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American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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THE AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Action Irish

Vol. 11, No. 4

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 1986

PEC COMMENT — Extradition Treaty VOTE

As we go to press we have been advised that the US Senate has approved the amended US-UK Extradition Treaty by a vote of 87 to 10. An attempt to amend the treaty to prevent its retroactive application was defeated 66 to 33. These changes effectively eliminating the political offense exception, were passed **under tremendous pressure** by the Administration, the British government, the news media and U.S. Tories and in the atmosphere of "anti-terrorism" emotion in the wake of the Achille Lauro affair and the Libya retaliation attack. We regret to say that although there were minor favorable adjustments, the final version of the treaty largely gives the British what they wanted — the right to seize their Irish opponents in this country. However, there are many things of which we can be proud. Thanks to an aroused American Irish community, the seemingly irresistible pro-treaty steamroller was held off for a year; long sought hearings were held exposing the negative aspects of Britain's dirty little secret, the Northern Ireland "judicial system" was exposed, and our views were presented in a serious and professional manner; we gained the attention and support of non-Irish humanitarian groups; and, last but not least, the American Irish presented a virtual united front on the issue. The following is the text of the PEC press release of July 17, 1986:

"Our government has endorsed British state terrorism and colonialism in Ireland under the guise of combatting "international terrorism". A blow to America and what it stands for.

Considering this to be our first major political battle on Capitol Hill, the American Irish have done well and we have learned much. We have educated the Senate on Northern Ireland and we have organized across the nation. For the first time, we have been heard in Washington. It should be noted that during this period of time, PEC membership has increased dramatically.

We will reassess the situation and get on with building American Irish political unity."

We are proud of the leading role taken by the PEC in this fight. We are equally proud of those of you who participated in our letter writing/phone call campaigns. According to many of the political leaders with whom we had personal and telephone contact, it was the letters and phone calls that held up ratification of the treaty for 12 months. *A victory in itself. The attitude in PEC headquarters in New York is "we have only begun".*

The following members of the U.S. Senate voted against the treaty. Please drop them a note of appreciation at: U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510:

Dennis De Concini — AZ
Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. — CT
Chris J. Dodd — CT
Orrin G. Hatch — UT
Gordon J. Humphrey — NH

David F. Durenberger — MN
Jesse Helms — NC
Al D'Amato — NY
Arlene Spectr — PA
Edward Zorinsky — NE

NEWS BITS

NEW YORK — Coverups of excesses by the security forces in Northern Ireland are not news to Irish nationalists. Those forces usually get away with stone-walling inquiries, from their defiance of Lord Scarmon's investigations in the 1970's to their failure to investigate the assault on a peaceful crowd in Belfast in 1984. The outcry over the alleged "shoot-to-kill" policies was not expected by many to produce any real results from official sources. Unfortunately for the powers that be, this investigation was placed in the hands of Mr. John Stalker, Deputy Chief Constable of Manchester, a man who apparently took his job serious-

(Continued on Page 4)

PEC 11th Annual Testimonial Dance Saturday, September 20, 1986

St. Catharine's Hall
(Blauvelt, NY)

Music by
The Irish Times Showband

Honored Guests: Assemblyman **John Dearie** (Bronx, NY) — promoter of the Northern Ireland Investment Bill, and **Connie O'Sullivan**, Councilman, Orangetown, New York.

Admission \$15.00 per person which includes cold buffet, set-ups, beer, wine, Irish soda bread, tea and coffee — BYOB.

PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THESE TWO FINE GENTLEMEN WHO HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL TO THE AMERICAN IRISH COMMUNITY.

For reservations or information please call: nights (914) 359-0036 — days call (914) 947-2726.

WE APOLOGIZE

... to all of you whose letters we have not answered.

The PEC office in New York is a very busy place. On a monthly basis, we send out thousands of pieces of mail. Naturally, we receive a lot of replies. It is very difficult to keep up with the letters. Regrettably, some letters will go unanswered. Please do not think we are ignoring you or that your letters are not important. We read all letters. Your input is very important to us and helps keep us on the right track. So please do not be offended and **keep the letters coming.**

OPERATION HARASSMENT — Report No. 2

by *Albert Doyle*

As a result of information we have received about the official harassment of American Irish activists, the following is a description of a typical "visit" incident. The names are fictitious but we assure you that the incident is a reasonable digest of a number of similar cases.

