

Heath easing up on I.R.A.—

WHILE Belfast rocked under the latest wave of bombing and shooting yesterday, the former Stormont Premier, Brian Faulkner, and his Cabinet after a meeting called on Mr. Heath for an explanation for the changed directives they allege have been given to the security forces.

The Cabinet and its leader, attacked the changes in the security policy and expressed their concern at the increase in violence, especially in the areas which had been previously free of I.R.A. activity for many months.

"The Shadow Cabinet is concerned that Mr. Heath's instructions are quite different to his attitude expressed on many occasions about the need for ruthless pursuit of the terrorists," said a statement issued afterwards.

"The Shadow Cabinet believes that unless firm measures are taken, Northern Ireland will be back to the perilous position in which the terrorists can rebuild the strength of their own organisation and engender riot situations in the areas where they had support. This would constitute not only a grave threat to the lives and property of the Ulster community, but would unnecessarily put at risk the lives of other members of the security forces who have fought so gallantly against this menace to society."

PARADES BAN
At the same time the Secretary for the North, Mr. William Whitelaw, met leaders of the Orange and Black institutions and the Apprentice Boys over the future of parades. The talks centred around the possibility of lifting the parades ban introduced last August following internment. Since then the ban has been broken on several occasions by the Civil Rights Association and Northern Resistance Movement.

The season of Orange parades would normally begin on Sunday week with parades and Church services. At their meeting yesterday Orange leaders put forward their reasons why the parades ban should be lifted.

Orange leaders are confident that the traditional Twelfth Parade will be held this year. They are understood to be agreeable to any change in routes to prevent a confrontation with the Catholic areas.

Mr. Whitelaw has already made his position clear in regard to parades since taking up duty in the North. He has already said that he wants to restore as far as possible the right of peaceful procession but this, he says, will depend first of all on the general security situation, and on cooperation from parade organisers in accepting restrictions on the number of events, venues and routes.

His talks with Orange leaders were the first of a series he plans to hold during the

Unionists

From Louis Kelly in Belfast

coming weeks. The Ancient Order of Hibernians has also been invited to discuss the resumption of parades.

Meanwhile, the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association has published a research work on re-arrests in Northern Ireland under the Special Powers Act, in which 17 men were arrested seconds after they were proven innocent in the courts.

The N.I.C.R.A. document—Innocent Equals Guilty Under the Special Powers Act—quizzes the Belfast newspaper, "Irish News," on ten different dates between November 18, 1971, and February 17, 1972.

● Anthony Lundy (19), a labourer of Keegan Street, Belfast, was re-arrested seconds after being cleared of nine explosives charges on November 17, 1971.

● Mr. Patrick Kearns was immediately re-arrested after being cleared of explosives charges on November 18, 1971.

● Patrick Joseph Loughran (41), a labourer of Ward Street; Terence Oliver Wilson (33), a labourer of Monagh Crescent; and Edward Shaw (29), a telephone installer, all of Malcolmson Street, were re-arrested after charges of possessing arms and explosives under suspicious circumstances were dropped at Belfast City Commission on November 31, 1971.

● James Hargry (30), unemployed seaman, East Street; Daniel Conlon (23), unemployed labourer, Stanfield Street; and Brian Boyd (32), unemployed fitter, Lagan Street, were all kept in custody for three months before being allowed bail at Belfast Magistrate's Court on December 7, 1971. On December 14, all three men were again detained.

● Mr. Patrick Joseph

NEWS IN BRIEF

TALKS aimed at easing religious tensions in the Six Counties are being planned by the Irish Council of Churches and Cardinal Conway.

GARDAI in border areas have been issued with gas masks, the Gardai officially confirmed yesterday.

TWO young children—Ulran and Orna Devine—were rescued by neighbours when fire seriously damaged their home at Cannon Hill, Omagh, Co. Tyrone.

ALLEGATIONS by Mr. Ivan Cooper, M.P., that members of the U.D.R. staged a "shoot-up" in Swatragh, Co. Derry on Saturday are being investigated, the Army said yesterday.

