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## American Irish Newsletter - October - November 1983

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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# POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

*The Newsletter of the Action Irish*

Vol. 8, No. 5

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, 1983

## Majority Of Americans Support Irish Nationalists

(see PEC Opinion Poll pg. 4)

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

### NEWS BITS

*by Andy Prior*

"What Britain has done to the Irish nation, although spread over 800 years, is worse than what Hitler did to the Jews. The difference is that one was compacted into a short period of time. There is no other country in the world where the population today is dramatically less than it was at the time of Napoleon. In every other country the population has increased as the economies have developed. Ireland today has only approximately half the population it had over 100 years ago." — Ken Livingstone, London Council Leader (Irish Post 9/10/83) ... Judge William Booth, recently retired from the N.Y. State Supreme Court and a former chairman of the N.Y.C. Commission for Human Rights has joined a tribunal of lawyers investigating the fatal shooting of civilians by the RUC. (Irish Times 9/12/83).

Unionist M. P. Peter Robinson, a Paisley deputy, has called on unionists to prepare a counter-offensive against the attack by U.S. Congressmen on N.I. and Shorts aircraft. He said he would be working with the "friends of N.I." groups which he has helped set up all over the U.S. to lobby the Congress. The group would be sending out literature defending employment practices in N.I. (Irish News 8/22/83) ... A British Labour Party M.P. has compared "supergrass" (informer) trials with the "show trials conducted by Hitler and Stalin". Mr. Martin Flannery, chairman of Labour's N.I. group, said the use of "supergrasses" brought the "whole of the British system of justice into disrepute". "The use of perjurers and self-confessed murderers is totally unfitted to the situation in N.I." (Irish Times 9/12/83).

"The British Gov. has tried to destroy our people — by setting brother against brother, Protestant against Catholic, father against son. Either that regime is immoral or it is not. If it is immoral then the clergy should come out clearly and say so, and oppose it with all the considerable power they have ... The British regime has tried to pretend to the world that we are devils — the bandits of Crossmaglen, the Godfather's of West Belfast, the criminals in the prisons. The British Gov. has told the world what it's judgment of us is. Let the Catholic Church now tell the world what it's judgment of the people is." — Fr. Desmond Wilson (Andersonstown News 9/83).

Preaching at Martin Malone's funeral (Malone, 18, was shot dead at point blank range by the UDR in disputed circumstances) Cardinal O'Fiaich accused the soldier of murder, — "the deliberate killing of an unarmed bystander." The British media responded by condemning the Cardinal's statements.

(Continued on Page 5)

## NATIONAL NEWS COUNCIL CENSURE NEW YORK TIMES & NBC NEWS

*by Ray Quinn*

Is there bias in the American media's treatment of Northern Ireland? Many Irish seem to think so. The media emphatically says No. Who's right?

A series of media complaints recently adjudicated by the National Council indicates that the media's Irish coverage is certainly lacking. The *New York Times* and *NBC News* were censured in three cases.

The National News Council is a little known body, comprised of journalists and citizen representatives, set up in 1973, to investigate complaints against the media. The press, with its "country club atmosphere" has been reluctant to furnish the public with results of the council cases.

The most sensational of the cases involved The *New York Times*' coverage of the Michael Flannery Arms Trial. The Arms Trial complaint, one of several filed by the New York based American Irish Unity Committee, attacked a *Times*' story which alleged that the CIA's relationship with the defendants "was not established during the trial as anything but a boast".

The News Council, in its ruling, censured the *Times* for "misleading" reporting. The Council stated — "...the jury's finding is not so unreasonable as the *Times* story suggests." The Council then went on to reprimand the *Times* for giving readers the faulty impression that one of its reporters had covered the trial. The *Times* lifted the crucial CIA statement "out of context" from wire service reports. It then failed to credit the wires as the only source of its information.

Last fall, in another *Times*' case, the News Council ruled that "It was unfair and inaccurate not to set the record straight."

(Continued on Page 2)

## AFL-CIO ACTS

*by Jim Devine, PEC Labor Liason*

A three man delegation from the executive council of the AFL-CIO returned recently from a fact finding tour of Ireland.

