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THE AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Action Irish

Vol. 10, No. 2

APRIL/MAY, 1985

OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS

by John J. Finucane

We have received many complaints concerning some offensive St. Patrick's Day greeting cards (drinking cards) still produced by Hallmark. We have investigated and found Hallmark's cards to be improved, but some offensive cards are still being promoted. Hallmark has asked us to forward the catalog numbers of the cards in question so that proper action can be taken.

We have also received numerous complaints about the offensive nature of certain Anheuser Busch ads promoting Budweiser beer during the St. Patrick's Day season — Irish spoken here, Shamrock posters, and silly leprechauns. Some members have voiced concern that not only does this material offend the Irish image, but promotes drinking, all this when local parade committees and the authorities are discouraging drinking at parades. This type of promotion is unethical since it could result in people driving while under the influence of alcohol (DWI).

Before beginning any letter-writing campaigns against these companies, we will contact both Hallmark and Anheuser Busch. Their responses and possible actions to take will be published in our next Newsletter.

NEWS BITS

by Andy Prior

"I cannot and I will not condemn or indict those who legitimately struggle for justice and for human rights in Ireland ... the moral course is clear, the time has come and is long overdue for those great nations of the world, truly dedicated to liberty and justice for all, to raise their voices loudly and clearly and unmistakably in the forums of the world or privately and quietly but persuasively, as they see fit, to demand that the oppression and the slaughter cease. Which nation should lead the way but our own!" (pre- St. Patrick's Day Parade homily delivered by N.Y. Archbishop O'Connor 3/16) ... "We must arouse Irish-American public opinion, 40 million strong, to the true state of affairs in N.I., to the anachronism that N.I. represents to the Western World, and to the fact that it is a permanent affront to the concepts of western parliamentary democracy ... Irish — American public opinion is a sleeping giant that must be awakened and fully motivated ..." — Charles Haughey, former Irish Prime Minister. (Irish Echo 3/16/85).

"Comments made by Cardinal O'Fiaich in Boston have been criticized by Unionists and by Mr. Barry, Minister for Foreign Affairs. O'Fiaich said he believed that a British withdrawal from the North was inevitable as eventually Catholics would have a majority in the North. The only solution to the troubles, he said, was a British withdrawal. He said that the British presence provides a divisiveness and denied that a sudden British pullout would result in civil war. (PEC 3/85) ... "Many of those involved in the conflict now, even those who have gone to prison are decent people who in any other circumstance would be extremely unlikely to commit any crime against anyone. It seems to me that other men and women of principle feel compelled to engage in horrific acts, one cannot simply dismiss them as terrorists and criminals, refuse to talk to their political leaders and hope they will give up. They will not tire and, because it is their own country, they will not go away." (Jo Thomas — NY Times Mag. 3/10/85).

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1985 OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY

In September, 1985 the PEC will have completed ten years of successful service to the American Irish community. Ten years of service of which we are very proud. To commemorate this special occasion we will conduct our Tenth Annual Testimonial Dance on September, 14, 1985 at St. Catharine's in Blauvelt, N.Y. We will honor four very special guests. We urge you to *mark your calendar*.

In conjunction with this event, we will be promoting a journal and a raffle which we hope you will support. If you would like to help us with either the journal or the raffle, please drop us a line at NPEC, Two North Liberty Dr., Stony Point, N.Y. 10980 or call 1 (914) 947-2726. Please help us make this special event a great success!

FRONTIER LAWYER: THE INDOMITABLE PATRICK REDDY

by Dr. Roger McGrath (PEC, California)

"I'll donate the first hundred dollars," said big Pat Reddy as he pulled five, \$20 gold pieces out of his pocket. Other Irishmen in the crowded Miners' Union Hall in Bodie quickly followed his example and contributed whatever money or gold dust they could spare. Reddy and the others were responding to Thomas Ryan who had just declared:

For seven centuries Ireland has been fighting for liberty ... Those who have gathered here tonight should not respond as Irishmen, merely, but as citizens of the leading republic of the earth and aid in liberating the oppressed people from English rule.

