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## American Irish Newsletter - February - March 1985

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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# THE AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Action Irish

Vol. 10, No. 1

FEBRUARY/MARCH, 1985

## THE IRISH IN NEW SPAIN

by Prof. John Flannery (PEC, Texas)

Irish names crop up in the histories of the Spanish American colonies if for no other reason than that they were prominent in the history of Spain. The area known as New Spain (present-day Mexico and the lands north and north-east, including Texas) was no exception.

In 1698 the Spanish king, fearful of the loss of Florida to the French, dispatched Captain Juan Jordan to occupy the Pensacola Bay area. Jordan, with fifty men, arrived just ahead of a French fleet and took possession of the area in the name of the Spanish king.

The Indians of the Texas Plains came to respect a man they knew as "Captain Colorado" — from his red hair. He was a Spanish soldier, Sergeant Major Don Hugo Oconor (O'Connor), who came to Texas in 1767; reorganized the garrison at San Antonio; checked the Indian raids on the settlements; and brought order to that frontier of Spain. His rise was rapid in the Spanish service and six years after arrival, with the rank of Colonel, he was made Commandant Inspector of Presidios and the Provinces — a military position ranking next to that of the Viceroy.

The French colonial province of Louisiana was, in the 18th Century, transferred by France to Spain. French colonists at New Orleans were not too happy at the change of sovereigns and incited revolt against Spain. Spain sent General Alejandro O'Reilly, in 1769, to suppress the rebellion and claim the area.

(Continued on Page 3)

## NEWS BITS

by Andy Prior

Soldiers from the British Army's Ulster Defense Regiment opened fire on a carload of teen-aged "joyriders" after the vehicle crashed into a roadblock. The thirty or so shots killed the driver, a 17 year old Catholic and wounded four others. Gerry Adams MP and Sinn Fein president declared "If last night's incident took place in any other town in Europe, the car would have been immobilized rather than the passengers being shot." Peter Barry, Ireland's Foreign Minister, called for the suspension of the soldiers and described the mostly Protestant UDR as a "dangerous source of division in N.I." (N.Y. Times 1/16/85). According to an Irish TV report the N.I. police, the RUC, attempted to coerce a man, who had no political affiliations or no record of any troubles with security forces to become a police spy. He was seeking a gun license but was told that related documents, belonging to the man's gun club, which had been handed into the police, would not be returned unless he agreed to become an informer. The RUC also offered "any amount of money" to become a spy. (Irish Times 12/22/84).

"A united Ireland ... This is out ... a confederation of two States. That is out ... Joint authority. That is out — With these words Margaret Thatcher summed up her feelings towards the several years work of the Irish Forum. (Irish Times 12/29/84) ... "Summits, Forums or slavish dependence on British initiatives are worse than useless. Britain only listens to one argument, the argument of force." — Sinn Fein Assemblyman Martin McGuinness. (Sunday Press 12/9/84) ... "Mrs. Thatcher simply cannot say to the Forum parties — the representatives of three-quarters of the people of Ireland — that they must cooperate

(Continued on Page 2)

## SPECIAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Aware that the Irishness of many Americans of Irish heritage will soon come to life during the upcoming St. Patrick's Day festivities, the PEC will very shortly kick-off a special membership drive. The target of this drive is the once-a-year Irishmen. WON'T YOU HELP US BRING THESE NOT SO FORTUNATE BROTHERS AND SISTERS INTO THE FOLD?

All we ask is that you help distribute our attractive brochure promoting **The American Irish Newsletter**. There will be many opportunities during the months of February and March with all the scheduled parades, dances, concerts, etc. in honor of St. Patrick. The American Irish will be gathering everywhere and anywhere. This is our chance to recruit those "St. Patrick's Day Irish". **LET'S MAKE THEM IRISH 365 DAYS A YEAR!**

If you would like to help distribute the brochures, send your name, address and phone number to: NPEC, Two North Liberty Dr., Stony Point, N.Y. 10980 or call 1 (914) 47-2726. Indicate how many brochures you would like. We will be very grateful for your help.