The members of the delegation were Thomas R. Donahue, John Sweeney, and James Hatfield. They met with the Bishop of the church of Ireland, Britain's minister for Northern Ireland, James Prior, Charles Haughey, leader of Fianna Fail, Prime Minister Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald, minister of foreign affairs Peter Barry, former Irish Ambassador to the United States Sean Donlon, representatives of the Sinn Fein Party and many others.

(Continued on Page 5)

## FREE OFFER

The PEC has just published a chapter from **PADDY'S LAMENT** by Thomas Gallagher. This excellent publication deals with the Irish Famine. If you would like a free copy, send a self-addressed, **stamped** envelope to: PEC, P.O. Box 16, Garnerville, NY 10923.

## IRELAND'S ETHNIC WAR

by Professor Toni Bartlett, Pace Law School

The British are usually content to portray the conflict in Northern Ireland in religious terms. At other times, when it suits, they are satisfied with a socio-economic analysis which views the violence as a product of unemployment and depression. They lamentably, but understandably, fail to provide an ethnic analysis of the problem; because for them to do so would be to show the crucial role that they played in creating and maintaining the violent Protestant statelet of Northern Ireland.

In 1608 the British Crown began a determined attempt to establish a permanent presence in the ever-rebellious province of Ulster. Wave after wave of Scottish and English settlers was sent, with the aim of providing a permanent garrison to keep the ungrateful Irish in their place, i.e. under British rule. This particular "plantation" — as other such massive landgrabs in Ireland were termed — was singularly successful. Unlike the Danes, Normans and Englishmen of earlier times the new British settlers did not intermarry with, or become absorbed by the culture of, the native Irish. This was so because their property holding and other economic advantages depended upon their continued adherence to Protestantism and loyalty to the Crown. In addition, their Protestantism was of the staunchest; they were largely English Puritans and lowland Scottish Calvinists.

Even place-names were changed to reinforce the alien Protestant presence; the old city of Derry, for example, was re-named Londonderry in honor of the citizens of London who colonized it. From the Protestant community came the Yeomanry and various secret societies which, over the succeeding centuries, repressed and terrorized the native Irish. It is self-evident that this tiny Protestant minority in the Island as a whole could never have oppressed and tormented the majority in the way that they did without the active military support of the British. The Protestant minority eventually became an artificially-created majority in the North when the British partitioned Ireland in 1921.

The cleavage between the two Northern communities exists to this day. Protestants, in general, speak only English and identify culturally with mainland Britain, whereas Catholics generally attempt to maintain and develop the Irish language and identify culturally with the Gaelic majority in the rest of the Island. When the British ultimately withdraw from Ireland the Protestant community in the North must either take its rightful place in a united Ireland or face the prospect of civil war. The military resources of the British, which prop up the Protestant statelet, ensure the continuance of partition for the present, but the question of unification, and consequently the position of Northern Protestants, has not been accordingly voided; it has merely been postponed.

### Political Education Committee National Newsletter founded in 1976

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

Editor ..... John J. Finucane

## OFFENSIVE SITUATION

by John J. Finucane

During the tragic Irish Hunger Strike, many Americans of Irish extraction were forced to search their consciences. Many avoided involvement by denying their heritage claiming that they are Americans *only*. Well and good. They are entitled to their opinion. Not every American will agree with them that he or she are Americans *only*.

Take the Bradbury Club in Los Angeles, California. The following paragraphs are taken from their application for Corresponding Club Membership:

"... Anyone not fully divulging all the facts will be viewed with extreme suspicion as we avoid undesirables such as *women with loose morals, and the Irish.*" (Italics ours)

"... We are looking primarily for persons of vision, foresight, and imagination, therefore anyone that can figure out what the Bradbury Club is going to be all about at this point in time automatically qualifies for membership (except *loose women and the Irish*) as aforementioned above." (Italics ours)

The racist attitude of the Bradbury Club is not an isolated one. It is a common practice, although not as open, for many businesses and educational institutions in America. Particularly, against those with Irish surnames and certain educational backgrounds.

Many Irish Americans will laugh at the above as they think it does not affect them individually. They are wrong. They do not take into account their children's future. Especially those children who will be building careers in big business and government. What will those Americans with Irish surnames and certain education backgrounds say when they or their children are confronted with the above situations — Irish Americans need not apply?

