

Sacred Heart University DigitalCommons@SHU

American Irish Newsletter

The Irish American Community Collections

3-1983

American Irish Newsletter - February - March 1983

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 1983" (1983). American Irish Newsletter. 166. https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_ainews/166

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.

POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Action Irish

Vol. 8, No. 1

FEBRUARY/MARCH, 1983

BARCLAY'S BANK BOYCOTT A SUCCESS

(see Barclay's Bank on overleaf)

WRITE YOUR UAP ACTION LETTERS NOW! REMEMBER! AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL OF GOVERN-MENT AND BIG BUSINESS YOUR PERSONAL LETTER REPRESENTS THE VIEWS OF ONE THOUSAND AMERICANS.

NEWS BITS

by Andy Prior

ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY - The Rockland County Legislature has voted to withdraw it's deposits from British owned Barclay's Bank in protest at the British presence in N.I. According to the sponsor, Catherine McDougall, "My resolution is, I hope, the start of a fire that will spread across the U.S. in persuading people to push for the withdrawal of funds from British banks. I want to get the attention of the American and British gov'ts." (Irish Post 1/15/83). The National PEC organized and directed the successful campaign against the influential movement to rescind this measure... A Nationality Act under fire for alleged discrimination against minorities and women took effect Saturday, classifying 60 million citizens of the United Kingdom and its colonies into three categories. Critics of the law say the categories - British citizen, citizen of a British dependent territory, and British overseas citizen - not only institutionalize discrimination but foster confusion about the rights of British subjects (UPI 1/2/83).

"Within weeks of the Assembly election the RUC's new antiterrorist units swung into action killing seven people — all but one of them members of the IRA or INLA — in circumstances that have been hotly disputed and which have been interpreted by both sections of the community here as a change in security policy brought about directly by the size of the Sinn Fein vote." (Irish Times 1/15/83)...Jim McAllister, Sinn Fein Assembly member, has described the killings of two INLA men last December 12th by the RUC as "summary execution". It is understood that between 20 to 30 shots were fired and that the men were unarmed. (Irish Post 12/18/82)

LONDON — The Prime Minister, Mr. James Prior and Lord Gowrie have all denied, with varying degrees of conviction, the claims by Catholic politicians and Church leaders in Northern Ireland that a fundamental change in security policy has occurred in the province. Mrs. Thatcher, succinct as ever, has dimissed as 'rubbish' the suggestion by the SDLP leader, Mr. John Hume, that 'a section of the RUC and the British Army have now been authorised to shoot to kill anyone about whom they are suspicious'. (The New Statesman 1/7/83)...San Francisco Irish Societies have declared that Francis Hughes, one of the deceased hunger strikers of '81, will be the "honorary grand marshall" of next years St. Patrick's Day Parade. (Irish Post 12/18/82).

"They'll have to wait for the full census figures in a couple of months time to be sure, but there's a general feeling that there has been a significant emigration from the North in the last decade and that most of this was Protestant and from Belfast. (Irish Times 1/8/83)... Unemployment in N.I. has reached an all time high with the latest figures showing 112,310 out of work. This means that 20.1% of the North's insured population is jobless. In Catholic areas the figures are as usual much higher Cookstown 30.9%, Newry-31.3%, Dungannon-34.3% and Strabane tops the list with 37.7%. The predominently Protestant areas of south Antrim and north Down has as usual the lowest rate 16%. (Irish Post 1/15/83)...Former British cabinet minister Barbara Castle is leading a group of European Parliament members who are calling for the transfer of Irish Republican prisioners in British jails to prisons near their homes. The motion in part states "imprisonment far from a prisioner's home imposes on his or her family, in the effort to maintain contact, sacrifices and stresses which constitute cruel and inhuman treatment of those concerned." (Irish Post 1/15/83).

