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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 15, Number 7

July 1990

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON IRELAND -- AUGUST 9-11, 1990

Plans are well underway for the *International Conference On Ireland* to be held in the Europa Hotel in Belfast.

The Conference, sponsored by the Springhill Community House, Ltd., and directed by civil rights activist Rev. Des Wilson, has been organized to discuss the future of Ireland. It is assumed that the British government, having failed to create a democracy in Ireland, must be replaced by structures of government which will ensure that Ireland is democratically governed and able to take its proper place in the world.

Topics to be discussed will include: *Britain Can Withdraw Peacefully; Independence and Constitutional Government for the Post-Colonial State; Economic Re-structuring of Post-Colonial Ireland; Human Rights - The Foundation of Democracy; and Human Dignity in a Multi-Denominational Ireland.*

Speakers from a number of countries will include: Bjorn Cato Funnemark, Chairperson, *The Helsinki Committee on Human Rights*; Liz Curtis, author of *Ireland - The Propaganda War*; Naomi Wayne, co-author of *Northern Ireland - The Political Economy of Conflict*; Ira Glaser, *American Civil Liberties Union*; Raymond Grotty, author of *Ireland in Crisis*; Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, civil rights activist; and Rev. Des Wilson, director of *Conway Mill*. Each address will be discussed.

Representing the PEC will be Ned Delaney, Indiana State Director; Sandy Carlson, Student Coordinator; Pete Foley, National Organizer and Kathy Young, Political Consultant.

If you would like to attend this historic conference, you can obtain applications through the PEC. **Please act now, for we are near our registration deadline of June 29.** Representatives of organizations from many countries will be attending.

NEWS BITS by Kathy Regan

Upon her release from prison where she spent 2 1/2 years, Martina Shanahan of the Winchester Three stated that British justice stinks. "Some sections of the British media have taken exception to her remarks-such ingratitude!...What is it about cases involving Irish people that makes so many presumably sane commentators lose their sense of logic? The London *Evening Standard* argues that the fact that the Court of Appeal freed the Winchester Three is proof that the system works. Much the same comments were made in the wake of the freeing of the Guildford Four. Individuals are wrongly accused, wrongly convicted, spend a good portion of their lives in prison, and then the public is expected to believe that all is well with the processes of law. (For years the British media were pointing the finger at the Soviets for adopting logic like this -- Soviet dissidents were vindicated after decades of incarceration and in some cases posthumously: the system worked!) There

URGENT APPEAL TO U.S. CONGRESS

What are you doing about the Administration's continuing efforts to subvert our system of justice in the case of Joe Doherty? Doherty recently began his eighth year of incarceration in an American prison without criminal charge, at the request of the British government. Isn't it time that you put aside your support of Britain and give priority to our system of justice? How can you support a system of Government that gave us the Diplock Courts, the Guildford Four, the Winchester Three and the Birmingham Six? **We urge all members of Congress to protest the Thornburgh decision; demand that the Administration accept the decisions of our courts and co-sponsor House Resolution 62, sponsored by Congressman Thomas Manton (in the House) and Senator Christopher Dodd (in the Senate).**

REQUESTED ACTION

In the August 1989 issue of the *American Irish Newsletter* we printed a list of the 68 members of the Ad Hoc Congressional Committee on Irish Affairs who did not co-sponsor HR 62. There still remain 37 members who have not signed on. Their names are listed below. If your representative has not signed on please contact (meet with or write to) him/her. Use following address: House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515:

Howard Berman (D-Calif)
David E Bonior (D-Mich)
*George E Brown, Jr (D-Calif)
*Beverly B Byron (D-Md)
Thomas R Carper (D-Del)
Silvio O Conte (R-Mass)
*Lawrence Coughlin (R-Penn)
Edward F Feighan (D-Ohio)
Barney Frank (D-Mass)
*Joseph M Gaydos (D-Penn)
*William H Gray III (D-Penn)
John J LaFalce (D-NY)
*Thomas Lantos (D-Calif)
*Edward E Madigan (R-ILL)
David O'B Martin (R-NY)
Matthew G Martinez (D-Calif)
*Joseph M McDade (R-Penn)
*George Miller (D-Calif)