CHARGES against 24 Derry men following the "Bloody Sunday" deaths were further adjourned for a month at Derry Court yesterday.

Whitelaw wants to lift ban

THE NORTHERN Ireland secretary, Mr. Whitelaw, announced last night that he wanted "in principle" to lift the ban on "customary parades"—subject to certain conditions.

The announcement came after he had met a joint committee representing five loyalist institutions.

A statement said: "The Secretary of State wishes in principle to lift the general ban so as to permit the customary parades to proceed, subject to agreement on route, timing, location and general arrangements."

"He invited the organisers to enter urgently into discussions with the security forces on these matters."

McCANN SEEN AS MARTYR IN BELFAST

By RAYMOND SMITH in Belfast.

NEED Joe McCann have died? Was the death of this leading member of the Official I.R.A. a set-up job—inventable, in fact, from the moment he decided to return from Dublin to Belfast?

These were the questions I heard being discussed behind the barricades in the Turf Lodge area of Belfast yesterday, where black mourning flags were everywhere to be seen.

As people filed into 13 Fianna Eireann members standing in attention at the door, to pay their respects to the dead I.R.A. man, his sister, Mrs. Colette Dornan, said to me in the kitchen: "The word we were getting always was that they would never take him alive."

She claimed that he was wounded first in the leg by a bullet from a Special Branch man. He need not have been killed. He was not carrying a gun. But after he fell the Paras put another six or seven bullets into him. He got one through the heart. They fired 20 rounds altogether at him.

His death has resulted in two important developments:

"IN COLD BLOOD"
It has brought the Provisional and Official wings of the I.R.A. together in the Turf Lodge

area with the express purpose of further avenging his death.

It has hardened feelings in the Catholic ghettos generally. This killing, which the I.R.A. say was "in cold blood" may prove of great embarrassment to the Secretary of State, Mr. Whitelaw, and it is difficult to escape the conclusion that it is going to make things even harder for the leaders of moderate opinion.

Joe McCann is already seen as a martyr.

Mrs. Dornan told me that her brother was not ordered back to Belfast by the I.R.A. Command in Dublin. He came back by his own choice. Indeed, he rejected appeals that he should get out of Belfast.

She said that he was spotted some days before his death by a Special Branch man but managed to elude the net on that occasion.

Why did he come back when he was so high on the wanted list? "He wanted to be with his own people," she said simply. "What use was it sitting around in Dublin?"

"He was a socialist all his life," she added. "A revolutionary. He worked for the dream of a socialist republic. He was completely dedicated to that cause."

The McCann funeral today is expected to be one of the biggest I.R.A. funerals seen in the city



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Army accused of murder

MR PADDY DEVLIN, the Social Democratic and Labour Party chief whip, has accused the British army of murdering the Official I.R.A. leader, Joe McCann, when they opened fire in the centre of Belfast on Saturday.

Photographers get bail

Two freelance photographers—one English and the other American—charged with inciting a crowd to riot at the weekend, were allowed bail by Belfast magistrates yesterday.

Kenneth Sims (42), of Heston, Middlesex, and Larry de Lane (29), of Vermont, U.S.A., both denied the charges, and will appear again on Thursday.

Alliance expands

The Alliance Party has expanded its organisation to cover the Shankill/Oldpark area of Belfast, which includes both Ardoyne and the Lower Shankill Road. This means that there are now Alliance organisations in all but six of the 52 Stormont constituencies, and in virtually every area of Belfast.

Mr. McCann was shot because he ran away. They were not content to have wounded him in the legs but continued firing until they killed him," said Mr. Devlin.

Mr. Devlin said that the British Army was guilty of the "pre-meditated murder" of McCann. They were waiting for him and when they told him to stop, he did so. He then threw one of them out of the way and ran.

"He was wounded in the leg and then they riddled him. One woman told me that she had found 12 empty cartridge cases lying on the ground outside her home," he said.

