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## American Irish Newsletter - September 1991

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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# AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 16, Number 8/10

Sept  
August 1991

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE!!! CONCERNING OUR NEW ADDRESS

All Postage-Paid Business Reply Envelopes used for membership/subscription renewals, returning raffle tickets, new memberships, etc. will continue to be sent to Stony Point, New York. We have our business reply permit at the Stony Point Post Office.

All other mail should be sent to our new address:  
American Irish PEC, Fairgrounds Plaza, 18 Route 9W,  
West Haverstraw, New York 10993.

## NEWS BITS by Kathy Regan

Long ago it was seen that if the British government thought it had Sinn Fein defeated (sic), or even contained, it would next attack the Workers Party. It is now doing so. Once it destroyed Sinn Fein and the Workers Party, it would be the turn of the SDLP, which would be reduced to the level of the old Nationalist party...Unless all Irish democrats stand together to oppose attacks on individual components of the movement, different parties, groups and individuals will be picked off one by one. ...The civil service has systematically withheld 30 million pounds from Catholic schools during the past five years...The groundwork for the eventual destruction of the Catholic school system has already been laid...Segregated education aside, what is at issue is the dismantling one by one of every party, group and individual that could have a policy different in any detail from that of the government. (Andersonstown News 7/6/91)....The results of an opinion poll...indicate that, even among the Unionist grass roots, patience with the caliber of [Ian Paisley's] leadership is running out...Thirty-eight percent of the Northern Ireland electorate expressed dissatisfaction with his role in the talks...Forty-nine percent of the electorate in Britain gave its support for the government in Dublin having a say in the affairs of Northern Ireland...concrete evidence that British sympathy with the slogans of the past is running out. (Irish Post 7/20/91)

The National Union of Public Employees made history when two of its women members were elected to the executive of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. Inez McCormack, one of the

Continued on page 3

## We Apologize...

...to Congressional Representative Edward Feighan of Ohio. In the July issue of the Newsletter we acknowledged those respected Members of Congress who boycotted the address to the joint session of Congress by Britain's Queen Elizabeth. The boycott was in protest of Britain's continued occupation of Northern Ireland. Representative Feighan also participated in the boycott for which we are truly grateful.

## THE PEC TO ORGANIZE IN THE WEST

To do so, we will need your help!

The importance of Irish human rights activists, both PEC and non-PEC, in the western half of the US cannot be over-emphasized. Their current activities, effectiveness and future potential, regarding issues of importance, including the MacBride Principles Campaign and Joe Doherty, are second to none.

There is much PEC activity in the West. The PEC will develop an organizational structure specifically for the West.

We have appointed Susan Catt, Arizona State Director, as Executive Director for the western states. Her function will be much the same as the national headquarters in New York with the only difference being that she will concentrate her efforts only on the western states listed below. Susan will develop an organizational structure for implementing our programs, communication and recruiting new members.

Susan will need all the help she can get to implement this project. She will work with all PEC activists in the west and will reach out to get other members involved.

The PEC Western Region will be headquartered in Arizona. Susan can be reached at 2292 North Ironwood #110, Apache Junction, AZ 85220 or by calling (evenings) (602) 982-0370.

The western states include: Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Nevada.

Members residing in these states are invited to help build this new network. To do so, for administrative purposes, it is necessary that you first contact our national headquarters in New York. At the same time you may also contact Susan Catt.

The western headquarters will operate much like the national headquarters in New York. Members in the western states needing materials such as membership applications, MacBride Principles materials, etc., will contact Arizona.

An important part of this new organizing effort will be the development of the telephone chain mentioned in the last Newsletter. Members who are letter writers are urged to become a part of the telephone chain. If you just want to be part of the telephone chain, send your name, address and phone number (include the time of the day you are most likely to be available for phone calls) directly to Susan Catt.

Susan, who has been an active member of the PEC, has displayed competence, determination and drive. She initiated the MacBride Principles Campaign in Arizona and has done exceptional work in winning much organizational support for Joe Doherty. To understand the ability of Susan, we urge that you refer to *Getting Involved in the Political Process* by Susan Catt in the April 1991 issue of our Newsletter. She has worked closely with PEC president John Finucane.

Please don't forget to purchase the Raffle Tickets you received with your last Newsletter. We depend on your support to continue the important work we do!