## FROM BELFAST

by Fr. Desmond Wilson (Social worker, Belfast)

For many years, from the early Twenties until the end of the Sixties, the purpose of British troops in the north of Ireland was "to protect the interests of Loyalists". Then when the 1969 pogrom broke out, the purpose was stated, in the USA and other countries, to be "to protect the Catholics who were being attacked in the streets." In the years immediately following this, the stated purpose changed again, and in the early Seventies, we find that the purpose of the British military occupation is "to defeat the I.R.A." By the end of the Seventies the purpose given to international news media and governments was "to defeat international terrorism". The latest explanation being offered internationally by the British Government is, "to prevent another Cuba happening on the Western edge of Europe."

These different explanations correspond not necessarily with the truth but with the needs of British propaganda abroad - what is said has to be whatever will appeal most to the people for whom the propaganda is meant. For example: In 1969 it made the British Government look liberal and humane to say it was protecting Catholics, just as in the preceding decades it made the government look principled to say that it would protect the interests of Loyalists forever. But when it was necessary to attack the Nationalists in order to restore the fullness of British rule, a new purpose had to be found - the natives will kill each other if we leave; and we must defeat the IRA. In time, when many countries were frightened by what they saw as international terrorism - Germany, France, Italy, USA - the British used this fear in other countries to represent itself as fighting against what they feared most. Britain was once again the savior of Europe. The declaration that Britain is preventing "another Cuba" is of course for American consumption, America being the most potent source of support for Irish independence and also therefore the one on whose fears it is important to play as effectively as possible.

## WHETHER THEY LIKE OR NOT!

Irish surnamed families residing in Stony Point, New York will receive a free education concerning American Irish interests.

The PEC is developing a computerized mailing list of all the Irish surnamed families in Stony Point, N.Y. The purpose of this list is to test educational programs designed to promote American Irish awareness and unity in that community. If these programs are successful, they will be continuously expanded.

On a regular basis, perhaps once-a-month, these families will receive a piece of mail concerning things Irish; an update on the war in Ireland, an article on the Irish famine, American Irish history, information concerning offensive situations, coming events, etc. It is intended that these mailings will generate the desired unity of action that would promote Ireland's reunification and our domestic interests.

Like all programs involving printed matter and postage, this program will be a costly endeavor. WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT! Remember! Newsletter subscriptions and renewals go a long way towards helping the PEC meet these expenses. Won't you give a gift of **The American Irish Newsletter?** (See enclosed gift subscription brochure).

## BISHOPS' VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND

According to a spokesperson for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the four American bishops who visited Northern Ireland in October, 1984, will report their findings to the national board of the Conference this March. The delegation included Bishops' Malone of Ohio, Stafford of Tenn., Hurley of Calif., and O'Connor of New York.

It is most important that we write to these Bishops, in particular, Bishop Malone who headed the delegation and who is President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. We urge you to write the letter below using our letter as a guide, or simply rewrite it on your own stationery.

address & date

Most Reverend James Malone  
President  
National Conference of Catholic Bishops  
1312 Massachusetts Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Bishop Malone,

I respectfully request that the National Conference of Catholic Bishops takes strong action designed to protest and highlight British injustice in northeastern Ireland. I further request that the Conference, if at all possible, publicly support the work of such organizations as the American Irish National Political Education Committee and the Irish American Unity Conference.

Sincerely yours,  
signature

### The AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

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Editor ..... John J. Finucane

Assistant Editor ..... Andy Prior

## NEWS BITS

(Continued from Page 1)

with Britain in seeking a solution and at the same time tell them that all of their hopes and aspirations for the future are "out ... out ... out." — John Hume MP (Sunday Press 11/25/84).

After a recent press conference given by Margaret Thatcher, in which the turnover of Hong Kong to China was discussed, a Hong Kong journalist confided to Irish reporter Sean Cronin: "We've been 150 years under the British. Now we are being handed over and no one bothers to ask our opinion, or what we want. He didn't seem annoyed, just puzzled. I was going to tell him about the Irish question, but there wasn't time." (Irish Times 12/29/84) ... "Their reporters' (BBC) ignorance of the history, culture and sports of the vast majority of people on this island borders on the insulting. It's not so long ago that an assistant on the Belfast newsdesk, admitting her ignorance of what had happened in 1916 and being told about the Easter Rising in Dublin, came back with the unforgettable reply: "Oh, I didn't think the British had got that far south." (Fortnight 12/84).

