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## American Irish Newsletter - December 1981 - January 1982

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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# POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Vol. 6, No. 6

DECEMBER, 1981 / JANUARY, 1982

## U.S. FIRM PROFITS FROM PLASTIC BULLETS

(See United States firm profits from plastic bullet, page 4)

### NEWS BITS

*Andy and Philomena Prior*

"My father was born in British occupied Ireland," railed Assemblyman Sean P. Walsh (D-Bx and author of PEC article, "English Colonialism Vs. IRA 'Terrorism'") as a preface to his vote against a bill to make an exception to a law prohibiting liquor manufacturers and wholesalers from having interests in retail establishments. The exception was being sought for a British corporation, Grand Metropolitan Ltd. that had assumed ownership of the Liggett Group Inc. which has liquor distributorships in N.Y. The problem is that Grand Metro, owns a chain of hotels including the Barclay in N.Y.C. which, of course, serves liquor in their hotel bars. Grand Metro also owns the much bombed Europa Hotel in Belfast. When the bill's sponsor, Assemblyman W. Passannante (D-Man), began to speak of the virtues of Grand Metro, Mr. Walsh took exception. "That's like telling me Adolf Hitler liked ice cream, flowers and little girls", Mr. Walsh continued, "this company may do wonderful things in the south of Ireland but it does horrible things in the north." When only a few yes votes were heard as the vote began, Mr. Walsh asked Mr. Passannante to kill the measure. He did, but the hotel has been given an extension by the State Liquor Authority until the matter is cleared up (N.Y. Times 11/01/81). *This bill will again be voted on in December. New Yorkers are urged to immediately contact their State Senator and Assemblyman (before Dec. 15) opposing the bill in the Senate, S.7147 and Assembly, A.9104.*

Many areas of Belfast are about to go Gaelic. Following the success of the people of Twinbrook who put Irish signs up all over the area, other sections of the city are all set to Irishize their street signs. Irish signs are already up in the towns of Lurgan and Blackwatertown in the North. (Irish Weekly 11/07/81) ... The Welsh Nationalist Party has voted to seek a Welsh Socialist state, independent of Britain, discarding the previous goal of self-government within the United Kingdom (AP 10/02/81).

Claiming that the RUC have done nothing to make the area more secure from attack, the Ardoyne Defense Co-Ordinating Committee has assumed responsibility for the security of the

nationalist population in the area and have begun to patrol the streets. A wave of sectarian assassinations carried out by Loyalist gunmen which have already claimed Larry Kennedy, a community councilor on the City Council and a local man, Bobby Ewing, have sparked resident's fears. "The RUC and the British army afford us no protection and we are at the mercy of the Ulster Volunteer Force, Ulster Freedom Fighters and others. It is our opinion that the security forces and Loyalist gunmen are working hand in hand," reported in a recent statement from the committee. (Irish weekly 10/31/81) ... The Catholic League has called upon the Soviet and British governments to guarantee religious freedom in their respective countries. Specifically, the League has asked the British government to guarantee the confidentiality of sacramental confessions made by inmates at Long Kesh prison in Northern Ireland, and it has asked the Soviet government to stop physically mistreating Catholic priests in Lithuania. (Catholic League Newsletter 11/81).

A recent speech by Ian Paisley is being studied by the RUC in response to claims that it was an incitement to hatred. According to Seamus Mallon, leader of the SDLP, the speech was "another example of encouragement to people to resort to violence." He further stated, "Many people have been convicted for less dangerous words and activities." Some of Paisley's statements were, "We will have to fight. And when I say fight I mean just that. We have got to fight by force to preserve our Province." He also shouted, "the marching feet of Ulstermen will not allow a Dublin Parliament to desecrate the soil of loyalist Ulster." (Irish Weekly 10/31/81)...A Protestant Belfast mother, Sanchia Dougan, has applied for status as a refugee (one who is persecuted in his homeland) to Canada. Ms. Dougan's ex-husband, who was a UDA commander is serving ten years for the manslaughter of a UVF member. Her teenage daughters were beaten for talking to Catholic children. Following a party she gave for both Catholic and Protestant children, hooded men broke into her home and warned her she would be shot if she continued to fraternize with the "other side". Canada is embarrassed with the request since it does not wish to admit that a refugee problem might exist within the commonwealth (Sunday Press 11/08/81).