Ken Livingstone, head of the Greater London Council, invited Danny Morrison and Gerry Adams, newly elected Sinn Fein Assembly members, to visit him. Amongst a storm of protest Mr. Livingstone explained, "We cannot continue with the absolute hopelessness of going on like this year after year with one horrifying bomb after another either in Ireland or in London. The Gov't has to try to find some way of bringing the

(Continued on Overleaf)

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS ENDORSES INDEPENDENT NATIONAL PEC

Because of the major role played by our female members and the fact that our membership is non-sectarian and comprised primarily of non-Hibernians, the National Political Education Committee (NPEC), formerly the Political Education Committee of the A.O.H. (AKA PEC and NPEC), has become an independent organization. All existing units (Region, State and Local) have agreed to remain with the NPEC. This painful but necessary decision was finalized on January 29, 1983. NPEC executive members John Finucane, Chairman and Al Doyle, Region I Director and Legal Advisor, and Kevin O'Malley, NPEC Legal Advisor, met with Joseph Roche, National President, Ancient Order of Hibernians in America and Ed Wallace, Chairman of the new A.O.H. P.E.C. At this meeting, A.O.H. President Roche endorsed the independent NPEC and gave it the A.O.H.'s full support which included a generous donation. It was agreed to maintain a close working relationship to coordinate our efforts as to avoid duplication. The NPEC gratefully appreciates the continued support of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. Another milestone in American Irish unity.

PEC FORMED IN NATION'S CAPITOL

We are happy to announce that the members of the United Ireland Coalition (UIC) have voted to join with the National Political Education Committee and will serve in the capacity of Region 8 (The Capitol Region). The UIC is a coalition of many Irish American organizations active in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia. This new and welcome addition to the PEC will greatly enhance our influence in the nation's capitol as we will now have a physical presence there. We will also be able to keep our readers fully informed on pending legislation. The new director of Region 8 is Maryellen Kelley. We thank the members of the UIC for this excellent display of unity.

THE WAY TO A UNITED IRELAND: COOPERATION

by Richard F. Doyle (Minnesota PEC Area Rep.)

Most Irish people wish England would get out of Occupied Northern Ireland (ONI), and let Ireland — North and South solve its own problems. Sympathizers exist in many countries, even in England. Opponents are the English colonists in ONI and diehard proponents in England of the late empire. American opponents are generally uninformed or have preconceived positions.

Geography, the numbers, and the right and wrong of it favor the cause of Irish reunification. Then why doesn't it happen? Advocates of Irish reunification are immobilized by a lack of a (goodwill) cooperative effort. Our petty, internecine rivalries and conflicting interests are too often held in higher regard than are our common, primary interest. Religion, socialism, communism, anti-communism, drinking green beer and affecting the brogue on St. Patrick's Day are some interests which are placed ahead of Irish reunification. The factional pullings and haulings are almost comical enough to justify the Irish jokes so popular in England.

If Ireland is to be free, these differences must be ignored, at least temporarily. They can be pursued after freeing the land. All of us have something to contribute. We need all to pull together; young and old, liberal and conservative, rich and poor, religious and non-religious, the serious and the funloving.

Ideally, the best approach would be through consolidation of all existing Irish and pro-Irish organizations. If that could occur, it would probably be necessary to retain the identity of individual organizations according to their purposes and functions (educational, political, militant, religious, social, etc.). The resultant force of public opinion alone might achieve the desired ends. If not, sufficient political, economic, and material resources could be mobilized that England, in her economically and politically weakened condition, probably could not withstand them.

Minneapolis and St. Paul, like most other major cities, have "liberal" and "conservative" Irish elements. The former do not wish to identify in demonstrations with persons chanting the rosary and carrying banners decrying abortion. Conversely, the latter do not wish to identify with scruffily-dressed persons carrying banners harranging the U.S. to get out of El Salvador.

But we have made a start in the direction of cooperation, if

(Continued on Overleaf)

Political Education Committee National Newsletter founded in 1976

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

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

Editor.....John J. Finucane

THE FAILED INITIATIVES

by Anthony Bartlett (Professor of Law, Pace University — former resident of Belfast)

The English government has undertaken many initiatives in the hope of solving what they often evasively term the "Irish problem". There is a certain irony in this because the Irish people have never sought to instigate trouble for England; instead, they have merely reacted as any people of substance would to an alien prescence on their soil. Any problems which the English still face in Ireland are therefore of their own choosing and creation. Attempts by various English administrations to end the conflict in Northern Ireland average about one every two years; and an examination of some of their more notable forays seems to indicate more of an unwillingness to confront the basic logic of the English presence in Ireland than an honest endeavor to resolve the situation.

