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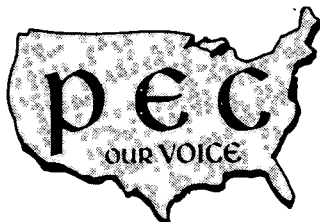
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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 15, Number 6

June 1990

NEWS BITS by Kathy Regan

Judge Brian Walsh, generally accepted by colleagues as the foremost figure in Irish jurisprudence for 25 years, with a preoccupation with the Constitution, participated in the recent decision not to extradite Irish people to British jurisdiction. He sees the Supreme court as the guardian of the Constitution and the protector of the individual. In his decision he wrote of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), "The PTA defines terrorism as the use of violence for political ends and includes the use of violence for putting the public in fear but does not create any offense of terrorism. It is a definition devoid of any legal basis in international law and is simply an ad hoc definition for the purpose of permitting the detention of persons who are suspected of such activity. It has restricted application in geographical terms in that it applies only to such activities which relate to Northern Ireland affairs and to countries outside Great Britain, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. It is not applicable to acts of political violence if perpetrated by Scottish or Welsh Nationalist extremists or English extremists such as the Angry Brigade if the activities relate only to the affairs of those respective areas. The law in this state (Ireland) has never accepted any such imprecise definition." (Irish Post, 3/24/90).....[There is] a widely-held belief [in the British media] that the Anglo-Irish Agreement was something which London conceded to Dublin. In truth, London needed the agreement more than Dublin did and values it more than Dublin does. Mrs. Thatcher appreciates this and remains very keen on the deal. As the British media see it, because of the agreement, London and Dublin are on the same side -- meaning Dublin should always do what London requires. That's as fallacious as expecting France to toe the British line simply because they are both signatories to the Treaty of Rome." (Irish Post, 3/24/90).....Shortly before Jim Clarke's extradition hearing, his fiance, Deirdre McKenna, appeared on a television show to publicize his case. The next day her boss told her that the company (Dublin-based Trade and Management Institute) was meeting with possible investors, some of them from the north, who might have seen the show and 'might not like it' but that her job was safe as she was 'one of the best workers he had'. After Jim Clarke was freed, she was called into her boss's office and told she was being terminated (Irish News, 3/13/90).....Vigils to highlight the case of the Birmingham Six were held at 50 British embassies, consulates and high commissions in Ireland, Canada, Central and South America, Africa, Australia and many U.S. cities. *Why was such a major event not reported by the U.S. media?* (AIPEC).....The Chairman of the Cavan County Council has asked for presentations to the British authorities for an end to long traffic delays at the Swanlinbar/Eniskillen British army checkpoint on the Cavan/Fermanagh

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PEC TO HONOR

Police Officer Steven McDonald & Dr. Frank Holt

We are privileged to announce that the 1990 recipients of the PEC's Outstanding American Award will be Hero Police Officer Steven McDonald, outspoken supporter of Joe Doherty, and Dr. Frank Holt, long-time promoter of American Irish interests and the Gaelic Societies. The awards will be presented on Saturday, September 29, 1990 at Bishops of Tappan. This occasion will also commemorate the 15th anniversary of the PEC.

We need the help of all members to make this special event a major success. Make your reservations now as we expect an early sell out. We also ask that you line up businesses, individuals, and organizations to take a journal ad (\$150 gold-page, \$100 full-page, \$60 half-page, \$40 quarter-page and \$25 eight-page). A journal ad contract for use by members will appear in the next newsletter. Testimonial tickets are \$40 per person (\$400 per table of ten).

RALLY FOR JOE DOHERTY

Saturday, June 16 at 1 PM

Thomas Paine Park

In New York City

Saturday, June 16 will begin his EIGHTH YEAR of imprisonment -- without criminal charges -- at the Metropolitan Correctional Facility in Manhattan.

A NATIONAL DISGRACE!

BE THERE!!! SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!!!

For information call (212) 796-1941

NEW PEC SUPPORT GROUPS FORMED

Three PEC Support Groups have formed in the Phoenix/Tucson region of Arizona, Worcester region of Massachusetts and Greene County region of New York. We urge all members in these areas to work with these groups in carrying out PEC programs. For information on these groups call: (Phoenix/Tucson area) Arizona (602) 983-6371, (Worcester area) Massachusetts (508) 755-4599 days (508) 852-7304 nights, and (Greene County) New York (518) 622-8324 or 622-8003.

MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES UPDATE

Governor **John R. McKernan** of Maine has become only the second U.S. governor to veto MacBride Principles fair employment legislation. In 1989, at the request of the British Government and the US State Department, Governor **George Deukmejian** of California vetoed a bill that was overwhelmingly passed in the state legislature. **Deukmejian**, who will retire in 1990, is seeking a Presidential Appointment as a federal judge.

The governor's controversial veto in April was overridden in the House by a vote of 104 to 38 which is a first. Unfortunately an override attempt in the Senate failed by only three votes.

Maine presently has a MacBride bill on the books which was initiated by PEC State Director Shannon Eaton and adopted in 1988. Legislators keenly aware of the situation in Northern Ireland and the fact that American companies were refusing to adopt these fair employment guidelines, decided to push a divestment bill. The bill was overwhelmingly passed in both the House and Senate. Governor McKernan vetoed the bill, also at the request of the British and State Department.

Gov. McKernan is up for reelection this year and will be challenged by former governor, Congressman **Joseph Brennan**, who supports the MacBride Principles and Joe Doherty.

According to Bob Carey, special assistant to House Speaker John Martin and a driving force behind this bill, "proponents of fair employment in Northern Ireland will be back next year with an even stronger MacBride Principles bill calling for **contract compliance.**" **COLORADO** -- State Director Terry Deem Reilly and member Mr. Thomas Burke advise us that the Colorado Council of Churches have voted to support the MacBride Principles and will promote legislation when it is reintroduced in 1991. **MISSOURI** -- The City of St. Louis has adopted a MacBride Principle ordinance. The ordinance was introduced by Alderman Daniel McGuire. Promotional materials for this success were supplied by the PEC. **Has your town or city council adopted the MacBride Principles?** If not, we have the necessary material available, including a sample MacBride resolution. Let us know when your ready to act!

The American Irish PEC

founded 1975

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

FROM THE EDITOR

*While aware of the suffering and denial of rights endured by the north's nationalist (pre-dominantly Catholic) community under British colonial rule, we are not generally aware of the concerns and fears of the north's loyalist (pre-dominantly Protestant) community -- who are also victims of British colonialism. Do they see us as enemies -- as people wanting to hurt them or to take what they have away from them? If so, the time has come for us to reach out to the Protestants, to learn more about their point of view and to develop an understanding. **The PEC are certainly not their enemies!***

*The objective of the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC) is not to hurt or take anything away from the Protestant community, but to reunite Ireland so that equal rights and equal opportunities are guaranteed to all. Such rights **cannot** exist in a colonial situation. Colonialism thrives on discrimination. We must make every effort to reach out to the Protestant community to assure them that we are interested in their concerns and that our purpose is to end the suffering endured by all.*

*The PEC took the first step in July, 1989, when National President John Finucane visited Northern Ireland. In a statement carried in Northern Ireland's **Newsletter and Irish News**, Mr. Finucane declared that he was in the north to meet with Protestants and Catholics to hear from them first hand so as to understand their views more clearly. He stated that the American news media gave only the position of the British Government. Finucane also went on to state that if and when Ireland is reunited, if the rights of the Protestants ever came to be violated, the PEC would be the first to step in to defend their rights. In the fall of 1989 Tom O'Flaherty, PEC National MacBride Principles Consultant, traveled to the north and further pursued these efforts.*

The PEC is prepared to again visit Northern Ireland to meet with different interested groups for the purpose of increasing that understanding and beginning a much-needed dialogue.

We look forward to the day when we can put all of our energies into promoting a just and prosperous United Ireland in which all people enjoy equal rights.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AMERICAN IRISH

by Noel Murphy - *Mr. Murphy is serving a prison sentence in a US Federal prison in Alabama for conspiring to export weapons to Ireland.*

In 1875, twenty Irish miners, known as the "Molly Maguires", were executed in Pennsylvania, after trials in which American Irish were excluded from the juries.

One hundred and eleven years later, in Boston, American Irish were removed from the jury at the 1986 trial of two Irishmen charged with activities in support of Irish freedom.