John and Mary Murphy had been interested in Irish music, culture and history for many years, but they never considered themselves "political". Mary was born in Ireland and John, a U.S. Army veteran, was a third-generation American Irish. At the time of the repression of the civil rights campaign in Northern Ireland and the later hunger strikes, John and Mary became increasingly concerned and upset about the repressive colonial regime in Northern Ireland. They joined several active American Irish organizations, attended meetings, joined in picket-protests and the like. John wrote several letters to local newspapers on the subject of Northern Ireland — critical of the British position —

(Continued on Page 2)

OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS

There's a new alcoholic beverage in town thanks to William Grant & Sons, marketers of Frangelico Liqueur and Paddington Corp., marketers of Bailey's Irish Cream. The new drink is called "The Nutty Irishman" ... Following is a synopsis of Episode 3 of the new Series II of "The Irish RM" as prepared by correspondent John Schell of Maryland: "A ship carrying rum ran aground on the shore of Ireland. Local Irish residents rushed to the scene of the grounding and immediately began drinking the rum. The camera panned the beach to show several dozen men and women sprawled unconscious from the drinking. The Englishman (RM) was shown to step over the drunken body of an Irishman, and onto (by accident, of course) the Irishman's bagpipes. Later in the Episode, Irishmen were shown smuggling the rum onto a special train which was also carrying the recently deceased Catholic Bishop to Dublin. The boxes carrying the rum were marked with the label "FISH". I believe that the boxes were loaded onto the same car as that carrying the Bishop's body" ... Correspondent Manus Canning of New York wrote the following: "... the New York Daily News aims to surpass the British gutter press in Paddy Bashing. A recent example was an interview with Linda Fairstein, Sunday, June 1, 1986, an Assistant D.A. who heads the Manhattan, Sex Crimes Unit. Ms. Fairstein portrays the Irish as a set of drunken degenerates whose idea of celebrating the feast of St. Patrick, or 'St. Paddy's Day' as she called it, is to get drunk, rape a woman or molest a child. She says that there is always a huge increase of rape and other sex crimes on St. Patrick's Day. She keeps harping on St. Patrick's Day and she mentions a 16 year-old who raped and sodomized a 90 year-old woman on St. Patrick's Day. I spoke to her on the phone and she conceded

that neither the rapist nor the victim was Irish. She was unable to give any good reason for mentioning that it happened on St. Patrick's Day. To add insult to injury, the journalist who wrote the article said that the Irish watched the report of this case on TV on the day after 'along with their hangovers'" ... Correspondent Peter Durkin McAndrews of New Jersey reported: "The **McLaughlin Group** program (NBC TV) of March 9, 1986, was narrated by Mr. McLaughlin. In the course of the program, Mr. McLaughlin introduced the news item of US aid to Northern Ireland. In response, Mr. Novak, a panelist, said '... let the Irish kill the Irish!' ... Mr. McLaughlin made no effort to counter these remarks" ... PEC Massachusetts Director **KEVIN MURPHY** reports: Arriving early for my classes at Harvard, I sat outside Sever Hall reading the *Irish Post*. A man in his late 20's was staring at me. Suddenly he called me an "Irish mick pig". He then called me a "filthy potatoe eater". I responded aggressively causing him to make a hasty retreat ... James J. Beirne of New York, in a letter he sent to the *N.Y. Daily News* writes: "Regarding your article in the April 6, 1986 *Sunday Magazine* entitled 'The Planet of Enormous Hooters' I am outraged at the blatantly racist characterization of comedian Bill Murray as an Irish Catholic Street Dog. ... At a time when Irish Catholics are being shot and imprisoned merely for their Irish Catholicism in Northern Ireland, the characterization printed in your Magazine was neither funny nor innocuous. We demand an immediate and unqualified apology."

The PEC receives many such reports from our readers. In many cases we are asked to conduct letter writing campaigns. To do so, is impossible. We simply do not have the resources. However, in most cases, if we have enough background on an offensive situation, we will send a letter of protest on a PEC letterhead.