Twenty-eight N.I. priests led by Fr. Denis Faul have made representations to the Pope through the Papal Nuncio in Dublin to intervene on behalf of women prisoners in Armagh jail who are still subjected to strip searching. (Irish News and Literary Digest 1/7/85) ... The Death toll in N.I. for 1984 was 64 - 36 civilians, 10 UDR men, 9 soldiers, 7 RUC men. The Provisional IRA lost 11 members in 1984. (Irish News and Literary Digest 1/3/85) ... Thirty-five people implicated in IRA activities have been cleared in N.I. after the judge characterized the paid police informer, Raymond Gilmour, as being "entirely unworthy of belief." (Irish Echo 12/29/84).

12/12/84, Fed. Judge John Sprizzo has ruled that Joe Doherty, held without bail in N.Y.C. since 6/83, could not be extradited to N.I. because "the facts of this case present the assertion of the political offense exception in its most classic form." (N.Y. Times 12/13/84) ... "Alienation means being a stranger — an outsider in your own land. It means deprivation of influence —

(Continued on Page 6)

## STRIP SEARCHING: ARMAGH WOMENS PRISON

by Mary McArdle (Ms. McArdle is a remand P.O.W. in Armagh Womens Prison awaiting trial in Northern Ireland.)

As remand prisoners in Armagh Gaol we are constantly subjected to the most humiliating form of sexual harassment, namely strip searches. The searches are completely unnecessary and are not carried out in a sensitive manner - contrary to statements made by the Northern Ireland Office (N.I.O.) How can the word sensitive be used when old women, pregnant women, and very young girls are being stripped naked against their will. If they fail to comply with this degrading search, force will be used. I find no place for the word sensitive in the description of the search. Strip search involves a girl stripping completely naked. Every item of clothing must be removed. Girls who are menstruating must remove their sanitary protection so that it can be inspected. Their naked bodies are also inspected, front and rear, their feet lifted and their hair checked also. They must listen while comments are made about the shape and size of their bodies. A most traumatic experience for any woman to be put through. An unnecessary experience. These strip searches are mostly carried out on prisoners travelling to and from Court. Girls who at no time come in contact with anyone other than prison officers and members of the R.U.C. Yet the N.I.O. says that it is necessary to put women through this disgusting ordeal.

Mr. Nicholas Scott, Northern Ireland Prison Minister has offered a few excuses in defense of strip searching, but they are mostly feeble attempts to justify this inhumane practice. But no real justification can be given.

## FROM THE EDITOR

*You do not have to support terrorism and/or marxism to support Ireland's reunification! Yet the vast majority of American Irish who favor Ireland's reunification — a British withdrawal from Ireland — are not actively involved for fear of being looked-upon as supporters of terrorism and/or marxism. This distortion of the truth is the work of a highly skilled British propaganda machine working via a generally favorable American news media and pro-British elements in the Irish government and press.*

*Many respectable people who abhor violence of any kind and from any source are actively seeking the reunification of Ireland. They are working through the educational and political process. They are pursuing these goals through highly respected organizations such as the American Irish National Political Education Committee (PEC) and the Irish American Unity Conference.*

*We must work to dispell these falsehoods among those members of our community who have been victimized by British propaganda. We need these brothers and sisters to develop the political influence necessary to win real support in our government. We cannot write them off.*

*Reach out to our people in your community. Urge them to read, make them aware of the PEC and IAUC. Urge them to subscribe to **The American Irish Newsletter**. Better yet, give them a gift subscription of **The American Irish Newsletter** (see enclosed subscription offer).*

**FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PEC, IAUC, OR THE AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER**, write National PEC, Two North Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980 or call: (914) 947-2726.

**HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY**

*There's more to being Irish than green hats and leprechauns!*

**A LOT MORE!**

### FREE OFFER

The PEC has just printed two new articles dealing with English oppression in Ireland and the Supergrasses. If you would like free copies, please send a pre-addressed, pre-stamped envelope to: NPEC, Two North Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980. Attn: Free Offer.

## SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY SUBSCRIPTION OFFER TO AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Regularly \$8<sup>00</sup>  
Now Only \$6<sup>00</sup>

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Vol. 10, No. 1

## IRISH IN NEW SPAIN (Continued from Page 1)

He extinguished the rebellion and the Spanish flag flew over Louisiana for the next thirty-four years.

