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THE AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Action Irish

Vol. 13, No. 2

APRIL/MAY, 1988

MacBride Principles Update

by Pat Doherty, Administrative Associate to
Harrison Goldin, Comptroller, City of New York

Another British Minister, John Stanley, was in the United States last month to lobby against MacBride, along with a team of almost a dozen officials. Finally, the British have hired professional lobbyists in most of the eleven states now considering MacBride legislation. Media commentator and former Carter administration official, Hodding Carter is helping to recruit lobbyists for this purpose.

New Government Proposals

Last month, the British revealed the outlines of their new legislative proposals which will be presented to Parliament in their final form in the fall. The main proposals outlined are as follows:

1. *Compulsory Monitoring* — All public employers, and all private employers with more than ten employees, will be required to monitor the religious composition of their workforce; there will be criminal penalties for non-compliance.

2. *Contract Compliance* — Employers adjudged not to be providing equality of opportunity in employment will be ineligible for government grants and contracts. However, the core of the contract compliance program is to be a "Declaration of Fair Employment Practice," which will be a set of employment guidelines analogous with the MacBride Principles. The government now says that these new guidelines will not be in the legislation but will be promulgated after the fact. This will effectively delay implementation of contract compliance until 1991 at the earliest. This omission prompted Belfast MacBride sponsor Inez McCormack to ask "Where's the beef?"

3. *New "Fair Employment Commission"* — The Fair Employment Agency will be replaced by a Fair Employment Commission with a much larger budget and staff. However, the hearing of individual cases of discrimination is to be handled by a separate tribunal. FEA Chairman Bob Cooper criticized this aspect of the proposals, claiming that such an adver-

sarial arrangement will unfairly benefit employers, who are better able than complainants to bear the costs of a quasi-judicial proceeding.

4. *The "merit principle"* — The merit principle is reaffirmed, and Secretary of State Tom King cautioned against the use of goals and timetables, for minority appointment, saying that they would put undue pressure on the merit principle. The adoption of goals and timetables is declared to be legal, however.

One Recommended Approach

In answer to inquiries about the proposed legislative changes our office has been pointing out that our primary complaint has never been with the Fair Employment legislation itself, but rather with the lack of its enforcement by the British government.

Although the current Fair Employment Act of 1976 is inadequate in many respects, if it had been vigorously enforced from the start, significant progress towards equality would, by now, have taken place. A point Comptroller Harrison Goldin often makes concerning the human rights guarantees contained in the Soviet Constitution is relevant here. Rights granted on paper are meaningless if they are not enforced. The key question before us, is how strongly will the government enforce the new legislation, and the answer to this question must await the implementation of the new legislative and administrative framework. Continued pressure by the U.S. proponents of the MacBride Principles is the best way to guarantee strong enforcement.

Any successful program for the elimination of inequalities in employment in Northern Ireland will inevitably have to be based on the MacBride Principles. To the extent that the government now says that it is ready to adopt a number of those principles, well and good; but we will have to await their implementation to be able to render a final judgement.

national president, American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC), "We will soon galvanize American Irish activism into a powerful political force with an office in Washington, DC ... Look ahead for a major MacBride Principles/Civil Rights rally in Washington, DC in October (AIN-PEC 3/88).

A shopkeeper in the Bronx received a \$20 bill on which had been typed the phrase, "British bullets kill Irish children." He looked at it for a moment and then said, "Thank God *someone* is speaking out for us." If you should ever run across one of these bills, pause for a minute and think of the man who wrote on it. He was a simple man, a good man, and, although he never attained the status of a Sean MacBride, he never flagged in his efforts to highlight the injustice of British rule in Ireland and bring it to people's attention. (AIN-PEC) ... In a recent statement, Frs. Des Wilson and Joe McVeigh said, "British interference and the continued existence of the artificial and unjust statelet of Northern Ireland constitute the primary violence in our society." (Irish Post, 1/16/88) ... Letter in the Irish Post on the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) — "I was never involved in the Troubles in Belfast and I belonged to no political group. I was one of the first people arrested under the PTA. I was arrested for the Guilford bombings with Paul Hill, Gerry Conlon, Paddy Armstrong and Carole Richardson. The only crimes we committed were being single, being young, being Catholic and being Irish ... I was threatened that if I coughed I would be shot by one of the many guns stuck in front of my face ... Then for the next seven days I was not allowed to

Appeal To U.S. Congress

It is time that Congress stop playing games with the lives and rights of Irish people. To continue its support for the British government, our Congress is knowingly supporting state-sponsored oppression and cold-blooded murder. Our Congress must start to treat seriously the issue of British colonialism in Ireland. It is time that Congress suspend funding for the Anglo-Irish Agreement (see *From The Editor* page 2) and join with Senator Frank Lautenberg (D, New Jersey) who has publicly called for Senate hearings on the use of US funds, and call for hearings on the MacBride Principles. This is important so that they too, like many state legislators who have to deal with MacBride Principles legislation, become educated on Ireland's "British problem". They must know just what they are supporting. It is time that Congress says no to the Ken-

nedys and Moynihans, who helped get the U.S. involved in the Anglo-Irish Agreement mess. Listen up Congress! The problem in Northern Ireland is colonialism.