FROM THE EDITOR

The British government must stop playing games with Irish lives. Talks between Loyalist politicians who hold the power and powerless Irish nationalist politicians will never produce a just solution for Northern Ireland's deprived nationalist community. Only total equality across the board will do that. The nationalists are entitled to nothing less than total equality.

It is easy for the British government to shift the responsibility for a proper solution to the hands of politicians. Such an approach makes the British government look good in the eyes of the public but it will not produce a just and lasting solution.

The responsibility for a fair and just solution in Northern Ireland lies in the hands of the British government and not in the hands of bigoted Loyalist power-brokers. These individuals are not going to give up their power and privilege.

Imagine what would have happened during America's civil rights struggle if President Johnson had insisted that American blacks and the Ku Klux Klan meet and come up with a solution? The American civil rights struggle would still be going on.

It is time for the British government to stop playing games! They must enforce existing laws and formulate the legislation necessary to guarantee equality for all citizens of Northern Ireland.

Those who violate the law must be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. The vast majority of law abiding Loyalists are not going to violate the law. Have they not repeatedly expressed their support for law and order? Only the fanatics, small in number, will react violently, just as they have been brutally violent over the past seventy years. Their support will quickly diminish when the British government decides to enforce the law.

ACTION REQUEST #2 -- Offensive Situations by Kevin P. Murphy, Massachusetts State Director

If anyone thinks that American Irish awareness is not growing as a result of the PEC's Offensive Situations Program, they should look at the following. A Fort Monmouth, New Jersey member wrote to the PEC about an offensive article by Mark J. Coyne of The Monmouth Message Newspaper. That paper serves the US Army community stationed at Fort Monmouth. In the article Mr. Coyne called St. Patrick "goffy" and alluded that all Irish people did was drink and act foolish. Usually we would print an address for members to send letters of protest. This time though, the American Irish at Fort Monmouth took a stand against this bigotry. The newspaper received scores of protest letters from American Irish service men and women. For weeks the Letters to the Editor section of the paper was flooded with American Irish outrage. This is what the PEC is working for, American Irish Awareness. Congratulations to the fine people of Fort Monmouth.

A Wisconsin member has informed us that a large Genealogy Service refuses to identify the Irish and Ireland as being non-British Colonial. The Service labels the Irish as British Isles citizens. This is a slight as anyone with an ounce of knowledge knows that Ireland is geographically and culturally very different than Britain. It is important for thinking American Irish to always help preserve the Irish-Gaelic identity that for centuries has been attacked and outlawed by the British Colonial regime that has caused so much atrocity, terror and misery to the Irish. Please write your letter to: Genealogy Unlimited, Inc., PO Box 537, Orem, Utah 84059-0537.

SEND ALL OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS TO: Kevin P. Murphy, PO Box 8895-JFK Station, Boston, Ma 02114.

The American Irish PEC

founded 1975

National President.....John J. Finucane
Vice-President.....Albert Doyle
Treasurer.....Loretta Fitzgibbons
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American Irish Newsletter

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STUDENT ORGANIZER: Sandy Carlson, AIPEC, Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980 - (914) 947-2726.

Supported in part by the Emerald Society, NYC Fire Department.

NEW PEC APPOINTMENTS

Susan Catt, Arizona State Director, has been appointed to the PEC National Executive Board as Executive Director for the Western States, a newly created position. Susan can be contacted at 2292 North Ironwood #110, Apache Junction, Arizona 85220 or call (602) 982-0370. See The PEC To Organize In The West on page 1 for an explanation of Susan's position.

Dr. John T. Giesen has been appointed Idaho State Director. John can be reached at 1107 Ironwood Drive, Coeur D'Alene, Idaho 83814 or call (208) 667-7459.

Nancy Love has been appointed Wisconsin State Director. Nancy can be reached at 804 Riverwalk Drive, #209, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188 or call (414) 542-4767. Nancy is also a member of the Executive Board of the Wisconsin Chapter of Educators for Social Responsibility and Midwest Coordinator for the National Education Association (NEA) Peace and Justice Caucus.

We urge all members residing in the home states of the above new officers to contact them and to offer to assist them.

