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POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

July, August—1980

Published By Rockland County A.O.H., P.O. Box 16, Gárnerville, N.Y. 10923
In cooperation with the Emerald Society, Fire Department, N.Y.C.

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO THE DIV. 1, PASSAIC COUNTY, N.J., ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, THE PEC ACKNOWLEDGES THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER.

NEWS BITS

JOHN J. FINUCANE

British troops shoot dead 15 year-old joy rider Paul Moan (Irish People 4/5) ... British soldier shoots dead 53 year-old Mary Doherty as she returned from her silver wedding anniversary (Irish Echo 4/19) ... Two British soldiers charged in Belfast with the 1973 stabbing deaths of two Catholics (Republican News 4/5).

Low morale within the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR), due to IRA activity, brings mass resignations, companies disbanded (Irish People 4/5). PEC members in Dublin report up to 10 suicides among British troops in Northern Ireland since Jan., 1980 ... One thousand demonstrate outside NYC Carter-Mondale Headquarters demanding the release of 46 year-old Olive McKeon who is being held *without charge* in Federal Prison (Irish Echo 4/19).

Irish UN troops in Lebanon have PLO sympathies. Irish troops should be withdrawn as they are not completely neutral and are ineffective as peacemakers (Britain's Sunday Telegraph 4/24) ... British troops in Ireland have proven themselves to be anti-Catholic. Why isn't the Sunday Telegraph calling for a British withdrawal? ... Reporting the British Air Service (SAS) *rescue mission* at the Iranian Embassy in London, "the SAS because of its ruthless methods, it became a hated symbol of British oppression in Northern Ireland" (Daily News 5/9) ... (London) Iranian Embassy hostage, journalist Muhammed Hashir Faruqi, reported British SAS shot dead in cold blood 5 of 6 hostage takers, after their surrender (London Observer 5/11) ... British Government again seeking weapons from U.S. for use in Catholic ghettos of Northern Ireland (Irish Echo 5/10) ... May 10, more than 1000 demonstrate in front of Daily News building for release of Olive McKeon ... after 60 days of imprisonment without charge Olive McKeon is released (Irish People 5/17) ... On April 30, Nicholas Murphy, National Director A.O.H. and John Finucane, PEC and Emerald Society NYC, met with NYS Committee to re-elect Carter chairpersons Lt. Governor Mario Cuomo and State Senator Linda Winikow to discuss Irish-American resentment towards Carter and to appeal on behalf of Olive McKeon (The Advocate 5/17) ... Martin Meehan commenced a hunger strike in order to assert his innocence of charges which the British used to impose a 12 year sentence in Long Kesh upon him (Irish People 5/24). It is rumored that all 400 H-Block prisoners will soon commence a hunger strike if necessary ... Ireland's PM Haughey and PM Margaret Thatcher met in London for discussions on Northern Ireland. Thatcher wants no part of a united Ireland—she will learn the hard way (Ireland's Hibernia 5/26) ... Irish Senator Mary Robinson wants an end to the Irish Republic's Special Criminal Court and a return to trial by jury (Irish Times 5/26). This court is the equivalent of Northern Ireland's infamous Diplock Court.

John Turnley, a leading Protestant politician supporting a united Ireland was shot dead by a Protestant death squad in front of his horror-stricken wife and children (UPI 6/5). To date the pro-British para-militaries have murdered 700 nationalists

At a hearing of the Republican Party Platform Committee, Congressman Hamilton Fish, Jr. urged the adoption of an Irish plank which calls for the US to take an *active* role in seeking an end to injustice, discrimination, and all types of violence in Northern Ireland and self determination for *all* people. (Washington, DC 6/6) ... Belfast two Royal Ulster Constabulary members get life for the murder of a Catholic grocer (Irish Echo 6/21). That's right—the same RUC which the NY Times supported in its May 28th editorial.

DUBLIN CORRESPONDENT

BABARA

(The true identity of this writer is being withheld for her own safety as she is an active member of the PEC presently residing in Dublin. This is due to the Dublin Government's attempts to suppress activity on behalf of the brothers and sisters in Northern Ireland.)

Recently, I was contacted by several members of the nationalist community in Northern Ireland who were very impressed with and grateful for the work of the PEC. They brought home a very important point. H-Block and Armagh Women's Prison are very important issues, *but please don't forget* the daily inhuman and brutal treatment afforded the average nationalist citizen of Northern Ireland.