Thus began on the night of 22 December, 1880, the first meeting of the Bodie chapter of the Land League of Ireland. The monies collected that night would find their way from Bodie, located high in the mountains of the eastern Sierra Nevada country, to Ireland. It was no accident that Pat Reddy had taken the lead in supporting the establishment of the Bodie chapter of the Land League. Reddy was a leader of men.

Large, powerfully built, and handsome, Reddy was, as one Bodieite recalled, "easily the most striking figure in town." He was also the town's leading attorney. His origins were humble. He was born in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, in 1839, shortly after his impoverished parents arrived in the United States from County Carlow, Ireland. Like many other American Irish of that era, although he was born in America he had been conceived in Ireland.

Reddy came to California in February, 1861, and worked as a laborer in Contra Costa County and as a miner in Placer County, before he crossed into the trans-Sierra Nevada country in 1863. Virginia City, Aurora, Darwin, and Montgomery were some of the mining camps he lived in. His years in those camps were said to have been nothing less than wild and reckless: one contemporary went so far as to call him the "terror" of Aurora in 1863. The next year he was shot in the arm by an unknown assailant walking down B Street in Virginia City. He lost the arm as a result of the wound, but he never lost his fighting spirit. Thirty-three years later, when he was nearly fifty-eight years old,

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he emerged from the state supreme court in Sacramento to see a number of people rushing out of the post office nearby. When one of those fleeing the building told Reddy that there was an armed man inside threatening to kill a woman, Reddy ran into the post office. He found the man, later identified as Peter Hulsman, standing over a woman brandishing a revolver. One-armed Patrick Reddy lunged for the gun and grabbed it before Hulsman could fire. Another man then jumped on Hulsman's back. Hulsman, in a last desperate effort, tried to turn the gun on Reddy and fire. But Reddy jammed his thumb between the hammer and cylinder of the revolver as Hulsman cocked it and, when Hulsman pulled the trigger, the hammer fell on Reddy's thumb. Reddy and the other man then wrestled Hulsman to the floor. After the police arrived, Reddy had his thumb, which was bleeding profusely, bandaged and, as the *San Francisco Call* put it, "continued on down the street as if nothing unusual had happened."

Shortly after Reddy lost his arm — he would later call it a blessing in disguise — he married and began to study law. In 1867 he was admitted to the bar and began to practice law in Independence, California, a location that enabled him to attract business from the entire southern trans-Sierra region. Responding to the great boom at Bodie, he moved his practice there in April 1879 and by 1880 his law office occupied the entire top floor of the Molinelli Building on Main Street. The *Bodie Standard* called it "the most imposing law office outside of San Francisco." Although Reddy's dark auburn hair was beginning to turn white and he was gaining an ever more dignified appearance, he occasionally went on a spree. Then he would proceed from saloon to saloon, ordering drinks for everybody and challenging Bodie's strongest men to arm-wrestling matches.

Reddy dominated both the justice court at Bodie and the superior court at nearby Bridgeport, the county seat of Mono County, California. He prepared his briefs carefully, had almost total recall, and captivated judge and jury with a commanding voice, beautiful diction, and a lilting Irish brogue. Years later in San Francisco, law students would crowd into the courtroom to watch him perform. In Bodie, Reddy won the reputation of supporting the underdog. He donated his services to dozens of Bodieites who could not afford to pay him, while his wealthy clients were charged reasonably high fees. He was known to occasionally slip \$20 gold pieces into the hands of destitute miners and to treat them to elegant dinners.

Reddy was also active in politics. He was a founding member of the Bodie chapter of the Land League of Ireland, a Mono and Inyo county delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1878-1879, and a state senator from 1883 to 1887. Although Reddy stopped prospecting and mining when he lost his arm, he never stopped dabbling in mining stock. He was part-owner of several mines, including the Yellow Aster which made Randsburg, California, famous. The name of his favorite mine, the Defiance, symbolized his character.

