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THE AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Action Irish

Vol. 9, No. 1

FEBRUARY / MARCH, 1984

U.S. Senator Gary Hart Favors A United Ireland

(see Page 5)

CHANGING OUR NAME

As of the February/March (Volume 9, No. 1) issue, the Political Education Committee National Newsletter will be known as the AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER. This Newsletter will be the official communication of the American Irish NATIONAL POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

NEW BITS

by Andy Prior

"What needs to be done is that the British Gov. has to state that the right to self-determination rests with the Irish people. Armed struggle is only legitimate against a force of occupation and to secure independence. Once that happens I don't believe the IRA has any right to resort to violence." — Gerry Adams, newly elected Pres. of Sein Fein, speaking on British TV. (Irish Times 1/16/84) ... "There is a complete lack of will in Britain to remain in Ireland. If there was a referendum in the morning there would be a two-thirds majority for withdrawal," declared Ken Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, during a recent Dublin visit. Livingstone doubts there would be a bloodbath if the British left Ireland. "The fears of the Protestants are being manipulated." (Irish Times 12/13/83).

Forty percent of the defendants appearing in the North's no-jury, anti-terrorist courts have no connection at all with terrorism but are concerned with ordinary criminal offences, such as robberies for personal gain. Anti-terrorist legislation is being perverted by the RUC to deny the accused the right to jury trial and to enable the police to subject them to much harsher rules of evidence. These charges have been made by Dermot Walsh in his recent book, "The Use And Abuse Of Emergency Legislation In No. Ireland." (Irish Times 12/17/83 & Irish Post 12/24/83).

"An officer of the marines recently told me that Irish-Americans are moving ahead in the corps and indeed are ending what he called its "long domination by southerners." Of 67 generals in the Marine Corps, 24 are Irish-American Catholics and they are resented by the southerners, he said." (Sean Cronin in the Irish Times 12/31/83).

Amidst much controversy the Roman Catholic hierar-

(Continued on Page 4)

**HELP SAVE IRISH LIVES!
WRITE YOUR ACTION LETTER TODAY!**

OFFENSIVE ST. PATRICK'S DAY CARDS

by John J. Finucane

Once again that time of the year is approaching when the greeting card industry will make millions of dollars depicting the Irish as drunkards and social misfits. Fortunately, this St. Patrick's Day will bring good news. Two of the largest greeting card producers, American Greetings and Hallmark, will no longer be producing any cards that make reference to drinking. These most significant accomplishments are the result of the PEC's ongoing Action Letter campaigns conducted through this Newsletter. We are very proud of these successes. We are grateful to you the letter-writer.

We have reviewed American's 1984 catalog and found it to be free of the offensive cards. Hallmark does not publish a catalog. According to Walter Dickey, manager of Consumer Affairs at Hallmark, who I spoke to on 1/11/84, their 1984 line carries no such cards.

American has a credit policy by which vendors can return the offensive cards. Hallmark does not have such a policy.

You can expect to find drinking cards by Hallmark and American for sale this year. American's cards will be sold by merchants who did not take advantage of the return credit. Because there is no credit arrangement available from Hallmark, merchants will probably continue to sell them until they are sold out.

There is so much we can do by working together. As our membership grows so will our effectiveness. Please be patient and most importantly, write your Action Letters.

Please forward offensive cards, other than American and Hallmark, to the PEC so that we can take the necessary action.

NORTHERN IRELAND'S ORWELLIAN NIGHTMARE

by Howard Allen

This year, political scholars will canvass the Globe for the 1984 of George Orwell. They'll find "Big Brother" arrived in Northern Ireland over a decade ahead of schedule. Fourteen years of British military occupation has deformed the 6 counties into a blueprint of Orwellian society.

In "1984", a totalitarian regime turned high technology into an arsenal of social control. Telescreens, two-way television, constantly monitored the population, penetrating even the most intimate moments of life. In Northern Ireland, the computer has become the contem-

(Continued on Page 2)

SEAN MacBRIDE HONORED

(Unity Conference Update)

The Irish American Unity Conference has presented its first *International Irishman of the Year Award* to the honorable Sean MacBride. The award which carries an unrestricted grant to the recipient of \$10,000 was conferred at the Holloran House in New York City on January 6, 1984.

