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American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Action Irish

Vol. 7, No. 2

APRIL/MAY, 1982

IRISH GOVERNMENT ASKS U.S. TO HELP REUNITE IRELAND

NEWS BITS

by Andrew Prior

Ireland's prime minister used a St. Patrick's Day meeting with President Reagan to appeal for the United States to support Irish unity. Prime Minister Charles J. Haughey also urged Reagan to encourage Great Britain to take steps that could lead to its pulling out of Protestant Northern Ireland. (AP 3/18/82).

N.I. civil rights activist, Kevin Agnew, was recently convicted of participating in an illegal march. In court Mr. Agnew said, "At present we are hearing about what is happening in Poland, but the minority in the North have lived under such happenings for years." "The present legislation was introduced in 1954 when there was a Protestant parliament for a Protestant people, for the sole purpose of keeping people like me under control. But 30 years have passed and the minority have held their ground and never gave in." (Irish Weekly 2/27/82) ... The French town of Le Mans has named a street after Bobby Sands (Irish Post 2/27/82).

"Examples of false or distorted information are only too numerous in reports here of the activities of Ian Paisley, Mrs. Bradford and Messrs. Taylor and Robinson," declared Councillor Felicity Boyd about the "Operation USA" team that has just toured the U.S. "What sort of people are the Operation USA team who can fail to condemn equally all the murdering thugs who so disfigure life in our province?" asked Mrs. Boyd. (Irish Wkly 2/6/82) ... A former UDR man, John McConnell was convicted of illegal possession of six machine guns that he said the UDA had forced him to keep. (Irish Wkly 2/13/82).

Councillors McNulty and O'Hare have protested a fine imposed by a Belfast court for participating in an anti-H-Block rally. A joint statement read "While Loyalists have paraded unhindered in private armies during the past six months all over the six counties, anti-Unionists attempting to hold a peaceful meeting are attacked, held in

police stations for hours and heavily fined." (Irish Wkly 1/23/82) ... There to four thousand people gathered in Derry and about fifteen hundred marched in Birmingham, England to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Bloody Sunday. (Irish Wkly 2/6/82).

New York police think that John Arthur, an Englishman arrested in Brooklyn with an assassination kit, may have been a mercenary hired to kill a Noraid member or other guests who attended Noraid's 10th annual dinner on Jan. 22. (NY Daily News 1/30/82).

"Apparently it is a great crime in the eyes of the British colony in Ireland for Irish people to complain about the murder of a loved one, and if some of the assassins are caught and sentenced then the persecution really begins", so stated Fr. Denis Faul when speaking about the members of "Silent Too Long". Fr. Faul disclosed that the family of a 17 year old County Down man has suffered harassment from the RUC and UDR since the men charged with his killing have been on trial. (Irish Wkly 2/20/82) ...

Ian Paisley is planning to lead a series of public protests over the visit of the Pope to Britain. Mr. Paisley said that "the Thatcher administration is guilty of both treachery and duplicity," in allowing the Queen to officially greet the Pope. (Irish Wkly 2/20/82) ... The Archbishop of Canterbury was forced to cut short a church service in Liverpool after demonstrators protesting Pope John Paul II's scheduled visit to Britain in May disrupted the service. (NY Times 3/12/82) ... Owen Carron, M.P. has accused the RUC of "deliberately and actively" obstructing him in his constituency work. Mr. Carron stated that he was detained for two hours at an RUC checkpoint during which time he was physically dragged from his car by six RUC men ... "It is small wonder that the Nationalist community have absolutely no confidence in the RUC as a police force and resent their very appearance, when their duly elected representatives are abused and treated in such a manner," commented Mr. Carron. (Irish Wkly 2/27/82).

OFFENSIVE ST. PATRICK'S DAY CARDS

by John J. Finucane

There has been a very encouraging response from our readers to the PEC request for letters to the greeting card producers protesting the St. Patrick's Day cards that depict Irish-Americans as drunkards and social misfits. This is the **first** time such an organized and widespread project of this nature has been conducted. The producers are greatly concerned as evidenced by their replies. Norcross expressed shock, Hallmark suggested the cards foster brotherhood, and American Greeting's promised the cards will be satisfactory by 1984. In a subsequent issue of the National Newsletter you will again be asked to write to these companies to ask if they have made any progress towards cleaning up these cards. This follow-up will also let them know we mean business.

In the last issue we mentioned the negative effects these cards have on our young. To back this up, I will refer to one of our young who stated on national TV, "On St. Patrick's Day I will get 'fall down drunk' because of my Irish roots". Our concern should be, what developed this impression in this young man's mind. I wish to mention that this PEC project was the center of discussion in a number of favorable newspaper articles.