In 1881 Reddy opened a law office in San Francisco, while maintaining his practice in Bodie for another two years. Within a few years and with the addition of junior partners, Reddy had

SPECIAL ACTION LETTER

by Marie Walsh (PEC, New York)

(It is particularly important that all New York City residents respond to this request. Please respond so that your letter is in Mayor Koch's office no later than April 18.

In August 1984 the Board of the New York City Employees Retirement System voted to withdraw its funds from companies doing business with South Africa because of the latter's apartheid policy.

New York City retirement funds are also invested in companies doing business in northeast Ireland, where the minority suffers from an apartheid parrallel to that of South Africa. New York City residents, therefore, have been helping to finance the brutality and discrimination practiced in the north.

Councilman Sal Albanese has introduced a bill in the New York City Council (Intro No. 878) providing for divestiture of City pension funds from American companies doing business in the North. Mayor Edward Koch has stated he will not support the bill, although he did support divestiture from South Africa.

Please write a letter to Mayor Koch. Write the letter below in your own words, or copy it as is on your own stationery. Also, please try to have your family and friends write. Please consider this request *urgent!*

Your address & date

Honorable Edward I. Koch
Mayor
City Hall
New York, N.Y. 10007

Dear Mayor Koch:

As a member of the National Political Education Committee and a resident of New York City, I oppose the investment of City pension monies in U.S. companies that discriminate against the Catholic minority in Northern Ireland. Please give your full support to Councilman Sal Albanese's INTRO, NO. 878 which would prevent such investments by the N.Y.C. Pension Fund.

Sincerely,
signature

established one of San Francisco's most prominent law firms. His firm represented clients from throughout the Far West, including Alaska, and, as in Bodie, the clients were often underdogs. When the mine owners of the Coeur d'Alene district in Idaho, with the support of state and federal troops, tried to destroy the miners' union during the 1890's by hiring strikebreakers, shooting union leaders, and imprisoning hundreds of miners in bullpens, Reddy rushed to the scene to aid the miners. "He distinguished himself," noted the *San Francisco Bulletin*, "against the best legal talent of the Northwest in the numerous cases which grew out of those labor troubles." During the 1890's Reddy was also bold enough to publicly support women's suffrage.

Reddy died at his home on Pacific Avenue in San Francisco early on the morning of 26 June 1900, after a month-long battle with Bright's disease, complicated by pneumonia. Among those at his bedside were his wife of thirty-six years, Emma, and his younger brother, Edward "Ned" Reddy, who had come to California with him in 1861 and who had shared many of his experiences in the mining camps of the trans-Sierra. They said that the famed attorney died with a smile on his face. Later that morning, when lawyer James G. Maguire announced in the United States Circuit Court in San Francisco that Patrick Reddy had died, the judge ordered the court adjourned for the day as a tribute to Reddy.

Reddy left an estate valued at over a quarter-million dollars, a substantial sum in 1900, yet it was only a small portion of what he had made in his lifetime. Oliver Roberts, a lifelong friend of Reddy, said shortly after Reddy's death, "Senator Reddy earned more than a million dollars in his profession as a lawyer, and

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Editor John J. Finucane
Assistant Editor..... Andy Prior

FROM THE EDITOR

Recently, Peter King, Comptroller of Nassau County, N.Y. (population 1.5 million) visited Northern Ireland at the request of the Families for Legal Rights, a loyalist organization, to witness the James Crockard UVF supergrass trial. While in "Northern Ireland", Mr. King, this year's Grand Marshall to the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, met with leaders of the loyalist community including Andy Tyrie, Supreme Commander of the Ulster Defence Association (UDA). He learned that the loyalists feel they have been let down by both the British and Unionist politicians. King was told that as an Irish nationalist, he was more welcome in loyalist areas than many unionist politicians! Both republicans and loyalist oppose the use of strip-searching of female prisoners and the infamous British supergrass trials.

