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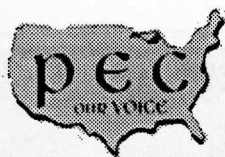


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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 24, Number 8

August 1999

Presidential Candidates Must Keep Ireland on the Map

By Charles P. Mullaney, Professor of Legal Studies
Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, Connecticut

JUST when we thought it was safe to relax and enjoy the rest of summer, we find we must face some lousy presidential candidates. As this exhausting electoral marathon begins, the candidates will shamelessly seek our money, garrulously pontificate about anything, and sweet-talk delegates in the Iowa and New Hampshire primaries. One by one, though, they will drop out of the race until two are left; in November 2000, barely 40 percent of us will elect someone who will go to the White House. We will focus on the fact that no presidential candidate yet has any position on the North. It will be our job to enlighten these folks and demand that they take a pro-involvement position. We will challenge them to match Clinton's track record in Ireland, a careful consideration of which here should help the American Irish define their political goals for the next administration.

During the last few weeks, we contacted policy people in the campaigns of six serious presidential contenders. Bill Bradley and George Bush Jr. associates got back to us to tell us they would get back to us. Representatives of Al Gore, Dan Quayle, Pat Buchanan, Steve Forbes, Elizabeth Dole, and John McCain took our name, telephone number, and area of interest. [Editor's Note: In future issues of the Newsletter and website updates, the PEC will provide contact information and action letters for members to express their concerns to potential presidential candidates.] Meanwhile, with 14 months until the election, the candidates' pollsters are attempting to judge the electorate's concerns. Domestic issues top the agenda, with international matters buried in the fourth quartile of importance. The Irish peace process, even in its current limbo status, will not be a controlling campaign issue, though it could help elect the next president, as it helped Bill Clinton.

The love affair between Clinton and the American Irish began as a simple political expedient. Desperately needing a victory in the April 1992 New York Democratic Primary, Clinton showed up at an obscure Irish forum in New

(continued on Page 3)

Boston College Snubs Concerns Over Trimble

By Kevin P. Murphy, *Massachusetts*

DESPITE receiving many letters and phone calls of opposition, Boston College (BC) bestowed on Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble an honorary degree and a humanitarian award on May 24.

This year, Trimble has stalled the peace process in the North of Ireland. Also, his words and actions have been strongly anti-Catholic. Trimble has begun a lawsuit in the UK against Sean McPhilemy, author of *The Committee*, who charges the politician with orchestrating intimidation and violence against Irish nationalists.

This is not the first time BC has sought to honor an anti-Irish bigot. It had intended to grant former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher an award in 1995, but a nationwide **PEC campaign** convinced the school that such a gesture would be inappropriate and offensive; the college canceled the award. Members argued then, as now, that the intended honoree had done much harm to the Irish people.

[Editor's Note: SDLP leader John Hume had encouraged BC to honor Trimble. Hume had said he believed this gesture would further the peace process by showing Trimble's willingness to be honored by a Catholic institution and a Catholic institution's willingness to honor a unionist. Trimble's continued intransigence following the May 24 honor suggests Hume's prediction missed the mark.]

Sadly, the college again refuses to answer letters of people who opposed its granting Trimble an award. Boston College's disgraceful behavior sends the message that it doesn't care about justice or have any concern for others' opinions. (*See Action Request, Page 8.*)

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Our View: *Members' Letters*

On the "Irish Immigration" Stamp

CERTAINLY Sen. Edward Kennedy and other members of Congress deserve thanks for their effort in convincing the US Postal Service (USPS) to issue the Irish Immigration commemorative stamp.

However, the American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC...actively campaigned for years for the USPS to issue a stamp honoring the Irish.

Despite the USPS's numerous refusals, the [AIEF-PEC]...asked its membership on many occasions to write letters and make phone calls to the USPS and their congressional representatives to urge that the stamp be issued. The non-profit foundation deserves recognition and thanks for their perseverance and dedication to this campaign.

T.K. O'Doherty, New Jersey

[Editor's Note: the AIEF-PEC sought a stamp honoring the Irish immigrants who came to the US as a result of the Great Hunger; though we did not achieve our precise goal, we are relieved the USPS has, at least, noted the importance of Irish immigration to the US.]