We urge you to write a letter of protest to: The Bradbury Club, Bradbury Building, 304 South Broadway, Los Angeles, Ca. 90013 or call: (213) 489-1411.

(Ed. Note: We wish to thank John Pulskamp, Granada Hills, California, for bringing this matter to our attention.)

## NATIONAL NEWS

(Continued from Page 1)

The case concerned the use of an incomplete quote by the Irish Taoiseach, Garret Fitzgerald. The *Times'* version of the Fitzgerald quote read: "If I were a Northern Protestant, I cannot see how I could be attracted to getting involved in a state which in itself is sectarian." The complete quote included this important addition, "...although not in the acutely sectarian way Northern Ireland was in which Catholics were repressed."

In its decision the News Council said: "There is a significant difference between the complete and incomplete Fitzgerald quote ... The *Times* should have given readers the opportunity to see the complete quote ..."

In a third complaint involving NBC-TV Network News, the Council ruled that "NBC News did not live up to its own standards."

The complaint concerned the concluding remarks of a February 9th news story about the disappearance of the Irish racehorse, Shergar. Roger Mudd, the NBC anchorman stated: "In the past the Irish Republican Army has used kidnappings for ransom to raise money. But the Irish police tonight are refusing to speculate about this."

On May 20th, after the News Council intervened, NBC aired a public retraction.

In its decision, the Council chastised NBC News for not carrying out a prompt investigation and then airing a prompt correction as required by NBC's own standards.

The News Council cases are seen as the first independent verification of bias by the American media in their coverage of Irish events.

FROM THE EDITOR

In 1976 this writer was gathering names for a petition to the then President Gerald Ford. The petition called upon President Ford to use his good offices to induce a British withdrawal from northeast Ireland.

One middle-aged woman who signed the petition stated, "I'll sign it, but it will do no good as politicians do not listen to the Irish-Americans". At that time, she was correct in her assessment. A short seven years later, due to a lot of hard work and dedication, the situation has changed dramatically.

On Sunday, September 18, 1983 James Delaney, Chairman of the Irish American Unity Conference (IAUC), met with high level representatives of the Democratic National Committee and several respected members of Congress. At each meeting he was informed of the growing apprehension among elected officials concerning the developing national Irish-American unity and the outstanding progress of the IAUC.

One has to carefully weight the statements of these people at this particular time. Fortunately, there is sound evidence for their apprehension. Since 1982, there has been a considerable number of northeast Ireland related political actions initiated by the Irish-American community. To name a few, the Barclay Bank Resolution in Rockland County, N.Y., the divestiture from British interest by the Massachusetts State Government, the election of a Philadelphia Congressman by the Irish, and the Grand Metropolitan Bill in the New York State Legislature which was spearheaded by the Honorable Sean Patrick Walsh.

Naturally, both the Democratic and Republican National Committees are planning strategies to attract the Irish-American vote (there are over 43 million Americans who claim Irish heritage).

Let us never forget that there is only one strategy that serves our cause. That is, each candidate seeking our support must publicly condemn the British colonial occupation of northeast Ireland and demand Ireland's reunification. Each must also give a commitment that once in office, he or she will actively and publicly pursue these objectives.

We must make it clear that there is no substitute for a United Ireland.

The finest opportunity for success lies in the Irish American Unity Conference. Every single one of us should not only join the IAUC, but also reach-out to every Irish-American urging that he or she too join.

it is obvious that the PEC's UAP Action Letter program played a significant role in generating this apprehension. Therefore, we urge everyone to write the requested Action Letters. With the national elections approaching, there importance cannot be overstressed.

If you would like to receive IAUC membership information and/or help distribute this information, please send your name and address indicating same to: IAUC, Membership Promotion, 2 North Liberty Dr., Stony Point, N.Y. 10980 or call (914 947-2726).

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.