If you are an American of Irish descent who votes, pays taxes and lives a law-abiding existence, the government will bar you from performing a civic duty guaranteed you by the Constitution and laws of the United States. Specifically, the right to be a juror in a case involving defendants of Irish descent, not because you may be unfit to serve but simply because of your ancestry.

The writer is one such defendant. He was convicted by a jury in Boston from which American Irish were removed by the government.

The writer Noel Murphy has been fighting his case for four years. Because the trial judge has refused to make available the record of jury selection which contains irrefutable proof of the violation of his rights and the rights of the excluded jurors and because the government is not proceeding in good faith, his case is at a standstill.

The trial judge who presided over the trial in October 1986 was Judge A. David Mazzone. The defendants were two Irish Nationalists on trial for conspiring with agents of the US government to export articles of defense supplied by the US government to Ireland on a plane made available by agents of the US government, according to a plan developed by agents of the US government.

Judge Mazzone screened all jurors with an ethnic affiliation to the defendants. He cautioned defense counsel not to mention entrapment in his court. He stated to the jury that everything the government did in the case was right and proper, and he advised the jury not to make the wrong decision in the case because if they did it could never be corrected. Of course, since an acquittal is the only jury decision which can never be corrected, Judge Mazzone was urging the jury to find the defendants guilty.

Judge Mazzone is considered the leading candidate to fill the third vacant seat on the US Sentencing Commission. I understand that he must be confirmed by the Senate.

I urge you to write to your US Senator (US Senate, Washington, DC 20510). (*Ask that he investigate the charge of discriminatory jury selection made by Noel Murphy, and if they are true, urge that he oppose Judge Mazzone's appointment to the US Sentencing Commission. Insist that their be no appointment until this matter is cleared up.*)

CORRECTION

Arizona member John J. Dougherty, Ph.D., has advised us of our recent error in naming John Philip Holland as inventor of the submarine. Rather Holland is the "father of the modern submarine" who further developed a centuries-old idea. The PEC thanks Dr. Dougherty for pointing out this error.

PEC TO DEVELOP STATEWIDE NETWORKS

by John J. Finucane, National President

Over the years the PEC has developed a well organized action network throughout the United States. That is, we have developed methods by which our members can work together nationally through the newsletter *Action Request* program, the *PEC Telephone Hotline* (914) 429-7849 and our *Reproduce & Distribute* program. This national network has grown and has had considerable affect. We now want to create these networks on a state-wide level, beginning in New York. Although our emphasis now is on New York State we do not object to members from other states doing the same as we will eventually be organizing in all states.

In New York State we want to organize active state-wide units (a unit can be one or more people) and to develop a communications network between these units for the purpose of carrying out some or all of the following functions: letter writing sessions; initiating the passage of MacBride Principles resolutions by town and county governments and organizations; recruiting new members for the PEC; setting up PEC information tables at different functions; fundraising; organize active PEC units; distributing *Reproduce & Distribute* articles from the newsletter; form college MacBride Principles support groups; developing a telephone-communication chain; and when needed, to lobby one's own town, state and federal legislators.

Traditionally, most of these important activities have been initiated and carried out through the PEC national headquarters in Stony Point, New York. This practice greatly limits our ability to reach out which in turn denies the PEC the public exposure it needs. We want these same network activities carried out by local units throughout the United States. When this happens there should be no limit to our effectiveness.

We will begin shortly to organize this network in New York State. Each member in New York will receive two questionnaires from Kathy Regan, New York State Director. We urge all of you to fill them out and return them as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

