



Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY

Sacred Heart University
DigitalCommons@SHU

American Irish Newsletter

The Irish American Community Collections

3-1986

American Irish Newsletter - February - March 1986

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_ainews



Part of the [European Languages and Societies Commons](#), [Other American Studies Commons](#), and the [Political Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - February - March 1986" (1986). *American Irish Newsletter*. 153.

https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_ainews/153

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the The Irish American Community Collections at DigitalCommons@SHU. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Irish Newsletter by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@SHU. For more information, please contact santoro-dillond@sacredheart.edu.

THE AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Action Irish

Vol. 11, No. 1

FEBRUARY/MARCH, 1986

NEWS BITS

by Andy Prior

The 15 Unionist MP's resigned their seats in the House of Commons to force by-elections on the issue of the Anglo-Irish agreement. The elections are expected in late January. (Irish Times 12/18/85) ... Bernadette McAliskey commenting on the Anglo-Irish agreement, "There is nothing in it about civil rights, nothing about strip-searchers, nothing about plastic bullets, nothing about equality in employment. This is an agreement about joint security. It talks about intelligence, the technology of policing and repression." (Irish Post 12/21/85).

Two UDA men were jailed for life in Belfast for the sectarian murder 12 years ago of an Andersonstown building contractor. (Irish Times 12/21/85) ... The N.I. Fair Employment Agency has warned that if the Belfast aviation company, Shorts, did not implement changes in recruitment procedures and hire more Catholics, it might withdraw the company's equal opportunity certificate. In October a senior American gov. figure suggested that their contracts with the U.S. Air Force would be in danger if Catholic employment did not rise. The FEA has said that while new procedures had been introduced it had observed a 2 to 3% drop in Catholics employed in 1984. They reported that the 7,000 workforce remains between 92% and 97% Protestant. (Irish Times 12/21/85).

"Observers in the House of Commons last Monday, when MP's

(Continued on Page 2)

FROM "TERRORIST" TO STATESMAN

by Joe Farrell (PEC, Pennsylvania)

When Jomo Kenyatta, first president of the East African nation of Kenya, died on August 22, 1978, messages praising his stature and statesmanship poured in from governments across Africa and around the world. Among the countries paying their respects was Britain; and with good reason. Kenyatta was one of the few leaders of the African independence movements who was not later thrown out of office by a coup; under his presidency, Kenya enjoyed stability, unusually good relations with the West, including Britain, and one of the most prosperous and free-enterprise oriented economies in Sub-Saharan Africa. But the British had not always talked about Jomo Kenyatta that way.

Much of tropical Africa is unhealthy for Europeans; in the center of Kenya, however, are some 16,000 square miles of mountainous highlands where the climate is more moderate. These, under British rule, became the "White Highlands." Several thousand British settlers were moved to these highlands in the early part of the century. But, as with many other places the British "settled" the "White Highlands" were already settled — part of them by Jomo Kenyatta's Kikuyu people.

The British settlers soon came to exercise great power in the colonial government; the natives of the country had virtually none. Embittered by their lost lands and their powerlessness against the British settler interests, which were opposed to their own, the Kikuyu people became the spearhead of the Kenyan independence movement. And Jomo Kenyatta emerged, after World War II, as its pre-eminent leader. But the alliance of the colonial government and the British settlers blocked progress in Kenya, while popular movements for de-colonialization stirred throughout Africa and Asia. The result, in 1952, was the outbreak of what became known as the Mau Mau rebellion among the Kikuyu.

Guerrilla bands based in the Kikuyu country began attacking government forces and officials; the government,

(Continued on Page 2)

IRISH WHO MADE AMERICA GREAT: THE FRONTIER ANGEL

by Dr. Roger D. McGrath (PEC, California)

Nellie Cashman was known as "Irish Nellie" to the miners and prospectors of the Far West. She spent nearly 60 adventurous years on the frontier, ranging from Mexico to Alaska, and because of her good works she earned the title the "Frontier Angel," the "Angel of Tombstone," the "Saint of the Sourdoughs," and the "Miner's Angel."

Nellie Cashman was born in Cobh, County Cork, Ireland, in 1844. The name Cashman is common to Cork and is the Anglicized version of O'Kissane or O'Ciosin in Gaelic. Irish historian and genealogist Edward MacLysaght says that the root word of the name is *cíos*, meaning tribute or rent. If MacLysaght's derivation is correct, then Irish Nellie lived up to her surname. She spent much of her time running her own boardinghouses and collecting rents.