Norman Y Mineta (D-Calif)
*Alan B Mollohan (D-WV)
*Sonny Montgomery (D-Miss)
Constance A Morella (R-Md)
*Austin J Murphy (D-Penn)
*John P Murtha, Jr (D-Penn)
*Mary Rose Okar (D-Ohio)
*Thomas Sawyer (D-Ohio)
Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo)
*Gerry Sikorski (D-Minn)
Christopher Smith (R-NJ)
*Stephen J Solarz (D-NY)
*Louis Stokes (D-Ohio)
*Allan Byron Swift (D-Wash)
*Robert Lindsay Thomas (D-Ga)
Doug Walgren (D-Penn)
*Pat Williams (D-Mont)
*Gus Yatron (D-Penn)

* Also have not co-sponsored *The Northern Ireland Fair Employment Practices Act (MacBride Principles) HR 725* introduced by Congressman Hamilton Fish.

is no reason why Martina Shanahan should be grateful to the British system. Had they (the Winchester Three) not been

Continued on page 5

MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES UPDATE

NEW YORK CITY -- Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman announced that Honeywell, Pitney Bowes and NYNEX have agreed to "make all lawful efforts to implement the fair employment standards embodied in the MacBride Principles and have agreed to independent monitoring which will be conducted by the *Investor Responsibility Research Center (IRRC)* of Washington, DC. Similar action was recently taken by Digital Equipment. This significant progress has been acknowledged as a positive first step by both Oliver Kearney, Executive Secretary of the Northern Ireland Fair Employment Trust, and by Bernadette Devlin McAliskey. "This progress is a tribute to the efforts of so many MacBride activists throughout the U.S. and a clear reason for all concerned to intensify their efforts" said John Finucane, National President of the American Irish PEC. Involved in the agreements were the states of Connecticut, Minnesota and New York, as well as Catholic and Protestant religious groups affiliated with the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility. **At the recent Irish American Labor**

Coalition Testimonial in NYC, Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman pledged her support for the MacBride Principles Campaign. **ARIZONA**-- Member Nancy Love informs us that on May 5 the *Arizona Education Association (AEA)* at its Annual Delegate Assembly approved a motion calling for an investigation into 19 U.S. corporations in which the Arizona State Retirement System invests to determine whether they violate the MacBride Principles. If violations are found, AEA will petition the State Retirement System to divest from companies in violation and invest in companies that comply with the MacBride Principles. The motion was overwhelmingly approved by the 841 members present. **COLORADO** -- PEC State Director Terry Deem Reilly represented the Comptroller of New York City at the *Ball Corporation* Shareholders Meeting in Boulder on April 24. As trustee of New York City's pension funds, the Comptroller's Office presented a Shareholder resolution calling on Ball to report to shareholders on its operations in Northern Ireland.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

All members are urged to write a letter to Congressman Thomas Foley, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. In your letter urge that he support and push for quick action on Congressman Bruce Morrison's Immigration Reform Bill HR 4300 and Congressman Hamilton Fish's Northern Ireland Fair Employment Practices Act HR 725 which deals with the MacBride Principles of Fair Employment for Northern Ireland.

The American Irish PEC

founded 1975

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NATIONAL MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES CONSULTANT: Tom O'Flaherty, RFD #6, Box 153, Laconia, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03246 - (603) 528-5733

LABOR LIASON: Kevin Garvey, IUOE Local 891, 560 West 169 Street New York, NEW YORK 10032-(212)281-7172.

NATIONAL ORGANIZER: Pete Foley, 3177 Villa Avenue #3H, Bronx, NEW YORK 10468-(212)933-7196.

STUDENT ORGANIZER: Sandy Carlson, 19 Pond Brook Road, Newtown, CONNECTICUT, 06470-(203)270-0497.