On the Media's Failure to Cover Loyalist Violence

I agree that there is seldom any outrage in the press over crimes against the nationalist/republican community. There is only outrage over the sins of the IRA. This makes the enclosed article all the more interesting.

I enjoy your publication very much. It helps keep me informed as to what goes on in the North. I also pass it on to my friends.

Jere Springer, California

[Editor's Note: the writer enclosed Alexander Cockburn's article, "Ulster Veto, Ulster Terror," from the May 24 issue of The Nation. Discussing British collusion with loyalists, he says, "[the testimony of former spy John] Weir should strike the decommissioning ploy stone dead. It's the moment for Clinton to do some arm-twisting and tell his pal Blair that there's urgent business in Northern Ireland."]

On James Joyce and Racism

Enclosed herewith is an article from USA Today that you might wish to include in your monthly Newsletter. The reference is to James Joyce on the Great Hunger.

Paul Gallagher, Virginia

[Editor's Note: the May 12 article discusses the controversy over whether "Redskins" is a pejorative name for

American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC

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the Washington football team. Writer Erik Brady says team lawyers have "cited several instances from literature in which they believed redskin was used in neutral terms. One was from Ulysess, James Joyce's complex novel...."

However, lawyers for the petitioners opposed to the name say it proves their point that the name is, indeed, pejorative. The petitioners write: "In this example, the unidentified (but clearly Irish) speaker describes what he thinks certain Englishmen thought or said back in 1847, during the Great [Hunger].

At that time, the Times (London) 'rubbed its hands together and told the white-livered Saxons there would soon be as few Irish in Ireland as redskins in America.' In other words, the civilized English would soon be as rid of the savage Irish as white America was free of 'redskins.'" Did the Irish see British racism for what it was, as Joyce here indicates?

**For PEC press releases and more:
<http://aipec.freesevers.com>**

Share the Power, Give Peace a Chance

Excerpt from July 14, 1999 *Cincinnati Enquirer*

EVER since the 1998 [Mitchell] Agreement, First Minister Designate David Trimble has balked at sharing power with two representatives from Sinn Fein.... Although the Agreement called for paramilitary organizations to hand in weapons by May 2000, Ulster Unionist chief Trimble has insisted the IRA disarm first, or he refuses to lead the new government....

As a Member of Parliament and an Orangeman, he represents Portadown, where the anti-Catholic Orange Order was born. In years past, he led inflammatory marches past Catholic neigh-

borhoods. The Orangemen held 3,200 such marches last year....

Neither side has handed in weapons—and neither is likely to turn in all its guns, but Trimble has been silent on disarming [Orange] loyalists, who have carried out about 160 pipe-bomb and gun attacks on nationalists this year....

[Former] Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon had challenged both the ...Ulster Unionist Party and the IRA to give up their "veto" over forming the new governing body. Mainstream...Mallon ranks higher in

(continued from Page 1)

York City and wowed an audience of 100 activists with his detailed knowledge of key Northern Ireland issues. He supported a US peace envoy. He questioned the US's special relationship with Great Britain. He would grant a visa for Gerry Adams. He would endorse the MacBride Principles.

Following his nomination at the Democratic National Convention in August 1992, Clinton enlisted the elite of American Irish activists—lawyer and former Connecticut Congressman Bruce Morrison, Publisher Neil O'Dowd, Human Rights legend Paul O'Dwyer, and foreign policy experts Nancy Soderberg and Trina Vargot—to work on his campaign. They shaped the Clinton manifesto on Ireland, memorialized in an Oct. 23, 1992 letter to Irish Americans for Clinton/Gore. That letter said that Clinton's administration would take an active role in working for peace in Northern Ireland, a stunning commitment and a first for a presidential hopeful.

Indeed, when he became president, Clinton ruffled some diplomatic feather with his Irish activism not only at the British embassy but also at the British desk in the State Dept. In a nutshell,

Clinton pulled rank on his own State Dept., hijacked management of Northern Ireland affairs, and conducted diplomacy right out of the Oval Office.

