

Hon ,Humphrey Atkins
Secretary ofState

Main Street, Lisnaskea.Co Fermanagh I8/I0/79

Dee Humphrey
Sir,

These men in H Blocks 3,4,5, are not getting the proper food either in quantity or quality according to reports I am receiving and the appearance of the men to their visitors certainly bears this out. The Taxpayers are paying for quantities of food which apparently the men are not getting.

The food is usually cold. Cutlery and everything on the plate is stuck together with cold grease as the plates are left until the food gets cold. The men are not getting the $\frac{3}{4}$ pint of a milk that they are entitled to. Cornflakes are given out without milk; little salt or sugar is obtainable. Only half of the rations of cake sent from the kitchen reaches the men.

If these things are true, they are petty and vindictive and I hope they will be stopped; otherwise the men may go on hunger strike and this would have very serious consequences on both sides of the Irish Sea. To borrow a royal phrase, men should not be left in conditions fit for pigs unless they are fed like pigs.

It is reported that on October 9th, Eugene MacCormack, H 5, was beaten up with punches to the face and kicks to the legs during a wing shift. Tony Reasy of Short Strand was beaten up on 13/10/79 in H 4. Also in H4 Roberts of Riverdale, Belfast was ill treated on 6/10/79 by punches and kicks coming from a visit. and Martin Livingstone of H4 got a punch in the jaw coming to Mass on 14/10/79. I want these allegations investigated.

The only hope for peace after the Pope's Speech lies in a concession on the H Blocks; give them their clothes and whatever they want; stop the excessive and inhuman punishments; you cannot win this one as the whole situation here is political and you have a chance now in the climate of grace after the Pope's visit. In a few weeks that will be gone and the "Pigs" "Pigs" will fight for 20 years.

Frank Maguire M.P.

*Yours Sincerely
Frank Maguire*