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

**JOIN OUR WEEKLY ACTION NETWORK
 USE THE PEC TELEPHONE HOTLINE
 (914) 429-7849**

FROM THE EDITOR

Now that the Guildford Four and the Winchester Three are free, we should concentrate our efforts on the cases of Joe Doherty and Birmingham Six and the ongoing MacBride Principles campaign. We need not look for new issues. Starting new campaigns will only dilute our limited resources and effectiveness and keep us heading off in different directions. This lack of direction is exactly what the British government wants.

We must get the issues of Doherty and the Birmingham Six behind us so that we can focus all our efforts on the issue of British colonialism and injustice in the north of Ireland.

Fortunately, such a united effort is already well underway through the MacBride Principles campaign. This campaign not only works to create fair employment opportunities for all in Northern Ireland, but it also serves to educate the American public, our legislators, and our corporate leaders of the injustices and wrongs perpetrated by the forces of British colonialism in Ireland. It is the most effective tool we have ever devised to gain support for Ireland's reunification. Another major benefit of the MacBride campaign is the resulting constantly growing body of skilled lobbyists within our ranks.

Through the MacBride Principles, we are forging a public awareness and understanding of the truth about Northern Ireland, exactly what decision makers have all along been sheltered from by the media and our government leaders.

FROM THE NORTH by Fr. Des Wilson, Belfast

In a rare confession of sin, a clergyman in Belfast recently said that the church--in this case Presbyterian--had not done enough to support the civil rights movement in Ireland in the sixties. He could have gone further and said the churches did not support the civil rights movement at all. *They opposed it!*

Civil rights marchers took to the streets in a peaceful movement which they believed would change the face of Northern Ireland politics. Some clergy joined them, most did not. Those who did took off their clerical collars before doing so.

Catholic churchmen warned their people not to be "led by the reds", a warning which, considering the policies and qualities of the civil rights leaders, was ludicrous indeed. Protestant clergy said the movement was aimed at destroying them, their state and their religious ethos.

In clerical circles the civil rights movement was very unpopular. Orders came down from Catholic church leaders to parish priests and curates not to allow civil rights speakers into church property to speak to the people. Church property was one of the few properties in those days in which you could do anything.

When the civil rights movement seemed likely to succeed in getting something done, the high clergy either left the matter to the police or set out to take over the movement. What had to be done at all costs, they thought, was stop the movement from creating new leaders who were not under proper control.

One has to understand the reasons. For Protestant clergy no threat to the state or its institutions was tolerable. Education, politics and a lot of welfare arrangements were in their hands; so were the secret societies. The whole apparatus--including the law in the 1920-21 settlement that in no circumstances could the rights and privileges of the masonic order be interfered with--had been constructed in such a way that the clergy believed that to remove one element from it would bring the whole edifice tumbling down. The Catholic clergy wanted state reform, but only by interaction between church leaders, along with approved politicians, and the government. Interference by groups not under clerical control was unwelcome. Catholic clergy controlled Catholic education and some welfare arrangements; they also controlled "Catholic" politics through the Nationalist party. For both sets of clergy the civil rights movement represented not just reform of the state, but restructuring the state institutions, which could dramatically curtail their powerful privileged positions with government. They oppose separation of state and church.

In 1968, the churchmen began a conscious and sustained effort to control all movements for change created by the people which continues today. In the early seventies the Ulster Defence Association called together their local clergy and told them that the days of their domination were over. But the days of clerical control are by no means over.

Because of all this, many people in Ireland listen with scepticism to churchmen pleading for non-violent methods to get political change. It is a nice idea. But too many of us remember precisely what happened every time we tried it. Every peaceful, non-military initiative begun by the people which seemed likely to bring about real change had been marginalized and sometimes destroyed, often with the help of the churches. *The Civil Rights movement was one of the first to fall.*

OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS - Action Request #2

by Kevin Murphy, PEC State Director from Massachusetts

All Offensive Situations should be sent to Kevin P. Murphy at P.O. Box 8895 J.F. Kennedy Station, Boston, MA 02114.