Mr. MacBride, a long-time opponent of British rule in Ireland and former member of the Irish Republican Army, is an internationally renowned human rights activist.

The honorable Sean MacBride is winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1974; former foreign minister of the Republic Of Ireland; co-founder of Amnesty International; Signatory of The Geneva Conventions of 1949; Signatory To The European Convention for the promotion of Human Rights (1950). He was Secretary General of the International Commission of Jurists (1963-1971), assistant secretary-general of the United Nations and UN Commissioner for Namibia (1973-1976). He was awarded the Lenin Peace Prize in 1977; The American Medal of Justice in 1978; The Award of the International Institute of Human Rights in 1978; and Order of the Pike of the Ancient Order of Hiberians in America in 1978.

Governor Mario Cuomo of New York State also took the opportunity to congratulate Mr. MacBride...you have earned the highest admiration and praise in recognition of your tireless efforts in the interest of peace in Northern Ireland. You are an inspiration to all who profoundly pray that justice will prevail".

In his acceptance speech Mr. MacBride strongly denounced Britain's presence in Ireland and called for the reunification of Ireland. He had strong criticism for the "Slave Mentality" of some of Ireland's academics and politicians who seek to justify the partition of Ireland.

He emphasized that active Irish Americans are more representative of the Irish People than those of the slave mentality. "Not only have they (Irish Americans) a right to express their views of the inalienable right of the Irish people to sovereignty and unity of Ireland, *but I want to make it clear, here and now, that their views and support are welcomed by the Irish people.*" (Italics ours)

The Honorable Mr. MacBride also drew attention to the critical nature of Irish America's past support. "This moral and practical support which we received from Irish Americans during Ireland's War of Independence was the **determining** factor in our success". He was confident that through organizations such as the Irish American Unity Conference, the Irish American community would once again be the determining factor."

The AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

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founded in 1976

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P.O. Box 16, Garnerville, N.Y. 10923

Editor John J. Finucane

ATTENTION ALL ST. PATRICK'S DAY Parade Committees

We must bring the plight of Michael O'Rourke to the attention of the American public. We respectfully urge all parade committees to designate Michael O'Rourke Honorary Grand Marshall. Any questions call: 914 947-2726.

ORWELLIAN

(Continued from Page 1)

porary equivalent of the telescreen.

French journalist Roger Faligot reported that by 1975, computerized dossiers existed for half a million people in Ulster, one-third the total population. After the introduction of a centralized system in April 1977, data bank files expanded to include virtually every member of the Nationalist community. Former MP Gerry Fitt said the system was "like something you'd find in the Soviet Union or South Africa, "Big Brother" is watching."

A year later, investigative journalist John McGuffin exposed the four component sections of the system. One section collects every detail of personality, age, address, physical description, daily routine, areas visited, all cross-referenced to family and friends. Another component relies on a door-to-door census taken by the British Army. Every minute detail of a house is recorded, from the number of milk bottles on the stoop to the pattern of wallpaper in the living room. The third section is a vehicle index, it contains a thorough history of every automobile in Northern Ireland including the religion of its owner. The fourth component of the system continually records the identity of vehicles passing through roadblocks.

Nor is "Big Brother's" arsenal restricted to computers in Northern Ireland. During the past decade, the British Army engineered a massive network of visual surveillance in Ulster. Videotape cameras equipped with night-sight devices operate 24 hours a day in some areas of the province. For mobile surveillance, cameras mounted on helicopters transmit images to a control screen located at British Army headquarters.

Very encouraging was the number of prominent Irish American and Irish Nationals present. Among them: Mr. John Sweeney, International President of the Service Employees International Union; Mike Brosnan, Senior Vice President Merrill Lynch; George Clough, President of the Massachusetts Indemnity Co.; John Dearie, N.Y.S. Assemblyman; Emmett O'Connell, managing director, Eglenton Oil Co., Ireland; Rory Brady, prominent Dublin barrister; Bill Blurke, Senior Vice President, Bank of Ireland, and Al Madden, owner of the Holloran House.

For a Free Copy of Honorable Sean MacBrides powerful and informative address, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: NPEC, PO. Box 16, Garnerville, N.Y. 10923.