Mr. Devlin said his party would establish that McCann was in fact murdered and that the Paratroops who killed him contravened the firing instructions laid down in the Yellow Card, the document which they use to determine when they may and may not open fire.

"It is not clear," said Mr. Devlin, "if the senior officer present gave the order to open fire, and if he didn't we will want to know who did."

"If the military had prior knowledge that Mr. McCann was going to pass along the street they could certainly have arranged to take him without killing him. McCann was unarmed when he was shot dead."

The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association has collected statements from people who saw the shooting, and a spokesman said there appeared to be a case for the new Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. Barry Shaw, to take action against the Paratroops and the R.U.C. Special Branch men responsible.

The Coisde Seais, of Stan Fatn (Gardiner Place) has decided to examine the possibility of establishing an international enquiry into the McCann shooting and into previous killings of civilians by the British army.

Had an 'arsenal'

A man already serving 10 years for having ammunition, was sentenced to 15 years yesterday for having what the Belfast City Commission judge called "a tremendous arsenal of arms and explosives."

Patrick O'Neill (28), of Martinstown, Co. Antrim, had a sub-machine gun, 32 shotguns, 15 rifles, three revolvers, two pistols, almost 12,000 rounds of ammunition and eight at his father's farm, said Mr. Justice Gibson. Yesterday's sentence is to run concurrently with the 10-year sentence.

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What do UCC and IBM care about Lucy Jane's teeth?

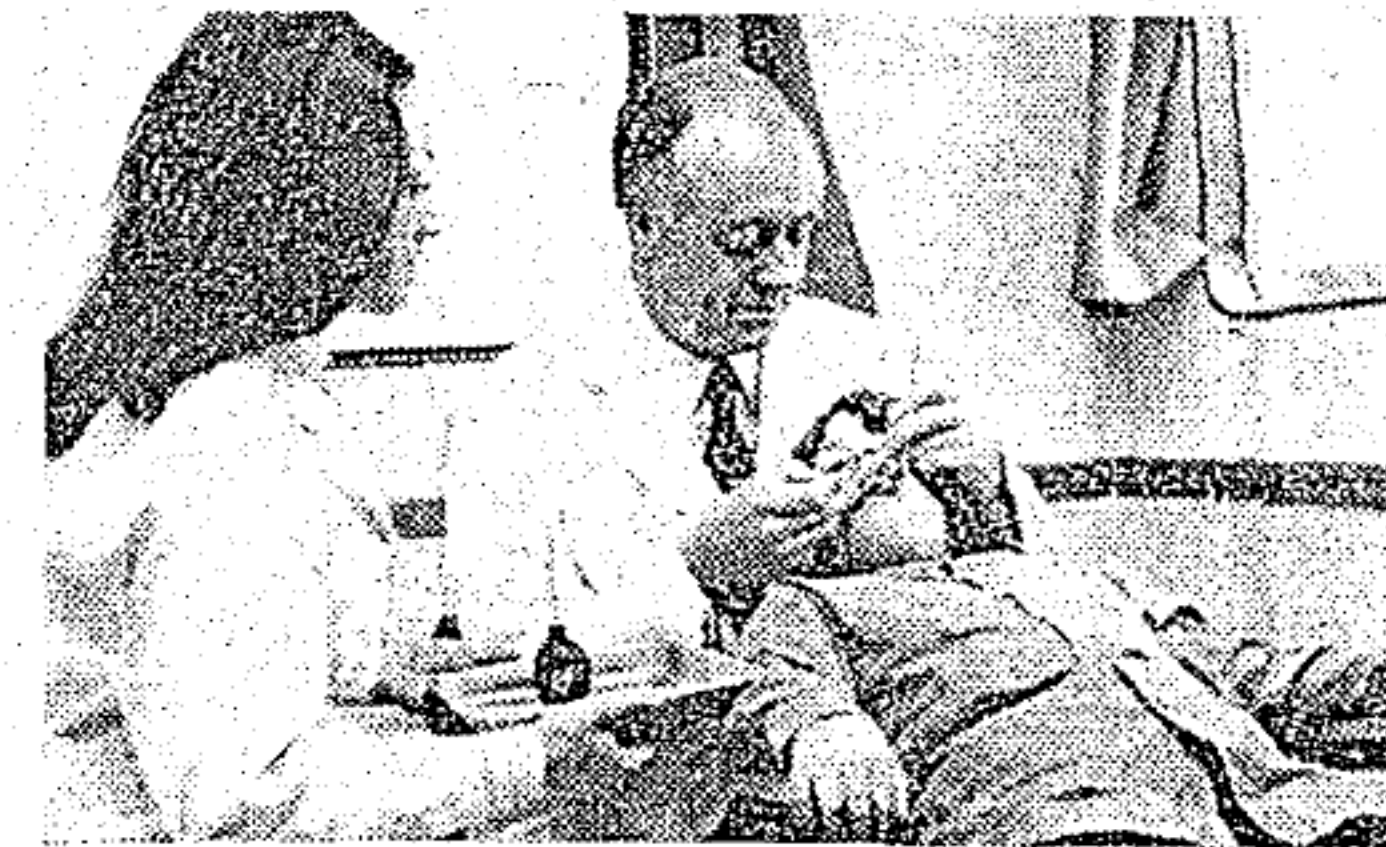
Lucy Jane cut her first tooth three months ago. Now she has six — cutting some of them made her pretty miserable.