Our campaign against **Hallmark Card Company** and **Recycled Paper Products**, regarding their St. Patrick's Day greeting cards, has had mixed results. Reports from members indicate that **Hallmark** has made considerable progress, finding just a few cards to be offensive. The PEC has contacted Hallmark to thank them for their cooperation and has brought to their attention several cards that are in question.

Recycled Paper Products failed to cooperate. We must continue our efforts to induce a change in their attitude. The PEC wants to target the major chains (department stores, drug stores, card stores, etc.) who sell their products. Local mom & pop shops should be handled locally.

All members are asked to check the greeting card displays in stores that are a part of major chains to determine if they handle **Recycled's** products. When you locate these chains, determine the name and address of the president of the chain. **Forward these addresses to Kevin Murphy at the above address.** We will then ask our members to write to these people asking that they discontinue dealing with **Recycled Paper Products**. **If we persist, we will succeed!** Members Sue Hennessey and Shirley Pontenberg of California have remedied an offensive situation. They noticed at a shop in Walnut Creek, CA, T-shirts stating, "Instant Irishman, Just Add Booze". They contacted the store owner, Ron Courtney, who agreed to remove the offensive products. Members wishing to thank Mr. Ron Courtney can write to him at Shirtique, 1249 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

Upon notification by this writer and other Boston area members, Boston Radio Station WBCN apologized for telling offensive Irish jokes during a March morning show.

James Madden of New Hampshire writes to tell us of the April 7 segment of CBS television's "Tour of Duty", wherein a U.S. soldier with an Irish accent was depicted as drunken and ignorant. A similar incident was reported by Iowa member Michael Magee who informed us of the **CNN Headline News** of March 28, 1990, in which whiskey was depicted as a symbol of Ireland.

Barbara Cortinas of California wrote to tell of her observations of offensive products being produced by the **Applause Company** which depict the Irish as drunken and sub-human. Letters should be sent to **APPLAUSE, Inc.**, Woodland Hills, CA 91367.....Special thanks to Pennsylvania member Elizabeth Barry for her work in the Pittsburgh area.

Sadly, we report an offensive situation from St. Paul, Minnesota, as reported to us by Leah Curtin. An item in the March 11, 1990 parish bulletin of Maternity of Mary Catholic Church in St. Paul *Wearing Of The Green*, compared Irishmen to baboons. **Fr. John Donahue** of Maternity of Mary Church, who was responsible for the article being published, thought it was funny. God help him!

BECOME A LETTER WRITER -- MAKE YOUR OPINIONS COUNT! Write the Action Requests!

MICHAEL DAVITT

by Seamus Metress, University of Toledo

Michael Davitt was born in county Mayo in 1846, at the height of the potato failure and starvation. He was the son of a tenant farmer who was evicted in 1851 and thus exiled from Mayo to England. He spent his boyhood in Haslingden and by age nine he was working a 12-hour day in a cotton mill. At age 11 his arm was mangled in a machine and had to be amputated.

In 1865, when he was 19, he joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) which was organizing among the Irish in Britain, became an arms organizer and was arrested in 1870 and sentenced to Dartmoor Prison for 15 years. After much agitation in parliament by Isaac Butt, Charles Parnell and others, he was released in December, 1877. Upon release he rejoined the IRB and became part of the supreme council. He came home to a hero's welcome and spent several months traveling around Mayo. Here he found the tenants who had endured two bad harvests and were worried about the possibility of famine in 1877.

The prison had served to develop Davitt's self-discipline and critical thinking. In prison he read and studied the work of James Fintan Lalor. Under Lalor's influence, Davitt realized that the land issue was an instrument that could mobilize people to organize. He hated British landlordism and felt that the first step toward independence was crushing landlordism. In prison, Davitt also developed a passion for social justice. He also accepted religious diversity as a social fact and promoted the non-sectarian philosophy of Wolfe Tone.