Meanwhile, a man to whom later historians of the southwestern United States are much indebted for his observations of daily life in New Spain, was compiling his "Viaje de Indios". Fray Juan Agustin Morfi (Murphy) impartially reported conditions as he found them and his reporting, which was of a derogatory nature, spared neither the secular abuses nor those of his fellow clerics. He visited Texas, and San Antonio, in 1778.

The political problems of the mother country, stemming from the Napoleonic Wars, together with ideas generated by the Enlightenment and the American and French Revolutions, were having an effect on Spain's colonies. Independence was in the air and was openly discussed by colonial deputies to the Spanish Cortes or parliament in 1821. Among the forty-nine deputies from New Spain was one Tomas Murphy. This Mexican delegation favored Spanish recognition of Spanish-American independence and asked for Spanish help in reorganizing their governments on a solid basis. They requested General Juan O'Donoju (O'Donohue), known for his liberal inclinations, as Spain's representative to Mexico.

O'Donoju was so named and, in July of 1821, arrived in Vera Cruz as the Captain General of New Spain. On August 24, 1821, he signed the Treaty of Cordoba recognizing Mexico as an independent state. O'Donoju then served as a member of the five-man Mexican Regency until his death two months later.

Mexico had opened the Texas settlement to non-Mexicans in 1821 and particularly favored Irish empresarios (land settlers). Land grants were made in the late 1820's to John Power, J. W. Chambers, John McMullin and James McGloin.

The Mexican-American War of 1846 resulted in the organization of the San Patricio Battalion. General Taylor invading by land across the Rio Grande, had admitted that his army had many ruffians and undesirables and conceded that the Irish contingents were his best soldiers. However, some 250 Irish, repelled by the atrocities committed against the Mexican civilian population and the desecration of the churches, deserted en masse to the Mexican side as the San Patricio Battalion. They fought stubbornly on the losing side until their backs were to Chapultepec where twenty-seven of them were captured and hung by the Americans. Their idealism and sacrifice was not forgotten by Mexico which raised a memorial to them in Mexico City.

Irish and the descendants of Irish took part in the subsequent travails of Mexico as that nation sought national unity and stability. In 1862, on the suspension of foreign-debt payments by Juarez, Spain, England and France landed troops at Vera Cruz. Leading the Spanish troops was a descendant of the Princes of Kilkenny — General Juan Prim, Count of Reus. He met with the Mexican President and, convinced that Juarez' was the only effective government of Mexico, tried to persuade the English and French to withdraw with him. He convinced the English but not the French. The latter attempted to bring Mexico under their influence through Maximilian.

That well-meaning but ill-starred Hapsburg had, among his foreign and Mexican supporters, Irish good and bad. General O'Horan, Prefect of Tlalpan, was never wholly trusted by Maximilian while he referred to his minister of foreign affairs as "the loyal, honest Murphy".

Today, Mexico is driving toward full realization of its potential as a nation and among its business and professional leaders are descendants of Irish who have contributed their share to the development of a truly unique Mexican culture. One such is the internationally known artist and architect Juan O'Gorman.

One last Irishman should be mentioned because his efforts helped to end the Christero Revolt of the 1920's and to bring to Mexico the internal peace and tranquility necessary to national development. Fr. John J. Burke, working with American Ambassador Dwight Morrow, met with Mexican President Plutarco Elias Calles and laid the groundwork for the agreement of June 27, 1929, that reopened Mexico's churches.

## BRITISH JUSTICE: IRISH NEED NOT APPLY *by Andy Prior*

It was the first rainfall Paddy Maguire felt as a free man that April day in Yorkshire, England. After more than 9 years he began his short walk out of Wakefield prison leaving behind some prison officials who were convinced of his innocence.

The circumstances of Paddy Maguire's arrest, conviction and torturous journey through British injustice began one day in 1974. On that day the police raided the Maguire house.

Why did the police raid this particular house? The Maguires had been implicated in a confession made by Paul Hill who had been arrested in connection with the Guilford Pub bombings. Annie Maguire was the aunt of Gerry Conlon who was arrested along with Hill. The Maguires themselves were highly unusual candidates for IRA bombers. Paddy Maguire was an ex-British soldier who had lived in England for 20 years and his wife, Annie was a member of the local Conservative party club.

Hill made a number of confessions that the presiding judge characterized as containing "a large number of inaccuracies" and were plainly contradictory. In one of these confessions Hill stated that Mrs. Maguire had taken part in the bombings but she was able to prove she had been at the circus with her children.

