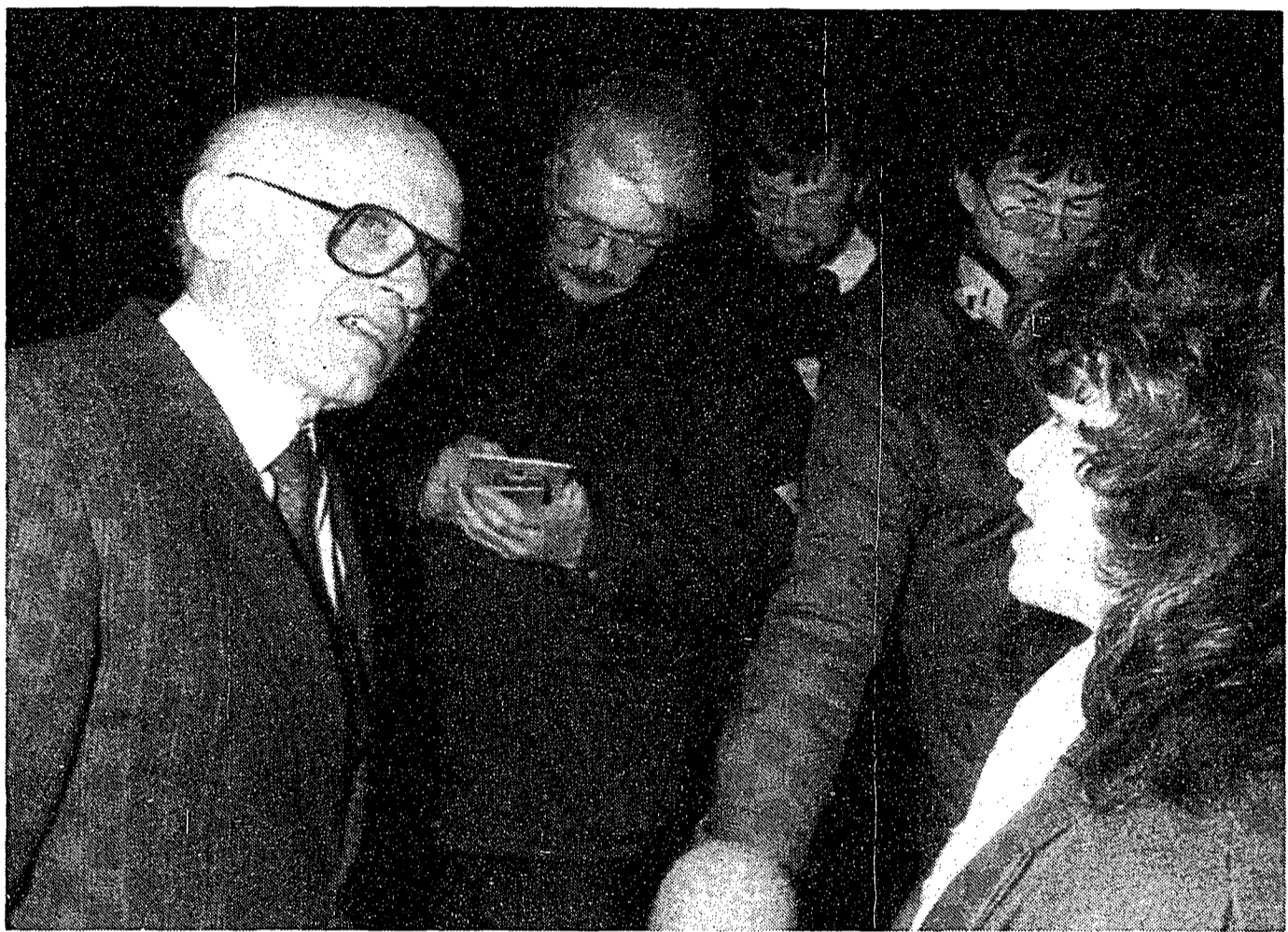
His most recent major case involved representation of the families of the three men who were killed in the so-called "shoot-to-kill" episode in Armagh in 1982. He brought a successful High Court application to overthrow a coroner's court direction that RUC witnesses be allowed to stay away and have their evidence read only in statement form. It is not clear how his death will affect the course of the inquests which have been delayed for more than six years now.

Mr Finucane had been a poten-

tial target for loyalist attack for several years. In the early 1980s he lived quite close to a loyalist estate in north Belfast but moved to his home in the Fortwilliam area about five years ago.

In the last year loyalist sources have claimed that members questioned by the RUC had been told by police officers that Mr Finucane and other Catholic solicitors were helping to keep the IRA out of prison. The statement by Mr Douglas Hogg in the British House of Commons appeared to follow the same course.