FOR IAUC MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION WRITE:

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OR CALL: 914-947-2726

FROM THE EDITOR

President Reagan and his Administration are no friends of the Irish American community (43 million strong). Not when it comes to **JUSTICE** in Ireland.

His failure to speak out against Britain's illegal presence in Ireland, which is his responsibility as a leader of a free world nation, prolongs violence. His Administration cooperates with the British government in their attempts to brutally suppress rather than end the violence. His cooperation with the British is endangering our own system of justice. Take for example the manner in which we have handled the cases of Michael O'Rourke, William Quinn and Ann Deaveaney.

In the past President Reagan has expressed a desire to see peace and justice prevail in Ireland. Then why does he not demand that the British government respect the democratic process? Why does he not support the Irish people's right to self-determination which is their expressed desire? (see: Sean MacBride Honored).

DON'T EVER FORGET that President Reagan entertained Britain's Prince Charles while Bobby Sands and his comrades lay dying in a British concentration camp in Ireland.

THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE

Presidential Candidate, U.S. Senator Gary Hart has publicly expressed his desire for the U.S. to play a role in resolving this tragedy through an All-Ireland context. He believes that the people of Ireland as a whole should determine Ireland's future.

(SENATOR HART'S STATEMENT APPEARS IN ITS ENTIRETY ON PAGE 5)

Irish Americans must unite and make a United Ireland an issue in this year's Presidential Campaign. This goal can be achieved through the Irish American Unity Conference. Please join with us.

WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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THE DEATH OF JUSTICE

by Peter T. King (Controller of Nasc)

In October 1983 I served as an international observer at the "Super-Grass" informer trials in Belfast, Northern Ireland. During my stay in Belfast I observed proceedings in two of the informer trials; met with members of the legal profession, officials of the Northern Ireland Office, relatives of defendants and a representative of the Official Unionist Party; and visited a prisoner in Belfast's Crumlin Road Jail. Based upon these experiences, I categorically concluded that the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland has become nothing but an extension of British military policy and that the informer cases against alleged members of the IRA are "show trials" reminiscent of Stalin's Russia.

I realized the implications of such conclusions but the fact is that the criminal proceedings being conducted by the British against Northern Ireland's Catholic community would never be tolerated in the United States or England. Consider the following:

- Defendants are being convicted on the uncorroborated testimony of informers.
 - Defendants are denied jury trials.
 - Most defendants — even those in non-capital cases — are denied bail and are imprisoned for as long as two years before being brought to trial.
 - Defendants are detained and interrogated by the police for up to 7 days and cannot speak with a lawyer for at least 48 hours.
 - Large numbers of defendants — as many as 38 in one case — are tried together in a mass trial despite the fact that the crimes they are accused of committing are totally unrelated.
 - Defendants are not allowed to assert the defense of entrapment.
 - Spectators are required to give their names and addresses before entering the courtroom, — a practice which is "inherently intimidating."
 - Defendants in one informer case (Patsy McGuirk) were denied their right to confront the informer before trial.
- Following my return to the United States, I filed a report

YOU CAN HELP!

We wish to expand our EDUCATE A FRIEND program. As you know, an educated American public can be a great asset to the cause of a United Ireland. Please send us the name(s) and address(s) of influential people in your community. This effort is most important and can be very beneficial as these people are in contact with the public. Also, send us the names of concerned Irish Americans. We will forward the above our current PEC Information Package on the North.

Everyone can participate in this program which requires very little effort. The IAUC plans to make the Irish question a campaign issue in the upcoming Presidential and Congressional campaigns. People will be looking for information and we want to make it available. PLEASE SEND NAMES AND ADDRESSES TO: PEC, P.O. BOX 16, GARNERVILLE, N.Y. 10923.

IN NORTHERN IRELAND

au County, N.Y., population 1.4 million)

with Congressman Norman F. Lent who inserted it into the Congressional Record and called upon the State Department to intervene in these supergrass trials. As a result of the controversy which this generated, I was invited by the British television show "20/20 Vision" to take part in a show they were producing on the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland, which I accepted.