### SHOULD THE U.S. SPY ON US?

Bill D., has recently joined your organization. At his first meeting, Bill appears to be quiet and very sincere. He is quick to volunteer and it is soon obvious that he can be depended on. After a few months Bill is well respected by all and everyone, including the officers, seek his advice. Bill's suggestions are carefully considered and usually followed. Several people think that Bill will make a fine officer one day soon.

But what everyone doesn't realize is that Bill's membership isn't motivated by the pursuit of the group's common goal, instead, Bill has a different purpose. Bill is a C.I.A. operative. He has been assigned to infiltrate your group and to lead it in whatever direction he or his superiors decide.

This fiction may become reality if a recent government proposal is enacted. According to a new draft executive order, the Reagan Administration would like the C.I.A. to return to the business of spying on Americans. To return to an era, not so long ago, when the C.I.A. opened the mail of innocent citizens, illegally searched homes and infiltrated political organizations.

Among other things the proposal would permit the C.I.A., with the consent of the Attorney General, to infiltrate domestic groups and attempt to influence their activities. The authority of the C.I.A. to collect information about American citizens and foreigners residing here would also be broadened.

At the inception of the C.I.A. in 1947 a primary concern was to

(Continued on Next Page)



## NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

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P.O. Box 16, Garnerville, N.Y. 10923  
Editor.....John J. Finucane

(Continued from Front Page)

avoid the creation of a political police force. The Congress decreed then "the agency shall have no police, subpoena, law enforcement powers, or internal security functions".

In 1975, after the C.I.A. abuses of the Watergate-Vietnam era (such as Operation Chaos, in which the C.I.A. collected files on 13,000 people and indexed 300,000 names in a fruitless attempt to link domestic dissenters with foreign espionage) came to light, the Rockefeller Commission unanimously recommended that "Presidents should refrain from directing the C.I.A. to perform what are essentially internal security tasks. The C.I.A. should resist any efforts, whatever their origin, to involve it again in such improper activities."

A prominent member of the Commission that offered that good advice was then private citizen Ronald Reagan. Perhaps it is time we remind President Reagan of his own recommendation.

## THE MORALITY OF A HUNGER STRIKE-TO-DEATH

Rev. John J. Foley, C.S.P.

(Reprinted from the June/July Issue)

The hunger strike of Bobby Sands in Northern Ireland has led to much discussion of whether it is ever permissible (morally) for a person to follow such a course. These observations may shed some light on this problem.

Whenever we decide on a course of action to achieve something that we perceive as good, we choose to follow certain steps along the way to that good thing. The steps are chosen in light of our own assessment of what is practical in our situation. It is most important, however, that the particular action steps which we take not cause more harm than good.

In this particular case, Bobby Sands would have to have concluded that the sacrificing of his life and the likely civil violence to follow were justified steps in order to achieve a far greater good. How might that "far greater good" be described: the ultimate ending of ongoing violence, the ending of economic repression, the developing of educational and cultural opportunities for future generations, the termination of an unjust system of incarceration, stopping the killing of innocent people, etc.?

It is essential that serious moral decisions such as that faced by Bobby Sands not be treated as simply a matter of his personal feelings. There is a certain measure of good and evil to be applied to each element worthy of consideration in this case. However, in light of the long term view of the number of people affected by 800 years of history and the potential for future years of evil, it might well be justifiable for Bobby Sands to choose as he did.

## CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA

Give a subscription of the PEC National Newsletter as a Christmas gift.

Help educate your relatives and friends on the truth about the conflict in northeast Ireland. At the same time you will be supporting the vital work of the PEC.

Please make checks payable to: National PEC and mail to: PEC, P.O. Box 16, Garnerville, N.Y. 10923. Attn: Circulation Dept.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed, please find my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5.00 per subscription). Please enter the following named individuals for a 1 year subscription.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ATTACH NAMES

## PEC APPEAL

It is generally agreed that England will leave Ireland if pressure is brought to bear by the United States government. Our government will act **only** if the public request it to do so. The American people will support a united Ireland if they know the **truth** about the conflict in Northern Ireland. They must be educated. Education which is the **key** to a united Ireland is what the PEC is all about.

Around the country, our material is sought after by the clergy, unions, professionals, educators (for use in the classroom), college student bodies, various types of organizations and elected officials. Many orders are for bulk quantities (see letter below). In many cases the literature is reproduced for further distribution. Unfortunately, many request are for free material. It is a PEC policy to never say know to an information request.