Mr Finucane was educated at St. Malachy's College, Belfast and at Queen's University, where he received his degree in law. He is one of several Catholic solicitors whose practices were greatly expanded by the huge flow of criminal cases against Republicans in the past two decades in the North.



Belfast solicitor Mr Pascal O'Hare talking to reporters at the scene of last night's murder of fellow Belfast solicitor, Mr Patrick Finucane, in his house. - (Photograph: Pacemaker)

OUP line on pact increases tension

From Martin Cowley,
in Belfast

RENEWED strains between the two unionist parties are likely to surface over the next few days, following an Official Unionist statement which apparently accepts that there will be no change in the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

The statement, which has been interpreted as promoting a pro-integrationist line for Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom, was issued by the officers of the Official Unionist Party council last Friday. Members present included the party leader, Mr James Molloy, the Rev Martin Smyth, Mr Jack Allen, party chairman, and the party president, Sir George Clarke.

Although no DUP politicians were prepared to comment on it, it is known that some DUP figures are surprised and perplexed at both its content and timing.

The DUP was not told of the statement in advance. The DUP is mainly a devolutionist party and the Official Unionists have been split on the devolution-integration question for many years.

The feeling in some DUP circles last night was that the tone of the Official Unionist statement indicated an acknowledgement that the agreement would remain and that the Official Unionists were prepared to pursue integration while the accord was still in place.

The joint task force report 18 months ago suggested a strategy in which devolution was taken to be the dominant option.

Some DUP figures feel that the Official Unionists' statement is particularly surprising because it comes at a time when, despite the trauma of the post-Duisburg controversy, channels were being kept open between the unionist parties and the SDLP, and it was felt, in the DUP at least, that their viewpoints were being listened to by their political opponents.

Yesterday the Rev Ian Foster confirmed that he had resigned from the DUP three weeks ago. He would not give reasons for his resignation, but it is accepted that he was dissatisfied about the effect of the pact with the Official Unionists on the DUP's anti-agreement strategy.

The Minister MEP, Professor Tom Raftery, said at the weekend that the Minister had succeeded in making a criminal class of Ireland's "most law-abiding and environment-conscious group of citizens." — the angling community. Professor Raftery accused Mr Daly of having ruined last year's revenue from angling tourism and asserted that now the Minister appeared to be in an even more determined mood to "finish off" this source of income in the current year.

Leading NI solicitor shot dead in Belfast house

(Continued from page 1)

to the alleged political motivations of some solicitors in the province cannot help matters. Those who are involved in the legal system in Northern Ireland carry out their duties in an impartial and efficient manner without regard to the political affiliations of those coming to them.

The Committee on the Administration of Justice, an independent group composed of lawyers, described the killing as "an attack on civil liberties and the rule of law" from the group added: "We are especially disturbed that the murder so closely follows the Home Office Minister's Douglas Hogg's statement that the government regards some lawyers as sympathetic to terrorism. The CAJ calls on the minister either to disown the statement or resign."

The Home Office said there would be no comment from Mr Hogg last night. A spokesman added: "Murder is an abhorrence from whatever quarter it comes and there is simply no justification for those callous acts of murder carried out in Northern Ireland."

But Labour's Northern Ireland spokesman, Mr Kevin McNamara, said: "I think Mr Hogg has got to consider very carefully what he said. This death must be a tragedy for the legal profession in Northern Ireland as well as for the family of the deceased." He added the Labour Party would be seeking to raise the issue in the Commons today.

Mr Finucane had several actions pending before the European Court of Human Rights. One of them was a challenge to the British government derogation from the Human Rights Convention over the seven-day detention of suspects. He had also filed papers relating to the shoot-to-kill deaths and it was felt that his action seeking to overturn the British government's media ban on interviews would also have resulted in a hearing at European level.

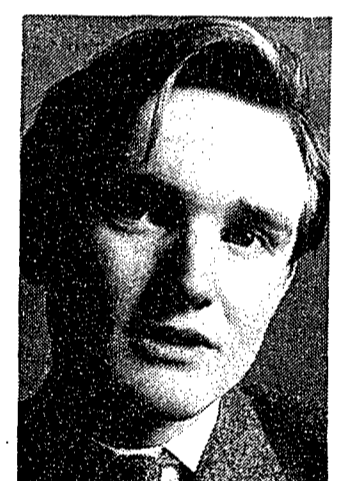
He had also been handling the Northern Ireland side of an attempt by his brother, Dermot, a Maze escaper, to resist extradition from the Republic.