I spent ten days in Northern Ireland and England meeting with a cross-section of leaders. Most significantly, however, I met with relatives of alleged members of the Ulster Volunteer Force who have been convicted in "supergrass" cases. I was particularly struck by the extent to which these loyalists believed they had been used and manipulated by the British. Significantly, a number of them stated they can now begin to appreciate the plight of the nationalist community. As to the court system, my previous findings were confirmed.

Northern Ireland has become a police state. The last bulwark of a free society is an independent judiciary. The sad fact is that the Judges of Northern Ireland have allowed themselves to become an extension of the inhuman, oppressive military policy which characterizes British rule in Northern Ireland. Americans should be particularly concerned with this breakdown of justice in Northern Ireland because the United States and England share a common legal heritage. As the leading voice for human rights in the western world, the United States can no longer remain silent while England carries on its tyrannical rule in Northern Ireland. If we as Americans do not speak out and condemn these brutalities, there will be blood on our hands as well.

NEWSBITS

(Continued from Page 1)

chy in Ireland has submitted a report to the New Ireland Forum. The most controversial statements deal with the church's opposition to divorce law in a united Ireland and on it's views on pluralism which seem to suggest the right of the majority to have it's views enshrined in the Constitution or in legislation. In the course of the document the Bishops say "the rights of the minority are not more sacred than the rights of a majority." Maurice Manning, Forum member for Fine Gael, said "the defensive and negative tone of the ... submission to the ... Forum is enormously disappointing. It will do little to help politicians in their desperate search for a realistic and generous solution to the problems which are tearing our country apart." Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein Pres., said, "The Catholic hierarchy's past success in stamping its ethos on the Free State is grist to the propaganda mill of Loyalist claims of Rome Rule, and is highly offensive to non-Catholics who do not agree with their religious leaders on these issues." (Irish Times 1/14 & 1/16/84).

Niels Haagerup, Eruopean MP from Denmark, has submitted a report on N.I. to the Euro. Parl. He calls for power-sharing in the North; also the implementation of an Anglo-Irish parliamentary body, and an injection from the EEC in the form of economic and social aid. (Irish Times 12/13/83).

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The PEC's ACTION LETTER program (organized letter-writing campaigns, see Action Letter pg. 6) has more than proven itself. Just look at a few of its victories: The BOSTON GLOBE (depicted the Irish as sewer rats); American Greetings and Hallmark (no longer produce the St. Patrick's Day cards depicting the Irish as drunkards); Friehofer Baking Company; Grand Metropolitan Bill; and the Brandbury Club. The Action Letter program has rectified these offensive situations.

Just a few short years ago, we wouldn't have dreamed of having such a vehicle (Action Letter program) at our disposal. Today it is a reality; but we must have more members to be totally effective — a United Ireland.

WILL THE IRISH AMERICAN COMMUNITY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT? This we will not know until our community has been made aware that such a program exist. To be aware, they must know that the PEC Newsletter (The AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER) exist.

We greatly need your help in this endeavor. The upcoming St. Patrick's season presents us with great opportunities to reach many of our people, dances, parades, concerts, etc.

We request of you, to reproduce, as is, the U.S. SENATOR GARY HART SPEAKS OUT ON NORTHERN IRELAND handbill on page 5 and distribute them whenever and wherever possible. We will appreciate any help that you may provide.

IRISH WHO MADE AMERICA GREAT

by Michael J. McCabe (Connecticut)

Today we learn about two men of diverse backgrounds named Magrath — one a Confederate governor, the other a painter.

Andrew Gordon Magrath was born in Charleston, South Carolina, the son of an Irish revolutionist of 1798 who escaped to that state. Andrew was educated at South Carolina College, graduated in 1831 and trained to be a lawyer at Harvard Law School. He served two terms in the State Legislature from 1840 to 1844, practiced law in Charleston and in 1856 was made a Federal District Judge by President Franklin Pierce. In 1861 he resigned, was elected to the South Carolina convention which adopted the ordinance of secession and was then appointed a Confederate Judge. In December 1864 he became governor of South Carolina. After the Civil War he was imprisoned for several months. He later resumed the practice of law in Charleston, where he died on April 9, 1893.