OPERATION HARASSMENT (Continued from Page 1)

and they were deemed worthy of publication by the editors. So far as they knew they were not violating any laws and were simply exercising their Constitutional rights as Americans. They had never expected that their views would be popular at 10 Downing Street, but they were very surprised one evening to be visited by two men who identified themselves as FBI agents. The men were politely invited into John and Mary's home. The agents were also neat and polite. After a few minutes of sparring they came to the point. They asked John and Mary if they knew several people — some of whom were well known American Irish activists — and about the organizations to which they belonged. John was upset and Mary was getting angry. In response to pointed questions, they responded, no, they didn't know anything about gun-running or any other illegal activities. They didn't, and, as Mary said, "would I be such a fool to tell you if I did!" After leaving a telephone number at which they could be reached, the visitors left. The Murphys had trouble sleeping that night. Their two young sons asked their mother the next day if she was going to go to jail. For their part, John and Mary redoubled their efforts to influence our government to support Irish freedom, but they often asked themselves exactly why they had been visited. How many are frightened off in this manner?

The AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

founded in 1976

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Editor..... John J. Finucane
Assistant Editor..... Andy Prior

A BIT OF MINNESOTA IRISH HISTORY:

by Leah Curtin, PEC Minnesota

In 1980, an Associated Press story claimed that if Senator James Buckley of New York would run for and be elected Senator from Connecticut, he would be the first person to serve in the Senate from two States. Malcolm Moos, a native Minnesotan, a former President of The University of Minnesota and a former speechwriter for President Eisenhower, replied to the AP release, relating the history of General James Shields, Irish-born, who served as Senator not only from Minnesota, but also from Illinois and Missouri. His accomplishments in holding public offices is also a probable record, which further shows it takes the Irish to do the impossible.

Moos' letter follows:

"Recently a brief Associated Press story reported that former Senator James Buckley of New York would run for a Senate seat in Connecticut in 1980, and if nominated and elected would be the first person to serve in the Senate from two states.

Not true. James Shields, born in Altmore, Ireland, in 1806, resigned as governor of Orgeon Territory to become senator from Illinois (Democrat), serving from 1849 to 1855.

Later, in Minnesota, where he did much to encourage Irish settlement, he served as United States Senator, 1858-1859.

Reentering politics in Missouri after serving as a California railroad commissioner, he became Senator from Missouri, January-March, 1879.

Along the way, this geographically agile soldier-politician also won a brevet major-generalship for gallantry in action in the Mexican War, was a Judge of the Illinois Supreme Court, and was a Brigadier-general of Volunteers in the Civil War, credited specifically for leadership at Kernstown and Port Republic. /s/ Malcolm Moos"

Not included in Moos' letter was Shield's duel with Lincoln, in which both men deliberately misaimed their weapons. The town of Shieldsville, Minnesota remains as a tribute.

FROM THE EDITOR

At the PEC's recent Irish Heritage Festival in New York, we gave a brief presentation on the proposed amendments to the US-UK Extradition Treaty. We highlighted that the amendments, if ratified by the Senate, will not help fight international terrorism, that the existing treaty deals amply with terrorism, and the Administration's strong public support for its ratification. We also spoke on the well-organized constitutional campaign against the amendments being conducted by politically active elements in our community. As expected, many people present were not aware of these proposed treaty changes and their implications. After the presentation, many expressed surprise at the Administration's support, mainly because a U.S. Senate ratification of the treaty amendments would be an official U.S. endorsement of British colonial rule in the north of Ireland. **Most importantly**, many of the **uninformed** did request information as to how they can help defeat the treaty. Their desire to help was the result of **direct contact** — our presentation on the amendments.

Some people admittedly not active, were curious as to where we got our information because they did not read our views in the newspapers. We explained that the American news media is not a vehicle for American Irish opinion, and that they generally promote the Administration/British government line.

We should all be well aware by now that our nation's news media does not report in a **positive sense** the American Irish point of view concerning British colonialism in Ireland. To do so would lend deserved credibility to our cause and our organizations. Such credibility will quickly generate public support for the just cause of Ireland's reunification. It is as if we do not exist — we are "media shut-outs".

The above experiences clearly demonstrate that our community is not informed, that many want to be informed, and that many will help if informed. The responsibility of overcoming these obstacles lies with us, the active American Irish community.

For years the PEC has been effectively helping to overcome these problems. Our success has been **direct contact** through the mail. We realize it is **necessary to reach large numbers of people in a short period of time**. This is why we developed **Operation One Million**. (See Operation One Million Update, page 3).