This treatment consist of brutal beatings, some of which resulted in death, killing of innocent men, women and children, harrasing body searches, unwarranted arrest, harrasing house searches during which homes are wrecked. Some individuals have been arrested and released more than a hundred times. This is the work of the British Army, the RUC and the Ulster Defense Regiment.

A member of the PEC was present in Derry just after the death of Lord Mountbatten when a British helicopter strafed a Catholic ghetto area with machine-gun fire. Almost the entire Catholic population of Northern Ireland is subjected to some form of ill-treatment or harrassment.

I have also witnessed many times when members of Ireland's Sinn Fein Party who, while distributing material on H-Block, were physically attacked and arrested by the Irish Republic's police force.

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

RAY O'CONNOR

At the request of Congressman Hamilton Fish, Jr. the State Department (via the American Council in Belfast) contacted the leading clergy people of Northern Ireland for their comments on several important Northern Ireland related issues.

The following is a comment by perhaps the most highly respected and regarded Human Rights activist in Northern Ireland today, Fr. Denis Faul. Fr. Faul is the Catholic Chaplain at the British concentration camps in occupied Ireland.

"...The agents of the Dublin Government are not to be trusted as they have *consistently pushed the Unionist position* and ignored the plight of the Catholics. The powerful business and banking interest of the USA should be alerted to examine the situation of discrimination in Northern Ireland. Britain should be compelled to withdraw her guarantee (to support the loyalist) and to leave Ireland. There is no further long term solution..."
[Ed. Note: it should be noted that since 1978, the PEC, with success, has contacted over 6,000 of the US's most powerful businesses, including the banking interest.]

OH, THAT'S POLITICAL

JAMES F. CLARKE

How many times, when Northern Ireland is discussed, have we heard someone say, "Oh, that's political".

This expression is repeated so often that unconsciously we accept it. However, this is applying the wrong label. The correct expression should be, "Oh, that's morality". The label of morality at least recognizes that Northern Ireland was *artificially created* by Britain, as a discriminatory state to the detriment of Catholics. Political would infer that Americans favor one Irish political party or ideology over another. This is not true. American involvement is one of indignation that an immoral state can exist in a democracy and such a state must cease to exist.

This is why Ireland should be reunited. In its current form the immorality will never cease unless the perpetuator of this immorality is removed—Britain. *If we all join together we can succeed in this endeavor.*

If we continue to label Northern Ireland concern as political, the danger is that it can lead to a lack of concern and non-involvement.

I have never heard charges of "politics" raised when American organizations, through common stock ownership, forced American companies to withdraw from the *immoral* Orange state of South Africa. Indeed, it is very sad that a double standard has to be applied to Northern Ireland by people in America for any reason, but worse, for the wrong reason.

PARTITION—THE MINORITY BECOMES A MAJORITY

THOMAS GARVEY

"Ulster will fight and Ulster will be right" was the war cry in 1920 of the pro-British loyalist when the treaty between Ireland and England was being negotiated. Actually, there should not have been any debate on independence for all of Ireland, because at the last general election (1918), when all Ireland - north and south - voted, more than 80% of the people of all Ireland voted for a free, independent and sovereign nation. But England which had inveigled America into "the war for the freedom of small nations" refused to grant majority rule to Ireland - freedom. England told the Irish delegates that the province of Ulster would be *temporarily* separated from the rest of Ireland until an accommodation could be reached with the loyalist of Ulster. The alternative given the Irish was an "immediate and terrible war".

When the Orange-English leaders took another look at Ulster they found that in six of Ulster's nine counties, the nationalists were in the majority and could conceivably vote Ulster into a united Ireland in their time. Then England unilaterally changed the rules of the game by excluding three of Ulster's counties which had a strong nationalist majority. Gone was any illusion of fair play - do it our way or else.

But even they, with all their deceit and guile, could no longer sell this artificial statelet as Ulster. They had to settle for Northern Ireland. It has no historic or natural geographic boundaries but only artificial boundaries drawn solely to ensure perpetual domination by the loyalist. England then illegally turned over the governing power of the new statelet to the *rabidly anti-Catholic* Orange Order and made a non-interference covenant with them, giving them free rein. Catholics were always treated as second class citizens under direct rule from London. But now under the Orange government conditions for the Catholics became intolerably worse.

In the words of Sir James Craig, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, 1921-1940, "I have always said I am an Orangeman first and a politician and member of this parliament afterwards - all I boast is that we are a Protestant parliament and a Protestant state." Sir Basil Brooke, Prime Minister, 1943-63, "There were a great number of Protestants and Orangemen who employed Roman Catholics." He felt he could speak freely on this subject as he had not a Catholic about his own place. He would appeal to loyalists, wherever possible, to employ good Protestant lads and lassies. Every prime minister since has echoed the same sentiments.

