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American Irish Newsletter - June 1989

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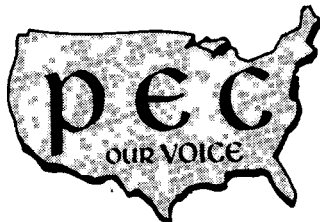
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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 14, Number 6

June 1989

NEWS BITS

by Kathy Regan

A Galway woman told how she remembered being told in school that Ireland was the only country in which partition worked. Her father, who had been imprisoned during the Civil War for opposing partition, immediately sent her back to school to inform the nuns that, indeed, partition had not worked. How many more young people are being told similar "facts" and do not have anyone to correct them? (AIN-PEC)...Sinn Fein Spokesperson on Fair Employment Mitchel McLaughlin stated, "To realize the eradication of discrimination and the provision of equality of opportunity is to fundamentally change the social and economic structure of the six-county state with potential political consequences over which the British government might not be able to exert control and which, on balance, would run contrary to the chief British government interest--its ability to stay. British policy with respect to fair employment has been dictated by a determination to get the issue off the political agenda rather than to practically tackle it. Britain does not have the political will to challenge job discrimination." (AIN-PEC)...Derry Sinn Fein Councillor Mitchel McLaughlin will apply for a judicial review of the recent broadcasting restrictions based on the grounds that (Minister Douglas) Hurd exceeded his powers in banning a political party from the broadcasting medium and his directions violate freedom of expression in common law. The ban violates Section 19 of the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973 which prohibits discrimination by a government minister on religious or political grounds." (AIN-PEC)...Margaret Thatcher again showed her hypocrisy when, in referring to the Iranian threat to Salman Rushdie's life, she said "freedom of speech is a fundamental right of a free society." (AIN-PEC). Where does this leave the north of Ireland, where freedom of speech--and, indeed, freedom of silence--is not permitted?

Gerry Adams recently stated, "there is an urgent need for a non-armed political movement to work for national self-determination. Such a mass movement would not support or oppose the armed struggle and would actively work to end the conditions which presently make armed resistance necessary, tackling the political, economic, social, and cultural effects of the British presence in Ireland....The building of this mass movement is the task of all those who sincerely want to see an end to the long conflict in this country and the securing of a real and lasting peace." (AIN-PEC)...Reflections on St. Patrick's Day: "While millions of people of Irish origin throughout the world were enjoying their democratic right to celebrate their ancestry, Irish people on the streets of Belfast faced heavily armed British soldiers and RUC who drove in front of the march in armored personnel carriers." (AIN-PEC)

The American Irish Political Education Committee is now a member group of the Los Angeles, California St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. According to Roger McGrath, PEC Western Regional Director, who made the arrangements, "this involvement will greatly enhance the image of the American Irish PEC as a creditable organization working through the democratic process for Ireland's reunification."