First came the Adams visa, granted by order of the President himself, infuriating both the British government and the State Dept. Next, Clinton okayed a visa, incredibly, to IRA hero Joe Cahill for a day visit. Not coincidentally, the next day the IRA announced its cease-fire. In Sept. 1994, the White House again trumped State Dept. concerns, and Adams came to the US for an eight-day tour that culminated with a phone call from Vice President Al Gore—the Administration's first contact with Sinn Fein. In Dec. that year, Adams finally made it to the White House as exasperated British and State Dept. officials were reduced to mere spectators.

Though Adams was the darling of the press during his American visits, the Clinton White House partied with unionists, too. The UUP's David Trimble, Ken Maginnis, and Jeffrey Donaldson joined Gore in the White House. When Clinton became the first president to visit Belfast in Nov. 1995, he resolutely headed to the Shankill, mingled with the crowd, and then went on to loyalist East Belfast, establishing

polls among both Catholics and Protestants than Trimble does....This is the best chance in decades for the North to put aside the gun and the bomb. About 72 percent on the entire island voted for the '98 peace accord. Most are sick of bloodshed and hate.

If the stalemate isn't broken, then British Prime Minister Tony Blair might set up a new executive irrespective of the '98 agreement or run the North with a joint government out of London and Dublin.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said in March 1998 that the parties should all "jump together." They did on Good Friday....They need to jump again, or the chance for peace could be lost.

his bona fides in a community suspicious of America's interest in Ireland.

Clinton's intervention in the North's affairs was a breath of fresh diplomatic air. Northern Ireland was always a British question among the longtime foreign affairs officers at Foggy Bottom, and the President's interest in the North shook up London's failure to seek a resolution to the Irish conflict. In addition, the growth of the Irish economy and the success of the American Irish in politics, finance, entertainment, and the corporate world have fostered not only deeper Irish roots for the American Irish but also powerful American Irish political constituencies demanding American involvement with Ireland.

At one level, Gore seems to be best able to continue Clinton's hands-on policy of intervention, precisely because he participated in much of it. Nevertheless, strange things happen in presidential campaigns, and no candidate is a sure bet.

The burden of sustaining presidential involvement in the Irish peace process necessarily fall on the American Irish activist community. We must urge, educate, and demand commitments now, lest the fabulous Clinton Irish odyssey end.

Newsbits

A VOTING alliance with Taoiseach Bertie Ahern's Fianna Fail party saw Sinn Fein member Sean MacManus elected as deputy mayor of Sligo yesterday in return for Sinn Fein's support for the election of a Fianna Fail mayor....Apparently provoked by the development, John Bruton—the leader of the South's main opposition party and a vocal supporter of the unionist cause—...forbade voting pacts between Fine Gael and Sinn Fein until unionist demands for an IRA weapons hand over are resolved. (RM Dist. 6/22/99)

Each year the [Northern Ireland Housing Council] (NIHC), ...made up of representatives from the 26 local authorities, selects three members to take seats on the board of the Housing Executive—a 10-member body which last year oversaw a budget of £559 million....[S]ince its formation in the early 70s, it has consistently selected an all-unionist panel. The exception came in 1995, when it nominated a single nationalist.... Department of Environment Minister Lord Dubs [has] appealed for the NIHC to consider making representative appointments. Under current legislation, the minister can only rubberstamp the NIHC nominations to the Housing Executive board. It is this aspect of policy which [SDLP councilor Patsy] McGlone has now brought to the attention of the F[air Employment Commission]. In a letter sent...to FEC chairman Sir Bob Cooper, McGlone outlines the DoE's inability to alter the NIHC selections and claims "the department is in effect implementing the political discrimination of the Housing Council." (*Irish News* 6/10/99)

The British Crown is to prosecute ex-Para turned author Tony Geraghty

after top British military brass were intensely embarrassed by his book. The details, published in Geraghty's book *The Irish War*, indicate that the British Army intends to maintain and increase its presence in the Six Counties for the foreseeable future. [The book] states: "Throughout the IRA cease-fires of 1995 and 1997-98, the British Army energetically modernized its armory of computers. The scale and cost of this program reflected the Army's belief that it would continue to fight an intelligence war in Northern Ireland for many years ahead." The book also states that the British army would maintain "a complete division of 10,000 troops or more for the foreseeable future." (RM Dist. 6/22/99)