Please send free PEC Information Package to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

GRAVEYARD OF IRISH LABORERS

by Georgia Fleming (PEC Alabama)

After the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, the large numbers of Americans who moved into the New Orleans area found themselves at a disadvantage. The long-established Creole community controlled the Carondelet Canal, depriving the Americans of easy access to the Gulf Coast trade. The capital to construct a canal in the American sector was acquired by entrepreneurs, including two natives of Ireland, Maunsel White and Charles Byrne. The canal company hired a Pennsylvania engineer, Simon Cameron (later Lincoln's Secretary of War), and before he left Philadelphia, Cameron recruited 136 Irish laborers for work on the canal.

The terms seemed attractive — board and lodging, and \$20 per month. The digging began on schedule in 1832, but after a short time the Irish workers published a list of grievances, among them that Cameron had practically sold them as redemptioners to the canal company, and that the company store charged twice as much as stores in town. They protested Cameron labeling them "as a turbulent and disobedient set of men because we do not tamely submit to the numberless acts of injustice." They were joined by thousands of Irish immigrants over the next four years. Slaves were considered too valuable to risk under such unhealthy conditions!

Historians consider the construction of the New Basin Canal to be a project of greater difficulty than the Panama Canal, given the technology of the time. The Irish workmen dug the canal with hand shovels, excavating more than half a million cubic yards. Lacking dynamite, they used hand axes on the huge old cypress trees along the route. The appalling conditions were described by a visiting Irish actor, Tyrone Power, in 1834: "...hundreds of fine fellows labouring here beneath a sun that at this winter season was at times insufferably fierce, and amidst a pestilential swamp whose exhalations were fetid to a degree scarcely endurable even for a few moments;... mid-deep in black mud ... bearing burdens it made one's shoulders ache to look upon; exposed meantime to every change of temperature, in log-huts, laid down in the very swamp ... Here

(Continued on Page 4)

KEEP UP-TO-DATE ON THE  
IRISH-AMERICAN UNITY  
CONFERENCE. READ THE  
POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
NATIONAL NEWSLETTER.

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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 ☐ the following name person for a one year subscription of the bi-monthly PEC National Newsletter. Enclosed, please find my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_. Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

# IRELAND'S OCCUPATION, CAUSE AND CURE

R. F. Doyle, Coordinator  
Minnesota Irish Organizations, Coordinating Committee

The first cause, of course, was greed in a powerful neighboring country. But there are proximate continuing causes, not attributable to England. Without them, Occupied Ireland (O.I.) would have been freed long ago.

Factionalism, apathy and ignorance, both in Ireland and the U.S., are basically to blame. O.I. factions fight among themselves, call names, and resort to rhetoric like children. Loyalists are almost equally guilty.

Generations of oppression have ground too many Irishmen into habits of poverty and indolence. Sadly, they wallow in it, complaining of government failure to support and clean up after them. Biting hands that feed them is a popular game. A small number has turned to Marxism.

Some Irishmen, largely free staters, are unsympathetic with O.I.'s struggle for freedom, fearing the spectre of an Irish Cuba in the heart of NATO's alliance. Others ignore it due to generations of frustration. Many Americans, ignorant of Irish politics, consider it a religious feud.

Don't despair. Solutions are at hand. Obviously Irish freedom seekers on both sides of the Atlantic must unite. Jealousy and egos must be subordinated to the common cause. Disparate interests can be pursued after Ireland is freed.

In the U.S. recently, a start has been made with the Irish American Unity Conference (IAUC) held in Chicago. Its spirit has penetrated right down to grass roots, including here in Minnesota. Our year-old coordinating committee has gained new member groups and new enthusiasm. We conducted a successful Irish Solidarity Day, on September 25 as called for by the IAUC, and plans are firming for a IAUC regional conference. Fund raisers have begun. A media coordinator educates misinformed newspeople regarding the real issues in O.I. Through him, we no longer tolerate Irish defamation.

Here are some new ideas for consideration:

Application of pressure on "Friends" of Ireland in Congress to demand England pay off her WWII Lend Lease debt unless she terminates the occupation.

Formation of Peace Corps type groups to visit O.I. and help the unfortunate help themselves, an Operation Bootstrap.

A Social/Entertainment committee added to those formed by the IAUC in Chicago, for the purpose of bringing into the fold that great mass of Irish whose only interest is wearing green on St. Patrick's Day. Their numbers, votes, and money alone will be useful.