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border. He claimed that drivers were incensed to see soldiers "playing football on the roadway as traffic builds up." (Cork Examiner, 3/19/90).....In his book, *Shoot-To-Kill: A Soldier's Journey Through Violence*, ex-British paratrooper Michael Asher said that the razor-sharp training undergone by his unit, preparing them for short spurts of intense activity, was inappropriate for service in Northern Ireland. "We were told that the IRA would come out and fight a proper battle but that didn't happen and my colleagues were so frustrated they went around beating up people who had nothing to do with it...We were always waiting for something to happen and were so bored that some soldiers tried to stir up drivers at checkpoints and adopted a bullying attitude in the hope of provoking them." (Irish News, 3/13/90).....In his book, *The War Hitler Won*, Tory MEP, Lord Bethell said, "Britain's treatment of the Irish is the most shameful chapter in her history as an imperial power. Massacred in the 17th century by Oliver Cromwell; starved by the millions in the potato famine of 1846-7 which Britain did little to relieve; terrorized in the 20th century by groups of specially recruited louts they called the Black and Tans, the Irish have good historical reason to dislike their neighbor." (Irish Post, 4/7/90)....."The British security services have a fanatical preoccupation with Northern Ireland. From Hugo Young's column in *The Guardian*, 'Perhaps one-half of MI5's work is directed against the IRA, its undercover men, double-agents and controllers immersed in ceaseless struggle. All of this proceeds every hour of every day' Colin Wallace stated, 'Those clever MI5 cowboys have an arrogance about the Irish, based on too many Irish jokes.' (Irish Post, 2/10/90)

FENIAN INFLUENCE ON U. S. POLICY

by Margaret Fitzgerald, PhD

In March 1866, soldiers of the Irish American Brotherhood gathered in Maine for an attempt to capture Campobello, whose ownership was long disputed by England and the United States. The removal of the Union Jack from the island was only a prelude to a larger invasion.

In June, an army of Irish freedom fighters, most of them veterans of the Union and Confederate armies of the American Civil War, invaded Canada in another attempt to establish an Irish-government-in-exile. President Johnson, who had hinted that he might back a successful invasion, belatedly enforced the Neutrality Act and stopped reinforcements from crossing the border to support brother Fenians in the spots they held. Prisoners from both Colonel O'Neill's invasion from Niagara Falls and General Spear's invasion from Vermont were held in Canada and charged with high treason, a capital crime.

From 1865 to 1867, Irish and American men sailed from the U.S. to Ireland for the "Big Rising." Scattered risings of Fenians with few or no arms were suppressed ruthlessly by the British. Those imprisoned were charged with treason. In April 1867, the packet "Erin's Hope" left New York with a supply of arms. Among the 28 caught and charged in Ireland with high treason were Colonels William Nagle and John Warren. Warren's role would be central to the naturalization controversy for the next few years.

American law recognized the right of the foreign-born to become naturalized American citizens upon swearing allegiance to the the United States and giving up all allegiance to their former country and its ruler. This was easy for the Irish who had no loyalty to the United Kingdom and its Queen, who had pursued a policy of genocide in Ireland during the Great Hunger of the 1840's.

The British had a policy of Indefeasible Allegiance: Once a Briton, always a Briton. In London, Foreign Minister Lord Clarendon told American Minister Charles Adams that "No British subject could ever, or in any circumstances, renounce his allegiance to his sovereign. I have to inform you that Her Majesty's government are advised that it would be impossible that they should recognize any title in any foreign power to interfere on behalf of natural-born subjects of Her Majesty whom it may be thought to detain in custody in Ireland."

Adams, son of one President and grandson of another, was a strong admirer of all things English. He took on the representation of Irish Americans with much reluctance. Consul David Thurston had to make the same representation of the Fenians being held in Canada. No anglophile, Thurston did the job so well that he was accused of being a Fenian.

The American public, remembering the British sympathy with the South and the blockade that prolonged the Civil War, was not amenable to England's trying American citizens for treason. Nor did they want severe punishment for men whose only crime was to fight for their native country's freedom. Even the *New York Times*, then, as now, not favorable to the Irish, denounced England and contrasted the willingness of the U.S. to enforce the Neutrality acts against the Fenians with the unwillingness of England to enforce the same laws during the American Civil War. The *New York Herald* claimed that the

British would have been driven out of North America and Canada annexed if the American government had not interfered in the Fenian invasions.

In 1866, with congressional elections coming, the Fenians took advantage of the importance of the Irish vote. President Johnson was having domestic problems with the Radical Republicans and wanted time to tour the country before the elections. In international matters, he felt that there were weightier problems than the Fenians. One problem was litigation with Britain over the "Alabama Claims," the Alabama being a Confederate raider supplied and supported by the British. Congress put pressure on Johnson as Representatives with large Irish constituencies introduced resolutions to aid the Fenians, recognize the Irish Nation as a legitimate belligerent, and defend the rights of American citizens imprisoned in Ireland and Canada.