Irish Nellie was just a teenager when she and her widowed mother left Ireland and joined Nellie's sister, Frances, in Boston, Massachusetts. Frances was the wife of Thomas Cunningham and they had already begun a family; they would eventually have five children.

Because the Civil War had erupted and there was a shortage of young men, Nellie was able to find work as a bellhop in a hotel. Not many bellhops looked like her. Nellie was a beautiful and delicately-featured, young woman with waist-length, brunette hair; flawless, fair skin; and lustrous, expressive eyes.

She and her mother soon moved to Washington, D.C. There she worked in one of the Capitol buildings and often saw and had contact with President Lincoln and other dignitaries. Her looks and beguiling Irish brogue attracted many a man, but sometime after the Civil War she left Washington and, accompanied by her mother, headed for California. The Cashman women made their way by steamer to Chagres on the Caribbean coast of Panama and then crossed overland on burros through jungles and mountains to Panama City

(Continued on Page 2)

ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT SETS BACK REUNIFICATION

by Albert R. Doyle

In a press release dated Dec. 12, 1985 the PEC set forth its position on the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Although we recognize that there are favorable aspects to the agreement, after careful analysis we conclude that the potential and actual negative aspects outweigh the benefits. Our conclusion is that the agreement will defer movement toward the ending of partition — our fundamental goal. This has been virtually admitted by the Irish Government (see News Bits). We are also very concerned that many American Irish who are not well informed, will see the Agreement as a solution which, at this time, it is not. We are fearful that their interest will slacken. We also see it as part of a strategy to have U.S. taxpayers foot the bill for Britain's last colony, further ensuring continuance of the Northern Ireland "state". Some other points made in our analysis include the following: the agreement should be carefully monitored to see whether any progress is made on meaningful reforms (in the criminal justice system and Fair Employment Act, for example) and not just superficial gestures such as revisions of the Flags & Emblems Act; the "consultation" rights of the Irish Government give them little they do not have already and in exchange for these dubious rights they have surrendered on partition of their country. Complete copies of our release on the agreement are available. For a copy send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the PEC.

where they caught a ship to San Francisco. Nellie and her mother were hearty souls.

Nellie did not remain in San Francisco for long. The year 1868 found her in Tucson, Arizona, and during the next few years she spent time in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Pioche and Virginia City, Nevada. In all these mining camps she established boardinghouses and restaurants, built them into profitable enterprises, and then moved on. Any miner down on his luck ate for free at Irish Nellie's, and Nellie was always ready to grubstake a prospector. She also had a talent for the healing arts and managed to nurse back to health many an injured or ill miner.

All of Nellie's business ventures made her money, most of which she gave away to those in need or sent to her mother in San Francisco. Nellie remained devoted to her mother throughout the older woman's life. And a long life it was. Nellie's mother lived to be over 100 years old.

The excitement of new strikes drove Nellie to one new frontier after another. In 1874 she joined a party of some 200 Nevada miners and headed for the Cassiar Mountains in northern British Columbia. The region was practically unknown and all but inaccessible. Nonetheless, the party reached its goal and made some rich strikes on the upper reaches of the Stikine River and along one of its tributaries, Dease Creek. As usual Nellie established a boardinghouse and a restaurant for the miners, and did some mining herself.

It was only fall when winter came to the Cassiar region that year. Snow fell incessantly and day by day the temperature dropped lower and lower. The miners were caught unprepared and, as their supplies dwindled, dozens began falling ill with scurvy.

Their beloved Irish Nellie was not among them, however. She had gone "out to civilization" early in the fall and was vacationing in Victoria, British Columbia. But when she heard of the miners' predicament she purchased 1,500 pounds of supplies (including plenty of lime juice), hired six men to accompany her, and headed for the Cassiar. At Wrangel, Alaska, U.S. custom officers tried to dissuade her from going any farther on what they termed her "mad trip." True to form Nellie pushed on.