We have made a very good impact through our letters and with very little effort and time on our part. It is most important that we stay with it and write all the letters requested. We should also be aware that our newsletter subscribership increases substantially every month which means that our impact increases substantially with every issue. We will win this one if we stick together. Please

(Continued on Page 2)

write to the following Card Companies:

Gibson Greeting Cards, Inc.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45237

Recycled Paper Products, Inc.
Box 11384
Chicago, Ill 60646

In your letter stress that you resent all references to alcohol and the characterizations that depict the Irish as stupid, drunken pigs or potato-faced fools. Please mention that you will boycott their products.

United Press International 3/16/82 — "American Greeting Corp. is remaking its St. Patrick's Day cards ... American Greetings is removing from their line the cards which make reference to drinking." This success is a direct result of your letters and the campaign commenced by the PEC in 1976. Three cheers for American Greetings, the letter writers, and the PEC. Organized letter writing campaigns do work.

WE, THE GREATEST

by Robert P. Loughman

Strong as is the attachment of the Irish-American to the country of their heritage, it is only within the last few decades that these descendants of the Celts have become acquainted with the number of well-known literary names which belong to Ireland. Accustomed to read and hear of many writers as belonging to English literature, we are liable to forget their connection with Ireland; and thus many eminent authors pass for being English although they were born on Irish soil.

There are many reasons for this confusion: the use of the English language and the power and prestige of England permitting her to claim the productive Irish mind as belonging to England. Today we know and should publicize that Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) was born in Dublin, Ireland; Oliver Goldsmith (1728-1774) in Longford, Ireland; Edmund Burke (1729-1797) in Dublin; Richard B. Sheridan (1751-1816) in Dublin; and Samuel Ferguson (1810-1886) was born in Belfast, Ireland. These are just a small sample of the great minds of Ireland that dominated the world of letters for over two centuries.

Another academic field in which the contributions of the Irish are not well known is the world of science and mathematics. A prime example is that of Robert Boyle. The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language lists: "Boyle, Robert 1627-1691—**English** Chemist, Physicist and Theologian". The Columbus Viking Desk Encyclopedia lists: "Robert Boyle 1627-91 a **British** chemist, was the first to distinguish between element and compound". Webster's Third New International Dictionary lists: "Boyles law—after Robert Boyle—died 1691—**British** physicist, its formulator". Not unlike his contemporaries in literature, Robert Boyle was born in Waterford, Ireland. Perhaps his politics were pro-British but Robert Boyle is remembered for his scientific contributions and these are the contributions of one born on Irish soil.

An additional example of Irish greatness that is not well known is the genius of William Rowan Hamilton. Born in

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Editor..... John J. Finucane
Assistant Editor..... Mary Prior

Ireland in 1805 he was responsible for developing the Principle of Least Action in optics and devising the Calculus of Quaternions. As a sideline he was a student of English, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Sanscrit, Persian, Arabic, Chaldee, Syrian, Italian and French. It was the work of William Hamilton that helped pave the way for the development of the Quantum Theory almost a century later and his work was basic to the ideas that lead to the Theory of Relativity.

Better known today is John Holland, a native of Co. Clare, Ireland who developed the first practical submarine in the 19th century. It was his submarine that was commissioned by the United States Navy in 1900.

These men of science like the men of letters all had a common bond, a bond of which we should be proud. They were all born on Irish soil. They were Irishmen.

LET POLAND BE POLAND LET IRELAND BE IRELAND

by Nick Murphy

In January of this year fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) of the American taxpayers money, together with a larger sum from private sources, financed an internationally broadcast television special called "LET POLAND BE POLAND." President Ronald Reagan and the heads of government of Japan and of all the NATO countries appealed for the respect of the right of the people of Poland to maintain their national identity. The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, from locally organized rallies to initiatives of the National President, Jack Connolly, anticipated President Reagan's appeal to "LET POLAND BE POLAND".

While we wholeheartedly endorse the purpose of the LET POLAND BE POLAND broadcast, which was to restrain the Soviet Army from re-invading Poland, something did not quite ring true. That something was the spectre of English Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher crying crocodile tears over the Polish longing for freedom, and citing the magnificent record of those "Free" Polish forces who flew, fought, and died "with ours" fighting against the Nazis in World War II. Mrs. Thatcher asked that Poland truly represent the indomitable spirit of the Polish people. Noble as were the sentiments expressed by the English Prime Minister, when viewed in the light of recent Irish, American, and yes Polish experiences, they have the ring of blatant hypocrisy about them.