We are certain that if Congress learns the truth, they will act accordingly. Congress has given Britain ample time — 20 years — to end discrimination and the abuse of human rights.

We must bring pressure to bear on Congress. We can start by writing the letters requested in the MacBride Principles Campaign Appeal. Also, sign the postcards and mail them. Or even better, after you mail your letters, have someone else sign and mail the postcards. We also ask that you write the requested very important Action Letters which appear on last page.

Legislative Update

MAINE — *The citizens of Maine have spoken out in overwhelming support of the Principles.* On March 7 the Maine State Senate approved MacBride legislation by a vote of 22 to 10. On March 16 the House of Representatives voted 89 to 49 to adopt the bill. *However,* according to Shannon Eaton, PEC State Director and campaign organizer, *under intense pressure from both the Reagan Administration and the British government, Republican Governor John McKernan plans to veto the bill.* Governor McKernan has received many phone calls from his constituents, including John Finucane, national president of the PEC, urging he respect the will of the citizens of Maine and allow the bill to become law. **MICHIGAN** — *After a long campaign by Michigan's proponents of the MacBride Principles, Rudy Nichols, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has finally conceded to allow his committee to conduct hearings on the Principles.* Nichols had been blocking hearings due to intense pressure from the Reagan Administration and the British government. *Another case of individuals interfering with the expressed democratic wishes of the citizenry.* On March 10, the Wayne County Legislature, Michigan's largest county which includes Detroit, voted unanimously to adopt the MacBride Principles. According to Jack Cahill, state coordinator, in 1987 the bill was unanimously adopted in the Assembly by a vote of 97 to 0, the Detroit City Council voted unanimously to support MacBride as did the House of Representatives Civil Rights Committee. What has happened to the democratic process? **SAN FRANCISCO** — According to Joe O'Neill, PEC State Director and campaign organizer, San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt will introduce MacBride Principles legislation. **MINNESOTA** — On February 29, the Minnesota House of Representatives approved MacBride legislation by a vote of 75 to 39. On March 8, the Senate Government Operations Committee approved 7 to 5. These results were much

more favorable than predicted stated Leah Curtin, PEC State Director and co-organizer. Leah also reported the adoption of legislation by the city of St. Paul and that on February 23, 18 Presidential Caucuses in the St. Paul area adopted resolutions supporting the MacBride Principles. British Consul General, Roger Carrick (Chicago) was granted the right to address the House of Representatives. He was directed not to speak on the MacBride Bill. His remarks reminded Minnesota legislators (get this) "*how England came to the aid of the US in two World Wars*" and then said he would be in the anteroom (off limits to lobbying) to discuss any issues. Representatives Joe Quinn and Chuck Brown followed him into the anteroom, found him lobbying and had him removed. **NEW HAMPSHIRE** — On February 9, MacBride legislation was voted down in the House of Representatives. Tom O'Flaherty, PEC State Director, co-organizer and registered lobbyist, informs us that the defeat was expected and is not a disaster. He stated, "In October of 1987, there was no such thing as an American Irish movement in New Hampshire. Today there is a viable organization working for the bills adoption. Hence, we have another full year to educate the citizens of New Hampshire". Tom further stated, "the longer it takes to pass the bill, the greater will be the number of Americans informed of the true nature of British colonialism in Ireland. Either way, we win". **VERMONT** — Hearings on MacBride legislation were conducted in February. A vote has yet to be taken by the committee. **MARYLAND** — In early January MacBride legislation was introduced in the Maryland State Legislature. Hearings have been conducted in both Houses. **OHIO** — On March 16 hearings were conducted by the House Health and Retirement Committee at which time proponents of MacBride were heard. The opponents of fair employment will be heard in May.

News Bits

by Kathy Regan

British government repression and violence, too long tolerated and in some cases encouraged, by world government and religious leaders, and the victims response to it, will continue as long as the issues of colonialism and injustice are not publicly addressed by world leaders, including the United States Congress. Neither selective condemnations of violence nor lop-sided agreements (Anglo-Irish Accord) will end this bitter struggle for reunification and democracy. What is needed to end this tragedy is "guts and leadership" on the part of world leaders including the US. The recent tragic events in Ireland demand that world leaders no longer avert their gaze; a solution must be sought now (AIN-PEC 3/20).