Irishmen in America and elsewhere have an immense debt to the mother country for our heritage. We can and must pay it off by helping Ireland achieve her destiny of total freedom.

**GIVE A GIFT OF THE  
PEC NATIONAL NEWSLETTER**

## PEC OPINION POLL

by Howard Allen

Demands for a U.S. role in Northern Ireland have the weight of American public opinion behind them. Results from the PEC national opinion poll reveal solid grassroots support for a U.S. diplomatic initiative in Northern Ireland.

Almost 500 people in 13 states, including; Washington State, Alabama, Arizona, New Hampshire and Ohio, participated in the poll circulated by PEC volunteers. A broad spectrum of Americans were interviewed including professionals, businessmen, professional military personnel, housewives, laborers, students, and civil servants. *It should be noted that 59% of the interviewees claimed no Irish heritage.* Every question in the survey provoked a majority response sympathetic to the Nationalist point of view.

A clear majority endorse a diplomatic role for the U.S. in Northern Ireland. Fifty two percent of those surveyed believe the Reagan Administration should pursue a negotiated settlement in Northern Ireland, 33% were opposed, and 15% said they were unsure.

A follow-up question asked those supporting an American peace initiative what policies they would like the Administration to adopt. Of those, 70% said they either favor pressing the British government for a commitment to Irish reunification or organizing a Camp David type summit for Northern Ireland, 6% went as far as supporting sanctions against Britain if they fail to take positive action in resolving the conflict.

British policy in Northern Ireland aroused sharp criticism from a majority of those surveyed. When asked what they considered the primary cause of the troubles, 63% cited either the British presence or economic and political discrimination. Contrasted against this were 12% who traced the conflict to sectarian hostilities and 5% who believe the troubles stem from terrorism.

When asked what role the British army plays, 49% labeled them an army of occupation, 11% consider them peacekeepers and 40% were unsure.

Counterbalanced against this was the response to a question about the Irish Republican Army. Thirty six percent of those surveyed consider the IRA as freedom fighters, 24% view them as terrorists and 40% were unsure.

The NEWS MEDIA received a sharp reprimand. Seventy eight percent of those polled said the media focused on the violence in Northern Ireland without explaining its underlying causes, only 6% approved media handling and 16% were unsure.

*(Ed. Note: We would like to thank Howard and Barbara Allen for preparing and compiling the results of this PEC opinion poll and all those outstanding subscribers to the PEC that took the time to carry-out the survey.)*

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## GRAVEYARD OF IRISH LABORERS (Continued from Page 3)

they subsist on the coarsest fare ... often at the mercy of a hard contractor, who wrings his profits from their blood."

Estimates of the number who died range from 8,000 to 30,000. They died of cholera and yellow fever contracted in the mosquito infested swamps north of Metairie Ridge. And thousands were buried where they fell. Opened for traffic in 1838, the New Basin Canal was an immediate success. The sacrifice of thousands of Irish lives enabled the American community to sever economic and political ties with the Creoles.

The heyday of canals had long passed when the order came to fill the New Basin in 1946 to make way for an expressway, and the work was completed by 1961. The remaining twenty blocks which were once canal, stretch from Robert E. Lee Blvd. to Lake Pontchartrain. The tremendous loss of Irish American lives should not go without some memorial. A fitting tribute would be a plaque erected on the site of the canal, where thousands of workers are buried. Please contact the Louisiana Landmarks Society, 1440 Moss ST., New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 482-0312.

## **Recommended Reading** **STATE TERRORISM: The British Use of Plastic Bullets in Northern Ireland**

*By Professor David Lowry*

*The PEC has just published an authoritative and highly-informative 50 page booklet by Professor David Lowry, STATE TERRORISM: The British Use of Plastic Bullets in Northern Ireland. This well-written publication is an in-depth study of the plastic and rubber bullets, their purpose, and their victims.*

*It is an excellent educational instrument that helps explain the oppressive nature of British rule in Ireland. It should prove very helpful in generating support for passage of the Congressional House Resolutions condemning the British use of Plastic Bullets in Northern Ireland.*

**TO ORDER:** individual copies are \$2.00 each which includes postage. Bulk orders (10 or more), \$.85 each plus \$1.30 postage for first unit of 10. Each additional unit of 10, add \$1.00 for postage. Make checks payable to National PEC.