In August, 1984 the PEC received a letter from a concerned American not of Irish heritage, who could not understand why the Irish were fighting each other. He had understood, however, that the problem was a colonial one and that the British government was the common enemy. He suggested that Catholic and Protestant, Nationalist and Loyalist should join together and fight their common enemy. We sent a copy of this letter along with our cover letter to Mr. Tyrie. Mr. Tyrie's response (Sept., 84) was harsh but not surprising. He labelled the PEC as IRA supporters and stated, "We will not surrender to IRA/comunistic terrorism". He assumed we were IRA supporters even though IRA was never mentioned in our letter. He also expressed strong opposition to a united Ireland. "On your All-Ireland theme, which is, to me, a mission impossible . . ." Since that time nevertheless, during and after Mr. King's visit, Mr. Tyrie, an important figure in Ireland's future, has made a few statements which suggest a possible softening in position. He has termed Protestants as second class citizens under British rule and has stated " . . . there would need to be a lot of change before a united Ireland could be considered." He has been a proponent of an "independent" Northern Ireland.

Perhaps it is wrong to think there is a softening of opposition to a united Ireland within certain important loyalist circles. If there is, we hope that courageous leaders from these communities will come together for talks, that is, talks about their future as Irishmen, in a 32 county Ireland,

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Vol. 10, No. 2

EYE ON POLITICS

It was no coincidence that Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher included remarks on the colonial war in "Northern Ireland" when she addressed a joint session of Congress on February 20. It was the result of a letter authored by Congressman **Mario Biaggi**, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Congressional Committee on Irish Affairs and signed by a bi-partisan group of 40 House and Senate members.

Congressman Biaggi also reports there are now 111 members in the Ad Hoc Committee with 22 new members joining in the first 2 months of the 99th Congress. There are now four U.S. Senators in the Committee, Senators Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY), Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ), Ernest Hollings (D-SC), and newly elected Paul Simon (D-IL).

Congressman Biaggi and the members of the Ad Hoc committee are as strong as we make them. That is, the greater our support in numbers and the greater the amount of letters these representatives receive, the stronger will be the argument they present. We must keep writing them and urge our fellow Americans to do the same. One fine example of how effective a Congressman will be when properly supported by his constituents is Congressman **Benjamin Gilman** (R-NY). The following is the lead editorial from the March 8, 1985, edition of the **Journal News** (Gannett News Service) which reaches over two hundred thousand readers:

There was more than a suggestion in Rep. Benjamin Gilman's remarks Sunday that the British government is its own worst enemy in Northern Ireland. Gilman also lamented the fact that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher would not meet with the Congressional Ad Hoc Committee on Northern Ireland when she was in Washington last month.

Gilman spoke before the American Irish National Political Action Committee (SIC). Its president, John Finucane, stressed that the organization's concern "is to inform the public about the myth that to support reunification (of Ireland) is to support violence."

The level of that tragic violence in the North has become intense again in recent weeks and pivotal American leadership, as the Thatcher visit reflected, has exerted no influence to ease the strife. We wonder if it will ever come.

Mrs. Thatcher went home without ever having had to answer tough questions about the continuing orthodoxy of hard British attitudes toward the North's problems. But the moral issues at hand are as real as those that involve Americans with national policy on Central America, South Africa and Afghanistan. Irish Americans sense the resistance to putting any pressure on Britain for an accounting. Other Americans who take injustice seriously should also start questioning the temporizing.

Write your representatives and ask them to call for full hearings by the House Foreign Relations Committee on the Northern Ireland issue. All Congressmen can be reached at the following address: House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

FRONTIER LAWYER

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if he died a comparatively poor man, it is because he had given most of it away. He knew everybody in the mining regions of California, and he seldom came back from a trip without bringing with him one or two of the old boys who were crippled by accident or disease, and as soon as they were able to get out of the hospital he would grub stake them and send them back to whatever camp they wanted to go. Many an old-timer will miss Pat Reddy. He was a big man, Pat was, and his heart was as big as his body."