The Council of Presidents of Irish American Organizations (COPIOAO) is now a reality. The brain-child of the American Irish Political Education Committee, COPIOAO has brought together the leaders of America's leading organizations. Several united actions have already taken place including letters to Senator Claiborne Pell, chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Congressman Dante Fascell, chairman, House Foreign Relations Committee. The message calls for an investigation into how US funding to the International Fund for Ireland is being distributed. A joint request has also been sent to the Presidential candidates urging they attend the Irish-American Presidential Forum. According to John Finucane,

exercise, eat, sleep or even think ... To this day I know in my heart that none of the Guilford Four committed any crime and if the PTA didn't exist they wouldn't be able to work on people so that they even doubt their own sanity ... my family got arrested and had to endure the same treatment. Then I got put on the list ... I was arrested a second and third time ... I had to take my case to the European courts just to get free from the PTA." (Irish Post, 1/30/88). Who are the terrorists here? ... "The British government has enacted into permanent law a measure which allows police to hold people without charge for a week." (AIN-PEC 03/88) ... (Charles Haughey) "indicated that the Irish government's objective is the publication of the Stalker-Sampson report. He also indicated that

the British government would be pressed on the Birmingham Six case and gave a clear warning that a reappraisal of the newly implemented extradition procedures could well be on the cards." (Irish Post, 2/13/88). Is this just more tough talk?

"The possibility must be allowed for that Charlie (Charles Haughey) is looking towards retirement. If Fine Gael leader Alan Dukes allows the present minority government to stay in office for, say, another two years, it will by then have tidied up the financial situation and 'stabilized' the national debt. Furthermore, Charlie will then be 65 — an old-age pensioner. There is no kudos in the North anymore. But it would be something to be

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Editor.....John J. Finucane
Assistant Editor.....Kathy Regan
Assistant Editor.....Albert Doyle

NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTERS

WESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Dr. Roger McGrath, 30806 Catarina Drive, Westlake Village, CA 91362 — (818) 707-1270; **WASHINGTON, D.C.:** Jack O'Brien, 1119 Belton Street, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 — (301) 336-5167; **MINNESOTA:** Leah Curtin, Hibernian Life, 790 Cleveland Avenue, Suite 221, St. Paul, MN 55116 — (612) 690-3888; **NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Tom O'Flaherty, Good Time Farm, RFD #6, Box 153, Laconia, NH — (603) 528-5773; **CONNECTICUT:** Frank O'Day, 21 Pierce Lane, Madison, CT 06443 — (203) 245-4739; **OHIO:** John McLaughlin, 10917 Bernard #3, Cleveland, OH 44111 — (216) 941-6431; **MASSACHUSETTS:** Kevin P. Murphy, 29 Zolla Circle, Revere, MA 02151 — (617) 284-0723; **ILLINOIS:** Bob West, 683 Walnut Road, Wauconda, IL 60084 — (312) 526-6520; **MAINE:** Shannon Eaton, 26 Ludlow Street, Portland, ME 04103 — (207) 773-3205; **CALIFORNIA:** Joe O'Neill, 1376 21st Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122 — (415) 681-8734; **FLORIDA:** Kevin Murphy, 9685 Sunny Isle Cir., Boca Raton, FL 33428 — (305) 488-1526.

LABOR LIASON: Kevin Garvey, IUOE Local 891, 560 West 169 Street, New York, NY 10032 — (212) 927-4492.

From The Editor

By now it is apparent that our initial assessment of the Anglo-Irish Agreement (Volume 11, February/March, 1986) was correct. Its only real result has been increased cooperation between the British and Irish Governments in repressing what they see as terrorism — "security co-operation". There has been no advance in protecting the rights of the "minority" in Northern Ireland or in reforming the judicial system. The funds thrown at the problem have not been spent in productive fashion. If anything, the problem has gotten worse. The British desperately want to continue the mechanisms of the Agreement although they may pretend indifference. To do so supports their "security" efforts, i.e. copper-fastening the partition of Ireland. In addition it serves a valuable propaganda purpose as it gives the appearance of doing something; a posture so dear to not-really-interested pols in the U.S., Ireland and Britain. It allows them to continue to avert their gaze from the truth — British state terrorism in the Western Hemisphere — while claiming to have done their bit. This is particularly needed right now by the Thatcher government in light of the bad publicity from the Stalker revelations, the Birmingham Six injustice, the suppression of the "shoot to kill" investigation because it was implicating the British Establishment in murderous policies, and the contempt for Irish and world opinion shown in the British official responses to the shooting of Aidan McAneaspie and the release of the British army murderer, Ian Thain and his return to his army regiment.

The latest British ploy is the surfacing of the new "reform" of the Fair Employment Act. This is intended primarily to defuse support for the MacBride Principles campaign here in the U.S. and not to end the discriminatory system in Northern Ireland. Discrimination is the cornerstone of British colonial rule in the north. Without it British rule would fade away. This hypocritical tactic must be exposed. This is not an easy task in view of the media censorship in the U.S. (far worse than in Britain) but one which we must face by speaking out to non-Irish audiences and letter-writers (the focus of the PEC's current MacBride Principles public awareness campaign). In addition we must support the efforts of the Senators and Congressmen who want an investigation of the spending of U.S. money in support of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Perhaps our activities may serve to stiffen the backbone of the Irish Government whose policies recently seemed to be aimed at showing the British that they are really jolly good chaps, not really much different than the Irish-hating Tories and Unionists.