Paramilitary suspects are not entitled to claim damages when RUC officers wrongfully defer access to a solicitor, the Court of Appeal in Belfast held yesterday. Three judges dismissed an appeal against a ruling by Lord Justice MacDermott relating to the arrest of James Bernard Cullen nearly 10 years ago. Cullen...was arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and held at Castlereagh for six days before being charged with withholding information about a murder. During his time in custody, his access to a solicitor was delayed on four occasions—covering virtually the entire period of his detention....His solicitor, Eamonn McMenamin, said the right to have access to a solicitor was "one of the most fundamental rights in our society. We are considering an appeal by one of three means—a petition to the House of Lords, an application to the European Court [of Human Rights] or to the new Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission," he said. (*Irish News* 6/16/99)

A Belfast newspaper has published the names of the paratroopers who, on Thursday, won their appeal to retain their anonymity while giving evidence to the Bloody Sunday tribunal. The *Irish News*...blanked out some surnames for legal reasons but claimed that the identities of the paratroopers were widely known in Derry, where Bloody Sunday occurred in January 1972. "They make a mockery of yesterday's [Thursday's] High Court ruling granting the men anonymity," it stated....The High Court in London had voted two to one against a ruling by the Inquiry Chairman, Lord Saville, denying the soldiers' immunity for giving testimony in the Inquiry, which commences in Sept. Lawyers for the soldiers and the Ministry of Defense had argued that the men's lives would be at risk if they did not have anonymity. The families of those killed on Bloody Sunday have consistently said that none of the Bloody Sunday soldiers was ever targeted for attack. Two of the officers who were on the scene have always allowed their names to be made public, the commanding officer, retired Lieutenant Colonel Derek Wilford, and the then captain, now General Sir Michael Jackson. [Editor's Note: Jackson is head of NATO's ACE Rapid Reaction Corps and British Commander of the NATO forces in Kosovo.] The...newspaper pointed out that the anonymity campaign was pointless, as there were reports in British army magazines and...other sources in which the soldiers had been named. "Much of the indignation over the names which has been expressed by the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Daily Mail*, and various retired officers is therefore largely meaningless," it remarked in its editorial. The paper urged the Saville Inquiry to appeal the High Court decision. A spokesman for the British Army made no comment on the publication. (BBC 6/18/99)

American Irish History: *Audie Murphy Serves Beyond the Call of Duty*

By Kevin P. Murphy, *Massachusetts*

THE MOST highly decorated US serviceman in the history of the country was an American Irish Texan named Audie Murphy.

Murphy was a descendant of Irish immigrants who settled in the southwestern US in the 1800s. His childhood as a sharecropper near Greenville, Texas, was not an easy one. He had to support his mother and his nine siblings. Whenever farming was not going well, Murphy hunted for food for the large family.

When Japan attacked the US fleet at Pearl Harbor, Murphy was 18 years old. At five feet tall and hardly 100 pounds, Murphy was rejected for enlistment into the Marines and the Navy. Later, the Army accepted him. His slight build and related physical difficulties also made his attempts to get into the infantry nearly impossible.

Nevertheless, Murphy refused to be transferred to cooking school and the infantry eventually accepted him.

In 1943, Murphy first saw action in North Africa. He was then in battle in Sicily. As a scout, he single-handedly wiped out enemy officers who were about to send for artillery to attack the Americans. In Italy the next year, Murphy destroyed a Nazi tank convoy and held off enemy troops, thereby saving many American lives.

In southern France, Murphy's unit was under heavy fire when he took out dozens of Nazi troops, captured their machine gun, and took out dozens more Nazi soldiers. Despite being severely wounded, Murphy returned to action. He was promoted to lieutenant.

In another battle, Murphy directed artillery fire upon a large Nazi unit that

was inflicting heavy casualties upon the Americans. Murphy's actions destroyed the Nazi line.

