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My mother's family would have been, em, my father would have been Sinn Fein. My mother's family, because they were in the R.I.C. at that time d'you see, they would be for De Valera and his side, but De Valera was never acknowledged in my house, never, I suppose you turned over. And I do remember an incident when we came into Newcastle West one day when I was very small, myself and my two sisters that were younger than me, I was walking and one was in the pram and we were driving into town and there were hundreds of people going into town. I say hundreds now because the streets were packed. They were having a Blueshirt meeting in the square in Newcastle West and we were just past a friend's house down the street when a man got off a cart with a hay fork with the two prongs on it and he attacked my mother and he was trying to pin her to the wall and I was screaming. And Mrs Norman came out and took us in and I was screaming and belling at the door that "my mother would be killed, my mother would be killed". But that was an incident at a Blueshirt meeting and I remember it very well.

INT: And why did he attack your mother?

RESP: Because obviously she was a Blueshirt, or she was against them, oh she was against them - the Blueshirts would have been Michael Collins' crowd and she would be on the other side and of course they had all the brooders in that small town. I use to hear my father quoting, "That fellow", certain people you see that were on De Valera side got pensions, and my father never got a pension you see, it was all that bitterness but I would hear my father, "that fellow, brought him on my back. I remember my father saying, "I brought that man on my back when he was injured" and this was in the Civil War and he was at the other side [name], he was on the other side and he got a pension but my father didn't you know, this kind of thing. I grew up with that.