

**WE SAY**  
**Sinn Fein's 'hob lawyers**  
**and do-gooders'**

**Serious source**  
THE REPORT on the Distribution of Accidents by Hour of Day in the Republic, just issued by An Foras Forbartha, provides the kind of information which should help the Department of Justice to do its part in reducing accidents on the roads.

If the Report is thrown on the pile of other information from Commissions and all sorts of bodies, whose recommendations are carefully locked away for ever in departmental archives, then death and injury on the roads will go on increasing.

The Report makes it as clear as crystal that the time of day of most accidents is the time when there are more drunks, or half drunks about. The figures are almost tailored to the periods when drivers are on their way home or elsewhere after closing hour.

On the average day the risk of accident is over seven times as great during the hour ending at midnight compared with daylight hours. Saturday differs from the ordinary day in that the relative risk of accident at this hour is even greater than on a weekday, and on Sunday the relative risk of accident is reasonably stable until 10 p.m. when it rises to six times the level, and at 11 p.m. to seven times the day level.

Here is a serious source of road accidents on which the Department of Justice should concentrate all its resources.

Sir — A letter appeared in your newspaper of 20/7/72, which has incensed me very much. It bore the name "Joseph O'Rourke", who described himself as: "p.p. Publicity Officer Sinn Fein Cumann an Phiarsaigh, Ranelagh, Dublin 6", and it referred to the case of an alleged pregnant woman in Galway City who was recently sentenced to a term of imprisonment by the Circuit Court Judge there on a charge that she stole £140 from the local priest's house.

All good Christians (and they include Judges and members of the Garda as well as members of the legal profession) have, as a general rule, compassion for people who fall foul of the law, even when those people happen to be architects of their own misfortune, but such good Christians have also compassion for those who are the victims of those law-breakers.

What incensed me was the fact that Sinn Fein are using the case and a weapon in their campaign to try to embarrass the Government and its Departments and to try to ingratiate themselves through those means with the people, so that they (Sinn Fein) may gain power which would enable them to become the rulers in this country, and then they would surely talk down to us and prescribe for us in a dictatorial way. God forbid that that should ever happen in this country.

What happened in the case of that woman concerned is that the law of our land took its course. Evidently the priest from whom that money was stolen reported the matter to the Gardai, and rightly so, for evidently he didn't know who took it. When that priest so reported that money to be missing and when the Gardai investigated it and found the culprit in the case, the matter was then out of that priest's hands, and having discovered that there was a crime committed in the case, the Gardai weren't empowered to conceal the culprit unless they wished to run the risk of incurring severe disciplinary action.

When the case was brought before the Judge, he was bound to administer the law as he found it, for a Judge or a Justice in a Court of law is somewhat in the same position as a man who is appointed to referee a football match or boxing match etc. A referee at such matches has to referee them according to the rules of the game and if he doesn't, the players or the spectators, will very soon object to his decisions. In the same way the Judge or Justice in a law Court is bound to decide his cases in Court in accordance with the rules of the law as he finds it, or if not, his judgments will be appealed to higher Courts. Many people adversely criticise Judges and Justices because they think that they deal too leniently with offenders who are brought before them, so it is, indeed, hard for them to please everybody. Judges and Justices often remind people that their courts are not courts of morals.

If Sinn Fein wished to help



the woman they should have come forward at the hearing of the case and offered to make restitution in the case, and if they did, I believe that the Judge who tried the case would have been very happy to take such an offer into consideration when passing sentence.

Indeed, Sinn Fein might even consider having a fund available to assist such people who find themselves in the hands of the law, but, of course such an arrangement would not suit the objectives that the members of Sinn Fein have in mind, i.e., cheap publicity, which they vainly hope will prejudice more

people, like themselves, against the Establishment which they fondly, but, vainly (I hope) wish to bring down.

Those old hackneyed tactics of Sinn Fein and their allies of trying to gain power for their own selfish ends by posing as "do-gooders" and "hob-lawyers" and the defenders of the poor, the weak and the oppressed, wont influence anybody, only the very gullible, and the evilly-disposed people.

EOGHAN O LOINGSIGH  
Lar-Chonhalta de'n Gharda  
Siocchana i'n-Gaillimh.  
"Siocchain Christuill,  
175, Bothar Cluain Tarbh,  
Dubb Linn, 3.