On Jan. 26, 1945, Murphy climbed aboard a disabled US Army tank destroyer, got on a radio to direct artillery firing, and managed to hold off nearly a dozen Nazi tanks and hundreds of troops who were attempting to destroy American units entering Germany. A skilled marksman, Murphy destroyed the tanks and devastated the approaching troops. When the battle was over, Murphy was credited with destroying 250 Nazi troops and six Nazi tanks.

Murphy became America's most decorated war hero. He went on to a career in the movies as a Hollywood actor. The war hero and film star died in a plane crash in 1971.

Visas Receive Funding

THE IRISH Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 (Congressman **Jim Walsh's** visa program) is to go ahead. The first visas will be issued in Oct. That's thanks to the support for the program of **PEC members** and their representatives.

The visas target people under 35 in the border counties and the North. Four thousand visas will be granted in each of three years.

Visa opponents warn that the program will further depopulate the already highly depopulated border regions. Supporters, on the other hand, insist that the program demonstrates the peace dividend for people in the border counties and the North. They add that it is also demonstrates the positive US participation in the peace process.

"Irish Immigration" Stamps are big Sellers

THE HARD-WON "Irish Immigration" postal commemorative has sold fast, and many local post offices no longer carry them, according to Congressman **Jim Walsh**.

The PEC looked into why the stamp was not available and learned that the first-class stamp has simply been in high demand.

Local post offices generally offer a commemorative for six months, according to a USPS spokesman. Local post offices are not required to order more, even though the USPS is still producing the stamp.

Therefore, people who are interested in purchasing the stamp should order them by mail directly from the USPS at

1-800-stamp24 or online at http://www.usps.gov/fr_stamps.html. (If you don't want to type in this code, simply search for USPS and go from there.)

The USPS spokesman said that commemoratives are generally available for a little more than a year after the USPS issues them. The "Irish Immigration" stamp should be available at least until Feb. 2000. When the USPS stops producing the stamp, it will destroy any remaining stock, the spokesman said.

The PEC urges members to order and use the stamp to show the USPS and the people who receive your correspondence that "Irish Immigration" is an important issue to you.

Peace Process Update

June 9

NORTHERN Secretary Mo Mowlam says the RUC will not be scrapped.

June 10

The UUP says it would be prepared to see the Mitchell Agreement fail if the IRA refuses to hand over weapons.

June 11

Mowlam says that the d'Hondt system that will trigger the formation of the Executive will be put in place before the June 30 deadline.

June 14

Sources suggest that British Prime Minister Tony Blair might threaten to wind up the Assembly and cut off members' salaries unless there is movement toward compromise between unionists and republicans. Pastor Kenny McClinton, a former UFF commander, resigns as go-between for the LVF and the international decommissioning body in protest at what he says are government attempts to "demonize" the group.

June 15

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern warns that if there is no movement on decommissioning by June 30, the Agreement will have to be scrapped.

June 16

Ahern and Blair draw up a plan of action, including insisting on an IRA statement that the war is over, the setting up of the Executive, and movement on decommissioning.

June 18

Orangemen plan an 11-day march, set to begin in Derry on June 24 and arrive in Portadown on July 4, to coincide with the Drumcree Parade. Mowlam overturns the 80-year ban on Sinn Fein's carrying legal weapons.

June 21

President Clinton puts his support behind last-ditch efforts to save the peace process.

June 22

UUP leader David Trimble blames a "widespread lack of confidence" in Mowlam as being one of the "great difficulties" in implementing the Mitchell Agreement.

June 23

The DUP argues that if the Agreement is scrapped June 30, then the prisoner releases and the investigation into policing should be stopped. The RUC charges a former UDR soldier with the 1989 murder of Belfast attorney Patrick Finucane. The arrest comes as Mrs. Finucane prepares to take the British government to the European Court of Human Rights, alleging state involvement in the murder. The head of the international decommissioning body prepares a report on the decommissioning issue and requests details on weapons arsenals and where and when disarmament might take place. He asks the parties to state whether disarmament should happen by May 2000.