When the commander of Fort Wrangel heard that a woman was headed for the Cassiar, he dispatched a party of soldiers to rescue her. The soldiers did not catch up with Nellie until she was well up on the Stikine River. The soldiers, who were nearly exhausted and

(Continued on Page 5)

NEWS BITS

(Continued from Page 1)

were given an opportunity to comment on the Anglo-Irish agreement, may have been surprised to see the SDLP almost doubled - up with laughter on the Opposition benches. Apparently after Peter Robinson, the DUP (Unionist) MP, shouted that Mrs. Thatcher had taken a viper to her bosom, the Liberal MP, Clement Freud, passed a note to John Hume which read: "No self-respecting viper could go anywhere near Maggie's bosom." (Irish Times 11/23/85) ... **Britain's highest representative in N.I., Tom King, told business executives in Brussels that Ireland, in signing the Anglo-Irish pact, "has in fact accepted that for all practical purposes and into perpetuity, there will never be a united Ireland."** (Irish Times 11/23/85) ... Fr. Joseph McVeigh, chairman of the Fermanagh Anti-strip Search Co. has claimed that he was physically assaulted by an RUC Divisional Mobile Support Unit and abused in "a sectarian manner." (Irish Times 12/14/85).

(Continued on Page 3)

The AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

(formerly the Political Education Committee National Newsletter)
founded in 1976

Published by: The American-Irish National Political Education Committee, with the support of the Emerald Society, Fire Department, City of New York.

Malloy Building

Two North Liberty Drive, Stony Point, N.Y. 10980

Editor John J. Finucane

Assistant Editor Andy Prior

HELP!

Most Americans (American Irish included) do not know the truth about British state terrorism in Ireland. This is the result of blatant censorship by omission systematically carried out by the news media. To help counter media censorship we are trying something new, namely, the Local Community Information Center. These information centers are a simple operation requiring little effort on your part. What you would do as a Information Center Director is send out pre-printed professional quality information on the struggle for freedom in Ireland that we provide. We also provide a pre-printed cover letter in your name with the title of Information Director. You would make these mailings to influential people in your community — Town Supervisors, Mayors, newspaper editors, presidents of local radio and cable TV stations, clergy, union officials, etc. This operation involves only one or more persons sending out mailings each week. The only expense to you is the postage (22¢ per piece) and envelopes. This simple but important operation will have far reaching results in countering censorship.

Please offer your services in this important endeavor. Send your name, address and phone number to: PEC, Two North Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980. Attn: Info-Center or call (914) 947-2726.

STATESMAN

(Continued from Page 1)

authoritarian towards the Africans to begin with, moved with military force and police action to suppress Kenyan nationalism. Kenyatta and other leaders were rousted from their homes by a police sweep in the small hours of the morning, and put on trial. Though Kenyatta maintained that the nationalist movement he headed was not directly associated with the Mau Mau warfare (not to mention the fact that the Mau Mau attacks were primarily a war of rebellion) the British charged him with leadership of a terrorist campaign. The Encyclopedia Britannica comments;

Despite government efforts to portray Kenyatta's trial as a criminal case, it received worldwide publicity as a political proceeding.

But the British were making the rules. Kenyatta was imprisoned, with other Kenyan leaders, in often appalling conditions, for more than eight years, for "Managing the Mau Mau Terrorist Organization".

The rebellion was crushed, but despite the fond hopes of the British settlers, the clock could not be turned back.

With African nationalism commanding the loyalty of the vast majority of the people of Kenya and of Africa, the British government was forced to seek a political settlement; and Kenya's African leaders refused to deal with the British without Kenyatta. In August of 1961, after almost eight and a half years of imprisonment and detention, much of it in what could only be termed concentration camps, Kenyatta was released to resume command of the Kenya nationalist movement. In 1963 Kenya became independent, with Kenyatta as Prime Minister; in 1964, it became a republic, with Kenyatta as President.

The convicted "terrorist" refused to seek revenge. He invited the British settlers to stay on as Kenyan citizens, and adopted one of the most pro-Western stances of any African leader, in the course of seeking to advance his country. As to what the British called the "Mau Mau Terrorist Organization" historian A. J. Hughes summarizes:

The ultimate pity is that the colonial government, closely influenced by the settlers, should have ruled the country in such a way that so many Africans felt it necessary to embark upon violent revolution as the only course to achieve their aims.