Did not large numbers of Irishmen from all of Ireland fly, fight and die in combat against the forces of the would-be Anti-Christ, Adolph Hitler. Nearly all the Victoria Crosses won by Irishmen were won by men from "south" of the so-called "border." Among men from the "North", Paddy Finucane — "Papist"! Why not Ireland to truly represent the indomitable spirit of the Irish people?

What about the British ships carrying on a profitable trade in war material with Communist North Viet Nam while American boys were fighting and dying in an attempt to defend the Republic of Viet Nam from Communist aggression; where was our British "ally" then? Then there is the matter of those "Free" Polish troops disarmed by the British and involuntarily repatriated (packed in boxcars) into the hands of the Russian Red Army after World War II; it was a glorious victory they won, wasn't it?

January 30th 1982 was Polish Solidarity Day, but can we ever forget that January 31st 1982 was the tenth anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" in Derry, and that the officer who directed the murder of fourteen innocent Irish civilians was promoted and decorated by his queen. That

FROM THE EDITOR

On March 17, 1982, the Irish Republic's Prime Minister, Charles Haughey, officially called upon our government to help effect an English withdrawal from Ireland and to support the reunification of Ireland. PM Haughey's statement was made on national TV and in the presence of President Reagan. Was this just another St. Patrick's Day statement?

In December, 1981 William P. Clark, presently National Security Advisor to the President, stated publicly to the news media, that the American people support the reunification of Ireland. Surely, Mr. Clark's statement was planned. Not many of us know that just one month prior to Mr. Clark's statement, the citizens of Boston went to the polls and approved a referendum (Yes: 32,488 — No: 23,705) asking "shall President Ronald Reagan do all in his power to effect the withdrawal of all English military forces in Northern Ireland?)"

Are the above occurrences meant as messages to both the English government and the Irish-American community? Is President Reagan telling the English government he is under mounting pressure to effect an English withdrawal? Is he also telling the Irish-Americans to increase their pressure so that he will be in a position to speak out against an ally?

The reunification of Ireland is now in the hands of the Irish-American community and how timely. On February 20, 1982, at the request of the PEC, Project: United Ireland was commenced. This campaign is designed specifically to induce President Reagan to effect the reunification of Ireland. This project is in the form of letter writing and petitions. (See Action Letter). This is a nationwide, united effort being participated in by numerous organizations and individuals from around the country. We need everyone of our readers to become active in some way in this project. We ask you to become active in uniting the letter writers (See UAP, this page) and in generating letters as in this issue's Action Letter. Those of you who would like to help solicit names for petitions, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the PEC, attention: Project: United Ireland and we will forward the petition. **ONLY YOU CAN MAKE A UNITED IRELAND A REALITY IN OUR TIME!**

WHY NOT EDUCATE A FRIEND

by John McCormack

Do you know someone who is concerned about Northern Ireland, but needs to be educated on that issue? Do you know someone who might be helpful to the cause if they were so educated? If so, send their names and addresses to the National Political Education Committee, P.O. Box 16, Garnerville, N.Y. 10923. Attention: John McCormack. With no obligation to them, we will send free the PEC Information Package and a complimentary copy of the National Newsletter. **PLEASE USE FORM BELOW.**

Dear Sir:

Please send the free PEC Information Package and complimentary copy of the National Newsletter to the following:

Name _____
(print)

Address _____

UAP

The month of May will mark the beginning of the first anniversary of the English government's murder by hunger strike of ten young Irishmen. This occasion will bring back painful memories for many of us. It will stir emotions and remind us anew of the terrible suffering of our people due to England's illegal occupation of part of Ireland. From this resurgence of interest will come the united Irish-American, the force that will end English tyranny in Ireland. The hunger strikers did not die in vain.

In our last "From The Editor" column we stressed the importance of uniting the letter writers. Since that time, the National PEC has developed UAP, the United Action Program which is designed to do just that. Technically, subscribers to the PEC National Newsletter are members of UAP. This is so because all UAP asks is an annual subscription to the newsletter **and most importantly, a commitment by the subscriber** to respond to all Action Letter requests. **UAP can only be effective if you write the letters.** Its goal is to unite letter writers and generate new writers into an organized block whereby we speak as one voice. Consider the impact that tens of thousands of hand written letters will have on our government officials. *(We even make the letter writing easy. Through the newsletter we provide the letter and format. We urge you to rewrite the letter, including our points, to give it originality. If this presents a problem, then all you have to do is rewrite the letter, as is, on your own stationery.)* Is it possible? Think about it. The PEC already has several thousand UAP members (newsletter subscribers) in 32 states. It is the only established Irish action network of its kind in the U.S. But, it must be expanded to be totally effective. This is where we look to **you** for help.