Johnson let the British know that the U.S. effort to block Fenian military operations would be proportional to Britain's willingness to abandon Indefeasible Allegiance and pay the claims for damage done to Union shipping by British-built Confederate raiders. The U.S. government provided lawyers for the Fenian trials in Canada. Strongly-worded correspondence passed between ministers on the Fenians captured in Ireland, especially regarding Nagle, Warren, and others of the Erin's Hope expedition. American-born Nagle was freed. Naturalized-American Warren might have been freed if there had not been an intervening incident in England. In September 1867, the Fenians effected a jail rescue in which a police sergeant was killed accidentally. 60 were arrested and 52 of whom were American citizens--were convicted on perjured evidence. Adams, reluctantly following State Department orders, interceded for Edward O'Meagher Condon, a Canadian-born American. He failed to press the case for Michael O'Brien, who died as an American "Manchester Martyr."

The trials in Canada and Ireland and the hangings in England provided favorable publicity for the Fenian cause and also for that of the U.S. Johnson and Grant, who succeeded him, held to their bargaining position that Britain must settle on naturalization and the Alabama Claims or else they would look the other way as the Fenians invaded as they pleased. The British finally agreed to pay \$15,500,000 in settlement of the Civil War claims and to recognize citizenship by naturalization. With these issues settled, the U.S. acted with much more alacrity to enforce the Neutrality Laws when the Fenians planned another invasion.

The Fenians may have been pawns in the U.S. diplomacy game, but they had important and long-lasting effects on U.S. and British relations. The British Naturalization and Mixed Treaties Act ("Warren Act") of 1870, which settled a dispute almost a hundred years old, was a direct result of negotiations on behalf of American citizens arrested and tried by the British for Fenian activities.

Even though they were used adroitly by the President and the State Department, the Fenians showed that it was possible to influence the American government in Irish causes. There is a lesson for today's leaders. The specific interests of American Irish must be skillfully fitted into the general interests of the U.S. We must show that British actions in Ireland are not in the interest of the United States.

BRITISH INTELLIGENCE DIRTY TRICKS THE MEDIA

by Rev. Des Wilson

When similar stories about you appear in a French daily newspaper (*Figaro*) and a newspaper in Melbourne, Australia: when much the same story appears in the *Irish Times*, is repeated on the Irish government broadcasting service RTE, on Britain's ITV, and passed from mouth to ear in Catholic presbyteries, you are right to be alarmed. How could the very same story come from different people in so many different places?

Even if the story were favorable, it would still be cause for concern. Especially, if the writers never saw or interviewed the people they were writing about. The stories we are talking about were not nice and they were about the **Conway Mill**, a self-help program in Belfast.

If such stories say that you are a fraud, that you get government money and use it to buy arms, that you have cheated and lied, then you may well ask who hates you so much as to tell so many lies in so many places about you. The stories which appeared against **Conway Mill** in the international press were always by-lined with **names of journalists who never spoke to anyone connected with the Conway Mill**. There were reporters from the *Irish Times*, British ITV, French and Australian newspapers and radio stations. Some we had heard of, but we had never even heard the names of the most of them before.

When you finally succeed in tracking down such stories appearing in so many places in the world you invariably come back to one source. The source British Intelligence units working in the North of Ireland. Their people invent stories and place them in the media all over the world. You cannot find out much about these people because they work in secret. You can however experience their effects as media people fall one by one into their traps. Americans are familiar with their kind of skulduggery which goes by the name of "dirty tricks".

They do a thorough job. Not only papers like the *New York Times* or *The London Times* or the *Irish Times* run these British intelligence-based stories. Pious people who take in for example the *St. Anthony Messenger* may think they are just getting a good religious read, nothing more, nothing less. They are wrong. Analysis and stories planted by British intelligence agencies have been printed even in such publications. Some religious publications invite them, others take them without realizing what they are getting. The stories have appeared in Catholic and other universities. The similarity of the stories **should put any sensible editor on guard**.