More and more of our readers are recommending subscriptions to our American Irish Newsletter. Many are also giving the Newsletter as gifts. These practices are very helpful in what we are trying to do and we urge all of you to do the same.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY

SUBSCRIPTION OFFER TO AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Regularly \$8⁰⁰

Now Only \$6⁰⁰

To subscribe send your name and address on the coupon below and a check or money order for \$6.00 to: National PEC, Two North Liberty Drive, Stony Point, N.Y. 10980.

YES, please enroll me the following name person for a one year subscription of the bi-monthly AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER. Enclosed, please find my check for \$_____ Date _____

Signature _____

Name (print) _____

Address _____

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COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS?

The PEC has initiated contacts with the heads of America's major national Irish organizations requesting a meeting to consider formation of a Council of Presidents. The suggested purpose of the Council would be to develop unity of position and action regarding Northern Ireland related issues and to facilitate a rapid exchange of views on important matters. The activities surrounding the fight against the Extradition Treaty has convinced many of the need for such coordination and cooperation. In such a group, no organization nor individual would be paramount.

We will keep you advised on the progress of this proposal.

Congratulations

... to Dr. Roger, McGrath, PEC Western Regional Director and contributor to the *American Irish Newsletter*, for his excellent front page article, on behalf of the PEC, opposing the US-UK Extradition Treaty. The article, which appeared in the Comment Section of the *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, was juxtaposed with a pro-treaty article by the British Consul General of the British Consulate in Los Angeles.

OPERATION ONE MILLION UPDATE

Since the last issue of the *American Irish Newsletter*, there has again been a significant increase in the number of member/subscribers giving financial support for Operation One Million. We still have a long way to go in achieving our stated goal of raising \$250,000. for the year 1986. But, we are on our way.

The purpose of Operation One Million is to enable the PEC to reach by *direct mail* one million Americans of Irish heritage during 1986, urging they subscribe to the *American Irish Newsletter*. Through this medium we are successfully informing the *uninformed*. Our rate of return through *direct mail* is now up to 5% which is 2% more than we originally predicted in January, 1986. During the months of May and June we added more than 400 new joiner/subscribers. Naturally, the greater the number of people we can reach through direct mail which is determined by the amount of financial support we get from you for Operation One Million, the greater will be the number of new joiner/subscribers. In numbers lies our clout and the ability to distribute information. Remember, at present 16% of all joiners become active in our letter-writing and/or telephone campaigns.

We urge you to support Operation One Million if you have not already done so. Operation One Million replaces our annual financial appeal. To become a sponsor simply fill in the coupon below and mail to American Irish PEC, Malloy Building, Stony Point, N.Y. 10980. Suggested sponsorship is \$100. Of course, we will gladly accept whatever you can afford. All donations will be gratefully acknowledged.

YES, I wish to sponsor OPERATION ONE MILLION. Enclosed, find my check (money order) for \$_____ in full part payment of my sponsorship. My total pledge for 1986 is \$_____ which I will make _____ installments.

Name (please print) _____

Address _____ Date _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

IRISH MAKING AMERICA GREAT

The Father Of American Chemistry: William J. MacNeven

by Dr. Roger McGrath — PEC California

Physician, author, chemist and Irish patriot William James MacNeven was born in County Galway in 1763. His father was a "country gentleman" who lived on his own estate. The MacNeven (or MacNevin as it is commonly recorded) family had once possessed large holdings in Ulster but, because of their Catholicism and Irish nationalism, had been dispossessed in the Cromwellian Confiscation and forced to settle in southeastern Galway near Loughrea.

Resistance to English aggression had been a family tradition since the twelfth century. A number of the family had distinguished themselves on the battlefield against the forces of the English crown. Perhaps most notable was Hugh MacNavin, chief of the sept, who helped defeat more than one Elizabethan army before he was finally captured and hanged in 1602.

The double blows of the Cromwellian Confiscation and later the Penal Laws meant that promising young MacNevens had to leave Ireland for education and opportunity. William James MacNeven's uncle, William O'Kelly MacNeven, had gone to Austria. There he earned a medical degree, rose to the post of physician to the Empress Maria Theresa, and was made a baron.

When William James was twelve he joined his uncle in Austria. Young William excelled in school — something the English denied him in Ireland — and by the time he was 21 he had studied at both the University of Prague and the University of Vienna and had earned a medical degree.