Offensive Situations

by Kevin P. Murphy

Hey! Irish America, can you top this? In a high school in Rockland County, New York, a program was developed to caution students not to drink and drive during the St. Patrick's Day festivities. Certainly, a good idea. Unfortunately, the poster developed to promote the campaign was as follows: the words "Don't Drink And Drive" on a green shamrock — a public association of alcohol with being Irish. Fortunately, the life of the poster was very short-lived because of protests. Guess who led the protest? High school students of Irish heritage. *Make sure your sons and daughters read this!*

We are pleased to say that a positive response has been received from the production staff of the rock group the Pogues' video "Fairytale in New York" which appeared on MTV (music television). Readers of *The American Irish Newsletter* will recall that many American Irish found some aspects of the Pogues video offensive. Upon reading this column in the *American Irish Newsletter*, the producer of the video, Mr. P. Dougherty called to explain the meaning of the video. Mr. Dougherty, who is one of music's top video producers, sent us a copy of the Pogues video. "The intent of the video was to show the plight of an Irish immigrant who has come upon hard times," according to Mr. Dougherty. The Pogues are very supportive of Ireland's struggle against British rule. One Pogues song, "Streets of Sorrow" tells in moving detail, the British bigotry and mistreatment of the Birmingham Six/Guilford Four. It is good to see the entertainment industry showing concern for Irish issues.

We have received many complaints regarding the promotion of a St. Patrick's Day sweat shirt. The shirt depicts a silly and

excited looking leprechaun, holding a mug of beer, obviously happy to be drinking alcohol. The words "Irish Party Animal" appear on the front of the shirt. We are sad to say that this disgraceful product is being sold by one of our own, the *Irish Center*, with stores in Spring Lake, New Jersey and Annapolis, Maryland. We are advised by a resident of Spring Lake that the owners plan to continue selling this degrading product. How can we expect success with our campaign to end such degradations, when some of our own are the biggest offenders? Please, be selective where you purchase your Irish products!

A reader from Iowa forwarded a copy of an extremely offensive editorial cartoon that appeared in the *Sioux City Journal*. The cartoon which was distributed throughout the midwest by Copley News Service, depicted the Irish in the following manner; two pigs dressed in stereotypical clothing. One pig is depicted as clutching a whiskey bottle with a shamrock in his hat. The other pig is seen clutching a bomb. The caption reads, "We apologized for our mistakes at Enniskillen," then the other pig states, "That shows how we've matured as a group." This racist depiction of the Irish rivals the hatred shown in the Thomas Nast cartoons of the 19th century and Jeff MacNelly's infamous Irish "rat" cartoon. Despite this being 1988 and the American Irish being among the most prominent and well educated ethnic groups, we still are being depicted as animals by the press. No other ethnic group in the U.S. endures such hostility in this day and age. The next time a misinformed fellow American Irish tells you that he or she is "assimilated," remind them that many in our nation still regard the American Irish as inferior misfits. Anti-Irish bigotry in the media knows no socio-economic boundaries.

Readers from across the United States have forwarded examples of the very offensive St. Patrick's Day cards that are in the American marketplaces. Various companies are still producing anti-Irish products. *Gibson Greeting Cards* still markets many cards that show the Irish to be drunken or uneducated. In a downtown Boston store I spotted a St. Patrick's Day card for people whose birthday falls on March 17th. The *Hallmark* card states "Don't let the Shillelough and Shannanigans get the best of your birthday." On the front of the card is a chimpanzee dressed like a leprechaun clutching a glass of green beer. We as proud Americans should not tolerate this insulting treatment of our culture. It appears the Hallmark has resumed printing the offensive drinking cards through its *Shoe Box* line. Be safe, buy products of *American Greetings*.

(Ed. Note: The number of reports of offensive situations received by the PEC has increased drastically over the past couple of years. At first, we were concerned that our efforts to end the degradation of the American Irish image were failing. The contrary is true! What has happened since the PEC initiated this campaign in 1976, is that many more of us have become aware and sensitive to this issue. In other words, more of our people are being offended and are taking action. It also helps to know that today there is an organization in the PEC, that is taking action. Please let your friends know about the PEC, and urge them to join with us by subscribing to our newsletter! We need all the support we can get.)

All Offensive Situations and reader comments are welcomed at Kevin Murphy, P.O. Box 8895-Kennedy Station, Boston, Ma. 02114.

NEWS BITS

(Continued from Page 1)

able to say that one has saved the country from economic collapse. Furthermore, Dr. Paddy Hillery will at that time have completed the maximum two seven-year terms as President. So there will be a vacancy up in the Park — and who better to fill it than the man who had saved the country from economic collapse?" (Irish Post, 1/30/88)

"The Irish Supreme Court pronounced the other day that a person could not have immunity from extradition if his or her objective was to try to reunify the country without the authority of the Dublin government ... that for persons to take over, or seek to take over, the carrying out of policy of reintegration decided by themselves,

without the authority of the state, was to subvert the Constitution and usurp the function of the government." (Irish Post, 1/30/88). Despite the recent efforts of the Progressive Democrats to rewrite it, the Constitution still covers the whole of the island of Ireland. It would appear that an attempt to reunify Ireland would be carrying out the aims of the Constitution not subverting it.