To take one example; we read in Melbourne, Paris and Dublin that a large nineteenth century linen mill in Belfast's Falls Road area is the center of operations for the IRA. Oddly enough, no-one in Belfast is aware of this. Yet foreign reporters -- who never spoke to anyone in management or working in the place -- are able to print the story in all these countries. When Fr. Paddy Ryan was facing extradition in Brussels -- a very delicate moment which I experienced very acutely because I was in Brussels at the time - a story appeared in a Belgian Catholic newspaper the evening

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before the government was to decide whether the priest should be extradited or not. It was a clear attempt to influence the extradition decision. It was a scurrilous story, all the more damaging since it appeared in a Catholic newspaper. That story was taken from a London paper which in turn had it from official British Intelligence.

Rather shamefacedly the Brussels newspaper responsible later tried to make amends by publishing letters from Fr. Ryan's lawyers and others.

The international circulation of these carefully-placed stories is due, we think, to the fact that the people managing the **Conway Mill** decided for reasons of self-protection to internationalize their own story. They wanted to make sure that if the British government again sent in its colonial army of occupation to occupy and dismantle the Conway Mill as they had done on four similar factories owned by the poor people in 1980, the world would know about it. They told their story in Britain, the USA, Canada and many other places. The British response was to tell the world, through whatever media was hungry for stories, that Conway Mill was a center of fraud, arms running rackets, lies and deceit.

Needless to say, British intelligence stories stuck. Recently a visitor talked to us about whether the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) would give financial help to **Springhill House**, a registered charity we run. We had never seen him before, nor had he seen us. But in the middle of our conversation he suddenly informed us that Conway Mill was a center for subversives, a fraud, etc. **Had he ever been in the Mill? No. Had he ever met any of the people who run it? No. Then how did he decide? He had read it in the papers!**

(The author is a leading Northern Ireland civil and human rights activist and is the director of the Conway Mill in Belfast, a community self-help industrial program)

**Do Something about British Injustice
In Ireland!!!**

**Join or Support
The AMERICAN Irish
Political Education Committee (PEC)**

**Call toll free 800-777-6807 between the hours of 5pm and 9am
EST (Monday thru Sunday)**

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ANTI-AMERICAN IRISH STEREOTYPING: YOU BETTER TAKE IT SERIOUSLY

If you are of Irish heritage, you are probably a drunk, a silly buffoon, a bigot, violence prone, overly religious, a sex offender and a child molester. If you are a politician or a police officer, you are probably corrupt. You are someone who is not to be taken seriously. Further, you and your people before you have contributed nothing to the building of America.

This is how you and your family, as Americans of Irish heritage or Irish born, are being portrayed with increasing frequency by the American news and entertainment media and some St. Patrick's Day greeting card and novelty producers.

While many of the media (TV/radio networks and newspapers) are often guilty of this degradation of our image, the most consistent offender has been NBC presided over by Mr. Robert C. Wright, President. The American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC) has been monitoring NBC since 1985 when it aired *Silent Witness*. *Silent Witness*, an NBC special, was about a rape that occurred in Massachusetts in which three men raped a young woman in a bar. The rapists were depicted as American Irish and the young woman who was an alcoholic, was also American Irish. Soon afterwards she died from alcoholism. The producer went out of his way to Irishize these characters.

The PEC investigated this matter and found that at the time two real-life situations had occurred in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Not one of the people involved in these rapes were of Irish extraction. Why did NBC Irishize the characters? NBC has since continued its negative portrayals of our ethnic group.

In October 1989 NBC began a series of offensive programs which were vigorously protested by the American Irish PEC. The October 21, 1989 episode of *Hunter* and the December 1 episode of *Mancuso* portrayed Irish nationals and American Irish as committing violent acts, even murder, and robbing banks in America in support of the IRA. Can you imagine the impact these kind of violent images have on unsuspecting viewers? On October 28 *Golden Girls* took a nasty shot at the Irish about drinking.

In response to a subsequent PEC letter-writing campaign in protest of these programs, NBC defiantly aired for a second time on January 20, 1990 both offensive episodes of *Hunter* and *Golden Girls*. On St. Patrick's Day 1990 NBC's *Saturday Night Live* presented a segment on "Irish drinking songs" led off with "nobody gets drunker than the Irish".