MacNeven returned to Ireland, settled in Dublin, and soon won a reputation as a brilliant physician. He also won a reputation as an Irish patriot and a political activist. His political activities and his membership in the United Irishmen led the English to imprison him, first at Kilmainham in Dublin and then at Fort George, Scotland, where Thomas Addis Emmet was a fellow prisoner. Emmet and MacNeven became fast friends.

MacNeven was released in 1802 but the English banished him for life from Ireland. He spent the rest of 1802 hiking through Switzerland, which he described in his first book. The next year he went to France in an effort to get Napoleon to liberate Ireland. MacNeven himself served in the distinguished Irish Brigade of the French army. After some three years of service and convinced that he could no longer aid the cause of Ireland in Europe, MacNeven sailed for the United States. He arrived in New York the Fourth of July 1805.

Dr. MacNeven soon had a thriving practice; in addition, he lectured at New York Hospital. In 1808 he was professor of obstetrics in the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Three years later he was made the chair of chemistry and established the first chemical laboratory in New York. In 1815 his first book on chemistry appeared, followed four years later by his classic work, *Exposition of the Atomic Theory of Chemistry*. He was also responsible for an emendated edition of W.T. Brande's *Manual of Chemistry* and was coeditor of the *New York Medical and Philosophical Journal*. In 1823 MacNeven was elected a member of the prestigious American Philosophical Society and three years later he helped establish a medical school at Rutgers College. He would soon be referred to as the "father of American chemistry."

Despite his brilliant and pioneering work in chemistry and medicine, MacNeven still found time to continue the fight for Ireland's cause. In 1807 his *Pieces of Irish History* appeared, followed shortly by a manual for immigrant Irish arriving in America. He also established an employment bureau for immigrant Irish and was an organizer and the first president of the Friends of Ireland. When death finally took MacNeven in 1841 last rites were administered to him by no less a personage than Bishop John Hughes himself.

William J. MacNeven was one of the many Irish who helped make America great.

SPECIAL ACTION LETTER REQUEST

by Dr. Kathleen Lisowski, PEC, Massachusetts

THE BIRMINGHAM SIX — On November 21, 1974 2 bombs exploded in Birmingham, England killing 21 people. 24 hours later six innocent Irishmen were arrested for the crime. They were beaten, intimidated and threatened for 3 days while in police custody with confessions eventually being extracted from them. The trial took place in a climate of hysteria and led to the introduction of the Prevention of Terrorism Act in Great Britain. They were convicted despite the fact that the Republican Movement in Ireland have said they were not involved.

New chemical tests show that the 6 men are innocent and the police lied about their involvement in the case. But the British Home Office is hesitating about granting the men a new trial. We urge you to write to British Ambassador Oliver Wright.

Using the letter below as a guide demand that the British Government re-open the case of the Birmingham Six and grant them a new trial. Please urge your family, friends and organizations to do the same. If possible contact any local newspaper who might be interested in the case. 1986 marks the 12th year these innocent men are imprisoned. William Power, one of the six is very sick. Please consider this an urgent request.

Address & Date

Sir Oliver Wright
Embassy of Great Britain
3100 Massachusetts Ave N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Sir:

New evidence indicates that the men convicted of the 1974 Birmingham Pub bombings are innocent. If true this would mean that Hugh Callaghan, Patrick Hill, Gerard Hunter, Richard Mollkenney, William Power and John Walker have served 12 years in prison for no reason. In the interest of Justice I urge you to re-examine the evidence and order a new trial for the men known as the Birmingham Six.

Sincerely,

NEWS BITS

(Continued from Page 1)

ly. The evidence seems to show that Stalker's report (now described as "interim" by N.I. Secretary Tom King) was going to be bad news for the RUC, SAS and various other British clandestine forces. A smear campaign was quickly instituted against Stalker, alleging association with undesirables — apparently the same undesirables with whom highly placed Tory politicians broke bread! Even BBC caught on. The result, as of the moment, is a first-class scandal in Britain and one which has once more revealed to the world the real face of the Orange machine which controls Northern Ireland and, who knows, perhaps Britain? ... *The American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC) contacted all 100 US Senators urging they hold up voting on the controversial US-UK Extradition Treaty. The PEC has requested the Senate conduct a thorough hearing into the "Stalker Case" (AINS 7/86) ...* In April 1986, the PEC kicked off a campaign to enduce Sen. Al D'Amato to play a leading role in defeating the Extradition Treaty. The campaign included public statements and several letter writing/telephone campaigns urging D'Amato live up to his 1979 campaign promise to be a fighter against British oppression in Ireland. (AINS 7/3/86). ... Disregarding the Anglo-Irish Agreement and bowing to Loyalist violence, on July 12, British troops permitted Orangemen to parade through a Catholic neighborhood in Portadown. Nationalists are insulted. Another blow to the Anglo-Irish Agreement and its promoters John Hume and the Social Democratic Labor Party (SDLP) (AINS 7/86).