Today's loyalist masses are kept in continual fear of Catholicism by the Rev. Ian Paisley's passionate crusade. His hushed listeners are told that all men are not children of God — some few are elected to be saved. That Roman Catholicism is the Anti-Christ, Greatest of all Heresies, Mother of Harlots, Whore of Babylon, Enemy of Godliness and Freedom. His religious oratory is without charity, moderation or ideas - a fierce blast of 17th century righteousness and emotion. In response to incitements from their leaders, they vented their feelings on the then defenseless Catholics by burning out whole sections of nationalist areas and leaving hundreds dead, injured, and homeless.

In 1968 when civil rights groups, including some fair-minded Protestants, held peaceful protest marches they were set upon and beaten by Orange mobs while the police turned their backs or joined the mobs. Nowhere in Christendom are a people so vilely persecuted.

NEW PECs FORMED

JIM TRAINOR

The Florida State AOH has appointed Ray O'Connor to chair its new PEC. Ray is a former member of the PEC, Rockland County AOH and co-founder of the PEC. This group has already established contact with Florida's US Senators, Congressmen, and selected newspapers. This unit's immediate plans are to establish a Northern Ireland information center in Florida, encourage letter-writing, and increase the readership of this newsletter in Florida. For information write to: Ray O'Connor, 809 So. Ocean Blvd, Pompano Beach, Fla. 33062.

The Maryland State AOH has appointed Dan Kelly to chair its new PEC. This unit has established contact with Maryland's federal representatives and selected newspapers. For information write to: Dan Kelly, 6009 Alta Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21206.

We are also happy to announce that the Kings County AOH, NY, has also formed a PEC. This unit is chaired by Patrick O'Neill. This unit has started off with a bang. For information write to Patrick O'Neill, 1941 68th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. Please give these new units your active support and participation.

OFFENSIVE SAINT PATRICK'S DAY CARDS

JOHN J FINUCANE

"You have placed profit before the ethnic sensitivity of the Irish in America...you would not produce greeting cards that debase the Jews and Blacks of America" were the words of AOH National Director Nick Murphy when he dominated the floor during the recent American Greeting Card (AGC) Shareholders Convention in Cleveland. Mr. Murphy received heavy press coverage which proved very embarrassing to AGC.

An outspoken advocate of justice for the Irish in America and Ireland, Nick Murphy vowed that the AOH in America will be a force to contend with.

Mr. Murphy's appearance at the AGC was just another phase of the PEC's ongoing (since 1976) campaign to rid the greeting card market of offensive Saint Patrick's Day cards that depict the Irish in America as drunkards and debase our glorious Saint Patrick.

OUR READERS RESPOND

The PEC welcomes comments from our readers. Below is one of the many comments we have received.

"Just a note to commend you all on the fine work that you do. I photostat the newsletter and pass them out to my friends."

Stiofon O'Labhradha
Pawntucket, Rhode Island

WHY NOT FORM A POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE FOR YOUR LOCALITY? For information on how to form a committee, under no obligation, write to the Political Education Committee at the above address. You will be surprised at how simple it can be.

ACTION LETTER

KEN CLINTON

This time we ask you to write to the Democratic National Committee strongly urging that they include an Irish plank in the 1980 Democratic Party Platform. The Democratic Party Convention is scheduled for this August. We are not asking you to write to the Republican National Committee because this convention will be underway when you receive this issue. The various PECs and Emerald Societies have already been requested to contact the Republican National Committee.

Below is a sample letter that you may use as a guide or simply rewrite on you own stationery. Please *reproduce* this action letter for distribution to your friends, family, etc.

Address _____

Chairman John White
Democratic National Committee
1625 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20036

Date _____

Dear Mr. White:

I respectfully urge that the Democratic National Committee include in its 1980 Platform, an Irish plank. One that actively encourages a gradual British withdrawal from Ireland and that actively supports the right of all the people of all Ireland to self-determination.

Sincerely,
signature

PLEASE DO YOUR SHARE

IF YOU DO NOT ALREADY RECEIVE THE PEC NEWSLETTER BY MAIL AND WISH TO HAVE IT SENT TO YOUR HOME (FREE), PLEASE FORWARD YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO THE POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE, P.O. BOX 16, GARNERVILLE, N.Y. 10923.