## **IRISH WHO MADE AMERICA GREAT**

*by Michael J. McCabe, PEC Connecticut*

An Irishman built one of the world's largest shipping empires, was a friend of Peru, and mayor of New York, all in one lifetime!

William R. Grace was born in Queenstown, Ireland, in 1832. He had run away to sea as a youth, settled in Peru, and made a fortune dealing in supplies for ocean-going vessels. Arriving in New York after the Civil War, he organized his own shipping line but continued an active interest in Peruvian affairs. After Peru's defeat in a war with Chile, he helped refinance the country's national debt and, as his fee, obtained control over immensely valuable silver mines, guano deposits, and other properties.

In 1880 Grace was elected New York's first Irish Catholic mayor in a bitter, bigot-ridden campaign. Grace was an able and efficient mayor. He reformed administrative procedures, forced several street-railway companies to pay back taxes, and achieved a general reduction in the tax rate. After one term, he was succeeded by Franklin Edson, the president of the Produce Exchange and also a member of the ruling business group.

In 1884 Grace returned to serve a second term in City Hall, as one of the Irish who made America great.

## **AFL-CIO ACTS**

(Continued from Page 1)

The following program for AFL-CIO action was submitted and *unanimously adopted* by the Executive Council in early August:

### **Discrimination**

Sectarianism has dominated Irish life for centuries and Belfast and all of the six counties of North Ireland have been divided in employment, education, housing, recreation and in every other facet of life for all that time.

The supply of public housing has always been short and that shortage has fallen inordinately among the Catholics due to sectarian bias in administration and allocation.

We believe strongly that until a forceful and forthright address is made to the problems of all forms of discrimination currently practiced in North Ireland there can be little hope for a reduction in the level of violence or for the development of attitudes which will bring about a stable society.

### **Short Brothers Contract**

The United States Air Force is considering a multi-million dollar purchase.

Short Brothers, Ltd., North Ireland's largest employer, is a British government owned company manufacturing aircraft and parts. The employment statistics at Short Brothers strongly indicate a pattern of past discrimination.

Before any contract is awarded to Shorts or any procurement order issued, guarantees of an effective, verifiable affirmative action plan should be required.

### **The Ottinger Bill**

This bill (H.R. 346S) would require persons and corporations who conduct business or control enterprises in North Ireland to comply to certain fair employment practices.

The Federation of labor should support a campaign for self-enforcement by United States corporations and accountability by those corporations with respect to their employment practices abroad.

### **Campaign Against Use Of Plastic Bullets**

Fourteen people have been killed in North Ireland by plastic bullets, seven of them children under fourteen years of age, and nearly 100 people have been seriously injured.

The North Ireland committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, the government parties in the Republic of Ireland and the opposition parties have all joined in the call for the outlawing of the use of the plastic bullets and the AFL-CIO should associate itself with this campaign. The documented toll of the dead and the maimed provides impressive testimony in support of their use being outlawed.

### **The New Ireland Forum**

The delegation expressed their hope that ALL of the political parties of the Republic of Ireland and of North Ireland will be able to join in the discussions of the New Ireland Forum.

The AFL-CIO should urge the government of the United States to use every means at its command to press the governments of England and the Republic of Ireland to seek a resolution of the political problems in Ireland.

Also that the AFL-CIO and the other free trade unions of the western democracies should continue to press the governments of England and Ireland in whatever way they can to bring about discussions and resolution of these issues.

*(Ed. Note: The Irish American Labor Coalition played a major role in the above major success.)*

## **NEWS BITS**

(Continued from Page-1)

Asked to comment on the press the Cardinal replied, "Whenever the usual anti-Irish newspapers in Fleet Street are out for my blood, I know I am on the right path. They have never objected to my use of the word 'murder' to describe killing by the IRA or the INLA. Only Irish republicans can be guilty of murder in their eyes." (Irish Post 8/27/83) ... "Plastic bullets have been used in N.I. in non-riot situations, indoors where crowd dispersal was impossible or at point blank range where there was no threat to security forces. They have been used directly against children and have been aimed at the head." This is from testimony recently submitted in Geneva to a U.N. subcommittee reviewing breaches of human rights. The International League for Human Rights, supported by the Organization of Concerned Teachers, a Belfast based group, accused the British Gov. of using the bullets in violation of the U.N. code of conduct for law enforcement officials. (Irish Times 8/27/83).