## A DIFFERENT LOOK AT THE IRA

Mainstream American press draws an unfavorable picture of the IRA, reporting only the negative incidents and mistakes connected to their war effort in Northern Ireland. However, the October 1991 issue of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine (on stands September 3) will offer an article, written by Scott S. Smith and entitled: *Inside the IRA: Behind the Emerald Curtain*, which will offer an alternative look at the IRA. The article brings out the overlooked aspects of the organization which make it the most respected among counter-terrorist groups.

One of Smith's main focuses is the makeup of IRA personnel. He writes that the typical IRA member has grown up harassed and "tortured both physically and psychologically according to the British army's own doctors." As a member one must follow the rules of the Green Book, an IRA guide book which advocates living a noble life, prohibits drinking and discussing IRA business with non-members. Socializing is minimal and members typically get to see their families only once or twice a year. Though so strict, the IRA has a "long waiting list," writes Smith, of people eager to join the 500-person military body that engages the 30,000 strong pack of British troops. Even British officials admit that the political wing of the IRA, Sinn Fein, gets great people support, approximately 40% of the Northern Catholic vote and support of 20% of the Irish Republic's population.

Another point Smith makes, which will come as a revelation to those fond of the attitude of the mainstream press, is that the IRA is a "guerrilla organization and not 'terror-

ist' (defined as intentionally targeting noncombatants)." Smith supports this claim by the fact that the IRA "gives warnings when civilians may be endangered." Up to 80% of IRA operations "have been abandoned because of danger to non-targets (25% of IRA victims have been noncombatants, as compared with 55% for British forces and 90% for loyalist paramilitaries)." Often the British will not respond to IRA warnings and not try to prevent attacks. Thus, one person was killed at London's Victoria Station because the British decided not to heed an IRA warning so as not to "panic commuters over what they thought may have been a hoax." Ironically, Britain has demonstrated further concern for saving the lives of noncombatants "by building barracks in the midst of civilian housing, using locals as human shields."

Likewise, Smith is quick to inform that the propaganda press has also falsely labeled the IRA as indiscriminate killers who engage in "random tit-for-tat killings of ordinary Protestants in retaliation for loyalist attacks on Catholics." In contrast, this is wholly untrue, as is evidenced by the ethics and actual actions of the military body.

The press distorts reporting, leaves important items out and also purposely fails to cover stories demonstrating positive aspects of the IRA. The purpose of the press is to give a negative picture of the IRA in order to get people to support the British "effort" in Northern Ireland, and to strip the IRA of its identity as a grass roots defender of the homeland.

Clearly, Smith's article should be read by all Americans interested in fair representation of events in the press.

### NEWS BITS continued from page 1

signatores of the MacBride Principles for Fair Employment in Northern Ireland, was one of those chosen. (Andersonstown News 6/13/91)....The SDLP was prepared to go along with a further suspension of the Anglo-Irish Conference after the meeting scheduled for July 16. (Cork Examiner 7/8/91)..Another cave-in to the Unionists in order to keep the talks going and therefore keep the SDLP's high profile as the only nationalist party involved in the talks.

Confirming that nothing of substance will change following today's announcement that the UDR will merge with the Royal Irish Rangers and become known as the Royal Irish Regiment, the commander of the Ulster Defence Regiment [UDR], Major General Humphrey Bredon confirmed: "We will have a new name but we will still do the jobs that have to be done"....Sinn Fein president and MP for West Belfast, Gerry Adams, said the announcement will not alter the sectarian nature of the UDR. The nationalist community has already gone down that road once before and we will not be fooled again. In 1960, the demand for the scrapping of the B Specials led instead to its reformation as the UDR -- better trained and armed but still a loyalist force ready to defend loyalist and British interests. As in 1960, any merger will be little more than a cosmetic and PR exercise by Britain as it vainly tries to reduce criticism of its military role in Ireland. (Sinn Fein Press Center 6/23/91)

A report drawn up by the Department of Education in Dublin revealed that children educated in Irish language primary schools in the 26 counties scored way ahead of their counterparts in English medium schools in every subject. (Andersonstown News 7/13/91)....Saturation policing of strongly

### THE REPRODUCE & DISTRIBUTE PROGRAM

The *Reproduce & Distribute* articles in the Newsletter are to be used for educating the public -- not just the American Irish.

We ask you to reproduce and distribute these articles. You can set up an information table wherever people gather, whether it be an Irish festival, concert or dance or a function where the general public gathers. You can post the material in colleges. You can mail them directly to influential people in your community (clergy, news media, politicians, journalists, etc.).