June 26

The Orange Order applies to hold 1,300 parades over the next six weeks, thus proposing to stretch RUC resources to the limit and causing the Parades Commission to struggling with the influx of applications. Members of Congress due to arrive in Ireland in the week following Drumcree weekend to observe the Parades include Congressman **Ben Gilman**, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, and **James Walsh**, chairman of the Friends of Ireland group in Congress. Both will lead a delegation formed under the auspices of the Ireland US interparliamentary exchange program.

June 27

Trimble calls on Sinn Fein to guarantee that the IRA will disarm by next May and hints that Sinn Fein might be able to enter the Executive before the IRA

hands weapons over. Trimble warns that if Sinn Fein doesn't give that assurance, the Agreement could be doomed.

June 28

Clinton urges the UUP to take risks to achieve a new future. Referring to the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons, he says, "One thing I would say to the unionists is that they can always walk away from this if the commitments aren't kept at a later date." Clinton also emphasizes the need for Sinn Fein to get the IRA to make progress on the arms issue. "We know the legitimate problems that Sinn Fein has with the decommissioning issue, but it's an important part of the [Mitchell Agreement,] so there has to be a resolution on it that enables the unionists, Trimble, and the others who have fought for peace, to survive," he says. The Orange Volunteers and the Red Hand Defenders say their members had been put "on full alert" from midnight after Orangemen are banned from marching on the nationalist Garvaghy Road.

July 1

Talks adjourn four hours after the midnight, June 30, deadline without success. After two minutes of consideration, the UUP rejects Sinn Fein's proposals, which the British and Irish governments describe as "significant" and "potentially historic." Unionists propose resuming talks in Sept. to avoid the Agreement's collapse. Decommissioning body head General John De Chastelain publishes his report on the readiness of paramilitary groups to disarm. Blair and Ahern might seek to use it as a central plank of any agreement. Blair asks Clinton to become involved in the process. *See Action Request, Page 8.)*

July 2

The British and Irish governments come up with a plan to start the Executive in two weeks, followed by arms decommissioning. In the document, "The Way

(continued on Page 8)

Dr. Laura Schlessinger Sees no Problem Saying the "Irish are Drunks"

LAST month, the PEC responded to member **Kay Kelly's** report that radio personality **Dr. Laura Schlessinger** urged her staff to think of the many derogatory names for Irish immigrants and said, "The Irish are drunks." Kelly said, "She made the statement while giving a refresher course on the ugly names the early [immigrants] gave other [immigrant groups] at the turn of the century."

The PEC wrote to Dr. Laura, explaining that such remarks are hurtful, inaccurate, and out of place in a radio broadcast. We received the reply below.

Unfortunately, Dr. Laura's staff failed to see the error in their judgment, so the PEC wrote again (see below) in the hope of creating understanding between the American Irish and Dr. Laura. We will continue to pursue this matter and will keep members informed.

**Keven R. Bellows,
Vice-president and General Manager
of the Dr. Laura Schlessinger Show,
Writes on June 18**

Enclosed is a transcript of the May 6 broadcast of the Dr. Laura Schlessinger Program for your review....

As you can see, it is obvious she is condemning the practice of stereotyping. Contrary to what you were told, she does, in fact, use common epithets in reference to many other minorities and ethnic groups as a way of making her point. I can't imagine that her intent is not clear to anyone who may have been listening.

Anyone who knows Dr. Laura knows she would never characterize a group in a derogatory way. She is an extremely principled and ethical human being, and as a Jew, is especially sensitive to this issue.

I trust that this response is adequate and that you will circulate it among those members you refer to in your letter....

Transcript Excerpt: I know that. I think it's a wonderful idea. I totally support it but let's see what are Irish people called? Dan, do you know? How about just drunks? Okay, Irish are drunks. Give me some others. Anybody from the Middle East is a terrorist. Okay, is that good? That's not as bad as nigger and wops, though. Those are worse. Camel jockey. Camel jockey, got it. You make a whole list of these things and then you say, "Do you all love this?" Would you like to walk around with a tag on your body all day long so we can all walk around and call you a blank whatever it is? I understand exactly what that kid is going through. I'm white. I moved into a white area but I moved into a white Jewish area and my parents had a mixed marriage and that was not seen positively. I was called all sorts of names. You don't have to be different colors to go through this....