How dangerous are these negative stereotypes to us and our children? According to Dr. Kathleen Lisowski, Psychologist from Massachusetts, they are extremely dangerous. In a report prepared for the PEC by Dr. Lisowski, she stated, "Such films create underserved difficulty for the majority of American Irish who are honest, hard working and loyal to the ideals of America. Attitude researchers at Stanford University in California have demonstrated that by persistently showing such films to persons who held a positive or neutral opinion toward Irish people has caused them to develop a negative opinion by providing social sanctions for opinions. Such films also provide a poor model for many young American Irish viewing it". Dr. Lisowski continued, "Persistent negative portrayal of the American Irish as violent, drunks, sex offenders, etc., does perpetuate negative stereotypes which can lead to discrimination against Americans of Irish heritage. This promotes questions of identity and disassociation

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from the Irish culture."

It is our silence that perpetuates these false stereotypes -- that threatens the future of our heritage in America! This is unacceptable, for as Americans, we have much to be proud of. It was the Irish and their descendants in America who won the American revolution - who built many of its cities, canals, and railroads, pioneers in space and who won, by far, the most Congressional Medals of Honor. Hundreds of America's top corporate heads are of Irish descent as were many American presidents. We make up almost 20% of the American population.

What is being done about it? The only national American organization with an ongoing and effective program against anti-American Irish stereotyping (since 1976) is the American Irish PEC. We have had a number of significant victories including a dramatic reduction in the number of degrading St. Patrick's Day cards produced by American Greetings and Hallmark card companies and removing some offensive programs from regional TV networks. But, we have a ways to go. We must develop the clout to take on powerful institutions such as NBC. Once we have developed that clout, and we can easily enough, we will be in a position to successfully challenge any culprit.

To achieve this kind of effectiveness will require minimal effort on the part of most participants. What will be required is unity - we must all work together. The American Irish PEC is already set up for this kind of protest activity. The PEC carries out these protest through its monthly *American Irish Newsletter*.

-- by John J. Finucane, PEC National President

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... write American Irish PEC, Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980 or call 800 777-6807 for membership information which explains fully the PEC. If you want to act now, use the coupon below.

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Published June 1990 in the *American Irish Newsletter*, a publication of the *American Irish Political Education Committee*

**A PROPOSAL FOR RENEGOTIATING
PEACE IN IRELAND**

A program for renegotiating peace for Ireland was proposed in late 1989 by Mr. James Kelly, a former member of the National Executive of Fianna Fail. In 1970 Mr. Kelly, retired Captain of the Irish Army, was charged along with Prime Minister Charles Haughey and others for conspiring to import arms illegally. Mr. Kelly's proposal offers a realistic approach and it seeks to address the causes of violence. Kelly is critical of the Anglo-Irish Agreement as it fails to address partition. Kelly stated, "The status quo of partition,...enshrined in the [Anglo-Irish] Agreement, is the root cause of the current violence, as it has been the cause of all political violence in Ireland, both Unionist and Nationalist, since 1922. Consequently, the Agreement is not an instrument of peace, but of violence. As such, it must be rejected and replaced by a renegotiated or new Agreement which takes into account the root causes of political violence on the Irish scene."

Mr. Kelly's proposal is enthusiastically supported by British MP Clair Short, leader of Britain's *Time To Go* movement and the American Irish Political Education Committee. The PEC has just published his "common sense proposal" in book form which is entitled *The Courage of the Brave* (38 pp). The PEC is distributing the book to key members of the US Senate and Congress, the media and clergy in an effort to win support for Kelly's proposal. To order a copy of the *Courage of the Brave* send a check for \$2.95 (which includes postage) payable to American Irish Awareness Committee. Use Order # COB 1.

BOOKS AND VIDEOS, ETC.
Make checks payable to American Irish Awareness Comm.

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MIXED SIGNALS FROM BOSTON'S MAYOR

by Kevin P. Murphy, Massachusetts State Director

For several years now, Boston's Mayor Raymond Flynn has been making statements showing concern for the human rights of the people in British-occupied Northern Ireland. Although these statements are welcomed by the American Irish community, the Mayor's actions do not always reflect what he says.

Mayor Flynn and his aide, Frank Costello, were outspoken supporters of MacBride Principles initiatives in other states and cities. Yet they took no action in Boston. Only because of a campaign headed by the PEC in August 1989, did Boston adopt MacBride legislation, which was introduced by Councilor Maura Hennigan Casey. This action prompted Mayor Flynn's contract compliance directive--i.e., companies must adopt the MacBride Principles to win contracts with Boston.