"For more about Patrick Reddy and other Irishmen in the Old West see Dr. McGrath's new book, *Gunfighters, Highwaymen, & Vigilantes: Violence on the Frontier* (University of California Press, 1984)."

ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT

by F. R. Dougherty (PEC, Pennsylvania)

In spite of provisions in the 1920 Act reserving to the British Parliament the administration of all armed forces, the RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary) from the beginning was equipped as a military force with armored cars and automatic weapons. A militia was formed to support it; namely, the Ulster Special Constabulary known as the "B Specials." The B Special was given a rifle or automatic weapon upon induction which he kept at home. His training consisted mainly of weapons practice. There was no grounding in police work or riot control. The brutal attack on Civil Rights marchers at Burtollet Bridge on April 19, 1969 by over 2000 B Specials wielding planks, bottles, iron bars, crowbars, cudgels studded with nails upon defenseless marchers (87 seriously injured) led to the appointment of the Cameron Commission to investigate it. (Each time an incident becomes publicized, reflecting the British in their true vicious, brutal, barbarain nature, a commission is appointed to (1) keep any of this image from reflecting on the Royal family, (2) to absolve the British from blame, and (3) to shift the blame elsewhere. In all cases the vast number of commissions investigating various aspects of Northern Ireland have accomplished these aims.)

However, in the case of the B Specials the evidence was so overwhelming that the very least the Cameron Commission could conclude was they committed "grave acts of misconduct." The image of the B Specials which had been one of extreme brutality and lawlessness since their formation in 1920 was so badly tarnished that even the whitewash of the Cameron and Hunt Commissions was not sufficient to save them. As usual, the blame was confined to the "B Specials" without affixing responsibility any higher.

In a series of events typical of British duplicity the B Specials were "demobilized" but allowed to keep their weapons by forming "gun clubs." They quickly were reassembled as part of the British territorial army known as the Ulster Defence Regiment. The U.D.R.'s reputation since it was formed in 1970 is no better than its predecessor, the B Specials. Recently the Irish Foreign Minister, Peter Barry, told the British Ambassador to Ireland that the U.D.R. was "a dangerous source of division within Northern Ireland" because Catholics see it as "an armed instrument of the domination of their community by the majority community."

The building up and deployment of the U.D.R. since 1976 to reduce the number of British Army casualties is typically a British cynical expedient. The British Army at various times had to resort

to transporting bodies of British soldiers killed in the North to Germany to be listed as killed in a "vehicle accident" or a "training accident." The sight of funerals on British TV of casualties in the North heightens the British public's demand to get out of North-east Ireland. The reduction in these British casualties by increased deployment of the U.D.R. (Ulsterization of the conflict) helps diminish British public interest in the problem.

The increased use of the U.D.R. in Catholic ghettos like West Belfast, Kennedy Way, at the entrance to the Ardoyne and at Castle St. Checkpoint at the bottom of Falls Road has caused increased anxiety as the number of nationalist youths shot by these troops mount. In January 1985 Paul Gerald Kelly age 17 was killed by the U.D.R. at one of these checkpoints. Recently an Irish government spokesman said, "We regard the U.D.R. as central to the whole process of alienation because it is the factor in the security situation most offensive to the Northern nationalists."

Another British Committee, the Kilbrandin Committee, composed of prominent members of the British establishment recommended in late 1984 that the regiment be disbanded.