Directly after release in 1877, Davitt travelled to America to enlist John Devoy of Clan Na Gael as an ally. Devoy was impressed and promised his support and cooperation including 1,000,000 pounds cash. Davitt returned from America with a new plan known as the New Departure Policy. The plan called for the Irish Parliamentary Party to keep agitating for home rule while the IRB and Clan Na Gael prepared for revolution. The plan called for radicalization of the peasantry with agitation for fair rent, fixity of tenure, tenants rights to sell their tenancy and abolition of the landlord system. By 1882, Parnell was to call for home rule. When the British refused, a revolt would be initiated. It would prove to be a powerful ideological force that, at least temporarily, would unite a number of divergent interests around the land issue.

In the spring of 1879 in Irishtown, county Mayo, Davitt had his first opportunity to organize. Fourteen tenant farmers received eviction notices from Canon Burke, a Catholic priest who was running an estate in trust for a dead brother. Davitt organized a public meeting for April 19 in Irishtown, and 8,000 people participated. The Canon withdrew the eviction orders and even reduced the rents 25%. This small victory put Davitt in command and his reputation spread rapidly so that on August 16, 1879, he was able to found the Mayo Land League. By October 21, 1879 he had established the National Land League which had branches in the United States.

The battle cry of the Land League was taken directly from James Fintan Lalor "The Land for the People". By this, Lalor and Davitt actually meant nationalization of land and only reluctantly did Davitt accept the idea of peasant proprietorship. He realized it was the only solution acceptable to Irish tenant farmers at this time. Thus his objective to totally destroy

PEC DELEGATION TO NORTHERN IRELAND

Traveling at their own expense, six members of the PEC national board have traveled to Ireland in June for a series of meetings with Catholic and Protestant community, political and religious leaders.

The delegation included John Finucane, Nat. Pres.; Brian McGrath, Public Relations Officer; Thomas O'Flaherty, MacBride Principles Consultant; Kathy Regan, NYS Director; Terry Deem Reilly, Colorado Director; and Kathy Young, Political Consultant.

This series of meetings represents the first time an organization such as the PEC met officially with members of both the Catholic and Protestant communities in Northern Ireland.

The meetings were arranged by Thomas O'Flaherty and Kevin Mulligan both of whom traveled to Ireland in April.

Complete coverage of the trip and meetings will appear in future issues of the *American Irish Newsletter*.

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the landlord class took precedence over his strong feelings for nationalization of resources. Davitt turned the leadership of the Land League over to Parnell, the leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party. He thus succeeded in combining the Fenian movement (IRB), the agrarian aspirations of the peasantry and the home rule movement to hasten change.

The period of massive resistance to landlordism between 1879-1882 was known as the Land War. It was a sort of social guerilla warfare largely funded with money from America. The leaders used the boycott and rent withholding to pressure landlords and then agents. The Land League virtually set up an alternative political system in rural Ireland outside of Ulster.

Davitt was arrested again in 1881 and spent 15 months in jail. He was released in May of 1882 under the so-called Kilmainham Treaty which he opposed because it called off the Land War. After this, his relationship with Parnell was not close, but he gave him great support for the Home Rule Bill of 1886.

Davitt's work destroyed much of landlordism when in 1881 the Land Act gave tenants the three F's, fair rent, fixity of tenure and free sale of tenancy. But it did not lead to peasant ownership. Davitt affected his country in other ways, as in: the reintroduction of a non-sectarian tone to Irish republican politics; the formation of the first women's political organization in Ireland, the Women's Land League; broadening of the democratic base of the Irish Parliamentary Party by introducing a branch organization similar to the Land League; and the inclusion of the working class in the leadership of the struggle.

Davitt was later elected to a number of terms in parliament but withdrew from politics in 1899. He became a journalist and published six books including *Leaves From a Prison Diary* (1884) and *The Fall of Feudalism in Ireland* (1904). He died on May 31, 1906 in Dublin and is buried in Straide, Mayo.