**The PEC
Replies to Bellows
on June 28**

We are writing in response to your June 18 reply to the PEC's concerns about Dr. Laura's remark on May 6 that the "Irish are drunks." We would like to make several points that your letter overlooks.

1. Dr. Laura's forum is radio. Thus, people can tune in at any time, and the context of her comments might not be clear. This was the case with our member, who was deeply offended by Dr. Laura's comment. Perhaps you and she should reconsider making such remarks, considering the danger of causing offense. Although being provocative can be a powerful way to effect the way people think, her brand of provocative doesn't work.

2. Not everybody knows Dr. Laura. Nor should they be expected to. Thus, [she] should keep in mind that people who don't know she means no harm, as you say she doesn't, might be hurt. Though the self-righteous tone of your letter suggests this might not be a driving concern for her, it should be.

3. We question the appropriateness of using common epithets to make a point. We further question the logic of claiming, as she did May 6, that some abusive names for racial groups are worse than others. It is a perverse practice, ...to assume one group's suffering is worse than another's.

4. We do not assume that because Dr. Laura is Jewish...that she therefore understands everybody else's experience of racial stereotyping. Nor does her being Jewish confer on her the right to use racial epithets "to make a point." In the same way, our members' Irishness doesn't confer on them the right to assume they understand the experiences of Jews as a persecuted group.

We ask that you consider that Dr. Laura's technique might not be appropriate for radio. Simply, it might not be appropriate if she is hurting other people. Clearly, the pain she has caused has not furthered a creative discussion of racism.

We will make your letter and our response to it available to our members. We hope you consider the above comments when you reply to them.

**Please Renew Your Membership
to Support the PEC's Work
to end Anti-Irish Stereotyping**

Action Requests

Please write these letters or make the telephone calls. Mention that you are a PEC member.

Write: **Fr. William S. Leahy**, President, Administrative Office Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167

Message: I am deeply concerned that you have ignored the concern of many Americans that, by bestowing on UUP leader David Trimble an honorary degree and a humanitarian award May 24, you showed a callous disregard for the Irish Catholics who continue to suffer in the North of Ireland because the unionist leader will not move from his stubborn political position and initiate inclusive, democratic government for the first time in the history of the North. Though you demonstrated the willingness of a Catholic institution to honor a unionist, you did so at the expense of many Irish Catholics. I urge you to apologize to the Irish people as well as to the American Irish for this offense.

Write: **President Bill Clinton**, the White House, Washington, DC, 20500; tele. (202) 456-1111; fax (202) 456-2461; email president@whitehouse.gov

Message: As a member of the American Irish PEC, I thank you for your continued personal involvement in the Irish peace process. I urge you to continue your role in this fragile process and ensure that the political parties in the North and the British and Irish governments adhere to the Mitchell Agreement. Although any agreement in the North should reflect the needs of the people there, the unionists must not be permitted to rewrite the terms of the Agreement, through other legislative acts, to suit their party political demands.

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Forward," the governments suggest parties reaffirm the three principles—an inclusive executive exercising devolved powers; decommissioning of paramilitary arms by May 2000; and decommissioning to be carried out in a manner determined by the International Commission on Decommissioning. If devolution or decommissioning commitments were not met, institutions that the Mitchell Agreement set up would be suspended.

July 7

Ahern says he opposes Blair's indications that the Executive could continue without Sinn Fein if the party were thrown out because the IRA failed to decommission weapons. Later, he says Sinn Fein and the IRA are separate organizations.

July 9

The UUP rejects the new proposal to establish peace. Sinn Fein says that any proposals it made during the latest round of talks are now off the table.

July 13

The SDLP refuses to give the UUP assurances that it would form an Executive without Sinn Fein if the IRA were to default on disarmament.

July 15

The governments put the implementation of the peace process into review after it breaks down into disaster. The UUP, DUP, and Alliance parties do not nominate ministers to the Assembly. SDLP member Seamus Mallon resigns as deputy first minister of the proposed Assembly after the UUP boycotts what would have been the Assembly's first meeting. Mowlam describes the situation as a setback. Sinn Fein and the PUP condemn Trimble's actions.

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