The consistent acquittal of U.D.R. men tried for murder of nationalists has reinforced the Catholic belief that the U.D.R. can act with impunity and thus make a mockery of law and order. The acquittal of U.D.R. soldier David Baird of the murder and manslaughter of Armagh youth Martin Malone (late 1984) reinforces the alienation. As a military regiment the U.D.R. has a unique record. In its entire existence it has not fought in any famous wars or displayed its bravery on the battlefield. Its only claim to fame is the killing or maiming of fellow Irishmen. The regiment can assume credit for its share of violence in North-east Ireland and for the 2500 killed and 30,000 wounded.

The history of the B Specials and the Ulster Defence Regiment is further proof of British duplicity if any were needed. It is also further proof that the British do not seek a solution to the bloodshed but only seek to aggravate it.

The U.D.R. usually patrols the area where they grew up and went to school. The U.D.R. man on patrol is confronting his neighbors and ex-schoolmates. As one nationalist youth stated on being repeatedly stopped and questioned by the U.D.R., many were his own age and he knew them. He said, "We were at TECH together and we didn't like each other much then. We used to throw stones at one another. Now they have uniforms and guns and can do what they like."

AS WE GO TO PRESS

It was reported that the Irish and British government's had agreed on a resolution of the war in Northern Ireland that would include power sharing and a joint government with both Irish and British governments. This report was quickly denied. However, this report is more than likely an indication of something to come. *We advise caution* as the only solution to Ireland's tragedy is reunification.

The four Catholic Bishops who recently visited Ireland, north and south, on a fact-finding mission, submitted their findings to the Administrative Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (March 19 - 21). At this time (March 26) no information concerning their findings or course of action, if any, will be made public. The four bishops involved were: Archbishop John J. O'Connor, New York; Bishop James Malone, Ohio; Bishop Mark Hurley, Calif.; and Bishop James Starford, Tenn.

EDUCATE SOMEONE

Send us the name of someone (a friend, politician, editor, etc.), you would like to educate on the war in northeast Ireland. We will send them our free information package on "Northern Ireland". If you would like us to acknowledge that it was sent on your behalf, please print your name on line at bottom of coupon. Write: NPEC, Two North Liberty Dr., Stony Point, N.Y. 10980 or Call 1 (914) 947-2726.

Please send the PEC's Information Package On Northern Ireland to:

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WASHINGTON D.C. DEMONSTRATION

More than 2500 people assembled peacefully in Washington, D.C. on February 20 to demonstrate their opposition to Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's violence-provoking policy in Ireland. (Informed sources indicate that Thatcher has come under considerable pressure from within her own government and from our government since her out-of-hand rejection of the New Ireland Forum.) The successful demonstration which was conceived by the executive board of the Irish American Unity Conference in November, 1984, was chaired by Paul O'Dwyer, prominent New York attorney and civil rights activist. High praise was given to **Teddy Gleason**, President of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) for his outstanding support in organizing the demonstration.

There were many speakers including the leadership of all the major activist organizations: Joe Roche, A.O.H.; James Delaney, I.A.U.C.; John Finucane, NPEC; Martin Galvin, INA; and Fr. Sean McManus, INC. **James Delaney**, National Chairman of the Irish American Unity Conference, highlighted the day with his call for political and economic unity.

Five members of Congress also addressed the peaceful gathering, namely, Congressmen Mario Biaggi, Benjamin Gilman, Bill Carney, Thomas Manton, and Joe DioGuardi. The success of the demonstration carried a message to all concerned — the American Irish, in increasing numbers, are becoming more and more aware of our government's unjust support for Britain's colonial policy, and more importantly, we do not have to support violence to support the reunification of Ireland.

WRITE YOUR ACTION LETTERS!

IAUC UPDATE

More than 400 regional delegates attended the national conference of the Irish American Unity Conference (IAUC) on March 2 in New York City. The organization's goal is to bring about the reunification of Ireland through political and economic means.

The IAUC Board of Directors, at the request of the Economic Development Committee, will identify British multi-national companies operating in the United States as targets for economic influence. It is the group's intention to support those British firms that abide by the fair employment standards enunciated in the MacBride principles, and to withhold support from, and consider boycotting, those firms that support discrimination in Northern Ireland.