Nevertheless, Boston awarded NYNEX a contract even though they did not adopt the Principles, an action which the PEC questioned in the January, 1990 issue of the *American Irish Newsletter*. An article in the *Boston Herald* dated February 17, 1990, by reporter Joseph Sciacca questioned Mayor Flynn's close relationship with NYNEX. According to the article, Mayor Flynn's closest City Hall staffer, Joseph Fisher, is also a NYNEX executive. According to NYNEX spokesperson John Johnson, Fisher is "on loan" to Flynn as a part of NYNEX's "community commitment". According to the article, Mr. Fisher is considered Flynn's top City Hall advisor and manager.

Mayor Flynn's City Hall aide, Francis Costello, and SDLP (Northern Ireland's Social Democratic Labor Party) leader John Hume are frequently urging investment for their "Derry Boston Ventures", which urges U.S. corporations to heavily invest in Northern Ireland. The Mayor Flynn-led "Venture" has received praise from the British government. The staunchly pro-British *Arizona Republic* newspaper published a January 17 editorial praising Flynn and his program. The editorial labelled American activists as being "ignorant and unaware of the realities of Northern Ireland". Mayor Flynn was applauded for helping Britain rebuild its six-county colony with his investment plans. Oddly enough, Mayor Flynn, who strongly opposes investment in South Africa because of his opposition to bigotry and discrimination, is one of the prime American generators of investment in Northern Ireland a British colony that daily imprisons, denies basic human rights, and even murders Irish nationalists.

Off Our Knees, written and narrated by Bernadette Devlin McAliskey

1988 marked the 20th anniversary of the ongoing human rights struggle in the North since the formation of the Civil Rights Movement in Ireland.

This video represents the views of those who were there at the beginning and who are determined to carry on until civil rights, justice, and freedom have been attained.

Order #V1201 VHS (55min).....\$29.95

Mother Ireland, by Derry Film and Video

This video explores the role of women throughout the history of Ireland.

Order #V979 VHS (52 min.).....\$29.95

ACTION REQUEST #1 by Albert R. Doyle

In the January Newsletter we asked that you write the National Conference of Catholic Bishops requesting they take a stand against injustices in Northern Ireland and specifically in support of the MacBride Principles. The Bishops reply which is well thought-out and courteous, may be summarized as follows: 1) yes, the Bishops do defer to the Irish Bishops (who are notoriously unsupportive of the MacBride Principles) in deciding on their own position, and 2) in the U.S. the campaign takes place primarily on the State and local levels and the Bishops therefore leave it to individual dioceses and State Catholic Conferences to deal with the specific proposals. Since 1988 State Catholic Conferences have not supported the campaign. This response is not entirely satisfactory and we must ask you to again write on the subject. Please write along the suggested lines below and have friends, business associates, family, etc., do the same. **Write to:** Ambassador Robert Hennemeyer, United States Catholic Conference, Office of International Justice and Peace, 3211 4th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017.

Dear Ambassador:

I understand that the failure of the American Bishops to take a stand in support of the MacBride Principles has been explained as deference to the Irish Bishops and to state and local US Catholic bodies in what are seen as local matters. With regard to the latter point I must suggest that the federal legislative proposal, the Northern Ireland Fair Employment

Practices Act, is certainly a national matter as are the many US corporate annual meeting proposals in support of MacBride. Perhaps the Bishops could consider taking a position in support in these cases. Finally, it should be kept in mind that the Bishop's aloof position on MacBride is viewed by the British as support for their position and in general -- in Northern Ireland, whether the Bishops agree or not with that perception.

Sincerely,

THANKS TO HOTLINE USERS (914) 429-7849

...the office of Senator George Mitchell, Majority Leader of the United States Senate, will meet with a representation of the American Irish PEC. His decision was made after Hotline users wrote to him requesting such a meeting. He had not responded to an earlier request from the PEC national office.

ARE YOU USING THE TELEPHONE HOTLINE???

You should be! It is a very effective, united and quick way for us to make our views known by letter. It also generates respect for our organization. Messages change every Sunday night and are repeated. **Hotline # (914) 429-7849**

AS WE GO TO PRESS, we are advised that on April 27 the Winchester Three were set free. Hopefully the Birmingham Six will be next.

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