With the economy in the state it is in, the Dublin government can ill-afford to continue losing her young to emigration. Apart from the fact that Ireland is losing her best hopes for the future, her young people, the economy cannot afford for it to continue." ... the five years spent at university by a veterinary surgeon costs the state 48,220 — and that is after student fees. Almost half of the country's newly

qualified vets are emigrating. It's only marginally less costly to produce medical graduates, agricultural scientists, engineers and architects. A similar proportion of those graduates are emigrating — no less than 62% of the architects. (Irish Post, 2/13/88)

Many comments have been made recently regarding the threat to the Anglo-Irish Accord posed by the recent Birmingham Six decision and failure to investigate charges of an RUC shoot-to-kill policy. It is clearly in the context of the Anglo-Irish Conference for Charles Haughey to bring up these issues as Article 7(b) provides that "The conference shall consider the security situation at its regular meetings and thus provide an opportunity to

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PEC MacBride Appeal & Campaign

By now all of you have received your MacBride Principles Appeal packet from the PEC. We urge you all to respond to our requests for a donation, letter writing and postcards, and active participation in the campaign. Without your support and the support of the American community, *this campaign will fall flat on its face.*

The initial response has been very encouraging. Donations and requests to help have been steadily coming in. Most significantly, offers to help are coming from outside the American Irish community. Requests for thousands of post cards to the US legislators have been coming from Americans not of Irish extraction including, religious groups. These cards are being used in many different parts of the US. This kind of interest is unique concerning Northern Ireland. In the words of the Ken Allen, Senior Advisor to Tom Martin, Speaker of

the House in Maine, "The MacBride Principles are not an Irish issue. It is of concern to all Americans who oppose discrimination." We must keep this campaign going until we achieve success. Please don't let this campaign for social justice die.

So won't you support this campaign today; send a donation; write your letters to your US Senators and Congressman as requested in the brochure you received; sign, address and mail the post cards; and volunteer your help. *Remember!* It is very important that Senator Alfonse D'Amato and Congressman Hamilton Fish, sponsors of the the bill, receive letters and post cards from their constituents. This will demonstrate our interest. We cannot take their efforts for granted. Make checks payable to AIPEC and mail to same at Malloy Building, Two North Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980.

YES — I will help promote the MacBride Principles of Fair Employment for Northern Ireland. Enclosed find my donation payable to AIPEC.

\$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

- I have forwarded my postcards/sent my letters.
- I would like to volunteer my help to promote state and national MacBride Principles legislation.

The Irish In Colonial Maryland

by Margaret E. Fitzgerald, Ph.D.

In the last issue, we looked at the history of the Irish in early colonial Maryland. Irish were among the first arrivals in 1634 on the Ark and Dove with the founding Adventurers, freemen, servants, and transportees. At the end of the century, Irish, dispersed or deprived of their holdings after Boyne, Aughrim and Limerick, were coming via many routes — not only directly from Ireland, but from the continent and the West Indies.

In the first half of the 18th century, many Irish are identifiable by name on public records. Others, despite a general surname, are identifiable by birthplace. Among these were Peter Aleson of Donegal, James Carroll of Tipperary, Andrew Cheney of Cork, Brian Conolly of Meath, John Saul of Dublin, and the Church of Ireland parsons John Humphreys and Leigh Massey.

In 1714, three Irishmen, fighting for supremacy, as well as for religious and civic rights, initiated a continuing controversy. The protagonists were Gov. Hart of Cavan for the Protestant side, Charles Carroll and Thomas MacNamara for the Catholics. The victories and losses seemed equal until 1716 when two Irish Catholics were charged with "drinking the Pretender's health and preaching contemptibly of the King." Their offense had been the firing of four cannons from Courthouse Hill while giving rousing cheers for the Pretender. MacNamara, attorney for the defense, challenged Gov. Hart's right to try his clients. Carroll produced a document stating that he, as representative of the proprietor, had the right to set sentences for the defendants — not the governor.

Since the current absentee Lord Baltimore had apostacized in 1713, Governor Hart felt that he had the upper hand. In front of the Assembly, Hart charged Carroll with exercising civic powers without submitting to the Anti-Papist oath. While Hart and Carroll were arguing over whether the Oath was in effect (technically it was), MacNamara was displaying in court dramatic presentations that were objectionable to Hart. Lord Baltimore sent advice to MacNamara to subdue himself and to submit. MacNamara ignored the advice and the Assembly disbarred him. A brilliant advocate, the unrepentant MacNamara forced Lord Baltimore to hire three lawyers in

England to handle the bombardment of complicated appeals. The Lord Proprietor finally abandoned the battle, vetoed the Act of the Assembly, and restored MacNamara to the Bar.