IAUC members attending the conference heard a legislative strategy report from noted New York attorney Paul O'Dwyer. O'Dwyer urged the group to concentrate on the one purpose all members can agree upon: making Ireland a free and independent country. IAUC hopes to have hearings held before the House and Senate Foreign Relations Committees on the situation in northeast Ireland. (See action letter pg. 6).

IAUC National Chairman James A. Delaney presided over the meeting. He read a letter he had received from Tomas Cardinal O'Fiaich, Primate of All Ireland, who was to have been the guest speaker. O'Fiaich was called away to attend the funeral of the Archbishop of Dublin, but said, in his letter, that "a united Irish-American voice on Irish problems can be a powerful factor in their solution."

The Cardinal went on to say that "to seek to bring the whole people of Ireland, north and south, Protestant and Catholic, together in freedom, harmony and peace is truly a work of justice and reconciliation. Nothing in human terms can take precedence over this task.

BLOOD AND BILLIONS

by Fr. James J. Higgins, C.S.S.R. (Assoc. Editor - Liguorian)

(Blood and Billions is the result of information supplied through the PEC's education programs. It appeared in the March, 1985, edition of the Liguorian which has over five hundred thousand subscribers (possibly 2 million readers). Another example of the importance of the work of the PEC.)

Is there a Protestant-Catholic conflict in Northern Ireland, as the press routinely presents the troubles there, much to the puzzlement of American Catholics and Protestants alike? Perhaps a little historical back-ground will help.

In the 1920s the Irish Revolution won a certain independence from England. The British, however, as the price of peace, retained control of six counties in the northern part of the island (and the Belfast shipyards) and set up Northern Ireland, separate from what came to be known as the Republic of Ireland. Influential voices in England, however, are now questioning the wisdom and justice of this partitioning of the island. The British Labor Party has committed itself to doing away with this partition "imposed without consent of the Irish people." One of Britain's largest newspapers has called for reunification of the island. It is a division that has cost, the paper says, blood and billions.

There have been other costs, also. The carefully nurtured British image of fairness, justice, rule by law, has been severely eroded. For the government set up in Northern Ireland has, it seems, institutionalized discrimination against some of the inhabitants in a way and to a degree the British would not tolerate in Glasgow, Liverpool, or London. *Habeas corpus*, or the right to be protected against illegal imprisonment, was practically suspended for some years. A kind of police state has emerged, one against which serious charges of torture have been leveled by investigating bodies. The Ulster establishment has the largest paramilitary group in the world and makes no apologies for "eliminating" active republican advocates (*American Irish Newsletter*, November 1984).

More lately and more ominously, Sean MacBride, the founder of Amnesty International, one-time Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations and a Nobel Prize winner, charges the British Secret Service and Ministry of Defense with political assassination and death squad activities.

Informed Catholics neither condone the IRA bombings nor the Ulster government terrorism. Nor do they charge this latter to Protestant Christianity. The infernal wellspring of primitive and irrational hatred in Northern Ireland is the Orange Lodge, a secret society controlling many areas of life there. The only American experience that would parallel this would be the hatred and fear against Jews, Catholics, and Blacks whipped up by the Klu Klux Klan. And this, of course, is a rejection of Christianity.

(Reprinted with permission of the Liguorian, March, 1985)

NEWS BITS

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"The Bishop of Down and Clogher, Dr. Joseph Duffy, made a vitriolic attack on what he described as the injustice of partition. Speaking in Co. Monaghan, Duffy said the basic injustice of partition was not so much that it was imposed without the wishes of the Irish people as that it doesn't work. He said: 'We are entrapped in a political system which is crying out for change. The matter is one of extreme urgency and requires more than unrealistic rhetoric about rooting out violence. (PEC) 3/85) ... The Irish Gov. decided once again to boycott the N.Y.C. Parade. Apparently they are protesting the selection of Nassau County, N.Y. Comptroller Peter King, an outspoken supporter of the IRA. King said of the boycott, "I regret that the Fitzgerald government has once again chosen to put its narrow interests before the plight of the oppressed people of occupied Ireland." ... The N.I.