This demand for information is increasing our expenses in advertising, mailing and printing. We are expanding. Yes, this is an appeal for your financial and active support. **We must sacrifice** to help achieve a united Ireland. Please send a donation today. Your active support is needed to disseminate information in your community.

Make checks payable to: NPEC-AOH and mail to: Political Education Committee, P.O. Box 16, Garnerville, N.Y. 10923. Please indicate if you would like to help disseminate information in your community.

The Political Education Committee  
Ancient Order of Hibernians  
11/9/81

Dear Sir:

I have just come across an article on "The English System of Judicial Injustice in Northern Ireland" by Professor David R. Lowry, LLB, LL.M. I noticed that it was reprinted with your permission and I am anxious to know if I could get 1000 copies to give to the members of the Irish Cultural Society in Jacksonville and to other interested persons.

With kind personal regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Monsignor John J. Lenihan, V.G.

Pastor

San Jose Catholic  
Jacksonville, Fla.



## FROM THE EDITOR

Successive administrations, including the Reagan Administration, have publicly claimed *non-involvement* relative to the troubles in Ireland. Yet, both the State Department and the Justice Department have indeed been involved. Most notably in harassing Americans and denying visas to prominent Irish nationals including elected officials. The latest move by President Reagan is a presidential order allowing the C.I.A. to infiltrate domestic organizations which could prove very damaging to Irish-American attempts to secure an end to proven human rights violations and justice for their brothers and sisters in north-eastern Ireland.

These repressive actions are a direct result of English oppression in Ireland. The U.S. government, wrongfully and in support of the English government, has resorted to these measures in order to keep down an American outcry for justice in Ireland — an anti-English sentiment. How far will the Reagan Administration go? English oppression in Northern Ireland has already proved very damaging to democracy in the Irish Republic where a number of pieces of repressive legislation have been passed by government officials due to weakness and a desire to maintain the status quo.

The American government is once again going against the wishes of the people. Consecutive public opinion polls taken in England clearly indicate that the *vast majority* of English citizens want their troops withdrawn from Ireland. The same holds true in the Irish Republic (Free State).

The problem in Northern Ireland is not the I.R.A., but rather, England's *illegal* partition of Ireland from which *all* violence stems. Has the Reagan Administration joined with the London and Dublin governments in their attempt to suppress the will of the people through force? We hope our government will listen to *the people* and not the English government. England got herself into this mess and must get herself out of it without destroying democracy in America as it has done in the Republic of Ireland.

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## STOP THE EXTRADITION OF WILLIAM QUINN!

On September 30, 1981 a San Francisco man, William Quinn, was arrested on his way to work. The press claims he had been the key figure of an "intercontinental manhunt" for 3 years. The United Kingdom has requested his extradition. He is charged with IRA activities stemming from 1975.

In 1979 Bill Quinn returned from Ireland. Since then he has been working and paying taxes under his own name, and living in the home his family has occupied for 52 years. Despite these life-long community ties, it took international police forces 3 years to find him.

IS IT A COINCIDENCE THAT HE WAS ARRESTED JUST A WEEK AFTER THE H-BLOCK HUNGER STRIKE ENDED?

The British government suffered an acute political defeat throughout the world during the hunger strike. The arrest of Quinn is clearly part of a campaign to intimidate the Irish-American community and all support for a free Ireland. Do not allow Bill Quinn to be used as a pawn in this British propaganda campaign. Protest our government's cooperation in the persecution of this Irish-American. Please write to: Honorable F.S. Langford, U.S. District Court, 450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA. 94103. In your letter emphasize that Mr. Quinn is an American citizen, and due to the political nature of this case, he may not receive a fair trial in England.

## LETTER TO PEC

October 16, 1981

Dear PEC,

I wanted to pass on to you this information on the Irish question in the United Nations.

The Irish question is not raised in the UN General Assembly or its Third Committee on Social and Humanitarian Affairs because it is legally considered to fall within the domestic jurisdiction of the government of the United Kingdom. Should any UN Member try to raise the Irish question, the UK would cite UN Charter Article 2 (7) which states that "nothing contained in the present charter shall authorize the UN to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the Members to submit to such matters to settlement under the present Charter."

Thus, the Irish question is not on the agenda of the UN General Assembly. There are no reports on the subject and no resolutions are expected on the subject.

I'll be glad to keep you posted on any further information that comes to my attention on the subject.