We also urge you to encourage all family members to read the Newsletter. You can also pass it on to friends, relatives, etc. being sure that they return it to you. This should be done after you make copies of the *Reproduce & Distribute* articles. Not only will you be educating people, but you will also help recruit new members for the PEC. Remember! Every new member is a potential letter writer and educator.

You can be certain that the vast majority of Americans, including the American Irish, are not aware of the information provided in the *Reproduce & Distribute* articles. As a matter of fact, the vast majority of Americans know very little about human rights abuses in Northern Ireland. Be certain also that many Americans will be receptive to the information.

Please save all your Newsletter issues. You may be called upon for information that is readily available in the Newsletter.

Irish areas in the wake of the Brixton Prison escapes is being condemned by the Repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act Campaign. Members complain that the London-Irish community is being held responsible for the break-out. (Irish Post 7/13/91)

## WILLIAM MULHOLLAND: THE CHIEF

by Roger McGrath Ph.D., Thousand Oaks, California

The population of Los Angeles, like that of ancient Rome, depends on the importation of water from afar. The Los Angeles Aqueduct, some 250 miles of pipelines, canals, tunnels, and reservoirs, has made Los Angeles an oasis in a near-desert region and enabled the city to grow from a small, dusty Mexican pueblo to a city of millions. The engineer who designed and built the aqueduct was an Irishman, William Mulholland.

Mulholland was born in Belfast in 1855, but moved with his family to Dublin when still a toddler. At 15 he shipped before the mast. On his first trip across the Atlantic the ship's captain, impressed with the boy's intelligence and interest in navigation, allowed young Mulholland to plot the course of the ship. On arrival in New York the boy was less than 50 miles off. For the next four years he sailed the high seas. Although he left his life as a sailor in 1874, he never lost his love for ships or the sea. Until the day he died, whenever he had an opportunity to take a drive, somehow he would wind up at the Los Angeles harbor.

During the mid-1870s Mulholland worked at a number of odd jobs while bumming his way around America. He worked on barges on the Great Lakes, in lumber camps in Michigan, at an uncle's drygoods store in Pennsylvania and with a tinker who drove his wagon about the country sharpening scissors and repairing clocks. Mulholland later confessed that he loved the tinker's gypsy life and had to force himself to give it up.

At 21, after reading Charles Nordhoff's *California For Health, Pleasure and Residence*, Mulholland was off to see the golden state for himself. He sailed from New York to Panama and then he walked 47 miles across the Isthmus to save the \$25 railroad fare. He then got himself hired as a crew-member on a ship bound for San Francisco. After a few days in the city by the bay he set out for Los Angeles on horseback. A leisurely trip through the San Joaquin Valley and over the Tehachapi Mountains brought Mulholland to Los Angeles, then a town with fewer than 5,000 residents. He immediately fell in love with the climate and countryside, the vineyards and citrus groves and the small willow-banked river that meandered through the town. He decided he would make Los Angeles his home.

Mulholland's first work in Los Angeles was boring artesian wells with a hand drill. In 1878 he got a job with the Los Angeles City Water Company as a *zanjero* or ditch tender. One day as Mulholland was shoveling debris out of the main ditch the water company president, William Perry, happened by and stopped to watch Mulholland and the other men with him at work. Greatly impressed by the progress Mulholland was making and wondering to himself who was this big, strapping new worker, Perry called to Mulholland in "a rather peremptory way," and asked him his name and what he was doing. Mulholland, not knowing Perry from Adam, fired back, "It's none of your God damn business."

As Perry rode off, other workers ran to Mulholland and informed him that he had been speaking to William Perry, the company president. Mulholland dropped his shovel and raced to the company office, hoping to draw his pay and quit before he could be fired. Too late. Perry had got there first. Instead of firing the tough, young Irishman, though, Perry promoted him to foreman.

Mulholland had a gift for leadership and was quick to learn. At night he studied books on mathematics, geology, civil engineering and hydraulics. By 1886 he had risen to superin-

tendent of the company. In 1902, when the water company was absorbed by the City of Los Angeles, Mulholland became Chief City Engineer. Under his leadership some 4,000 miles of pipes were laid and 65 reservoirs and tanks were built.

