

DUBLIN CITY GARDAI PLAN TO BEAT THREAT OF THE BOOT BOYS

By FRANK COURELL

GROWING weekend violence and vandalism in Dublin's city centre by the city's latest angry youth cult... the Boot Boys... is causing grave concern to Garda chiefs.

In the past few weeks rampaging gangs, in their now familiar dress of threequarter length, wide pants, heavy boots and Gilbert O'Sullivan caps, have struck with increasing frequency and caused damage to property estimated at thousands of pounds.

In one escapade along Talbot Street five plate glass windows in business premises were smashed and the door of a shoe shop wrecked in the early hours of the morning and dozens of pairs of shoes thrown into the street.

One drapery store, Sweeney and Son, had a plate glass window smashed for the fourth time since Christmas.

DISTURBING

City Gardai are now prepared to admit that the problem of the Boot Boys has grown to proportions equal and probably greater than the Skinheads or the Teddy Boys at their worst.

The most disturbing aspect of the latest "Bash Gash" gangs is that the majority of them come into the city centre at weekends

from suburban areas like Cabra, Ballyfermot, Ballymun, Drimnagh and Crumlin to return home only after they have left a trail of destruction.

Gardai say they can do little to cope with the gangs who strike when and where they are least expected.

But city traders, who have been hit by the youths running amok, believe a greater concentration of uniformed Gardai on foot patrol would provide an answer to the problem.

Mr. James Boyne, who is Manager of Talbot Shoes, where about £250 worth of shoes were taken and damage estimated at £200 caused to the premises, feels they must get more protection from the Garda authorities.

"This type of thing is hap-