FROM THE EDITOR

There are hundreds of thousands of Americans of Irish heritage who will help reunite Ireland if only someone were to ask them directly to do so. Many more, with a little coaxing, would be willing to help or at least financially support our efforts to achieve that goal. These very encouraging findings are the results of an intense test conducted by the PEC over the past fifteen months. In testing **Operation One Million** we have contacted by direct mail over sixty thousand American Irish throughout the United States. More than three percent of those contacted **only once** have already joined with us. To further test Operation One Million, we contacted for a second time one thousand of those people who did not respond to our first mailing. Another three percent joined. Further mailings had to be discontinued because we did not have the necessary financial or secretarial resources.

Obviously, Operation One Million, a tested and proven operation, offers the American Irish the vehicle that is needed to develop sufficient grass roots unity to end British rule in Ireland. Will you give it the help it needs?

For Operation One Million to be effective, we must reach one million American Irish during 1986. We must reach large numbers of them in a short period of time since many will quickly lose interest if they do not see positive results. As explained on page 4, (Operation One Million: A Real Chance For American Irish Unity), it will take over \$240,000. to finance Operation One Million during 1986. If you can give us \$100., or whatever you can afford, during 1986, this program will be on its way.

Will American Irish unity continue to struggle along at a snails pace? Or will American Irish unity jump forward by leaps and bounds?

Please support Operation One Million! For full details see page four.

NEWS BITS

(Continued from Page 2)

"Official Unionist politicians belatedly tried to distance themselves from the violence at the Anglo-Irish Secretariat Office outside Belfast, which left a BBC sound recordist, a freelance cameraman and 26 RUC men injured, one still in hospital with a fractured jaw. A former DUP councillor and two other men were arrested during the 45-minute riot, involving about 100 people, some wearing the insignia of the UDA and the illegal UVF." (Irish Times 1/6/86).

(Continued on Page 6)

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY SUBSCRIPTION OFFER TO AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Regularly \$8⁰⁰
Now Only \$6⁰⁰

To subscribe send your name and address on the coupon below and a check or money order for \$6.00 to: National PEC, Two North Liberty Drive, Stony Point, N.Y. 10980.

YES, please enroll ☐ me ☐ the following name person for a one year subscription of the bi-monthly AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER. Enclosed, please find my check for \$_____.

Date _____

Signature _____

Name (print) _____

Address _____

Vol. 11, No. 4

PEC TO MEET IN THE BRONX, NEW YORK

The PEC will conduct its first member subscriber meeting in New York City on Sunday, February 23, 1986 **starting at 2 p.m.** The meeting will take place at St. Brendan's School located at 207th St. & Perry Avenue in the Bronx. The purpose of this meeting is to promote a better understanding of the objectives and operations of the PEC and to solicit input and greater participation from our members/subscribers. All are welcome to attend. Please make a special effort to be there!

AMERICAN CONSERVATIVES SHOULD CARE

by Charles E. Rice (PEC, Indiana, is a Professor of Law at Notre Dame Law School. He was a co-founder and State Vice-Chairman of the New York Conservative Party from 1962 to 1969.)

Why do political conservatives seem to care so little about the British oppression of the inhabitants of the six counties of north-east Ireland? Since Partition in 1920-21, the British regime has violated every principle of government that conservatives espouse. An unjust prosecutorial and legal system has superseded the rule of law. The "legal conveyor belt" is a threat to the liberty of young people who can be arrested on suspicion, interrogated without a lawyer, remanded for two years and convicted solely on the perjured word of a policeman or a "supergrass" informant. Free enterprise is only a phrase to the Nationalist youths and heads of families who can get no work because of the state-sanctioned system of employment discrimination. The sanctity of the home is a joke in a statelet where the police and soldiers are free to break your door down for practically no reason, huddle the family in the tiny living room and ransack the home for "evidence." The Northern Ireland regime is the antithesis of the limited government which is a central tenet of the conservative creed. Nor can the oppression be justified in the name of law and order. When the British Army intervened in August, 1969, there was no functioning IRA. Only when the British Army turned upon the Nationalist people did the IRA revive. The IRA, therefore, is a symptom, a predictable response to the seminal violence of an irretrievably failed regime. "Absolutely, there is only one solution," said Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich, Catholic Primate of Ireland. "England has to get out."

