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Iveagh House chain group convicted

Act. If they had been aware of them, they would not have embarked "on this extraordinary escapade."

NINE YOUNG men, seven of them from Northern Ireland, who chained themselves in the main hall of Iveagh House, the Department of Foreign Affairs in St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, on April 4th, were fined £10 each and bound to the peace for 12 months by District Justice Good in the Dublin District Court yesterday.

One defendant said they had carried out the demonstration to get publicity for their association, as they knew that newspapermen tended to be fascinated by chains.

A garda said that the defendants said they were members of the Workers Association for the Democratic Settlement of the National Conflict in Ireland, with headquarters at 26 The Mount, Albertbridge Road, Belfast.

The nine men were charged with forcible occupation of land—the Department of Foreign Affairs—contrary to Section 3 of the Prohibition of Forcible Entry and Occupation Act, 1971.

A charge against them of forcible entry under Section 2 was dismissed.

The defendants were Michael Devaney (27), Albert Street, Belfast; John Bowman (24), Sydenham Drive, Belfast; Thomas Dwyer (31), Beechmount Street, Belfast; Eamon O'Kane (26), The Mount, Albert-bridge Road, Belfast; David McRoberts (25), Tennant Street, Belfast; David Morrison (30), Duncambert Park, Belfast; George Wilson (26), Merville Garden Village, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim; John Kearns (22), North Circular Road, Dublin, and Colm O'Shea (19), Sunday's Well, Cork.

John Gerald Molloy, Assistant Secretary to the Department of Foreign Affairs, said that when he asked the chained men to leave they could not because they did not have the keys to the locks on their chains. The men showed no hostility.

Inspector Thomas Brennan said Eamon O'Kane told him the association had been formed to have Article 3 of the Constitution changed.

O'Kane, in evidence, said that up to the time the inspector told them that they were in breach of the law, they were not aware of it.

Chaining themselves was a symbolic way of airing their grievance. They intended to leave the building as soon as the Press left. "Newspapermen tended to be fascinated by chains," he said.

District Justice Good said he felt that the defendants had not been aware of the provisions of the new