By 1905, though, the Los Angeles River was tapped out and a new source of water was needed. In a buckboard drawn by a team of mules, Mulholland made a 500-mile-round trip to the Owens Valley on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada to investigate the possibility of building an aqueduct and tapping the Owens River. Acting on Mulholland's recommendation the citizens of Los Angeles voted a bond issue to build an aqueduct. Begun in 1909, Mulholland completed the aqueduct in 1913 within both his estimates of time and money. On the fifth of November a crowd of 40,000 gathered at the northern end of the San Fernando Valley to watch the opening of the aqueduct gates for the first time. As millions of gallons of water cascaded down a hillside canal Mulholland said, "There it is. Take it."

At the time the Los Angeles Aqueduct was the longest and largest aqueduct in the world. It was notable not only for its size but also for the engineering difficulties overcome in building it over mountains, through canyons and across deserts.

Mulholland continued as "The Chief" of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power until 1928. During his 50 years of service Los Angeles grew from a town of 5,000 to a city of 1,300,000. Mulholland had added to the population himself. He and his wife, the former Lillie Ferguson, had five children.

The Chief was known for his "keen Irish wit," phenomenal memory, decisive leadership and absolute honesty. When, in 1928, an aqueduct dam collapsed and water flooded the Santa Clara Valley bringing death and destruction, Mulholland refused to share the blame and accepted full responsibility. "Don't blame anybody else," said Mulholland, "you just fasten it on me. If there is an error of human judgement, I was the human." The *Los Angeles Times*, commenting on the disaster, said of Mulholland: "In all his career of handling great projects he is facing the first disaster to any of his achievements. For his Irish heart is kind, tender, sympathetic, and the tragedy for the people in the Santa Clara Valley is the tragedy of William Mulholland."

After his retirement as Chief Engineer of the Department of Water and Power, Mulholland continued to serve Los Angeles as a consultant. He also served as a consulting engineer for several other California cities and for Seattle, Washington. His services were always in great demand. He was often called to testify in court as an expert witness. His keen wit was on display one day when an attorney sought to embarrass him during cross-examination. Knowing that Mulholland had no formal training in engineering and was entirely self-educated, the attorney asked, "Will you please tell us what preparation you had when you started out in the world on your own account?" With "an Irish twinkle" in his eye Mulholland responded, "I learned the Ten Commandments and had me mother's blessing."

### JOE DOHERTY MOVED

As we go to press we have learned that Joe Doherty has been transferred to a federal penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. According to Associated Press the transfer was at Joe's request.

The US Supreme Court will hear arguments October 16 on Joe Doherty's case.

## RISE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

by Stephanie Finucane

During the 1960s Irish people of all ranks, "ranging from student radicals to middle class professionals and the unemployed" took part in the call for social and political reform in Northern Ireland (McCormack, V. and O'Hara, J. *Enduring Inequality: Religious Discrimination Employment in Northern Ireland*). Major grievances included sectarian discrimination in jobs and housing, lack of voting power, the notorious Special Powers Act, as well as the abuses of the RUC and the B Specials.

At the start of the decade, the first steps taken in forming the civil rights movement occurred in Dungannon, County Tyrone, with the January 1964 establishment of the Campaign for Social Justice (CSJ). The goals of the CSJ were to document cases of injustice and discrimination (Jeffery, K. ed. *Northern Ireland: The Divided Province*).

The CSJ emerged when traditional parties representing Catholic opinion were dying out, such as the Nationalist Party, a conservative party led by the clergy and the rural Catholic middle class. Unfortunately, this party accepted the status quo and had not fought for reform anyway.

Thus, the CSJ quickly found its niche among the unrepresented nationalists. This community was so ripe for civil rights activity that the IRA even demilitarized itself in order to focus all attention on these efforts for reform.

Although the then Northern Ireland Prime Minister Terrence O'Neill (1960-1969) had already made promises for reform to the Nationalists - enough to scare hardline Unionists who considered him too liberal - in practice, O'Neill did nothing to change the status quo.