William Magrath was born in Cork on March 20, 1838. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1855, and was elected National Academician in 1876. He produced many excellent landscapes and his genre pictures are full of character. Among them may be mentioned "The Road to Kenmair" (1871); "The Reveille" (1873); "Rustic Courtship" (1877); "On the Old Sod" (1879), which is hanging in the Metropolitan Museum in New York; "Paddy on his own Land" (1900); "Sheep Pasture" (1903); "The Killarney Country" (1910); "The Boy of Allen, Ireland" (1911) and "Bog Lands" (1913).

One a politician; one an artist; both Irish who made America great.

PLEASE REPRODUCE this hand-bill for distribution during the St. Patrick's Day festivities during the months of February and March (dances, parades, concerts, plays, etc.)

U.S. Senator Gary Hart Presidential Hopeful SPEAKS OUT ON NORTHERN IRELAND

The following is the complete text of Senator Gary Hart's statement released from his National Campaign Headquarters (Americans For Hart) on December 27, 1983.

The complex and centuries — old socioeconomic divisions in the North of Ireland cannot be healed overnight, nor can they be cured by force of arms, by violence, or by shortsighted neglect.

Admittedly, the search for a solution often appears hopeless, but this is only because the wrong questions are being asked. The debate should no longer center over who is responsible for this or that violence; condemning symptoms does nothing to cure the disease. One must instead ask how it is possible to eliminate the very cause of the violence in order to secure a just and lasting solution to the conflict.

All electoral initiatives in the past have failed for one fundamental reason: they have not taken into account the democratic wishes of the people of Ireland as a whole.

The best way, and in fact, the only way to establish a lasting peace is within a democratic All-Ireland context. Regardless of long fostered socioeconomic divisions, the fact must be recognized that Ireland is essentially one nation. With the acceptance of this historical fact, the first step on the road to a long overdue peace in that troubled land will have been taken.

As Americans, we share rich cultural and political ties with the peoples of Britain and Ireland; we are therefore in an ideal position to encourage, as a common friend, a peaceful and just resolution. It is my sincere wish that in these years ahead the United States will seize upon this opportunity to play a noble role in ending this tragic conflict, and in creating a new spirit of cooperation between the great peoples of both Islands.

Gary Hart

Together we can make Senator Hart's position a reality by working through the DEMOCRATIC PROCESS to influence a change in our government's policy on Ireland.

For further information on how you can help, please complete coupons below and mail today, or call: (914) 947-2726.

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ACTION LETTER

by Professor Charles Rice, Notre Dame School of Law

Michael O'Rourke is in a federal prison for one main reason — because he is Irish. He has never committed any crime in the United States. He is no longer a member of the Irish Republican Army, he has married an American citizen and he desires only to remain permanently in the United States as a law-abiding person and eventually a citizen. Yet he has been ordered deported on the grounds that he overstayed his visa and failed to report his address, reasons which normally could be outweighed by his marriage to a citizen and his law-abiding life in the United States. He has been confined in a federal prison since November, 1979. Worse yet, he was victimized by a brazen and shocking oppression by the government. Immigration Judge Ernest H. Hupp was apparently about to rule in 1981 in favor of O'Rourke when he was terrorized off the case by Immigration agents who followed him for 125 miles in such a way as to create the impression that they were agents of the Irish Republican Army. According to Judge Hupp's wife, "If he had known at the time that it was not the IRA, he would not have excused himself."

The injustice inflicted on Michael O'Rourke must be corrected. His case however, is merely a symptom of the basic evil which is the oppressive British rule in Occupied Ireland. The peaceful termination of that rule *must remain* as our *ultimate objective*.

Address & Date

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Michael O'Rourke has been confined without bail in a federal prison, for more than four years. He is the longest held prisoner on deportation charges without bail in the entire history of the United States. In May, 1981, agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service literally terrorized Immigration Judge Ernest H. Hupp into withdrawing from the case after he had indicated his intent to rule in favor of Mr. O'Rourke.

6

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by Thomas Gallagher

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—The Baltimore Sun

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Whatever the outcome of Mr. O'Rourke's pending appeal, he should be released at once and allowed to resume his law-abiding life in Philadelphia with his wife who is an American citizen. The federal officials who conspired to oppress Mr. O'Rourke by terrorizing Judge Hupp should be prosecuted. And the public is entitled to know whether the British Government played a part in this obstruction of justice.

As one of forty million Irish-Americans, I request that you take action on this case.

Sincerely,

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