The conservative silence on Northern Ireland may be explained on two counts. One is that the issue is perceived as a liberal issue. Most office holders who speak for justice in Ireland are liberal Democrats. And Margaret Thatcher heads a Conservative Party government closely allied to the Reagan Administration. The media have generated the false impression that one cannot oppose the British occupation of Northern Ireland unless one is a supporter of the IRA. This is absolutely untrue, but it intimidates conservatives who instinctively and rightly support "law and order."

The second reason for conservative silence is social. As Peter King, one of the few American conservatives who supports justice in a united Ireland, has said, "The country club set think that justice in Ireland is a working-class issue from the Bronx." The young urban professionals, the American Irish Yuppies (and senior Yuppies), who may be "respectable" but who exhibit what Honorable Sean MacBride has aptly described as a "slave mentality" of subservience to the British criteria for social and economic acceptability, seem not to care.

The issue in Northern Ireland is simple justice. That issue transcends economic, social and political distinctions. The injustice in Northern Ireland is so contrary to the law of God that active involvement in constructive and peaceful efforts to remedy that injustice is the only "respectable" position for conservatives to take.

(Charles E. Rice is Professor of Law at Notre Dame Law School. He was State Vice-Chairman of the New York Conservative Party from 1962 to 1969.)

— APPEAL —

OPERATION ONE MILLION: A REAL CHANCE FOR AMERICAN IRISH UNITY!

Dear Member,

The greatest obstacle to achieving Ireland's reunification is the lack of reliable information about the six northern counties under British rule. The majority of Americans, including most American Irish, do not and never will know the truth **unless** we, the informed American Irish, deliver it to them. The PEC has made a major breakthrough in this regard.

Since October, 1984, the PEC has been testing a direct mail campaign to promote subscriptions to the **AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER**. We have reached tens of thousands of American Irish from varied income groups and varied professions throughout the United States. Our rate of return of new subscribers, many of whom become active in promoting Ireland's reunification, is 3%, **which is considered by marketing experts excellent.**

More important, 13% of our PEC members/subscribers have informed us that they respond to our letter-writing requests (EARP, Action Letter, etc.). **Remember!** One single letter represents the views and potential votes of one thousand Americans. Its value cannot be overemphasized. We are, through this medium, effectively encouraging the American Irish, many for the first time, to campaign for Ireland's reunification. The above successes demonstrate that the American Irish by the hundreds of thousands, possibly the millions, want to learn the truth and, in many cases, will help achieve Ireland's reunification. The key to our success has been the direct mail approach.

When our forefathers, the Irish immigrants, arrived and assimilated into the American society, they created a power structure both respected and envied. Despite anti-Irish prejudices and anti-Irish work regulations, they persevered until they became a viable part of America's political and economic structure. The essence of this success and upward mobility was the determination of the Irish not to compromise but, rather, to fight back against those who shamed and abused them.

We in our efforts to unite Ireland have not yet won the fight, but with continued determination and financial sacrifice, **we will.**

In the second decade of service, we at the PEC want to expand our direct mail program so that we reach one million American Irish in 1986. Based on the already proven success of our direct mail program, and assuming we receive the financial support from our members to reach one million, we will add 30 thousand new members and 3900 new letter writers, which would represent the views of 3.9 million Americans. This number of letter writers, plus our current letter writers, and the additional ones we pick up in 1987, will represent a very powerful force in the next Presidential election.

This campaign is appropriately titled "**Operation One Million**". Presently, due to financial and physical limitations, we can only reach by direct mail one hundred thousand people a year. This means we would need ten years to reach one million, and fifty years to reach 5 million. Obviously, we must increase our efforts and set ourselves a faster pace.


Excluding administration and maintenance, the initial expense for Operation One Million will amount to approximately \$240,000, i.e., postal fees, printing fees, mail handling fees, etc.

The strategy of this ambitious campaign is to turn American Irish apathy and indifference into concern and involvement. Its success will be determined by our resolve to raise the funds, meet our expenses, and regain the structure we once held.

Will you take this bold step with us? We urge you to become a sponsor of Operation One Million by making a suggested financial commitment of \$100.00 for the year 1986. Of course, some of you will not be able to afford \$100.00. Likewise, some will be able to afford more. In any case, please give what you can. If you cannot fulfill your pledge in one payment, you can pay in installments. Your assistance is vital to the success of this undertaking. Please make your commitment and become a sponsor of Operation One Million today!