Likewise, the Unionist Government at Stormont, entirely comprised of Loyalists, did not try to appease civil rights activists, but, instead, "set their face against reforms and used the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) and the B Specials to break up meetings and demonstrations," states Paul Hill of the Guildford Four in his book *Stolen Years: Before and After Guildford* (Hill, P. and Bennett, R.). Hill recalls such government use of the RUC vividly. For example, he comments on the general election year of 1964 when Sinn Fein set up headquarters on Divis Street in Belfast and put a Republican Tricolor up in the window, which defied the Flags and Emblems Act. Loyalist agitator Ian Paisley complained to the Unionist government and threatened to lead a march to the store front and remove the flag himself. In response, the government ordered the RUC to remove the flag, while the Minister of Home Affairs persuaded Paisley to call off his march and settle for a rally at City Hall instead (Farrell, M. *Northern Ireland: The Orange State*).

As the RUC carried out operation flag removal, they met with several civil rights supporters who had gathered to resist Paisley. The RUC took the opportunity to smash in the window with pick axes and grab the flag "after some tussle with members of the crowd... as they did so, all bedlam broke loose... The RUC, supported by an armored car, baton-charged the people and turned the water-cannon on them" (Farrell). The following night, the rioting continued and the RUC made several baton charges. Another Tricolor flag was put in the window. The next night 350 RUC decked out in military helmets and supported by armored cars went into the Falls.

As a result, 50 civilians had to be hospitalized. Even in Dublin the people were up in arms over the blatant sectarian nature of the RUC offensive. Writes author Michael Farrell, a thousand demonstrators "marched on the British Embassy and stoned the Gardai surrounding it."

In protest of O'Neill's "soft politics," the Unionist government

*Reproduce & Distribute*

teamed up with Paisley, an adamant denouncer of "O'Neillism." Paisley's "extremely sectarian Loyalism" reassured hardline Unionists who felt threatened by O'Neill's "attentions" to nationalist concerns and promised "a continuation of Protestant supremacy." By 1964 Paisley was already a known public figure due to his association with the 1956 "kidnapping and prostelytising" of a 15 year old Catholic girl, Maura Lyons, his outspoken distaste for liberal Protestants and for having been arrested in Rome for protesting the opening of the Vatican Council in 1962 (Farrell).

Using his political clout, Paisley coerced the government to mobilize the B-Specials in 1966 for a month and ban trains arriving from the Republic of Ireland for commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the 1916 Rising. Overall, Paisley served to direct Unionist hostility towards Nationalists and is responsible for much of the attacks made on the Nationalist community. For example, when Paisley was jailed for three months in mid 1966, his followers reacted by rioting not only outside the prison and fighting with the RUC, but by also attacking Catholic shops, schools and homes. In the months preceding Paisley's imprisonment, several nationalists were miscellaneously killed by members of what unfolded to be the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), a small group of Paisley supporters.

Modeled after the UVF of the 1912-1922 period, the UVF were "virulently anti-Catholic and attacked Catholic homes and Catholic civilians" (Farrell). Among those killed during this period were an 18 year old Catholic, Peter Ward as he left work one night at a bar on Malvern Street, the Protestant Shankhill area of Belfast, and 28 year-old John Patrick Scullion who was killed by the UVF because they couldn't locate the man they originally planned to assassinate, republican activist Leo Martin.

Although he had many times refused to do so in the past, O'Neill finally put a ban on the UVF in response to the killings. Yet, still O'Neill had not responded to the civil rights demands so on January 29, 1967 the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) formed. They sought to attain for Northern Ireland the same political and social freedoms that the rest of the UK enjoyed. NICRA took civil rights action one step beyond CSJ and organized non-violent political action since the authorities were not responding to CSJ's vocalization of reform demands. Besides the termination of the Special Powers Act and the B-Specials, and the fair distribution of housing, NICRA called for the abolition of the rate payer's voting privilege (which granted businessmen, primarily Protestant, more than one vote), the proper drawing of electoral districts and the creation of a public body that would respond to public grievances and prevent sectarian discrimination.

Unfortunately, NICRA's peaceful approach was met with increased government hostility and authorized use of RUC brutality, all later documented in government inquiries like the Cameron Report and the Hunt Report which both investigated and confirmed police misconduct at NICRA's demonstrations and marches. Not surprisingly, each report recommended the termination of the RUC.

### JOIN OR SUPPORT

The American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC).  
For information write: Fairgrounds Plaza, 18 Route 9W,  
West Haverstraw, NY 10993 or call 800 777-6807.