IRELAND: AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF NON-INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

by Kevin M. Harrison

The history of Ireland is a history of colonization, repression, famine, emigration, rebellion, and civil strife. These events had a direct impact on the fact that Ireland, unlike neighboring England, did not experience an industrial revolution.

England invaded Ireland in 1171, originally to settle an internal dispute. This led, however, to the colonization of Ireland for a number of reasons, including: 1) protection (if Ireland fell into the hands of one of England's enemies, she would be vulnerable to attack; in addition, her sea lanes would be cut off); and 2) profit (Ireland's limited minerals and resources left her open to foreign trade and made her a ready market for England's goods).

Tony Gray, in *The Irish Answer*, states that, except for coal, Ireland produced the same things as England. Fearful of growing Irish trade and commerce competing with her own, England adopted a protectionist policy. Successive laws were passed to check the growth of Irish industry. In 1637, the Navigation Act forbade Ireland to import or export goods to or from any of England's possessions unless the goods went through English ports. In 1663, the Act was amended. Goods now must only be shipped on English ships, manned by Englishmen, and cleared through English ports. In 1670, Ireland was forbidden from exporting anything to the American colonies (with a few exceptions--such as horses and servants) and forced to send imports through England.

Similar laws were enacted in the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries which forbade Irish exports to England or anywhere else. The results of these laws were far-reaching: Irish shipbuilding was wiped out, and Irish industries were destroyed. Cattle, sheep, woolens, salted provisions, silk weaving, tobacco, glass, fisheries, leather, cotton, sugar refining, soap and candle making were all suppressed. Ireland was left subordinate and dependent on England and became one of the poorest countries in Europe. England's markets were secure, and the Irish were forced to fall back on the only industry left--the land. As a result of this policy, there were no Irish industries to be revolutionized. This is the reason, according to Tony Gray, that the Industrial Revolution missed Ireland.

To maintain colonial control over Ireland, England instituted a series of plantations in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Lands confiscated from the native Irish were given to their conquerors in payment for services rendered: settlers came from England and Scotland, followed later by English soldiers. The result was that the Irish peasant became a tenant on his own land. The effectiveness of plantation can be seen in the following statistics: In 1641, Irish Catholics owned 58% of the land, in 1703 they owned 15%, and in 1778, 5%.

A policy of absenteeism came into effect. Landlords remained in England, their agents collected the rents, and the rents were sent to England. The Irish peasant, meanwhile, was generally given a short-term lease or was a tenant at will. He paid his rent in livestock, grain, or whatever else was produced on the land, and he subsisted on potatoes. The results of plantation and absenteeism were numerous: natives were landless, there was an outflow of capital and a loss of entrepreneurial skills, and there was no capital to invest. In addition, unskilled laborers no longer had an incentive to better themselves because improvements on land led

REPRODUCE AND DISTRIBUTE

to rent increases or termination of tenancy and to an increase in the tithe paid to the Protestant Church of Ireland. In fact, the only capital that an Irish peasant owned was a spade (according to Herbert Heaton in *Economic History of Europe*).

From 1689 through about 1760, numerous Penal Laws were enacted against the Irish. One of the objectives was to dissociate the Irish from Irish soil. For example, an Irish Catholic was forbidden to purchase or lease land, to accept a mortgage on land in security for a loan, to receive an education, or to engage in trade or commerce. These laws merely underscored the effect of plantation and absenteeism: no ownership of land, no incentive, no capital.

Ireland's population increased through the mid-nineteenth century from about four million in 1781 to seven million in 1821, to over eight million in 1841. This put a severe burden on the land which the Irish were dependent upon. As the demand for land increased, the size of the farms became smaller due to the division of the land; in 1841, one half of the holdings were five acres or less. Unemployment also increased, since there were no other industries to absorb the population increase. This drain on the land, coupled with the peasants paying rent with the crops and subsisting solely on potatoes, sowed the seeds for disaster, and disaster struck.