To become a sponsor of Operation One Million, simply fill out and detach the coupon below and mail with your check or money order to PEC, Two North Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980. Make checks or money orders payable to PEC. Outside the U.S. please use postal money orders made out in U.S. dollars.

In American Irish unity,


John J. Finucane
President

YES, I wish to sponsor OPERATION ONE MILLION. Enclosed, find my check (money order) for \$_____ in ☐ full ☐ part payment of my sponsorship. My total pledge for 1986 is \$_____ which I will make _____ installments.

NAME (please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____ ST. _____ Zip _____

SIGNATURE _____

suffering greatly from the cold, were surprised to find Nellie comfortably camped on the ice of the frozen Stikine and "cooking her evening meal by the heat of a wood fire and humming a lively air." The soldiers gratefully accepted her offer of hot tea and food and returned to Fort Wrangel without her. The *Victoria Daily British Colonist*, upon hearing the soldiers' report of Nellie's trek, called it an "extraordinary feat" that could only be made by Irish Nellie, an "indomitable female who . . . possesses all the vivacity as well as the push and energy inherent to her race."

Nellie and her crew continued the journey on snowshoes and sleds. Although Nellie was slender and stood just over five feet tall, she pulled her own sled without help. Snowslides were an ever-present danger. As Nellie recalled: "One night the men put my tent up on the side of a steep hill where the snow was 10 feet deep. The next morning one of my men came to where my tent was to bring me coffee. It had snowed heavily in the night, and, to his surprise, he couldn't find the tent. Finally they discovered me a quarter of a mile down the hill, where my tent, my bed and myself and all the rest of my belongings had been carried by a snowslide." By the time her men got to her she had already dug herself out.

The winter weather was so severe that people in coastal settlements began to fear that Nellie had perished. On February 5, 1875, the *Daily British Colonist* said: "It is feared that she has perished from the intense cold that prevailed during the latter part of January along the entire coast."

Nellie had not perished. After 77 days on the trail — most of the time because of ice and snow there was no trail to follow — Nellie reached Dease Creek. There she found almost half of the 200 prospectors near death from scurvy. She nursed every one of them back to health.

Nellie stayed in British Columbia for another three years, running her boardinghouse, restaurant and general store, and raising money to build St. Joseph's Hospital in Victoria. In 1878 she returned to San Francisco to visit her mother and her sister Frances who now lived there. Frances and her husband Thomas Cunningham now had three boys and two girls. Nellie's nephews and nieces loved "Aunt Nell" and were fascinated by her adventures.

A new mining strike soon beckoned, however, and in 1880 Nellie took over the operation of the Russ House hotel and restaurant in Tombstone, Arizona. As usual if a miner was down in his luck he was fed and housed for free and given a job or a grubstake. American Irish Edward Doheny was one of these. Between prospecting trips he washed dishes for Nellie. Doheny later moved to Los Angeles and in 1892 drilled the first producing oil well in southern California. He seemed to have a knack for hitting gushers and by the early 1900s he had become a multimillionaire.

Not long after Nellie began operations at the Russ House her sister's husband died. Nellie immediately left for San Francisco and brought Frances and the five children back with her to Tombstone. Nellie moved them into a home just behind the Russ House. In 1883 Frances died and Aunt Nell finished the job of raising the Cunningham children.

While in Tombstone Nellie established a fund for prospectors who had been injured in mining accidents; saved a man from being lynched; and helped build the first school in Tombstone and the first non-military hospital in Arizona, St. Mary's Hospital in Tucson. Nellie also helped build the first Catholic Church in Tombstone and served as the treasurer of the local chapter of the Land League of Ireland. She was an outspoken Irish nationalist, supporting by word and deed the expulsion of the British from Ireland.

One day a dying Mexican stumbled into Tombstone and collapsed at the entrance to Nellie's hotel. She carried him inside and before he died he muttered to her: "Mulege . . . go to Mulege." His pockets were found to be full of gold nuggets.

Nellie and some 20 prospectors were soon exploring the desert wastes inland from Mulege in Baja California. The party ran out of water and several of the prospectors were on the verge of death from dehydration. In fact, the *Phoenix Herald* carried a report that Nellie and two others had died of thirst.