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## DEMOCRACY HAS A THORN IN ITS SIDE

by Ned A. Delaney, *Indiana State Director*

*(Reprinted from Journal and Courier)*

According to Webster, an illusion is defined as something that "deceives by producing a false impression." For the magician the effect is generally pleasing and harmless, but for the politician, the effect is frequently hostile and harmful.

In today's world of democratic reform, it is becoming ever so apparent that Western democracy has a thorn in its side.

News media reference to the proposed talks among political parties in Northern Ireland is just such an illusion. These talks have been revealed to include the loyalist, or pro-British, Official Unionist Party and the Democratic Unionist Party, the nationalist Social Democratic Labor Party, and the Alliance Party. No place has been made for Sinn Fein, the political voice of Irish Republicanism. The exclusion of Sinn Fein is equivalent to the removal of the African National Congress from talks in South Africa. But, of course, Northern Ireland is not South Africa, and Britain cannot give what it does not possess - a true democracy.

While it is generally understood that unionists in Ireland do not accept the basic concepts of democracy - government by the people or universal representation - Britain is, in fact, a pre-democratic society. The right of the people to elect a sovereign parliament and government has never been recognized by the British political system. Political power lies within the Privy Council, a private council to which appointments are made by the monarchy and to which members are oath-bound never to reveal, even to Parliament, what has been discussed or decided.

BRITAIN IS THE ONLY member of the European community which allows unelected aristocratic landowners to participate in the lawmaking process based solely on their economic status. Only Britain possesses a state church with state-appointed bishops. It neither possesses a written constitution, nor a bill of rights.

Though Britain is not effectively an anti-democratic state, its system complicates the potential for democratic reform. Efforts to restructure the relationship of the monarchy to the aristocratic House of Lords fell short in 1968. Royal sovereignty has not been effectively challenged since, though there are now signs of a populace movement toward some kind of reform.

The existence of this pre-democratic state creates the very dilemma of effectively dealing with the problem of Northern Ireland. Fair employment legislation for Catholics can be passed, but its administration and implementation cannot be enforced

### FROM THE NORTH

*(The following information is excerpted from the monthly Just News published by the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ), of the Northern Ireland Civil Liberties Council in Belfast.)*

Six [British] soldiers appeared in court in Belfast to face charges in relation to the killing of teenage joy-riders Karen Reilly and Martin Peake which took place in September of last year. The soldiers have been charged with a variety of offenses including murder, attempted murder and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. *(Ed. Note: This is an unusual move by British authorities. Rarely are British forces arrested for murder in Northern Ireland even though they are alleged to have murdered almost 200 innocent civilians. Only one British soldier has been convicted of murder. He was released after serving only two years and was then returned to his Army unit.)*

...After the shooting [to death of Fergus Caraher and the wounding of Michael Caraher by British soldiers], the brothers' father, Peter John Caraher tried to get through to the scene. He testified that he was stopped by army officers who stuck a gun at

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because to do so would destroy the power of the secret societies. The status of the Protestant working population depends on the jobs which the patronage of the Orangemen and Masons, etc. creates - a bastion of the state. Affirmative action legislation is attacked for harboring quotas and reverse discrimination, and the MacBride Principles are opposed because they require outside monitoring of employment practices.

Sound familiar? Recent domestic civil rights legislation has similar opposition from Conservatives.

THE QUEEN'S RECENT TRIP to the United States and elsewhere about her realm was no sight-seeing venture. Within recent months, the monarch has been criticized by the Helsinki Committee on Human Rights, the European Court on Human Rights, the UN Committee on Human Rights, and, most, recently, Amnesty International for its behavior in Northern Ireland.

The trip had the express purpose of reassuring bastions of support. The monarchy is in trouble, and, to counter, it had to become visible.

It is estimated that Britain invests in the neighborhood of \$125 billion in the United States annually. To assume that this money is without strings is naive. One is not knighted because of friendship with the Prime Minister, it is for "services rendered."