England created the state of Northern Ireland in 1921 by separating the six Northeastern counties from the rest of Ireland, in defiance of the will of the majority in the Island as a whole. To administer the new state for its Protestant majority the Westminster Government created a local Legislature at Stormont, near Belfast, giving it certain "devolved" powers, the most ominous, for the newly-created Catholic minority, being responsibility for internal security. Stormont lasted fifty years, until the English government at Westminster finally abolished it and imposed direct rule from London in 1972. Essentially Stormont was detested by the Catholic minority because of its repressive nature; and strongly suspected by many Protestants, by the late 1960s, who considered it to be doing an inadequate job of maintaining the security of their state.

Westminster then replaced it with a "power-sharing" Executive body which gave the Catholic minority representation on the basis of their proportion of the population. It lasted only five months because the militant loyalists among the majority found the prospect of sharing decision-making with Catholics in their midst a major threat to their position. Protestant trade unionists formed the Ulster Workers Council which coordinated both a general strike and intimidatory measures against Protestant and Catholic workers alike, bringing Northern Ireland to a virtual standstill, while English troops stood idly by. The Executive was forced to resign in May, 1974, and direct rule from London was imposed once more.

Lesser initiatives were tried without success until Westminster established an Assembly for Northern Ireland in October, 1982. The October elections gave sweeping victories to Sinn Fein and other minority representatives, who promptly boycotted the Assembly. This body has merely the power to recommend legislation to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. The Secretary has veto power, but if he chooses not to exercise it he may instead introduce the recommended law as a bill in the English Parliament for its consideration. It was understood at Westminster that if the Assembly behaved "responsibly" more power might eventually be delegated to it the experiment was thus termed "rolling devolution". Catholic representatives won 35% of the seats available, but as a 70% majority was required to pass legislative recommendations, they abstained from participation, recognizing that this "step-by-step Stormont" merely enshrined the status quo.

One wonders how many more feeble initiatives will be attempted by the English until they are eventually forced to face the ultimate nature of the problem they created in Northern Ireland, where an unwilling Catholic minority and a chronically insecure Protestant majority were artificially established. Repeated opinion polls show that a majority in Ireland as a whole and a majority in mainland England want the withdrawal of English troops; yet Westminster ignores this plea. Whether or not the people of Northern Ireland can solve their own problems remains unclear. One thing is certain, however, and that is that Westminster has failed lamentably to do so. Perhaps the time has now come to try the ultimate initiative — a English withdrawal to their own shores.

FROM THE EDITOR

The power brokers, that is our elected and appointed government officials (which includes the people in the State Department), big business, the news media, etc., would rather have the larger American Irish community, particularly the culturally aware, limit itself to social activities — a little dancing, singing and occasionally a parade. Some of them will even join with us for the fun of it. But that is as far as it goes. They do not appreciate it when we unite in action. Their reaction is logical because when united we pose a serious threat to their influence which is guaranteed by maintaining the status quo.

It is obvious to many Irish human rights activists that the status quo in America is greatly influenced by both the English government and the English aristocracy. This means that when the Irish in America unite in action, we are threatening the very powerful English influence which is a threat to our way of life. Historians tell us that since the Great Starvation, or as English apologists call it, the famine, many of England's leaders including Winston Churchill have feared American Irish unity. Since the 1980 Federal Census found that more than 44 million Americans claimed Irish heritage, the English government's concern is justified. Fully aware of this, the English government is constantly at work attempting to destroy American Irish unity. Among American Irish Catholics they successfully use the smoke screen of portraying the IRA as marxist, violence prone, socialist and/or terrorist which has many running scared and provides a cop-out for others.

Another very effective method to perpetuate American Irish disunity is by maintaining a religious division in occupied northeastern Ireland. This division naturally overflows to America keeping many of America's Irish Catholics and Protestants divided.

Fortunately, American Irish unity is already far beyond the budding-stage. Since the tragic Hunger Strike, in a number of incidents on a local level, American Irish organizations have effectively worked together in promoting the just cause of a United Ireland. Two very fine examples of effective unity (through the United Action Program) are the recent Barclay Bank boycott in Rockland County, NY and the Boston Globe incident where united action rectified an offensive situation. Perhaps the single most important reason that Ireland is not yet united, is that until now America's large and powerful active Irish organizations have never united on a national level.