Until his death three years later, MacNamara continued to challenge the governor, especially on issues of religious toleration and anti-Irish discrimination. Hart may have felt relieved when he was appointed governor of the Leeward Islands and bade farewell to Maryland. As fate would have it, Irishman Hart found there another belligerent Irish lawyer leading an uncontrollable Assembly.

The testimony of all 17th and 18th century records indicates the increasing numbers of Irish in Maryland. Irish appeared in every county before the Revolution. During the War of Independence, Irish served in Maryland's militia and regiments far out of proportion to their numbers in the colony. The muster rolls were rich with names of Irish-born, such as Thomas Bryan of Waterford, Thomas Forbes of Kildare, Martin Burke of Galway, and Farrell Hester of Roscommon. The Lynches, Kellys, and Murphys appear again and again.

Most famous among Revolutionary Era Maryland Irishmen were the Carrolls: Charles, signer of the Declaration of Independence; his second cousin, John, first Roman Catholic bishop of the United States; and John's brother, Daniel, leading constitutionalist.

Charles' ancestor, Charles Carroll the Emigrant, coming from Kings County in Ireland in 1688, did not find the tolerant colony envisioned by the founding proprietor. The Maryland Edict of Toleration, passed in 1649, had lasted only five years. Even as the Edict was being passed, a vast upheaval had been taking place in England resulting in placing in power an anti-Catholic and anti-Irish tyranny. Cromwell and the most blood-thirsty dissenters, who brooked no dissent other than their own, beheaded the King, took over Parliament, and imposed Puritanism on England and its colonies. Virginia self-righteously invaded Maryland, deposed the governing authorities, imprisoned the few priests who had not fled, and removed civil rights and toleration from Catholics. Lord Baltimore, regaining control in 1658, had to accept some undesirable con-

ditions, but the climate was still more favorable for Irish Catholics than that of their homeland.

It was to these conditions that Charles the Emigrant came as appointed Attorney General of Lord Baltimore. Proprietary powers were to decrease and conditions were to worsen when William III deposed his father-in-law and assumed the throne in company of James II's rather unnatural daughter Mary. New Penal Laws made Catholics despair, but the geography of Maryland made it still a safer place for going underground than either Ireland or England. His grandson said of Charles: "The family estate being greatly impaired by the inequity of the times which had stripped most ancient Irish families of their prosperity, he resolved to seek his fortune far distant from the scene of such oppression." And fortune did await him in Maryland, despite his Irish Catholicism.

His son, Charles Carroll the Settler, married Mary, daughter of Henry Darnall, and early emigrant and brother-in-law of Lord Baltimore. Darnall had been amassing wealth through plantations since his arrival. Charles and Mary became the grandparents of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, who married his own cousin, also a Mary Darnall. The Carrolls and Darnalls who became the wealthiest and best-known Catholics in Maryland, were among the wealthiest in all the colonies, and were unmistakably Irish on the Carroll side.

Although his religion banned him from any public office, Charles Carroll of Carrollton was an observer at the First Continental Congress, an emissary to Canada to seek support for the Revolutionary cause, and an advisor of American leaders. In 1776, when many restrictive religious laws were removed, he was a delegate to the Continental Congress and a member of the War Board. He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a founder of the First Bank of the United States, a director of the board for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and a president of the American Colonization Society. Dying in 1832 at age 96, Charles was the last survivor of the Declaration signers.

John Carroll is sometimes mistakenly considered a member of the same colonial Irish Carroll line as Charles the signer. John did have colonial and Irish roots, but his relationship to Charles came not from the Carroll but from his mother's side. John's father, Daniel, was an early 18th century Irish emigrant who became wealthy through trade and

business. He married Eleanor Darnall, grand-daughter of original settler Henry. Daniel and Eleanor had two sons, Daniel and John, who through their mother, were second cousins to Charles Carroll of Carrollton.

John received his early education at Bohemia Manor, one of the first Catholic settlements, with his Darnall and Carroll cousins. For higher education he had to go abroad. He entered the Jesuit Order, but found his Society suppressed almost everywhere in the world soon after his ordination. When he returned to Maryland in 1774, America was on the eve of a break with England. Father John identified with the patriot cause and became involved in the unsuccessful effort to get Canada to join on the side of the other colonies.

In 1789, John Carroll was appointed first Catholic bishop of the new nation. With only 24 priests, he was responsible for the welfare of his co-religionists spread through 13 colonies and undefined territories. Before his death at age 80 in 1815, he had seen his diocese subdivided; an increase to 92 the number of priests east of the Mississippi; and a return to the Faith of frontier Catholics, mostly all Irish, who had never seen a priest. Georgetown University, a seminary, parishes, schools, and male and female religious orders had been established and taken root. Carroll's firm hand at the rudder had charted the course for the Catholic Church in an overwhelmingly non-Catholic country.

