

# Limerick Leader

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1977

## THE STRANGE CASE OF EX-SUPT. GEARY

**T**HE CASE of ex-Superintendent William Geary, dismissed from the Garda Síochána for allegedly accepting an IRA bribe, makes disturbing reading. All along he has protested his absolute innocence. But his long and lone campaign to clear his name has thus far been in vain.

Two aspects of the affair, as related by Mr. Geary, are especially disquieting: first, as there was no judicial inquiry of any kind, he was never given an adequate opportunity to defend himself; secondly, officialdom seems to have turned a permanently deaf ear to his subsequent pleas for fair play.

If Mr. Geary was not framed, he was surely the victim of some terrible mistake. Of that there can be no reasonable doubt. Apart from the fact that there is no evidence against him, the little evidence that does exist is convincingly in his favour. The recently written testimony of ex-Chief Superintendent, David Neligan, who in good faith passed on information which damned Mr. Geary, clinches it: "I accept unquestioningly that you never received money from those people . . ." Neither Mr. Neligan's knowledge of the events at issue nor his integrity can be considered suspect.

Besides, the onus is supposed to be on the State to prove a citizen's guilt, not on the citizen to prove his lack of it. And that, in this instance, the State has manifestly failed to do. Why, then, must Mr. Geary continue to suffer the torment of injustice?

There are several possible explanations. Perhaps it is felt that full disclosure of the events even at this late stage would breach national security, or that exoneration would render the authorities liable to litigation in this and other cases, or that it all happened so long ago it doesn't really matter any more. On reflection, however, these are not explanations but excuses.

For whatever about considerations of official confidentiality, administrative convenience and the passage of time, the fact remains that the man concerned is morally entitled to vindication. Mr. Gerry Collins, Minister for Justice, has the power to act. He should do so without delay so that Mr. Geary can feel free to return to his native land with head held high.

● Full story: page 8.

## BARGAIN BUTTER

**T**HERE WAS chaos in some Limerick shops last Friday when "bargain butter" went on sale. One supermarket manager described the carry-on of

# JOHN

## OUT IN THE O

**L**AST THURSDAY I successfully engaged two geese for Christmas.

If you're ever taken down in the purchase of a goose, that is to say if you buy an old goose instead of a green one, you will not engage geese hastily, nor will you buy at random from any Tom, Dick or Harry. To be quite candid I would put the same amount of preparation and planning into the purchase of a goose as I would into the robbing of a bank.

### Taken down

Too many times in the past I was taken down in the matter of geese by otherwise honest people. In the country it is not considered a dishonest act to sell old geese to townies. Old geese must be sold to somebody and who better than townies. Few townies knew the identities of dwelling places of goose producers, so the disposer is nearly always safe from retaliation. In addition, nearly all goose producers look alike, especially those who foist off ancient birds on the unwary and the unsuspecting.

For starters they all have honest faces. They will look you straight in the eye when you ask the age of the goose. They dress alike as well. The males of the species wear caps and black overcoats except in instances where they wear brown overcoats. You will always find them in the corner of the market where the ass and pony rails are thickest and they will always call you "Sir," which, in my humble estimation, is the true hallmark of a scoundrel.

Of course you can steer clear of all these risks by the simple expedient of going to a poulterer. Here the name of the supplier is painted in characters clear, as the song says, over the door for all to see. Your high-class poulterer sells geese all the year round and is, therefore, anxious that his customers should call back again and again. It goes without saying that he will never inflict an old goose on an inexperienced housewife.

### Opposite

With your rustic supplier the case is the opposite. He is geared for one big sale in the year and so has no need to safeguard his reputation by

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