Actually, Nellie was in better shape than any of the men. She volunteered to seek help, assuring her companions that a good angel would guide her to water. Setting off across the blistering desert alone, she somehow managed to stumble upon an isolated Catholic mission. Without pausing to rest, she organized a rescue party of Mexicans and helped drive burros loaded with goatskin

NEWS FLASH

U.S. Senator Jesse Helms, in a letter to Thomas Dougherty, PEC Information Director, New Jersey, concerning the US-UK Extradition Treaty stated, "... I have grave reservations about the many constitutional questions which this treaty raises about our traditional right of political sanctuary. If we reverse 200 years of precedent because of the situation in Ireland we will also be closing the door to freedom fighters fighting just wars against Communist oppression elsewhere". **CONGRESSMAN MARIO BIAGGI**, chairman of the Ad Hoc Congressional Committee on Irish Affairs, has written to each member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to determine their present views on the proposed changes to the US-UK Extradition Treaty. Biaggi said he is taking the informal poll "in anticipation of an early effort on the part of the Committee to move the treaty for a vote when Congress resumes. Should the Treaty make it out of Committee, and that is not entirely certain, it would then move to the full senate where it must pass by a 2/3 vote to be ratified".

NBC PROTEST UPDATE

Dr. Kathleen Lisowski, Psychologist, is preparing for the PEC a professional opinion concerning negative presentations by the media of American Irish people such as NBC's "Silent Witness" and "Hostage Flight". Her opinion will include the effects these presentations have on the attitudes of the general public including the American Irish. Her findings will be subsequently reported to you.

water casks back to the miners. She returned just in the nick of time.

There were very few mining strikes that Nellie missed. She even visited the diamond fields of South Africa during the late 1880's. She was still going strong in 1895 when she arrived in Tucson, Arizona. The *Arizona Star* reported: "Yesterday Tucson was visited by one of the most extraordinary women in America, Nellie Cashman, whose name and face have been familiar in every important mining camp or district on the coast for more than twenty years. She rode into town from Casa Grande on horseback, a jaunt that would have nearly prostrated the average man with fatigue. She showed no sign of weariness, and went about town in that calm business-like manner that belongs particularly to her."

When news of the great strike in the Klondike reached the States, Nellie was off for the Far North immediately. She climbed Chilkoot Pass and rode the rapids of the Yukon River to Dawson. By the summer of 1898 she had opened a restaurant and grocery store in Dawson. The grocery store, located in the basement of the Hotel Donovan, included a small library the miners could use for reading and writing. It quickly became known as "The Prospector's Haven of Rest." And, of course, Nellie was always ready to grubstake a broke or hungry miner. She was so loved and respected that, to quote one report: "Her entrance into a saloon or dance hall was the signal for every man in the place to stand."

Nellie, who had always done well, struck it rich in the Klondike. One of her claims paid her more than \$100,000, equivalent to at least a million and half dollars in today's dollars. She continued living and prospecting in the Yukon and Alaska for another 25 years. When she was in her sixties or seventies — one report said early eighties — she mushed a dog team across 750 miles of Alaskan wilderness.

Irish Nellie was a beautiful woman and one would suspect that she must have had a lover or two. But she never married and no lover is recorded. When a reporter asked her one day if she ever "feared for her virtue" while spending her time in all-male mining camps or prospecting on wild frontiers, she replied: "Bless your soul, no! I never have had a word said to me out of the way. The 'boys' would sure see to it that anyone who ever offered to insult me would never be able to repeat the offense."

Irish Nellie Cashman was generous, adventurous, and courageous. Shortly before she died in 1925 she said: "You never quite know what's going to happen next, or when your time will come to cash in your checks. It all adds interest and variety to life."

(Ed. Note: Dr. McGrath is a professor of history at UCLA and the author of *Gunfighters, Highwaymen, and Vigilantes: Violence on the Frontier* published by the University of California Press, 1984.)