THE DOG'S EYE VIEW

by Robert Emmet Connolly, PEC, Indiana

My name is Barney. I am a black labrador mix breed and I live in Ballymurphy, just off the Springfield Road in West Belfast. I have a teenage boy whose name is Cieran and we live with his mother Liz and her brother Jim in a two story, semi-detached, cement house. The Belfast housing council has recently spruced-up the house fronts and gardens, but the houses were not well constructed in the first place and they are generally damp and difficult to heat. This condition does not bother young pups like myself very much, but it can be hard on older dogs, not to mention people.

In some respects my life is not unlike a dog's life in the United States. Cieran attends high school and is about the smartest boy a dog could have. My happiest moments are when I stretch out in front of the coal fire while Liz reviews Cieran's lessons and admires his good grades. Unfortunately, there are very few people in Ballymurphy who have jobs and unless Cieran is very lucky, very bright, and works very hard or leaves his home, it is unlikely that he will find a position that pays a decent wage. If he had been born to, and lived with, a family on the other side of the Springfield Road, where the Loyalists live, a good job with Harland-Wolfe Shipyards, or Short Brothers Aircraft would certainly await him. Liz and Jim know this and in their hearts they pray for some miracle, but a boy's life is filled with bonfires and talk about the girls and the future is always bright.

The principle cause for these severe economic conditions rears its ugly head several times a day and most definitely distinguishes my neighborhood from those in America. Just across the Springfield Road and a short distance down toward the Falls Road there is a massive, metal plated British Army fort from which an endless stream of soldiers come to patrol my neighborhood. They invade in full camouflage battle gear in eight-man foot patrols questioning and threatening whomever they please. Liz thinks that I like the Brits but she doesn't realize that too many of my mates have been kicked or maced for the odd growl, and I'm a peaceful sort. I value my life, as any dog would, and it scares me to death to think that on any given day, dozens of eighteen year old, lower-class British thugs, with itchy fingers, who have been told that anyone in Ballymurphy could, and would, kill them, roam my street fully armed. As with most life in the neighborhood, I go my way and try to appear as unthreatening as possible.

Sometimes, however, the Brits do not come on foot and do not stay in the street. Early one morning last November, the landrovers screeched to a halt in front of our house and armed men banged on our front door. I was never so terrorized in all my life but when Jim opened the door I gave it my best bare-fanged growl. When the sergeant told Jim to get me away or I would be killed, I was happy to accompany him upstairs to the front bedroom, although I did act disappointed that I hadn't gotten my licks in . . . for Liz's sake. Liz sent Cieran to the neighbor's house and I watched from the upstairs window as they dragged Liz and Jim away. Jim didn't even have an opportunity to put his shoes on but the police did not seem too concerned with the comfort of their prisoners. The landrovers drove off but several police remained behind and occupied the house so that I could not get out and Cieran could not get in despite the fact that he needed to get ready for school. A couple of plain-clothe detectives searched the house and when they reached the front bedroom, I cowered under the bed because I was scared to death and there was no more Liz to try to impress.

During the course of the morning several persons came to call but a neighbor woman was able to warn them all off. I'm not sure what measure of person might have been caught in this clever trap but I do know that over the past few months, Liz and Jim have been visited by Barristers from Belfast, Members of

LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear PEC,

Would anyone in their right mind do battle with a giant with one hand tied behind their back and their feet hobbled? Of course not, but that analogy symbolizes what the Irish Republican movement is doing to itself. The Republican movement has drifted so far to the political left it has alienated the vast majority of sensible Irishmen and Irish-Americans whose influence, talent and money would otherwise be available to insure a free Ireland.