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ACTION LETTER

by Albert Doyle

As you well know, we have been urging that the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives should hold hearings on U.S. policy with regard to Northern Ireland. We particularly want the Committee to focus on the lack of any action by *our government* to protest the assault by British forces on U.S. citizens in Belfast last August. Questions may also be raised about the entire passive policy giving total, uncritical support to British policies there. This "hands off" policy is quite inconsistent with interventionist policies of our government in other troubled areas of the world.

For years Committee Chairman, Rep. Dante Fascell of Florida, has successfully resisted holding hearings on the grounds that they would be "devisive". It isn't clear what this means except that such hearings might expose the injustices of British rule in Northern Ireland.

Another obstacle is the lack of interest by Speaker of the House, Rep. "Tip" O'Neill. In the Congressional system the Speaker ultimately controls the holding of such hearings.

This Action Letter is aimed at bringing our wishes to the attention of the Speaker. Please write the letter below in your own words, or copy it as is on your own stationery. Also, urge your family and friends to do the same. *Do not underestimate* the power of such letters to influence our leaders.

Your address & date

Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker O'Neill:

As an American concerned about Northern Ireland and a member of the National Political Education Committee, I respectfully request that you support hearings by the House Foreign Affairs Committee on the subject of U.S. policy with respect to Northern Ireland. Such hearings are relevant at this time because of the continued inaction of the present Administration. I am particularly concerned by the failure of our government to utter a single word of protest about the TV-witnessed assault on U.S. citizens in Belfast on August 12, 1984.

Sincerely,
signature

**WRITE YOUR
ACTION LETTERS!**

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ...

... about the PEC. The design of the different PEC information programs (**The American Irish Newsletter**, Information Package Advertising, Direct Mailing, etc.), are the results of 10 years experience in dealing with the American Irish community. They are designed to promote an understanding of what is really happening in the north of Ireland and to win support for the cause of Ireland's reunification.

Our experience has taught us that *most supporters* of reunification have at least a minimum knowledge of Irish/American Irish history — the Cromwell massacres, Irish slaves, the "famine", etc. and possess a truer sense of Irish pride. Likewise, their counterparts, who lack any knowledge of their Irish heritage and who are in the majority, lack any *real* sense of Irish pride, do not understand the situation in Ireland and are generally non-supporters. In some cases, they will even shun their heritage. They are the people who see today's struggle in Ireland as a war against terrorism. Naturally, being good Americans, they will not become involved. We must continue to reach out to these people, for we need them if we are to develop the necessary political clout to bring about a change.

Today, with the help of volunteers at our office and the members at our *weekly* meetings, we are able to send out up to 8 thousand pieces of mail per month. Although impressive, this figure is very small when you consider there are 43 million of us living in this great country. This means we are reaching up to 96 thousand families a year. We would like to make that a monthly figure.

We hope that you will help us achieve this goal by giving generously to our annual financial appeal which is included with this Newsletter, and by helping to distribute our Newsletter promotion brochures.

NEWS BITS

(Continued from Page 5)

Fair Employment Agency has recently released a study of the N.I. Fire Authority in which it has been found that only 16% of all full-time firemen are Catholic and that the situation is even worse amongst higher grade officers and part-timers. In 1982 the Fire Authority amended its recruitment procedures, yet the recent study indicates that if anything the situation has deteriorated. Out of 1,650 applicants in 1983, 33% were Catholic; of the candidates subsequently interviewed 25% were Catholic; and out of those appointed three out of 25 (12%) were Catholics. — This is the record of a government body some nine years after the British instituted "reforms" to end employment discrimination. (Fortnight 4/17/85).

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**NATIONAL
POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**
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