Councillor Seamus Lynch, the Workers' Party chairman in the North, said that the savage killing was calculated to drive the community further into conflict.

In the House of Commons last month, during the committee stage on the Prevention of Terrorism Bill, Mr Hogg claimed that "certain solicitors in Northern Ireland were unduly sympathetic to one or other terrorist organisations in Northern Ireland", and he indicated that he meant the IRA.

For the SDLP, Mr Seamus Mallon, challenged Mr Hogg and called on him to withdraw his remarks. Mr Mallon said last night: "I also pointed out that as a result of his remarks many solicitors in the north of Ireland had become targets for assassins bullets as a result of that statement of his. I regret that those words are now very prophetic indeed."

At the scene of the shooting last night, one of the North's best known solicitors, Mr Pascal O'Hare, also condemned Mr



Mr Douglas Hogg

Ireland Law Society, whose secretary, Mr Michael Davey, wrote to Mr Hogg about his "extremely damaging" accusations, which he said were "glaringly unscientific."

Mr Davey said on January 19th: "What concerns me is that, as spoken, the remarks extend over the entire solicitors' profession in the province. That is well over 1,000 people. If there is anything specific, any question of professional impropriety I would like to know about it. I do not know what he means."

Mr Finucane, and his firm, Madden and Finucane, were widely known for their handling of prisoners' rights and human rights cases involving detention.

He was the subject of major publicity during the Craigavon shoot-to-kill inquiry, when on the first day he left the inquest to start a process which was to result in a High Court decision which was seen as a highly significant legal victory — the court's decision that the policemen responsible for the shooting could be called to give evidence at the inquest.

Just after the inquest he also acted as the solicitor for a man acquitted of charges in connection with the killing of two British soldiers.

He was in the public eye in 1981 when he acted as solicitor for Bobby Sands during the hunger-striker's successful campaign for election to Westminster.

Recently, another major case added to his high profile when he represented Mr Mitchell McLaughlin, chairman of Sinn Féin's six county executive, in his legal challenge to the British Home Secretary's media ban on broadcast interviews with people representing Sinn Féin.

Another of Mr Finucane's brothers, Seamus, is believed to have been a boyfriend of Mairead Farrell, one of three IRA members shot dead in Gibraltar last year.

Dr Daly denounces claim by UVF murderers

From Martin Cowley,
in Belfast

A CLAIM by the UVF killers of a Belfastman last Thursday that he was an IRA member has been described as "false and offensive" by the Bishop of Down and Connor, Dr Cahal Daly. At Requiem Mass for Mr Tony Fusco (33), Dr Daly said Catholics in the Smithfield area had reason to feel afraid and "insufficiently protected."

Mr Fusco's murder was the second in Smithfield in three weeks. The other victim was also a Catholic, Mr Ian Catney, who was shot in his mother's shop. Mr Fusco's killers drove up to him on a motor-cycle as he walked along West Street at 8.45 a.m. The pillion passenger dismounted and opened fire on his victim.

Several hundred people, including Mr Fusco's pregnant wife, Josephine, attended Saturday's Requiem Mass in St Peter's

Cathedral at which Dr Daly denounced the murder. He said that in the past six years there had been 37 sectarian murders of Catholics in his diocese. "This is grim evidence that there are two murder campaigns going on simultaneously. Each is totally evil. Each takes excuse from the other. Each feeds upon the other."

Expressing his sympathy to Mrs Fusco and her two children, Dr Daly recalled it was only three weeks since the murder of Mr Catney, "another completely innocent Catholic in the very same area."

He said the UVF claim "calls attention to a persistent habit of this infamous loyalist group to attach guilt by association, guilt by family name, guilt by unfounded suspicion, collective and community guilt, guilt by religion. This is perverse and wicked, it is sinister and frightening."

He continued: "Tony's

FC picks candidate

Dr Pat Lee, a general practitioner from north Dublin and a city councillor, was yesterday chosen as the Fine Gael candidate for the next Dail election

murderers would presumably claim to act on behalf of the Protestant community. That community, in its immense majority, rejects their organisation, condemns their activities and feels insulted by their use of the Protestant name. I sympathise with real Protestants in these circumstances.

"I ask them to understand how the Catholic community feels when Catholics are collectively blamed for the deeds of a few. I ask them to realise how the people of west Belfast feel when they are collectively condemned and stigmatised and even punished for the misdeeds of a few."

A Sinn Féin councillor, Mr Fra McCann, said he had received numerous complaints of members being harassed and intimidated by the RUC on their way to the burial. "There is no reason for it other than sectarian bigotry," he asserted.