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE APPEARS
ON PAGE 6 JUST BELOW YOUR ADDRESS
LABEL.**

MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES UPDATE

TWO MORE STATES ADOPT MACBRIDE MAKING THE TOTAL 12. NEW HAMPSHIRE - PEC State Director Tom O'Flaherty and member Kevin Mulligan advise us that the MacBride Principles will become law in New Hampshire. Governor Judd Gregg will not veto the bill as initially threatened. We congratulate Tom O'Flaherty, Kevin Mulligan, all New Hampshire PEC members, and the Irish Action Coalition, who participated in the campaign. We wish them luck as they now concentrate on their federal legislators concerning national MacBride legislation. We congratulate our members who responded to the Hotline request urging Governor Gregg not to veto the bill. We also acknowledge Congressman **Benjamin Gilman** for his similar effort. **VERMONT** - PEC rep Bod Dinan informs us that MacBride will also become law in Vermont. Congratulations to all involved including Bob Dinan, Graham Clark, Curt McCormack, the Vermont Irish Coalition, and especially to **Tom Egan**, the founder and moving force behind this success. **CALIFORNIA** - PEC State Director Joe O'Neill informs us that on May 9, the Public Employees Retirement and Social Security Committee voted 5 to 2 in favor of MacBride. **Oliver Kearney**, Executive Secretary of the Northern Ireland Fair Employment Trust, testified in committee along with Pat Doherty from New York City Comptroller **Harrison Goldin's** office. We are greatly encouraged as to success in California, as it is a fact that everywhere Oliver Kearney testifies MacBride Principles eventually becomes law. **OHIO - HELP IS NEEDED!** PEC State Director Kathy Whitford informs us that Senator H. Cooper Snyder, chairman of the Education and Retirement Committee, refuses to schedule hearings on the MacBride bill. **We urge all members to write to Senator H. Cooper Snyder, Ohio State Senate, State House, Columbus, Ohio 43215** urging that he schedule hearings on the bill. The bill has a lot of support in both the House and Senate, but cannot be acted upon in the Senate until hearings take place. We congratulate all active in this campaign for their work to date and particularly **Jim McCoy** and his Ohio Irish Bulletin for the great work and sacrifice to date. We are proud to note that Jim is a member of the PEC. **CONNECTICUT** - The Board of Alderman in the City of New Haven heard Alderman Dunleavy's proposal that New Haven adopt MacBride Principles legislation. PEC State Director Frank O'Day and PEC Student Activities Coordinator Sandy Carlson, in addition to other members of the community, offered their testimony in support of the proposed legislation. A decision on the proposal will be made in May. The PEC submitted to the Board an extensive transcribed PEC interview with Oliver Kearney and the PECs MacBride briefing paper. **WE NOW HAVE AVAILABLE OUR NEW UPDATED "THINK ABOUT BROCHURES" (MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES BROCHURES) WHICH INCLUDES A LISTING OF THE AMERICAN COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, AT \$.10 EA.**

FROM THE EDITOR by John J. Finucane

We know that many news publishers and editors are a part of the arrangement to censor the news from Northern Ireland. We know that they are responsible for much of the suffering, death and continuing deprivations. We know that as Americans, we have the responsibility to change this ruthless and undemocratic policy.

We can start by informing the many journalists who are unknowingly a part of the censorship arrangement. Most journalists want to report the truth. Initially, there will be resistance; however, with constant pressure and exposure, a consciousness against censorship will develop.

The PEC is now positioned to keep the media supplied with information due to the recent purchase of a fax machine. We need your help to carry this out.

We urge you to reproduce copies of Scott Smith's article "Media Coverage on Northern Ireland" which appears in this issue. Send copies, at your convenience, to the wire services (AP, UPI, etc.) and also to news editors of your local TV and radio stations as well as newspapers and magazines. Then expand your efforts. Send copies to columnists and other reporters. Along with the article, send a short letter informing them that the PEC will gladly provide them with updated and background information. Make this an ongoing project that you can carry out from the comfort of your home, at your convenience.

The American Irish PEC

founded 1975

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This publication is supported in part by the Emerald Society, New York City Fire Department

FROM THE NORTH

by Fr. Desmond Wilson, Belfast correspondent

When the Northern Ireland state was founded, the new government decided, for sound political reasons, that schools should be integrated. Lord Londonderry, Minister of Education, was so keen on Catholics and Protestants being educated together that he was prepared to confront the churchmen on the issue.

However, he did not reckon on the strength of the opposition. The Presbyterian churchmen, backed by the Orange Order, made it clear that they would demand control of schooling and, if necessary, would bring down the government. The controversy over control of schools went on from the twenties to the forties. At all stages, the churchmen backed by the Order had superior strength; the new Northern Ireland government was too weak to defy the wishes of its strongest supporters. Londonderry's plans were either changed or scrapped with little courtesy and consultation. The schools in the northeast were to be controlled by committees of which at least fifty-percent would be nominees of the Protestant churches. This is still the case today.

If the Protestant church leaders had not led the fight for clerical control of schooling, the Catholic clergy would have done so. Eventually their schools were to be controlled by committees of whom at least two-thirds would be nominees of the Catholic church. This is the situation in the Catholic sector today.

Any moves toward enforced integration of schools in the north of Ireland would lead to stern and ultimately successful opposition on the part of churchmen on both sides. In recent years, Catholic churchmen organized an unprecedented campaign against efforts to dissolve their control of Catholic teacher training colleges.

In effect, this means that the oft-repeated desire of the general public to have integrated schools--as shown in opinion polls and in stated policies of some political parties--has little chance of fulfillment. What the general public wants and what is best for it may be two quite different things, according to the segregationist lobbies.