Hill has since retracted all statements implicating others and himself in the bombings.

All the people in the house that day were arrested and charged with possessing explosives. This included Mr. & Mrs. Maguire, their sons, Vincent and Patrick, ages 13 and 16, and her lodger-brother, Sean Smyth. At the time the police stormed in, Pat O'Neil, a neighbor had come to ask Mrs. Maguire to look after his children while he visited his wife in the hospital. Also arrested was Gerry Conlon's father, Guiseppe, who had arrived from Belfast on hearing that his son had been arrested.

A year later all were put on trial amidst screaming headlines about "Bomber Annie" and "Aunt Annie's Bomb Factory." From the outset the prosecution and defense accepted that the case rested on forensic tests. Positive traces of nitroglycerin were

found on the hands of the men and boys and on one glove of a pair owned by Mrs. Maguire. No explosives were ever found and no other evidence was offered. The defense asked why was it necessary for seven people to handle explosives which had completely disappeared? No serious explanation was offered.

The crucial forensic tests were carried out by a 18 year-old lab assistant with only three months experience who destroyed all the samples, thus preventing cross-checking. He also neglected to photograph the results, a routine procedure.

The man who first devised the tests, John Yallop, had worked at the Governmental arsenal where the tests were performed for many years. He now says that this test does not by itself constitute proof that the defendants had handled nitroglycerin. The handling of a lighted cigarette can produce the same result.

All arrested were found guilty. The Maguire parents were each sentenced to 14 years imprisonment. Sean Smyth and Guiseppe Conlon each got 12 year sentences. Pat O'Neil, the neighbor looking for a babysitter also got 12 years which was reduced to eight after appeal. Patrick Maguire, 14 was sentenced to 4 years and his 16 year-old brother Vincent, received a 5-year sentence.

It needs to be repeated that the Maguire family never had any connection with the IRA. The only apparent link was Gerry Conlon. As explained in an earlier article, the Balcombe St. IRA men claimed responsibility for the bombings which Gerry Conlon and those convicted with him had been given life sentences.

So Paddy Maguire is free at last. His wife Annie is due for release next year. Her two sons and the other defendants have already completed their sentences. Guiseppe Conlon was never released from prison. Described as a saintly man, he was in and out of prison hospitals suffering from TB and died in Wormwood Scrubs prison in 1980.

He proclaimed his innocence to the end!

## U.S. JUSTICE ABUSED *by Karen Kelly (PEC, New Jersey)*

On November 18, 1983, Dr. Francis Forster of Santa Barbara, California, closed the door to his 16 year-old medical practice for the last time. His decision was the result of increasing financial hardship brought on by inexcusable injustices by governmental agencies and a fierce, caustic District Attorney.

Widely recognized by colleagues, patients, and friends, he is held in the highest esteem, and his conscientiousness and competence are well above reproach. He has taught medicine, run for political office, and chaired the city's Community Relations Commission. He is married for 33 years and has 3 children.

An articulate and vociferous American Irish activist, Dr. Forster has contributed immensely to the cause of Ireland's reunification. In particular, by raising funds for the dependants of Irish political prisoners.

Dr. Forster's nightmare began January 18, 1983 when he was arrested and charged with alleged offenses against the Health and Safety Codes, namely improper prescription of drugs. Both the medical society of Santa Barbara and patients of Dr. Forster publicly protested his arrest. In April, 1983 Judge Frank Ochoa dismissed the government's case after being presented inconclusive evidence during a preliminary hearing. The consequent actions of an over-zealous District Attorney caused Dr. Forster's hearing to be the second longest in California's history. Three months later the D.A. appealed the case to the State Superior Court where it was again dismissed. Still, the D.A. persisted and appealed to the Appellate Court where the judge's decision was to send the case back to the Superior Court Judge. At that time,

*by Karen Kelly (PEC, New Jersey)*

a frustrated Judge Ochoa stated, "I don't know what to do with this case . . . I hope the prosecution realizes he is never going to get a guilty verdict in this case". The case is now pending in the Municipal Court where it originated.