## UNITY CONFERENCE UPDATE

by John J. Finucane

On September 25, 1983, IRISH SOLIDARITY DAY, the Irish American Unity Conference (IAUC) officially kicked off its membership drive. Many inquiries have already been received at both the temporary national headquarters in San Antonio, Texas and the Membership Promotion Office in Stony Point, N.Y....Solidarity Day events, as called for by the IAUC in Chicago, Ill. (July 15-17) took place in; Sacramento and San Francisco, Calif., St. Paul, Minn., Houston and San Antonio, Texas, Chicago, Ill., New York City and South Carolina ... September 18, Chairman James Delaney conducts several high level meetings in Washington, D.C. with members of the Democratic National Committee and several members of Congress. At each meeting, Mr. Delaney was informed of apprehension amongst elected officials concerning the sudden development of Irish American unity and the success of the IAUC. He also had a successful meeting with the leaders of the Irish National Caucus. Both organizations agreed to work together through their lobbying efforts ... Delaney also participated in a Regional conference in Washington, D.C. which was attended by 73 representatives of the different organizations in the Captiol District (Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia). Mr. Joseph Roche, President of the A.O.H. in America, who was in attendance, reaffirmed the A.O.H.'s support of the IAUC ... September 17, Chairman Delaney presided over a very successful tri-state pre-region conference (New York, Connecticut and New Jersey). Later that evening, he was the special guest at the PEC's Eight Annual Dance. He was well received by the almost 500 people in attendance. At the dance, he was presented a check for \$1,000.00 from the Emerald Society, Fire Department, City of New York, by its President, Michael Dunne. IAUC also announced the opening of a national Education/Membership Promotion Office in Stony Point, N.Y. ... Regional Conferences are planned for Massachusetts, Philadelphia, St. Paul, Minn., Chicago, Ill., San Francisco, and Sacramento, Ca.; Houston, Texas, and New Orleans. With your support and participation, the Irish American Unity Conference will be a success.

### FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Please write: IAUC, Membership Promotion,  
2 North Liberty Dr., Stony Point, N.Y. 10980

## UAP ACTION LETTER

by Al Doyle

**THIS REQUEST IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE.** Under our Constitution foreign policy is almost entirely in control of the Executive Branch, that is, the President and his appointees. This includes the day to day policy actions of the State Department. We are aware that the State Department bureaucracy has long been heavily pro-British. This entrenched bias cannot be eliminated overnight, but a motivated Executive can start to loosen up this block and there is no better time to influence the Executive than during this coming election year as has been recognized at the recent Irish American Unity Conference. We are aware that the Republican National Committee has formulated a stock response to Americans who express dissatisfaction with the absence of U.S. policy on Northern Ireland, in the present Administration by saying that, "The U.S. Government does not take a firm position on the Northern Irish issue for this is an internal matter to be dealt with by the British government." Other references to "terrorism" and "fractions" show the insensitivity of the Republican national Committee. We must let them know that this is not satisfactory to a significant group of American voters.

We ask you to write to the Chairman of the Republican National Committee. Please write or type your own letter along the lines suggested below. If for any reason this is not possible, simply rewrite our letter below on your own stationery. Please urge all Irish-American organizations of which you are a member to do the same. **PLEASE CONSIDER THIS ACTION LETTER REQUEST VERY IMPORTANT!**

address & date

Mr. Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr.  
Chairman, Republican National Committee  
310 First Street, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Mr. Fahrenkopf:

I have seen your standard response to voters who have complained about the lack of policy of our government (or rather, our British-directed policy) with regard to Northern Ireland. The response calls this an "internal matter" to be dealt with by the British. I want you to know that this response is unacceptable to a large group of American voters who are concerned with the sixty year old, British imposed regime in Northern Ireland. The British have long demonstrated that they will move to get out of Ireland only when pressured to do so. There are over 40 million Americans claiming Irish heritage. You had better start listening.

Sincerely,  
signature

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POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
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