Daniel, John's older brother, became head of the family at age 21 when his father died. Like second cousin Charles, he married a cousin, Eleanor Carroll, thus adding to the crisscross in the family genealogy. Daniel served in the Continental Congress, the House of Representatives, and the Maryland Senate. As a delegate to the Constitutional Convention he fought for and wrote the Tenth Amendment protecting states' rights. Chosen by George Washington for a commission to select the site for a new national capitol, Daniel transferred some of his own property to the federal government, so that federal buildings, such as the Supreme Court, now stand on former Carroll land.

In Maryland, as in the other colonies, the Irish played an important part in settlement and expansion; in the struggle for justice and tolerance; in the winning of independence from England; and in the unification of the colonies to establish the United States of America.

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The Reconquest Of Ireland

by Bernard Fox, PEC Correspondent from Northern Ireland

England's military reconquest of Ireland began on November 23rd, 1987, just prior to the second anniversary of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

On that day 7,000 Gardai (police) and regular troops of the Irish Republic commenced the largest military operation ever mounted in the history of the state. During the first ten days of the operation, 50,000 homes were entered and searched, many through forcible entry, almost 43,000 without search warrant. Simultaneously, British troops moved in force to the Irish Border and dug in to observe its entire length. They were supported in depth by permanent garrison units of the R.U.C. and Ulster Defense Regiment.

According to the Republic's Justice Minister, Mr. Gerry Collins, the object of the exercise, which he promised would turn the country inside out, was to find four boat-loads or arms allegedly smuggled into Eire in 1985 and 1986. Gardai sources who had received "information" about the arms shipments from French police, were reported by all sections of the Irish media to have totally discounted the truth of this "information", until the British press began to hype the story. At that stage, a meeting between Tom King, the Northern Ireland Secretary and Collins led to an agreement to stage the military operation.

In the Dail on December 10th, the Fine Gael spokesman on Justice, Mr. Sean Barrett attacked Collins for appearing on national radio and TV. to imply that the security of the state was under threat. There was absolutely no evidence to support the suggestion, he claimed, and added "Wasn't this really a beat-the-bushes operation in cooperation with the R.U.C. to flush out people hiding in the border areas?". Collins denied this was the intention, and in subsequent media broadcasts pictured the Irish Republic waking up some morning to "1,000

automatic rifles being paraded down O'Connell Street, or through our public buildings."

The truth about Collins' fantasies was placed in perspective by the Dublin journal *Phoenix*. "On the other hand," declared *Phoenix*, "they (the Gardai) are under pressure to find the four boat loads of arms...on the other they know that they don't exist, but are prevented from leaking this to the media because it will upset Collins to be made out a fool."

The truth is, according to *Phoenix*, "Why should the British hype the threat of the I.R.A. to law and order in the entire island of Ireland? Why indeed, except to put the unfortunate Haughey under pressure about extradition?"

The pressure worked: The emotional hype of the British and Irish media that followed the tragedy at Enniskillen, TV coverage of British regulars dug in along the Border, the large-scale troop movements south of the Border were sufficient to silence all opposition to the Extradition Bill, which became law on December 1st, 1987. Once again the objectives of the British government were achieved.

The cost to the Irish Nation of this repetitive British process of influencing Irish affairs, since Partition was imposed, has been incalculable. In the words of Tony Benn, British Labor M.P., "...both of the Irish states have militarized" to sustain a border which divided the Nation. The imperative for their action is found in the Anglo-Irish Accord of November 1985.

According to Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien, writing in the *Independent* (October 31st, 1987) "A major purpose of the Anglo-Irish Agreement on the Irish side was to help Mr. Hume and S.D.L.P.," Mr. Hume's principal political objective is to achieve a framework within which he and his party can "share power" in a six-county govern-

ment, and rule the partition state on behalf of the British government.

And 7,000 Irish troops and police are ordered into the homes of Irish people by an Irish government, at the behest of the English popular press, in order to help Mr. Hume secure his political objectives—the stabilization of partition.

This may provide Mr. Hume and his close associates with lucrative positions as government ministers, but it will not offer a solution to England's continued occupation of Ireland.

What may offer a solution is the proposal by Mr. Tony Benn M.P. to end the "continued British occupation of Northern Ireland." Speaking in London on December 14th, he said that a negotiated settlement to the war in Ireland could only be reached after a decision to withdraw British troops.

"The continued British occupation of Northern Ireland," added Mr. Benn, "takes away the liberties of the British people, as well as denying the Irish people their rights to live a full life in independence and unity." He said that both the British and the Irish have common interest in finding a way to end the mutual tragedy as soon as possible, and declared "...millions of our fellow-citizens understand quite clearly that if there is ever to be peace there must be a negotiated settlement to the war that can only be reached after a decision to withdraw has been taken."

The distinction between Mr. Benn, an Englishman, and Mr. Hume, an Irishman, in arriving at a solution, lies principally in the fact that Benn has no desire to achieve a position as a government minister ruling by military force and denial of Human Rights, in a pocket-handkerchief-sized state with a Third World economy. Mr. Hume, on the other hand, cannot achieve a government position under any other circumstances.