I can attest to the fact that there now exists among the national organizations a strong and growing wish to unite in action. We urge all readers who are members of activist and large American Irish organizations to contact their leaders and encourage them to aim at national unity.

There are many things that we ourselves can do to promote American Irish unity. Two things that we as individuals can do are: first, help to educate our American Irish friends and associates on the conflict in Ireland and of their great heritage (see advertisement: Necessary Reading); and encourage them to join an active group. We recommend they join the PEC's United Action Program.

EDUCATE A FRIEND

If you would like to educate someone on the truth about the troubles in Ireland, forward their name and we will send them the PEC Information Package. **PLEASE USE COUPON BELOW.** Mail to: National PEC, PO Box 16, Garnerville, NY 10923.

| Name | |
|---------|---------|
| | (print) |
| Address | |

BARCLAY'S BANK

By AI Doyle

Rockland County, New York, where the headquarters of the NPEC is located, has long been a center of Irish activities in America. This was recently demonstrated in the action of the Rockland County legislature when, at the urging of Legislator Catherine McDougall, the legislators voted to cease depositing County funds in the largest English bank, Barclay's Bank, as a gesture of protest against English human rights violations in Northern Ireland. Ten million dollars had been on deposit with Barclay's, which had recently taken over a U.S. bank with ten branches in Rockland. This action brought forth considerable protest from defenders of the bank and of English policies in Northern Ireland and has become a controversial issue. A good deal of coverage has resulted and a number of well-attended public hearings have occurred. We welcome this controversy because it brings the problem of Northern Ireland before a public which is carefully shielded from knowledge by our own government and our media. The NPEC played the leading role in coordinating the various Irish/American groups in support of the resolution (a unique feat in itself) and also took the leading role in organizing the public testimony and other activities connected with this matter. Our President, John Finucane and our legal advisor, Al Doyle testified before the legislature in support of their action. Also testifying were PEC members Bob Loughman, Jack Brady, Michael Mallon (20 year old college student), and also Carole Waxelbaum of RCNA.

At the time of publication of this newsletter, the matter is still very active, with Barclay's Bank considering possible legal action against the County. The Brehon Law Society has offered to assist the County in defending any such legal action at no cost to the taxpayers. Keara O'Dempsey, President of the Brehon Law Society, testified at our request. There have also been numerous inquiries from other areas about the possibility of similar actions. All the above shows what can be done when we are willing to join together to make our voices heard. There is no reason why our government should continue to ignore our views on this subject.

You may be sure that this action has been noticed in Washington and London. This exercise in grass-roots democracy is one of the most effective ways of letting our government know that we will not be content with platitudes and brush-offs. We demand that our government recognize our interest in ending the repressive, sectarian regime in Northern Ireland and take action to compel England to move toward a solution — something they are not doing now. (Ed. Note: It was also the NPEC, through UAP, that organized the effective support campaign behind former N.Y.S. Assemblyman Sean Patrick Walsh's successful bid in 1982 to block special privileges being granted by the N.Y.S. Legislature to Grand Met, an English firm alleged to discriminate against Catholics in Northern Ireland.)

REGION 7, NPEC, IS NOW ORGANIZING A SIMILAR BOYCOTT ACTION IN THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE LEGISLATURE.

NEWS BITS

(Continued from Page 1)

conflict to an end. To continue to refuse to talk to these groups just prolongs it."

After the INLA disco bombing in Ballkelly in which 11 British soldiers died the Home Sec. William Whitelaw invoked the PTA (Prevention of Terrorism Act) which empowers him to exclude anyone who "is or has been concerned, whether in Great Britain or elsewhere, in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of "terrorism." Unionist MP Harold McCusker denounced the gov'ts "breathtaking hypocracy" and asked why they were allowed to "walk the streets of Belfast with impunity." if Mr. Adams and Mr. Morrison were a threat to safety in London. (N.Y. Times 12/10/82).

NECESSARY READING

A Little History of Ireland

by Seamus MacCall

This book is a birds-eye view of the Irish past which brings the reader right up to the 20th century. A comprehensive and easy to read book of 61 pages it is recommended for **everyone** not in possession of a full knowledge of Irish history. Give your friends **and your children** the knowledge of their heritage that so many of us were denied. Give them the gift of American Irish Awareness.