Anti-capitalist harrangues emanating from Derry and Belfast, mimicked by leftist activists here, sound like the Maoist preachments ringing throughout China 20 years ago. Many of their publications indicate that freedom must be contingent upon establishment of "socialism" (read marxism). Barely concealed is the resolve to continue the armed struggle on any other condition, knowing full well that it would preclude voluntary British withdrawal.

Whether these persuasions derive from an 800 year old slave mentality or outside Marxist influence is speculative. Regardless, they exhibit disregard for the majority opinion in Ireland and America.

To free Ireland will require the cooperation and resources of all, or nearly all, Irish and Irish-American elements. When the purpose is accomplished, then let the political activists of all persuasions vie for Irish voters' approval. Any other course invites defeat.

Perhaps the best course of action is to ignore radicals on both sides, and proceed in the broad best interests of Ireland, Britain, and America. Those interests would seem to be:

a. British withdrawal in favor of administration by the Republic of Ireland.

b. Irish assumption of its fair share of North Atlantic defenses. (In exchange for British and American cooperation).

c. American financial support for the foregoing undertakings.

Proposal a. will be fanatically opposed by Loyalist radicals, proposal b. by Republican radicals. Practicality dictates that we ignore both and proceed on terms that appeal to vast majorities — and have a realistic chance of success. Proposal c. may require convincing American politicians to redirect attention from So. Africa, where the objects of our umbrage are settlers in the land (making the problems there a domestic matter) to Northern Ireland, where the deserving objects of umbrage are foreign occupiers.

Impetus for this course of action might well come from Irish-Americans. Wouldn't it be grand if the heads of all major Irish-American groups got together (a gathering of eagles) for this purpose!

Richard F. Doyle

Forest Lake, Minnesota

(Ed. Note: We would like readers views on this subject.)

Parliament from London, Judges from New York and even lawyers from Indiana. In any event, no one came in and Cieran never did get to school. Our "guests" left about four o'clock in the afternoon and the soft Belfast rain was never more welcome upon my back.

Liz and Jim are home now, but Liz has been charged by the government with conspiracy and possession of weapons on the word of a paid perjurer named Harry Kirkpatrick. Twenty-seven men have already been sentenced on his testimony so these are not the happiest of times in my home in Ballymurphy. Life goes on because we know how to live with grave fear and uncertainty as to what tomorrow will bring. If the Brits do come back to get Liz, however, my growl will not be for show, and a few years from now people should not have to ask "Why?" if Cieran leaves Ireland or chooses to actively support the cause.

ACTION LETTER

by Albert Doyle

In our last Action Letter we suggested writing to the Democratic National Committee to ask for an improved platform plank on Northern Ireland. Your letters have now caused the DNC to provide an official response to our prodding. Unfortunately, the response by Mr. Paul Kirk, Chairman of the DNC, consists of repeating the weak 1984 platform paragraph on the subject. That was the familiar "Friends of Ireland" (and NTOMT, "not-to-offend-Maggie-Thatcher") line, that is, stopping short of calling for an eventual end to partition, the one thing that is needed. It is time to deliver a message to the DNC and to all politicians. We will no longer be brushed aside. We will not accept equivocation. We will be heard and what we are asking is moderate and reasonable in an American political context. Please write again to the Democratic National Committee. Let them know that we are **not** satisfied with their stock response. Those of you who are active in the Democratic Party should also begin considering how you can become delegates to the National Convention or at least to get the message to your delegates. As usual, for your convenience we provide the suggested letter below. Please write it in your own words. If this is not possible, simply rewrite our letter below as is on your own stationery. Please have family, friends, co-workers, organizations do the same. Be sure to mention your PEC membership.

Mr. Paul G. Kirk, Jr., Chairman
Democratic National Committee
430 South Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Mr. Kirk:

I have seen your response to appeals to adopt a strong platform policy on the subject of Irish reunification in the next national campaign. You have cited the 1984 Democratic Party Platform as an illustration of "our Party's commitment towards the conclusion of hostilities in Ireland." I am a member of the American Irish Political Education Committee and, like many Irish Americans, I find your answer entirely unsatisfactory. Of course, everyone wants "hostilities" to cease. But the violence is only the symptom of the illness. You cannot avoid dealing with the disease — the British colonial regime in six of Ireland's counties. I again urge you to come out for Irish reunification as a matter of principle.

Sincerely,

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