The British government, realizing that enforced integration would not work, gave some fairly strong inducements--i.e., money--to those who would set up integrated schools. Perhaps voluntary integration would succeed where stronger measures would fail. But, by a curious twist of policy, the same government strengthened the control of the Catholic hierarchy over Catholic schools to a degree never experienced before in their history. Integrated education seems destined to remain the small but slightly pampered issue between two sufficiently well fed partners in education who have control of most of the children's education.

There are some integrated schools in the north of Ireland. In principle, all Irish speaking schools are integrated, as are independent community colleges and universities. However, the situation for many children is that their chances are slim of being educated with freedom of choice between different religious and political ethos or in an atmosphere of reconciliation brought about by the sheer necessity of living together.

Many agree that allowing children and others fully to share their teaching, learning, and enjoyment would inject some understanding into a system that desperately needs it.

(Ed. Note: We congratulate Fr. Des Wilson who will celebrate his 40th anniversary in the priesthood on June 18.)

DON'T FORGET TO USE THE TELEPHONE HOTLINE (914) 429-7849. The Hotline is a simple repeated message to write an important short letter or make a phone call. It helps keep our issues in the forefront.

AMERICAN IRISH AWARENESS COMMITTEE

In May, 1987 we established the American Irish Awareness Committee, a not-for-profit cultural and educational organization incorporated in the state of New York. The functions of this organization are to establish an American Irish library and research center and to sponsor our annual Irish Heritage Festival in New York. Funding for the library and research center is achieved in part through the Festival and New York State grants through the efforts of Assemblyman **Sam Colmar** (D - NY) and Senator **Gene Levy** (R - NY), both from Rockland County. It is hoped that our daily expenses will be covered by the sale of books, videos, tapes, and other Irish products available in our shop and through our *American Irish Newsletter*.

The library and not-for-profit shop are located adjacent to the national office of the American Irish PEC.

We have purchased much of the necessary equipment--tables, chairs, shelving, television, VCRs, videos and several hundred books. We also received a contribution of books from Penguin, U.S.A.

To fully stock and maintain the library and research center, we will need your help. What we ask is that you purchase your Irish books, videos, and cassettes through the American Irish Awareness Committee which are advertised in the *American Irish Newsletter*. **You can also help** by donating books to the library. Many members have books relating to the Irish. If you no longer have use for them and would like to donate them, please forward to: AIAC at 2 North Liberty Drive, Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980.

The library and research center is open to the public daily Monday through Saturday. From time to time we will have speakers and video presentations on Sundays.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All checks for the purchase of books, videos, etc. must be payable to A.I. Awareness Committee. Checks for membership, donations are payable to AIPEC.

**OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS
Greeting Card Campaign Intensifies**

by Kevin P. Murphy, Massachusetts

We ask those of you who have not yet contacted **Hallmark Greeting Card Company** (PO Box 419580, Kansas City, Mo 64141 - phone # [816] 274-5697) and **Recycled Paper Products** (3636 North Broadway, Chicago, Il 60613 - phone # [312] 348-6410), to do so now. Tell them you are insulted by their offensive St. Patrick's Day cards that depict the Irish as alcoholics and/or as sexually perverted people. Tell them that until they discontinue printing these cards, you will not purchase any of their products and will urge others to do the same.

Our current letter writing campaign, combined with outstanding efforts by PEC member Catherine O'Shaughnessy Goldi of Ohio, and Minnesota State Director Leah Curtin, has had an excellent impact. Both Catherine and Leah generated considerable media publicity. Hallmark asked for a meeting with the American Irish PEC at which we will be represented by Missouri State Director Phil Chaney. As of this writing Hall-

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THE STALKER AFFAIR by John Stalker

John Stalker's 1984 investigation into the alleged murders of six people by the Royal Ulster Constabulary in late 1982 brings into serious question the real nature of Britain's policy toward the IRA. His account becomes a record not only of his struggle to bring the truth to light but also of his struggle to maintain his own integrity in the face of cover-ups, hypocrisy, and high-level hidden alliances among those who create policy. Stalker's findings were so potentially damaging that he had to suffer through a publicly humiliating, ultimately useless government investigation into his blameless past.