**Food prices here and in Britain**

Sir—While on holiday in Britain recently I couldn't help but notice the sharp difference in food prices over there compared to our "Christian" country. I give here a few examples:

	Britain	Republic
Bread .....	9p large pan	13p large pan
Sugar .....	8p 2lb.	10p 2lb.
Butter .....	15p lb.	28p lb.
Fish and chips ...	11p	24p
Beer .....	8p bottle	15p bottle

I could go on and on, but what's the point? No wonder the sensible people in Northern Ireland would not be caught dead in a richman's "Republic".

OBSERVER

**Plea to return all glass milk bottles**

Sir—I think the following correspondence may be of interest to many of your readers (letter, A. Carson to Premier Dairies; reply, Premier Dairies to A. Carson):

An Taisce welcomes the enlightened approach by this firm to the container problem and appeals to all customers of the firm to co-operate by conscientiously returning all glass bottles regularly, thereby reducing the risk of further litter in the environment.

ALAN CARSON,  
Acting Secretary.  
An Taisce,  
126 Lr. Baggot St.,  
Dublin 2.

Sirs—An Taisce is concerned about the long-term effects of

the introduction of non-returnable milk bottles and, indeed, other containers. Our concern is about the shape, rigidity and destructibility as evidenced by what can be seen at beaches and roadsides.

An Taisce, therefore, hopes that your firm has considered the incorporation of a degradable element and a flexible material that could be crushed or folded after use.

ALAN CARSON,  
Acting Secretary.

Sirs—We are in receipt of yours of the 23rd inst. re non-returnable milk bottles. The material we intend to use in our plastic bottle will be extremely flexible and easily crushable.

We are actively investigating the feasibility of incorporating a degradable element in these bottles and also the possible recycling of the bottles on return. We have been very conscious of possible disposal problems since plastic bottles were first considered and will continue to make every effort to ensure the minimal contribution to the problem.

We would like to point out that we have no intention of making a changeover from the returnable glass bottle. The plastic bottle will be used only where the poor return of glass bottles makes their use uneconomical.

We are, furthermore, initiating an intensive campaign to ensure a greater return of glass bottles and a great awareness of our problems in this area.

T. J. MURPHY,  
Premier Dairies Ltd.,  
Ravensdale Park,  
Kimmage, 12.

**NOT THE SEAN BOGT**

Sir—I would like it to be understood that I was not the writer of the letter here on Friday (28/7/72) signed "Sean Bogt, Dublin Castle," who is evidently a Civil Servant in one or other of the several Government offices accommodated there. I am the ordinary poor old Sean who normally gives a wide berth to Dublin Castle (but tries to get into this page!).

SEAN BOGT.

**DISAPPOINTED PENSIONERS**

Sir — My husband and I are old age pensioners and we cannot afford butter. When we saw it advertised in the Herald at a Supermarket at 24p for a lb. I thought we would have a treat. But I found that while it was 24p for a lb. it was 14p for 1/2 lb so it was back to marg.

Is it legal to advertise at 24p a lb and charge 14p for 1/2 lb? It looks like cheating.

MARY DOLAN

**HAPPY OUTING**

Sir — On behalf of Our Lady's Old Folks Club I wish to thank the organising committee and all who helped to make a very happy and pleasant outing. The patience and kindness shown to all was truly wonderful.

A. CONLON  
21 Oscar Sq.  
S.C.Rd 8.



Text by: J.B. Malone  
Sketches by: Liam C. Martin



**Firhouse Weir**

This is the Firhouse Weir, on the River Dodder, which was of vital importance to every citizen of Dublin for the best part of eight hundred years. This remarkable piece of early engineering must have been standing before 1244 A.D., as in that year an inquiry was held to find the best way of bringing a water supply from the Dodder into the city; a channel was cut above this weir, from which the water came down to the "Stone Boat" at Tonquefield in Kimmage, and was there divided to serve both St. Thomas's Abbey and the rest of the city around the Castle and St. Patrick's ("Know Your Dublin," 30-10-70 and 14-11-70). It has been suggested that this weir was originally built by the Augustinian Canons of St. Thomas's Abbey (which had been founded in 1177). It anyhow was so far back that the name of its original designer is lost. Significant, too, is the fact that the whole area round the Firhouse Weir is in Templeogue townland, which here comes right across the Dodder, like an ancient property boundary. The Poddle itself, after rising in the Green Hills, joins into this City Water Course and I suggest that Tymon Castle, which survived till less than twenty years ago, was intended to defend the Poddle sources. The Firhouse Weir gave Dublin its only water supply until 1775, when the Grand Canal water was brought into operation.