For a copy, send your check or money order for \$4.95 to: National PEC, PO Box 16, Garnerville, N.Y. 10923. Attn: Books. If you would like to give a gift of this book to someone, please include their name and address.

PEC OPINION POLL

by Barbara and Howard Allen

In October, 1982, the National Political Education Committee commenced the first national opinion poll of Americans to determine their views regarding the war in Ireland. Many segments of American society from different parts of the United States will be sampled. The purpose of this poll is to determine in what areas we must concentrate our efforts.

To date, we have sampled approximately 200 college students in New York State. These early and limited results are encouraging in that the majority of students sampled believe that the English government's presence in Ireland is the cause of the troubles and that their withdrawal is the solution. Also, the majority consider the IRA to be freedom fighters. Another important finding is that most students feel they **cannot depend on the news media** for accuracy of information regarding northern Ireland.

For the poll to be helpful it must be accurate. We must have a broad base of opinions from around the country. This is not a project where each participant has to survey large numbers of people. If most PEC subscribers sampled 3 to 5 persons (excluding activist), we would have a very accurate gauge of American opinion. We will need everyone's help. Of course, we will supply the questionaires. For full details on how you can help the PEC effectively implement this most important poll, please write: National PEC, attn: POLL. If you have the facilities available to make copies of the questionaire, let us know and we will send you an original. If you do not have access to a copier, let us know the exact number of questionaires that you will need.

ATTENTION ACTION IRISH

Join the action and information flow. Subscribe to the bi-monthly Political Education Committee National Newsletter. Send your name and address and a check for \$8.00 to: National PEC, PO Box 16, Garnerville, NY 10923.

| YES, please enroll me for a one year subscription of the bi-monthly PEC National Newsletter. Enclosed, please find my check for \$ Date |
|---|
| Signature |
| Name (print) |
| Address |
| |

COOPERATION

(Continued from Page 2)

not consolidation. During the recent speaking visit of ONI Direct Ruler, James Prior, a joint demonstration was held. Youths from the H Block/Armagh Committee, older persons from Irish Northern Aid and members of the Minnesota Irish Caucus demonstrated **together** outside the speaking forum. Much more media attention was generated than at previous individually-conducted demonstrations with pitifully small turnouts. The event was so successful that our ad-hoc coordinating committee was made permanent.

The key to cooperation is respect for the wishes of other organizations, and subordination of secondary interests to the primary, common interest, i.e. to the **freeing of all Ireland from foreign domination.** Successful coordination of activities between seemingly disharmonious groups requires only adoption of a few, simple ground rules. As President John Kennedy said, every journey must begin with a single step. In this case, that step is **cooperation.** For the sake of Ireland, let us mutually agree to take that vitally important step. **Our priority must be the cause of a United Ireland.**

IRISH WHO MADE AMERICA GREAT

by Michael J. McCabe (PEC Connecticut)

The Electric Boat shipyard in Groton has been open for 83 years. In that time it has launched many submarines and amassed large profits, but few know that its founder, an Irish immigrant named John P. Holland, died penniless and unknown.

Holland, a teacher by training, was born in County Cork in 1840. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1872, brimming with ideas for submarines, but his designs may have never come true had it not been for the American arm of an Irish group bent on winning Ireland's independence from Great Britain.

Holland became a teacher in a parochial school in Paterson, N.J. When the U.S. Navy rejected his plan for a little one-man boat, he turned to the American members of the Fenian Society, the Irish Republican Brotherhood. The Fenians financed Holland's first two subs, the *Holland I* and the *Fenian Ram.*

The Fenians soon became splintered by internal bickering. One night in 1883, a dissident group stole the *Fenian Ram* from its New Jersey mooring. When attempts by the dissidents to operate the *Ram* failed, Holland wrote off the submarine. However, the boat did play a small role in the cause of Irish independence. In 1916 the hull was shipped to New York for a bazaar to raise money for victims of the uprising in Ireland that year.

Finally, Holland's sixth submarine was accepted in 1900 by the Navy. Holland's company, which merged with Electric Boat, built six submarines for the Navy until Holland's dolphinlike design was abandoned for an even-keel design.