Much is made of the recent sand war, but what of those who gave their lives during the American Revolution so that we might experience our democracy? Who burned Washington and is now out to buy it off? Democracy "of the people, by the people, and for the people" - is it only an illusion?

the back of his head. One of the soldiers told the one with the gun to keep it at that "f-----s head and if he moved blow him to f--k." A shopkeeper was at the door of her shop nearby. The soldier screamed at her to get inside, but she remained and watched. They finally told Peter John Caraher to turn his car around and get out of there. The shop owner backed up this account with her testimony...**June 10** The father of Fergal Caraher...claimed that another son was "viciously assaulted" by soldiers at their home...**Employment pressure group** Obair claimed that the [Industrial Development Board] IDB was politically bigoted, and failed to promote nationalist areas to American multi-national investors...**June 2** The [Irish] Republic's Attorney General, John Murray, told the British Attorney General Sir Patrick Mayhew that Dessie Ellis must be prosecuted on the original extradition charges or be released...**June 21**...The trial of Dessie Ellis was set to go ahead after an Old Bailey judge rejected a defence claim that the charges were unsound...**June 29** A west Belfast man Ciaran Docherty claimed he was beaten at Castlereagh holding center after refusing to become a police informer...**Fermanagh priest** Joe McVeigh issued a high court writ claiming damages for alleged harassment by the security forces.

**THE RIGHT TO MARCH**

by Sandy Carlson, *Reporting from Ireland*

The West Belfast-based Right to March group completed the first successful nationalist march to Belfast city hall in the city center on July 29, 1991.

The Right to March group was formed after the RUC twice prevented the Women Against Oppression from marching to the city center earlier this year. (The group plans to apply for a judicial review of police decisions refusing permission for these and one other march.)

This march came after the June 3 city hall fracas which ensued after a Right to March protest after a council meeting. At that meeting DUP councillor Nigel Dodds (Loyalist) jumped up at a banner and tried to tear it down, and DUP councillor Sammy Wilson threw a banner down and trampled it. Meanwhile, DUP councillor Rhonda Paisley entered the public gallery and shouted at the protestors. In spite of this DUP-instigated chaos, and in spite of the fact that the council meeting was over, SDLP councillor Mary Muldoon said that the action of the protestors had denied the elected councillors their right to speak. Muldoon and an Alliance Party councillor condemned the Right to March group's method of protest, although they were the victims of the DUP attack. According to Sinn Fein, the RUC used unreasonable force against the protestors and assaulted some of them.

Ironically, Sammy Wilson, who had refused to sign some people into the hall because he recognized them as "Sinn Fein people" said, "If you let these people loose on the centre of town, they would wreck that as well."

However, the violent DUP antagonists did not organize a counter-demonstration on July 29, as they had threatened. The

500 peaceful demonstrators marched past an audience of almost as many RUC, who were heavily armed for the occasion. At the Donegal Pass (off the Ormeau Road), a group of loyalist hurled bottles, rocks, and bricks over the wall toward the demonstrators. Several RUC officers stood below the wall as the missiles flew over their heads. The RUC made no effort to stop these loyalist acts of violence against nationalist people -- except that one officer turned to a boy on the wall and shook his finger at him.

As the demonstrators filed into town, a lone loyalist woman with a small square union jack dashed across the road in a meager, almost unnoticed, protest.

When the group assembled in front of city hall, the RUC looked on while Sinn Fein councillor Sean McKnight said he was glad the RUC did not have to use minimum force against the loyalists who were hurling missiles at the demonstrators. He said he was glad the RUC were not forced to fire plastic bullet rounds at the loyalists. The audience was reminded of Sammy Wilson and Nigel Dodd's vow that nationalists would never be permitted to march to city hall. The assembly ended with the Irish national anthem played before the Irish tricolor and Irish province flags before city hall. The RUC watched silently.

Some 200 of the demonstrators who had to return to the Ormeau Road were again attacked by loyalists, who again hurled rocks and bottles at the nationalists. However, that the nationalist people were not provided police protection from this loyalist violence indicates that the dogged march toward human and civil rights is far from over.

(Ed. Note: Sandy Carlson participated in the historic march as a representative of the American Irish PEC.)

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by Kay Lee, Rohnert Park, California

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Address & Date

Dear Mr. Rush:

Please provide fair and accurate news reporting on Northern Ireland. You cannot depend on mainstream sources such as BBC, Associated Press, and Reuters for accuracy and fairness. Please use alternative sources such as Rev. Des Wilson of Belfast (phone # 011 44 232 326722) and those suggested by the Celtic Network.

Sincerely,  
signature

*(Ed. Note: The family of Kay Lee, a descendant of Ulster Protestants, lived in County Antrim in the 1400's, came to America from Somerset, England with Walter Raleigh in the 1600's and migrated south to live in Mobile, Alabama.)*

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