In 1845 through 1848, the potato crop failed, and the result was the Great Starvation. As corn, grain, and other crops continued to be exported to England, Irish people died. Between 1846 and 1851, it is estimated that one and a half million Irish people emigrated. Emigration between 1841 and 1863 is estimated between three and three and one half million. Thus, the population was decimated, never to rise again until 1960. Tony Gray asserts that, had the Industrial Revolution occurred in Ireland and planted factories there, the Irish peasants would have flocked to them. Instead, Irish laborers toiled in America, Canada, and Britain.

However, some historians suggest that the Great Starvation produced some positive results. Division of farms was halted, farms became more efficient, and unemployment decreased. Measured against the disastrous negative effects, the Irish paid an enormous price for efficiency and lower unemployment.

The adverse effects of colonization, plantation, absenteeism, penal laws, starvation, and emigration on Ireland's industrialization can be summed up according to the four factors of production: 1) Land--Irish peasants did not own land and were denied any incentive to make improvements; 2) Labor--Irish labor was unskilled, and since there was a loss of labor due to emigration, there was no move to urban areas; 3) Capital--the outflow of capital to England meant the Irish had no surplus capital to invest; 4) Entrepreneurship--the majority of Irish were uneducated (as a result of England's Penal Laws), and owners of land remained in England.

JOIN

The American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC).
For information call toll-free 800 777-6807 or write:
AIPEC, Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980.

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AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Journal Contract

**A Tribute To
Police Officer Steven McDonald & Dr. Frank Holt**

Dear Friend,

On Saturday, September 29, 1990 the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC) and the American Irish Awareness Committee will hold their 15th Anniversary Testimonial Dinner Dance. On this occasion, the PEC's *Outstanding American Award* will be presented to Dr. Frank Holt and New York City Police Officer Steven McDonald. Officer McDonald was paralyzed from the neck down after being shot in the line of duty in 1986. Dr. Holt is a well known community activist from New Jersey. This event will take place at Bishop's in Tappan, N.Y. (Rockland County, New York) starting at 8:00 p.m.

A JOURNAL is being published as a memento of this special occasion and in honor of the recipients of the PEC *Outstanding American Award*. If you, your organization, or business would like to sponsor an ad in the journal, simply fill out the advertising contract below and forward it along with your check. **Your support will be greatly appreciated.**

Respectfully,

John J. Finucane
National President

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News Bits continued from page 1

Irish, they probably would never have made a court appearance.” (Irish Post, 5/5/90)

“The British persisted in seeing Cardinal O’Fiaich as a narrow-minded nationalist. This was not the case. Richard Ingrams in *The Observer* wondered why a man who was fluent in several languages, who had partly been educated on the Continent and who had an enviable reputation as a popularizer of history based on sound academic roots, should be regarded in London as lacking in finesse and politically naive. In fact, Cardinal O’Fiaich saw the conflict in Ireland in a broader European context. His vision was of an Ireland freed of the shackles of a conflict played out hundreds of years ago and taking its place proudly in Europe. This vision rendered him impatient with unionism--not Protestantism--which he saw in its historical context. Essentially he was a man of peace despite attempts by sections of the British press to denigrate him.” (Irish Post, 5/19/90)