That's quite normal — babies suffer from teething. But when Lucy Jane has all her teeth, if everything goes well, she'll never suffer with them again.

If everything goes well. For too long here in Ireland we have had a record of bad dental health. Dental health isn't simply having good looking teeth — good teeth can mean better health.

So when the remarkable effect of water fluoridation in reducing tooth decay became known, the Department of Health, with the strong support of the dental profession, introduced water fluoridation to the country in the mid-1960's. Today, children in about half the country's homes are growing up with the benefits of fluoridated water.

In 1961, the Department of Health requested the



Mr. Collins examines the teeth of a Cork schoolgirl in the mobile dental inspection unit.

Medical Research Council of Ireland to make a national survey of the condition of children's teeth before the possible introduction of fluoridation. In the Cork Health Authority area fluoridation commenced in 1964.

In 1969 a second survey was carried out in Cork, financed by the Department and headed by the director of Special Studies on Dental Caries and Fluoride, Mr. Christopher Collins, head of the Department of Preventive Dentistry at University College, Cork.

He and his colleague, Dr. Denis O'Mullane examined the teeth of some thousands of children, aged from 4 to 11 years at Cork schools. Analysed on the university's IBM 1130 computer, the results showed (after only four and a half years of fluoridation) an important reduction in the occurrence of decay in both milk teeth and permanent teeth. This is merely the first fruit of work in progress.

In 1967 a long-term study on fluoridation began in schools at Mallow, Macroom and Mitchelstown. Shortly, the results will be analysed by the university's IBM 1130. In science, as in other fields, the computer analyses data very rapidly, handling work which might take months in days and making possible complicated analysis which would otherwise take so much time that it might never be attempted.

The result is information which can be acted upon sooner. If we have described the benefits for children in homes with a piped public water supply, what of the children who, unlike Lucy Jane, live in rural areas which do not have one?

The answer may lie in controlled clinical tests



Dr. O'Mullane discusses an analysis from the computer with Mr. Collins.

being conducted at Fermoy, Co. Cork. In these, children rinse their mouth and teeth with a fluoride solution fortnightly. Indications are that this may be effective in reducing decay — so the results of Mr. Collins' work may be to help to bring at least some of the benefits of fluoridated water to children of school age in these areas.

At University College, Cork, Dr. Patrick O'Regan, head of the university's Department of Computer Science, takes charge of the processing and analysis of the data. This project is an excellent example of a university, conscious of its responsibilities to the community which supports it, making a major contribution to the well-being of that community, supported by Government direction and funds.

The Department of Health and UCC care about Lucy Jane's teeth — and IBM is happy to be associated in providing the computer power to help speed their work.

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