Factual and precise, Stalker's story raises questions that some would like to have remain unanswered and provides insight into a man who steadfastly refused to relinquish his belief in the truth. Paperback, 288 pages

Order #B903.....\$7.95

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Make checks payable to A. I. Awareness Comm.**

THE CIVIL WAR (1922-23) by Eion Neeson

Eion Neeson vividly evokes the atmosphere of Ireland's Civil War in this riveting narrative history. Updated, using contemporary sources (first published 1966, Mercier Press). This now-classic drama recounts the events of 1922-23 from the Truce to the outbreak of hostilities, to the executions and bitter violence between the factions.

Widely published in both fiction and non-fiction, the author approaches this controversial area from his diverse background in film, journalism, radio, television, and as head of the Government Information Bureau.

Neeson's skillful documentation and assessment of the crucial events of the Civil War fosters an understanding of Ireland's contemporary history and politics. Large format trade paperback, 350 pages.

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NORTHERN IRELAND, THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF CONFLICT
by Bob Rowthorn and Naomi Wayne

This book, by a British economist and a labor union official, focuses on the development of the economy of Northern Ireland, comparing it with economic development in the Irish Republic and the United Kingdom. The roles of foreign investment, international trade, and British government subsidies are examined. The authors also analyze the causes and effects of discrimination and inequality, documenting their differential impact on Protestants and Catholics. On the basis of these analyses, they assess the likely consequences of British withdrawal and specify measures that could be taken to minimize violence and improve living standards. According to the authors, the only sensible solution is Ireland's reunification.

Clearly written, carefully documented, and forcefully argued, this book will be of great interest to everyone concerned with the nature of one of the most troubled regions in the world today. Hardcover, 230 pages.

The publisher's price on this book is \$45.00. Our price to members is \$22.95.

Order #B905.....\$22.95

mark representatives have no yet called the meeting. Their 1990 St. Patrick's Day cards are already printed. Until there is a decision, we urge all members not to buy the products of Hallmark or Recycled Paper Products. **Remember! By working together, we can make things happen!**

SEND ALL OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS TO: Kevin P. Murphy, PO Box 8895, J F Kennedy Station, Boston, Ma 02114.

URGENT ACTION REQUEST

by Albert Doyle

Congressman Tom Foley of Washington is an important person. He is Majority Whip in the House of Representatives and in line to be Speaker if Jim Wright, the present Speaker, should fall. Thus the intervention of Congressman Foley as a witness in the recent hearing on the International Fund for Ireland was a matter of no small interest. Foley is a supporter of the Fund and was reported to be embarrassed by evidence of misuse of the Fund. The PEC had gone on record in support of the testimony at the hearings by Professor Gerry Coleman. Professor Coleman was testifying on behalf of the Council of Presidents of Major Irish American Organizations, of which the PEC is a member. He has done considerable research on the Fund and had uncovered serious abuses showing that the money was not being used to help the most disadvantaged -- as called for by Congress. We had reviewed Professor Coleman's testimony and concluded that it would justify Congress putting further expenditures on hold until safeguards could be developed. We recognize that many favor the Fund but felt that Professor Coleman's position was justifiable in the circumstances. We were shocked to find that Congressman Foley's method of dealing with these legitimate concerns was to launch an attack on the critics -- Presidents -- accusing us of being supporters of the IRA and "terrorism". The criticisms about abuses in the use of U.S. taxpayers money were ignored. This month's request is to let Mr. Foley know that his actions were noticed. Please write along the lines of the suggested letter below and ask friends and relatives to write. **This request is urgent!** Please do it now!

(Ed. Note: We congratulate the role of Congressmen Benjamin Gilman, Gary Ackerman and Elliot Engel at this hearing.

(your address & date)

Honorable Thomas S. Foley
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Foley:

As a member of the American Irish Political Education Committee, I was shocked to read of your responding to criticisms of the use of U.S. funds for the International Fund for Ireland by a personal attack on one of the critics, Professor Gerry Coleman, and the Council of Presidents of Major Irish American Organizations. Your innuendo that critics of the misuse of taxpayers dollars were supporters of the IRA or terrorism were shameful. Professor Coleman's points were serious and legitimate and did not deserve to be pushed aside as you did. I'm sure you will agree also that support for a united, democratic Ireland by concerned Americans is an honorable cause. I would appreciate a clarification of your position.

Sincerely,

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8906 - June, 1989

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