ACTION LETTER

by Albert R. Doyle

One aspect of the Anglo-Irish Agreement of November 15, 1985 which is now apparent in that the British will use the positive publicity to try to get the U.S. taxpayer to finance their expensive colony in Ireland. Already the usual crowd of St. Patrick's Day U.S. politicians are beating the drums for such "aid". It is certainly true that Ireland, almost alone among the countries of the world, gets not a crumb of the annual U.S. foreign aid largesse. The problem is that we must be very sure that any funds are used to benefit the victims of colonial oppression and not to finance the British police-state in Northern Ireland. The treaty, of itself, does not address the issues of the unfair "criminal justice" system, discrimination in employment and housing, or any of the other unfair features of the Northern Ireland system. We must educate our political leaders so that they will not simply hand money to the British which can be used to simply underwrite their losses from the present system. It is clear from opinion polls that the British people do not want to remain in Northern Ireland **and that the cost of maintaining the system is a factor in their views.** This letter is an attempt to alert key congressional leaders. Please write and ask your family, friends and organization(s) to do so.

Your address and date

Hon. Dante B. Fascell, Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fascell:

There are indications that proposals will be made for U.S. financial aid to the British and Irish governments related to the recent Anglo-Irish Agreement on Northern Ireland. You should be aware that these proposals are highly controversial. As such they should be the subject of thorough hearings before approval. There is a real danger that these well-intentioned fundings will be used to underwrite an oppressive and undemocratic regime in Northern Ireland — without any proof of progress on the awful human rights situation there. Such proof should be required as a pre-condition to any aid.

Sincerely,

NEWS BITS

(Continued from Page 3)

Barely a month before elections eighteen leading members of Sinn Fein, including Martin McGuinness and several councilors, were arrested in dawn raids and held for questioning under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Columnist Martin Cowley wrote of the raids, "In Derry alone, ten houses were raided at dawn and six people detained. One of them arrested there was a Sinn Fein councillor, Hugh Brady, who was subsequently released on Tuesday shortly

LETTERS ARE STILL NEEDED

by John J. Finucane

... concerning two very important issues. We have recently contacted all EARP members requesting they again write letters in opposition to the US-UK Extradition Treaty and in a separate mailing, asked all EARP members residing in New York to write in support of the Northern Ireland Investment Bill. We have also placed 1/4 page ads (PEC Action Alerts) in four major American Irish newspapers requesting letters in opposition to the Treaty. **The Treaty is not dead!**

We call upon you to again write and/or call your US Senators urging that he oppose ratification of the Treaty (address & senate central phone #: Hon. _____, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510 — 1 (202) 224-3121). New York State EARP members are asked to also write and/or call their State Senators urging that they support and promote the Northern Ireland Investment Bill S.5827 (address & central phone #: Hon. _____, New York State Senate, Albany, NY 12248 — 1 (518) 455-2800). **Please keep up the pressure!**

before his solicitor was about to make a habeus corpus application. His solicitor said that Mr. Brady's house has been searched 41 times and that he has never been convicted of any offense. In Castlereagh RUC station during the week he was questioned about his whereabouts on Nov. 20th and 21st. At that time he was in RUC custody in Castlereagh." (Irish Times 01/04/86) ... "The British Gov. is planning to amend the controversial Emergency Provisions Act to allow for the return of trial by jury for non-terrorist offenses in N.I., which currently can be heard only in the non-jury Diplock Courts." It is also expected that in the future three judges instead of one will sit in the Diplock Courts. (Irish Times 01/04/86).

Hunger Strike Suspended — three young Irish nationalists on hunger strike have agreed to suspend their protests. The British government has promised a speedy appeal. The suspension came as the third man went on hunger strike. They were part of a twenty seven man group who were to go on hunger strike at one week intervals to stress their demands for a speedy appeal of their convictions based solely on the uncorroborated evidence of a "supergrass" and for a unbiased investigation of the supergrass system (AINS 1/86) ... There is an uproar in England because Queen Elizabeth did not include Irishman Bob Geldof on her New Year's Honor List. Geldof organized the Live Aid and Band Aid concerts that raised millions for African famine victims. PM Thatcher has been blamed because she did not recommend Geldof. According to the *Boston Herald*, the English Queen did have one legit excuse, "he's an Irish lad and does not qualify for British royal honors" (AINS-1/86 ... On November 27, 1985 the United Nations General Assembly voted (107 to 4) to support an Argentina-backed resolution that called for talks between the two nations (Argentina and Britain) on all aspects of the future of the Malvinas (Falkland Islands) (The New American 12/23/85).

AMERICAN IRISH
POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Malloy Building, Suite 201
Two North Liberty Drive
Stony Point, N.Y. 10980

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Garnerville, N.Y.
Permit No. 13

FIRST-CLASS MAIL