Cardinal O’Fiaich once stated, “I think what would be a good move in the North would be if Britain said: ‘Look we’re not going to stay here for all time. In the meanwhile, we’re going to try and break down any prejudices that have been inherited from the past between Protestant and Catholic, among the community in the North, between the North and the South in Ireland, and between Ireland and Britain.’” “Most people would find that a reasonable statement, but not the Dublin media. Day after day the newspapers devoted ten times more space to those denouncing him than was given to his original statement. No Dublin newspaper sought a quote from anybody who might have agreed with him or who might have suggested that his view was worthy of debate...He was to the Dublin establishment something akin to what Thomas A’Becket and Thomas More are perceived to have been in their respective times in England...The hate of the British media he could handle...but the Dublin press got to him. Since his death, the latter have devoted more than 30 pages to him--eulogies. Dublin politicians have vied with their praises and of course all state honors for the return of his remains. The hypocrites.” (Irish Post, 5/19/90)....Three-year old Paul Burns told a soldier to get out of his daddy’s garden. The British soldier then lifted the child by his arm, twisting it behind his back, and, lifting him by his twisted arm, threw him over a four-foot wall....Thirteen-year old Ben Campbell, a diabetic with a hole in his heart, went to the store for milk and was picked up for questioning. He was hit in the chest and face with rifle butts; he then passed out. His sister, acting as substitute mother for the family, saw this and reported it to the police. The police reported it through channels to the army. For the next two weeks, the sister’s door was kicked in by soldiers twice a night....During the Battle of Ballymurphy in the early 1970’s, a woman stopped a six-year-old on his way to stone British soldiers. She said she had been putting up with it for a month and she was not going to take it anymore. The child said, “Ma’am, we’ve been putting up with it for 800 years and we’re not going to take it any more.” (AIN-PEC)....

Quote of the day: Margaret Thatcher to the House of Commons and Chris Mullin, campaigner for the Birmingham Six, “The only thing that matters in a court of law is evidence.” (Irish Times, 3/30/90)

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE OUR 15TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER A SUCCESS

Members are requested to help sell journal ads for the PEC’s 15th Anniversary Testimonial Dinner Dance to be held on September 29, 1990 at Bishops of Tappan.

Our honored guests will be New York City Police Officer Steven McDonald and Dr. Frank Holt. Officer McDonald, an outspoken supporter of Joe Doherty, was paralyzed from the neck down after being gunned down in the line of duty in 1986. Dr. Holt, a long-time supporter of American Irish interests, is a well-known community activist in the state of New Jersey.

A journal ad application appears on the opposite page. We urge all to reproduce it. You can approach local businesses, organizations and interested individuals and groups. Your help with this effort will not only demonstrate support for our honored guests, but will also greatly assist the PEC in its work. We thank you for your support.

DONT FORGET TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS. Tickets are \$40 per person (\$400 per table of 10).

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ACTION REQUEST #1 by Albert Doyle, Vice President PEC

The campaign in support of Joe Doherty has made significant advances in terms of general public awareness over the past seven years. Media coverage has improved from virtually nil to substantial favorable print and television commentaries. In addition, many public and political figures have spoken out in support of Joe. It would appear that the shameful actions of our Justice and State Departments in acting as tools of imperial Thatcher policies is beginning to attract the attention of those concerned about the integrity of our system. One of the most recent statements of support came from Congressman Henry Hyde of Illinois, who astutely noted the unfair treatment of Joe in that the British refuse to once again attempt to extradite him -- because they fear the exposure of the truth in the public judicial hearings entailed in extradition proceeding--and are content to keep Joe in prison here despite no substantial charges against him in our country.

Two major political figures not heard from, US Senators Daniel Moynihan (NY) and Edward Kennedy (MA), are widely perceived by their fellow Senators and the Administration as spokespersons for the American Irish. The PEC recently asked all New York members to write to Senator Moynihan.; we now extend that request to our national membership. We also ask all to write Senator Kennedy.

Write a letter similar to our sample letter to both Hon. Daniel P. Moynihan, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 and Hon. Edward Kennedy at the same address.

PEC IRISH HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Sunday, August 26, 1990

Gates Open 10am - Close 7pm

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West Haverstraw, Rockland County, New York

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Dear Senator _____:

As a recognized leader of the American Irish, particularly in the eyes of your colleagues, it is important that you speak out in connection with the Joe Doherty case. Although many political leaders have done so, your inactivity has been damaging to the struggle for justice in Joe's case. Considering that he has not been charged with a crime in our country and has been held in prison for over seven years despite many court decisions in his favor, isn't it time for you to speak out against this disgrace to the integrity of our system?

Sincerely,

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