In January, 1983 Forster applied through the Freedom of Information Act to obtain information relevant to himself and his case. It was not until October, nine months later, that he received a reply. The reply stated only that the government had 56 applicable documents, 13 of which could never be released due to "national security". "This inexcusable delay" Forster said, "reinforces my conviction that I have been the victim of entrapment." He maintains that his arrest and prosecution were the result of his outspoken political beliefs and sees as no coincidence his arrest just two months before England's Queen Elizabeth was due to pay a visit to Santa Barbara.

Not only did this respected American lose his medical practice, but was also forced to take a job 125 miles from his home. Consequently, he and his wife are separated most of the year.

Dr. Forster has filed a \$3 million lawsuit against the county charging damage to his reputation, loss of earnings, false arrest, imprisonment, and absence of probable cause. His wife has also filed suit against the county charging she was assaulted by a sheriff's officer when her husband was arrested. "Restitution will be made", Forster says confidently.

*Reprinted from The American Irish Newsletter. For information write: National Political Education Committee, Malloy Building, Two North Liberty Drive, Stony Point, N.Y. 10980.*

**Please copy and distribute**

# THE FAMINE AND IRISH UNITY

by Thomas Gallagher (Author of Paddy's Lament)

Since the publication of PADDY'S LAMENT two years ago, I have corresponded and conversed with more Irish men and women than in all the other years of my life. The most shocking observation I've made from these letters and conversations is how little is known about the Great Irish Famine by American Irish whose forebears' lives were so drastically altered by it.

How could such a holocaust, I asked myself, which destroyed one-fourth of Ireland's population in just four years, have found such a dark corner in Irish memory that it still remains unexplored and only vaguely mentioned? But who was I to criticize? I who started my research probably knowing less about those terrible years than the people who now read my book and write to tell me, "I never realized!" "Did this really happen?" etc.

In the aftermath of the Nazi Holocaust, the surviving Jews joined other Jews all over the world and said, "Never Again." They did not sit on their hands; they turned their holocaust into a unifying force that now has tremendous political and media impact not only in America but all over the world.

We American Irish should emulate the Jews, who have so concentrated their efforts upon shared goals that we hear repeatedly about how politicians in this country "vie for the Jewish vote." I applaud the Jews for their partisan efforts and urge American Irish to do the same. There are 43,000,000 of us here in the United States. Let us go back in memory to our holocaust and unite with the conviction that when politicians in this country start vying for our vote, the British will withdraw their troops from Northern Ireland and give it back to the country to which it belongs.

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## TO THE EDITOR

Dear PEC:

First I would like to congratulate you and your group for the excellent job that you are doing to improve the image of the people of Irish descent. The proper way to get the true story of the situation in Northern Ireland is by means of education. You are doing that.

You are also doing a very important service to our race by confronting the people, media, etc. who are slurring the Irish in different ways. Once again, the proper way to handle these people and institutions is to let them know that we will not let this continue. At the same time, the Irish are a fun loving people who usually have concern for other people, and we must continue that trait.

Farrell McCarthy, President  
The Irish Canadian Cultural Association  
Of New Brunswick  
New Brunswick, Canada

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Dear PEC:

I was recently given a subscription to the **American-Irish Newsletter** as a Christmas gift and would like you to know that it was one of the best gifts I received. I would like to become more involved in your cause and after receiving my first issue only two days ago have already written the letters suggested to Neil Derrough and George Schultz.

I would appreciate it greatly if you would send me as many copies as possible of your newsletter promotional brochures. Being on a college campus of largely Irish descent I feel that I am in a good position to spread the word and will do my best. Please let me know of any other way I can help and keep up the fantastic job!

Martin O'Loughlin  
College of the Holy Cross  
Worcester, Massachusetts

DioGuardi For Congress  
498 Main Street  
New Rochelle, N.Y. 10801

American Irish National Political  
Education Committee  
Two North Liberty Drive  
Stony Point, New York 10980

Dear Mr. Finucane:

Please enroll me as a member of the PEC and subscriber to its publications. My friends, Mario Biaggi (Chairman, Congressional Committee for Irish Affairs) and Liam Murphy, have advised me of the importance of your work.

As the prospective Representative of the 20th Congressional District in New York State, I feel it imperative that I be kept informed by credible sources.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. DioGuardi

(Ed. Note: Mr. DioGuardi was subsequently elected to Congress.)

## OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS

All members are requested to be especially watchful concerning offensive situations. Particularly now with St. Patrick's Day fast approaching. Please forward all details regarding offending situations to: NPEC, Two North Liberty Drive, Stony Point, N.Y. 10980. Please do not include situations of a local nature which would have to be handled by the local community.

## COMMITTEE FOR A NEW IRELAND?

by Christine Phelan

"It is our position that it is a little bit arrogant for the American people to tell the people over there what the solution to their problems should be," said Ms. Patricia Keefer spokesperson for the Committee For a New Ireland (CNI), during a recent interview.

Ms. Keefer noted that the CNI was primarily an educational organization with a non-violent message. To that end, the CNI joined forces with other organizations to sponsor a conference held recently at the Airlie House in Warrenton, Virginia.

In addition, individuals and institutions contributed to the financial undertaking of this conference. The people who received invitations to the conference were constituents of the various organizations who helped fund it. Noticeably absent from the list of those invited were official representatives of the more prominent American organizations actively pursuing Ireland's reunification through the American political process such as, the PEC, IAUC, and the AOH, to name a few.

Some individuals who attended this conference were affiliated with one or another political party from the Governments of the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain, noted Ms. Keefer. Charles Haughey, party leader, Fianna Fail, boycotted this conference and Sinn Fein was not invited.

"We have commissioned special papers to be written on a variety of subjects by academics of both Ireland and Great Britain, said Ms. Keefer."

According to Ms. Keefer, an information package will be given to those who attended the conference and those sent invitations. It will also be available to the Press but "not for the record".

As the dust settles, there remains unanswered questions such as, WHY WERE ONLY SELECT PEOPLE SENT INVITATIONS? WHY IS IT, THAT WHATEVER OCCURRED AT THE CONFERENCE IS "OFF THE RECORD FOR THE PRESS"?; AND WHY HAVE "ACADEMICS BEEN COMMISSIONED TO WRITE SPECIAL PAPERS ON THIS CONFERENCE"?

## ACTION LETTER — CENSORSHIP DECRIED

by Albert Doyle

The Canadian analyst of the media, Marshall McLuhan, has said that "the medium is the message". Our information about events which affect us is largely based on what we learn from the press, television and radio. If they don't report something it might as well not have happened. The owners and editors of these media are the first to protest, loud and long, over any governmental infringement of their right to print what they want. But they themselves are often guilty of censorship by omission when it comes to Irish matters. America's "greatest" newspaper, the *New York Times* is one of the worst in this regard. Like the ruling classes in Britain, they often seem to still not have accepted that Ireland is a separate country, with different national traditions. They generally cover Irish matters out of their London office (or via press services with a similar studied non-interest) and the coverage often reflects the traditional British prejudices with regard to Ireland and Irish people.

An example of this kind of press coverage is the *Times* treatment of the Joseph Doherty case in the U.S. courts. Although the case was certainly newsworthy — and involved expert testimony by prominent Irish nationalists, including the renowned Sean McBride and Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, as well as prominent British officials and loyalists — it was not covered, until the British lost. Then it was mentioned in a highly prejudicial way (Doherty was headlined as a "murderer" despite the decision finding the opposite) and it provoked a nasty editorial. Let's let the *Times* know that we notice their bias. Write the letter below in your own words, or copy it as is on your own stationery. Also, please try to have your friends and family do the same.

Your address & date

Editor  
The New York Times  
229 West 43rd Street  
New York, New York 10036  
Gentlemen:

Your coverage of Irish and American Irish matters usually has reflected the worst of pro-British attitudes and insensitivities. That this is your reputation among people concerned about Irish issues is probably of little concern to you. Perhaps you should be concerned, however, that you are seen as engaged in a real form of censorship through your lack of fair coverage. The case of Joseph Doherty is just the latest example. Doherty and his trial were non-events to you since you didn't cover them until the British lost. They your coverage was highly prejudicial (call-

ing him a "murderer" although the Court found the opposite) and you then published a lead editorial calling for totalitarian legislation to reverse the result in the future. As an American concerned about Irish reunification, I protest this bias.

Sincerely,

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(Continued from Page 2)

no hand on the lever of power. This is happening in our community to people with Irish names who have lived here for thousands of years ... It is happening to a community now approaching half the population of N.I." — statement on the alienation of Northern Catholics put forward by Rev. Murray and Rev. Faul. (Irish Times 12/1/84).

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