Action Letter

We must begin to build pressure in Washington concerning the MacBride Principles and funding for the Anglo-Irish Agreement. It is urgent that you write the letters below (even if you have already written them) and have your friends and relatives do the same. Use our letter below as a guide or simply rewrite as is on your own stationery. Please write today!

address & date

Honorable Dante Fascell, Chairman
Foreign Relations Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Claiborne Pell, Chairman
Foreign Relations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. _____;

As an American and a member of the American Irish Political Education Committee, I urge you to immediately conduct hearings on the Northern Ireland Fair Employment Practices Act (MacBride Principles) by the Foreign Relations Committee. Further, I urge a full investigation as to how US funding to the Anglo-Irish Agreement is being distributed. There are many serious allegations that these funds are being improperly used. I look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,
signature

The report from Boston is that a lot of the New Irish are getting laid-off and are having a very tough time finding new jobs because of the employer sanctions in the last Immigration Act. Ironically the U.S. Labor Department is predicting major shortages of skilled labor in places like Boston and N.Y.

There is a trial underway in Boston of an employer who recruited 11 people in Ireland to work in a nursing home. He promised them legal status. He could not find workers in the U.S. and never intended obtaining working papers for these people. He intended paying them off the books but they were picked up at the airport. The 11 now have temporary working papers and are expected to get permanent residencies.

There is another trial underway in N.Y. that, if successful, will have ramifications for some New Irish. Sean Mackin is seeking political asylum in the U.S. He was picked up by immigration authorities for being in the U.S. illegally. He would be sent back to Northern Ireland where he has received death threats from British Royal Marines. Sean Mackin, married and the father of one child, is from a Republican family and became involved with the Republican movement. He has spent long periods of time in prison, although never convicted of any criminal offense. Many of his friends and associates have been assassinated including two victims of the British government's "shoot to kill" policy. The U.S. government is contesting his appeal for political asylum as it would put British rule in Northern Ireland in a bad light. No one from Northern Ireland has ever been granted political asylum in the U.S.

NEWS BITS

Continued from Page 2

address policy issues, serious incidents and forthcoming events." Article 7(c) provides that "The two Governments agree that there is a need for a programme of special measures in Northern Ireland to improve relations between the security forces and the community, with the object in particular of making the security forces more readily accepted by the nationalist community." (Irish Times, 1/27/88)

"History for John Stalker is not, however, history for the population of Northern Ireland. The Irish were not as shocked by what his RUC investigation uncovered as the English were. (John Stalker) It's a question of exposure to it. People in England are not exposed to it. The people of Northern Ireland are — on a day-to-day basis, as part of the fabric of their lives. It does not surprise me that people over here, who are not used to it as part of their lives, were shocked by it all." (Irish Post, 2/27/88)

"Because it is better that the innocent remain in prison than that the British system of justice be disturbed." (Lord Denning, one of the three judges who reviewed the Birmingham Six case) (Irish Post, 2/27/88)

The Birmingham-based PTA Research and Welfare Association stated, "Those who doubt the innocence of these men (The Birmingham Six) should obtain a transcript of the appeal and read it for themselves... The verdict last week owes more to unwillingness of those responsible for the administration of justice in Britain to believe bad things about their own kind than to the evidence presented to the appeal." (Irish Post, 2/6/88) U.S. Congress must reconsider its support for the Anglo-Irish Accord.

Two men involved in a plot to smuggle arms to the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) "Were found guilty of conspiring to possess firearms with intent to enable life to be endangered and conspiring to smuggle firearms and ammunition between July 12 and December 31, 1986... Despite the seriousness of the offences, Justice Webster jailed each of the men only for four years... The sentences have to reflect the gravity of the offences, and contain an element to deter others with similar loyalties from allowing their loyalty to lead them into these sort of offences." (Irish Post, 1/16/88) Contrast this with the treatment handed out to nationalists who are even suspected of possessing firearms.

The New Irish

by Pete Foley

Senator Alan Simpson, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has become a sponsor of the new Kennedy-Simpson Immigration Bill. This bill would establish a points system for entry to the U.S. Points being given for age, education, job skills, and knowledge of the English language. This bill could give the Irish up to 20,000 visas. Prior to the recent letter writing campaign by the PEC (EARP) and the Irish Immigration Reform Movement (IIRM) targeting the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sen. Simpson was opposed to any new immigration legislation. Sen. Simpson's endorsement is crucial to passage in the Senate. The Senate Judiciary Committee overwhelmingly approved the bill and it should have easy passage in the Senate. The House of Representatives will be considering this bill and two similar bills in late March where passage is not assured. Please write your Representatives urging they support the *Kennedy-Simpson* Bill. Letters are very important. The address for your Congressman is: Hon. _____, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

PEC Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 2 pm — Phone # (914) 947-2726

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