However, Holland's design finally was vindicated. With the advent of nuclear power and its sustained high power, the Navy again turned to Holland's dolphin-hull concept and all submarine, beginning with the *Skipjack* in 1958, now bear a likeness to the Navy's first sub, the *Holland*, named after its inventor, one of the Irish who made America great.

OFFENSIVE ST. PATRICK'S DAY CARDS

by John J. Finucane

During the first half of 1983, the PEC conducted an extensive letter-writing campaign through the United Action Program (UAP) directed at the greeting card companies, that manufacture the St. Patrick's Day cards depicting the American Irish as drunks and social misfits. We had favorable responses from

(Continued on Page 4)

LOYALIST PROPAGANDA GAINS IN U.S.

by John McCormack

A recent article in the Irish Press, November 29, 1983, by Niall O'Dowd, stated that Northern Ireland loyalists have greatly intensified their propaganda campaign in the U.S. The loyalists are rebuilding the Orange Order in America and through the Order, are setting up information centers throughout the country. Already, according to O'Dowd, they are meeting with considerable success in the news media. He also claims that the loyalists have a direct contact with President Reagan and a full time lobbyist in Washington, D.C.

The PEC has made a number of inquiries around the U.S. and has found that in some areas there is indeed a noticeable increase in misinformation. We cannot allow our educational gains to be dissipated by their propaganda.

The PEC is now recruiting interested persons to set up local PEC Information/Action Centers (PIAC) throughout the U.S. Simply stated, a PIAC is one or more persons distributing material, supplied by the PEC, in their community. A PIAC can be one person sending out 4 or 5 pieces of mail per month or a group of people sending out hundreds of pieces of mail. You decide how much you send out. At first, the material should be sent to influential people such as: editors; the heads of college political science departments; organization and union heads; educators, college newspapers; elected officials; etc. We will also provide you with your own PIAC letterhead and cover letter. This work is carried out at your liesure. We ask all subscribers and UAP members to participate in this effort. We ask all PEC officers to seek out people in their jurisdictions to form PIAC's. For full details write: National PEC, attn: PIAC Director. We need your help.

OFFENSIVE CARDS

(Continued from overleaf)

several producers. American Greeting said their 1983 line will be greatly improved and that in 1984 no cards will make reference to drinking. Gibson Inc., declared they discontinued manufacturing offensive cards. Recycled Paper Company stated that they are reviewing their cards. Halmark insist that they have greatly improved their line.

All subscribers are asked to check the cards in their communities. Check to see if the above commitments are being complied with. If you locate offensive cards, ask the merchant when they were manufactured. We are concerned with the 1983 line. If you locate any offensive cards that make reference to drinking, please send us the card catalog number, the manufacturer, and a brief discription of the card. Preferrably,

NATIONAL POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE Post Office Box 16 Garnerville, N.Y. 10923

UAP ACTION LETTER

(URGENT)

The National PEC has endorsed the Plastic Bullet Campaign initiated by the United Ireland Coalition (UIC). The purpose of this campaign is to generate support in Congress for passage of House Concurrent Resolution #21 which calls upon Congress to condemn the English government's use of lethal plastic bullets in Northern Ireland. All readers are urgently requested to write the following letter which has been submitted by the UIC. If there is any misunderstanding as to who your congressman is, simply call your local post office or town hall.

Please write your own letter along the lines suggested below. If for any reason this is not possible, simply rewrite our letter as shown below on your own stationery. Encourage your family, friends and relatives to write. If you belong to an organization, have your organization write. PLEASE DO IT NOW.

> Address Date

The Honorable (your Congressman's name) US House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Sir,

Despite their benign sounding name, plastic bullets have mamed, dismembered and killed hundreds of Irish civilians including many children. The high civilian casualty rate related to the plastic bullets suggest they have become staples in England's pacification-through-terror offensive against the Irish nationalist community.

I am convinced than an official statement by the United States Congress on this important human rights issue would compel England to terminate its use of plastic bullets in Ireland. Resolution HCR 21, introduced by Rep. Mario Biaggi, calls on the English Government to terminate its barbarous use of plastic bullets in Ireland. It was referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

I urge you to communicate your support for the resolution to committee Chairman Clement J. Zablocki and ask that he hold hearings on the issue.

> Sincerely, Signature

forward the card. This pertains to **all** greeting card companies. By working together through UAP, we will put an end to the production of these offensive cards.

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