Sincerely,  
Benjamin A. Gilman (U.S. Congressman)  
U.S. Representative to the Thirty-Sixth  
Session of the UN General Assembly

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## MAILGRAM BANK

Margaret Phelan

**Be Ready — Be Organized! Join the PEC Mailgram Bank.**

How does the Mailgram Bank work? You authorize the PEC to send 3 mailgrams a year in your name. The charge of \$3.90 per mailgram (\$11.70 a year) will be billed directly to your telephone bill.

When a critical issue arises on the Irish question, such as the hunger strike, a brief message will be prepared and a determination will be made as to whom the mailgram will be sent. The Bank will be activated, sending out the mailgrams.

Please complete form below and mail to the Political Education Committee, c/o Mailgram Bank Director, P.O. Box 448, Nanuet, N.Y. 10954.

Dear Sir:

I authorize the PEC to send 3 mailgrams in my name. I understand that the mailgrams will pertain only to the Irish question.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(use name of person your telephone is registered under)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tele. No. \_\_\_\_\_

(print)



## ACTION LETTER

Recently, U.S. Magistrate Naomi Buchwald decided against the extradition of Irish nationalist Desmond Mackin. Mackin would not be returned to Belfast to face the savagery of the English one judge, non-jury Diplock Courts. Of course, the U.S. Attorney's office, briefed in court by a Queen's counselor, has appealed the decision and further argued that the decision in such cases be taken out of the hands of the court and be left exclusively with the State Department. In this situation, the likes of Mackin wouldn't stand a chance.

But our government agents are not resting on the appeal to the court to change the law. Sub-Committee Hearings were already held on Senator Strom Thurmond's proposed Extradition Act of 1981 (S1639) which is co-sponsored by Senator Edward Kennedy. The proposed Bill is particularly aimed at Irish American activity in this country. Specifically, the Bill seeks to change jurisdiction over the determination of what constitutes a political offense from the courts to the pro-English State Department. This Bill was previously included in S.I. which, because of its attack on our Bill of Rights, has failed passage. Significantly, this insidious piece of legislation has been pulled out and is being given the emergency treatment.

That such legislation can even be considered is a disgrace to our American sense of justice. Of course, the introduction of

## UNITED STATES FIRM PROFITS FROM "ENGLAND'S KILLER PLASTIC BULLET

*Ed Horgan, Swissvale, Penn.*

Pittsburg-based Allegheny International (formerly Allegheny Ludlum) is at the center of the plastic bullet controversy. The plastic bullets used in Northern Ireland by English occupation forces to kill and maim nationalists are advertised for sale by Pain-Wessex of Salisbury, England. Pain-Wessex is a division of Groviner Corporation which is owned by Allegheny International.

Clayton Sweeney, Vice President of Allegheny International, when asked if their subsidiary Pain-Wessex sold plastic bullets for use in Northern Ireland, refused to confirm nor deny it. Mr. Sweeney's address is: Clayton Sweeney, Vice President, Allegheny International, P.O. Box 456, Pittsburg, Pa. 15230.

such legislation by Senator Strom Thurmond is not shocking.

In 1977, the PEC challenged Sen. Thurmond's alleged financial support for loyalist terrorist groups such as the U.D.A. The August 5, 1977 edition of the *New Times* wrote that Ian Paisley stated that Sen. Thurmond was his biggest fund-raiser in the U.S. and that the money was earmarked for loyalist para-military groups. The *New Times* also wrote that the allegations were confirmed by the State Dept. Subsequently, Senator Thurmond denied the allegations and the confirmation was denied by the State Dept. But, to our knowledge no investigation into the allegations was ever conducted.

*(The PEC wishes to acknowledge attorney Paul O'Dwyer's advisement on the above matter).*

We suggest that the contents of our letter (below) be used as a guide for the points to be included in your hand-written or typed letter. It is important that all letters are not identical. If this is not possible, simply rewrite our letter on your own stationery. When you are finished with this action letter please pass it on.

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Honorable Strom Thurmond  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thurmond:

I strongly oppose your proposed Bill S1639 which was previously defeated because of its attack on our Bill of Rights. I find your bill both a direct challenge to the Irish American community and repressive.

I have been advised that the August 5, 1977 edition of the *New Times* carried an article alleging that you were the biggest fund raiser in the United States for loyalist para-militaries in Northern Ireland.

I urge you to immediately withdraw your proposed Bill.

Sincerely,

signature

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