We need your help to make a United Ireland a reality in our time. We invite you to become a UAP representative in your community. There are no quotas nor pressure. You work at your convenience. All you have to do is seek out those concerned in your community and urge them to join UAP which costs only \$6.00 for the newsletter subscription. To make this even easier, we will provide you with UAP Membership Solicitation Kits which are self-explanatory. No, don't make your decision now. Simply, send your name and address to the National PEC, PO Box 169, Valley Cottage, N.Y. 10989, Attention: Mary Prior UAP Coordinator. Without obligation to you, we will forward a UAP Kit for your perusal.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WISH TO GET STARTED RIGHT AWAY, may we suggest that you make copies of this entire column for distribution to potential members and those you feel would like to help in soliciting new members. Please let us know of your activities so that we can forward the UAP KITS.

CAUTION: PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REPRODUCE OUR EFFORTS AS THIS WOULD BE DEVISIVE AND WILL NEGATE THIS PROGRAM'S UNIFYING FACTOR.

UAP MEMBERSHIP FORM

Ms. Mary Prior,
UAP Coordinator, National PEC
P.O. Box 169, Valley Cottage, NY 10989

YES, please enroll me as a member of UAP, the United Action Program. Enclosed, please find my membership donation of \$6.00 which also entitles me to a one year subscription of the bi-monthly PEC National Newsletter.

Signature _____

(print) Name _____

Address _____

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD ACTS ON MICHAEL CULBERT CASE

Michael Culbert, a young social worker and union shop steward, the father of two sons, was arrested in May 1978 on criminal charges involving a shooting of a police officer and sentenced to life in prison. Culbert was not alleged to have participated in the shooting. He was alleged to have passed on information to two individuals who were charged with the same offenses.

At the 45th annual convention of the National Lawyers Guild, Feb. 18-21, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the International Committee of the Guild was presented with a report on Human Rights in Northern Ireland by its members Geraldine Russell of San Diego and Jonathan Moore of Chicago. Russell and Moore had represented the Guild in January in observing the appellate procedures in Belfast of the conviction of Michael Culbert, and had concluded that Culbert had been denied the most fundamental legal and human rights.

Upon recommendation of the International Committee, the National Executive Committee of the 7,000 member legal organization adopted a resolution committing the Guild to assisting in the appeal of Culbert's conviction to the British House of Lords, and to publicizing his case and that of other Irish political prisoners. Additionally, local Guild chapters were authorized to take actions such as establishing exchange of information between lawyers from the U.S. and Northern Ireland regarding treatment of political prisoners, defense of individuals accused of political crimes, and the use of experts in political cases.

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same British Army is still on the streets of Derry and in those six of the divided Irish province of Ulster's nine counties known as "Northern Ireland."

Mrs. Thatcher ironically asks the question, "What sort of regime would destroy its own people?"

What sort indeed! Perfidious Albion.

More than any other people, the Irish can empathise with the Polish people in their travail and pray with our Holy Father John Paul II for their deliverance.

Yes, we join with President Reagan and the leaders of the Western world to proclaim, "LET POLAND BE POLAND," but at the same time we wonder when the "Free" world will join with us in also saying, "LET IRELAND BE IRELAND."

URGENT

URGENT

URGENT

ACTION LETTER

by Al Doyle

The "From The Editor" column of this issue has already stressed the **urgency** of this Action Letter. This letter which is part of Project: United Ireland, is also supportive of Ireland's Prime Minister Charles Haughey's March 17, request that the United States help effect the reunification of Ireland. Your letter will also strengthen the effect of the United Action Program (UAP) which is the ultimate in effective Irish-American unity.

Due to the potential of this letter we are asking a special effort on your part. We need you to generate as much mail as possible. We ask that you have the adult members of your family write. Then **reproduce** the Action Letter for distribution to all concerned and for use as a letter writing project at the next meeting of your organization.

Please write or type your own letter along the lines suggested below being sure to include the requests that President Reagan come out publicly for an English declaration of intent to withdraw and ultimate reunification of Ireland. If you wish you may simply rewrite our letter, as is, on your own stationery, PLEASE! DON'T LET THIS ONE GO BY!

your address _____

date _____

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

Dear Mr. President:

As an American citizen I consider the resolution of the war in Northern Ireland an American issue. Accordingly, I respectfully request that you do all in your power to effect an English withdrawal from Ireland and that you publicly support the reunification of Ireland.

Sincerely,
signature

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