



11-1981

American Irish Newsletter - October - November 1981

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - October - November 1981" (1981). *American Irish Newsletter*. 176.

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POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Vol. 6, No. 5

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, 1981

English Troops Terrorize Ireland's Nationalists

(See *England's Plastic Bullet — A Killer, Page 2*)

NEWS BITS

Peg Matone

Michael Flannery, a director of Irish Northern Aid, was arrested in Queens on charges of conspiring to ship guns to the IRA in Northern Ireland. This is the first time an official of Noraid has been formally accused of illegally helping to arm the IRA. Frank Durkan will represent Mr. Flannery. (New York Times 10/2/81)...The hunger-strike issue now dominates political thinking in the Irish Republic as well as in Ulster. (Newsday 7/24/81)...Willie Hamilton, M.P. from Cornwall, states that Princess Margaret and Princess Anne are "the most useless women in Britain, and Princess Anne and Prince Charles are unemployable" (Newsday 7/25/81)...In Paris the mother of Kieran Doherty met with Louis Jouhanet, Ass't to French Prime Minister Pierre Mouroy, to discuss her son's condition. (Irish Echo 7/18/81)...A general service medal with a clasp bearing the words, "Northern Ireland", is awarded to all British soldiers who serve over 30 days in that area. (Christian Science Monitor 8/29/81)...Tim Pat Coogan editor of the Irish Press, calls on President Reagan to advise Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to disengage from Northern Ireland (N.Y. Times 7/19/81)...U.S. Under-secretary for Policy, Fred C. Ikle, has informed Congressman Mario Biaggi that British troops presently in the United States are not being trained for duty in Northern Ireland, only for NATO

missions. (Irish People 7/25/81). (Note: Are they then discharged permanently from military service to prevent their being used in N.I.?)...Ken Livingstone, Chairman of the Greater London Council, calls for a British withdrawal from N.I., and openly condemns H-Blocks. (Anderstown News 7/18/81)...Eighteen U.S. political figures, led by Senator Ted Kennedy, wrote President Reagan, requesting that he meet with them "to discuss a role for the U.S. in seeking the earliest possible settlement of the Northern Ireland crisis before any further deaths occur." (Irish Echo 8/8/81)...Keep up the pressure, Gentlemen...London Labour Councillor Carol Turner and six other local councillors arrested by the RUC at an H-Block rally in Belfast, charged that the police used heavy-handed tactics to remove demonstrators. (Sunday Press 6/28/81)...Rev. Brian Brady of Belfast asked Congress to investigate employment practices of thirty-four U.S. firms in Northern Ireland. These are subsidiaries of U.S. companies. Father Brady charged that "they become partners in perpetuating the pattern of anti-Catholic discrimination in the manufacturing industry of Northern Ireland. (Mississippi Today 7/17/81) ... British Consuls in Boston, New York City, and San Francisco have charged the U.S. Press with lies and distortions about the British Government. Targets of their attack were the N.Y. Times, the N.Y. Daily News and the New York Post, which have given coverage of the deaths of the hunger strikers and have criticized Mrs. Thatcher's handling of the situation. (Andersontown News 6/27/81).

A VICTORY FOR IRISH UNITY

By Sean Patrick Walsh

Member of the New York State Assembly

Those familiar with the facts in the case of the People v. Mel Patrick Lynch are aware that a great miscarriage of justice occurred. Although acquitted of the charge of kidnapping, Lynch was found guilty of Grand Larceny and was sentenced to prison for a minimum of four years and a maximum of twelve years, or four to twelve as lawyers would say. Lynch was a first offender. After serving more than six years in prison (most of this time in a prison hospital), he was granted parole in July of 1981.

Aside from the peculiar circumstances surrounding Lynch's trail and conviction, the Lynch case holds special significance for Irish-Americans, in particular, and for those who love justice, in general. As a first offender, Lynch might have expected a more lenient sentence. He got the maximum and served one-half of the maximum sentence. Six years for a first conviction for Grand Larceny is a stiff penalty. It is rare that those convicted of Armed Robbery a *second time* serve

six years in prison. Indeed, those convicted of criminally negligent homicide or manslaughter do not often serve six years in prison. Why, then, did Mel Lynch pay such a stiff penalty for the crime of Grand Larceny?

There are two reasons. First, the victim of Lynch's crime was a very powerful, politically well-connected multi-millionaire named Edgar Bronfman. Armed robbery against a senior citizen is a less serious offense these days than stealing from a millionaire. Secondly, Mel Lynch is an Irish-American. Had he been black, Puerto Rican, even Jewish, it is less likely that he would have received such severe punishment. It is not that the courts are prejudiced against the Irish, it is simply a matter of the Irish community failing to look out for their own.

Well, the times they are a changin'. In Mel Lynch's case, the Irish-American community did defend one of its own. Beginning with the Emerald Society of the N.Y.C. Fire Dept. and the Political Education Committee of the A.O.H., hundreds of outraged New Yorkers of Irish ancestry bombarded the Parole Board on Mel Lynch's behalf. Politicians by the score, hearing

(Continued on Next Page)

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE BI-MONTHLY POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SEND YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS, AND A \$5.00 DONATION TO THE POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE, POST OFFICE BOX 16, GARNERVILLE, N.Y. 10923. ATTENTION: CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT.

Published by: Rockland County Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Emerald Society, Fire Department of New York City.

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

Editor.....John J. Finucane
Assistant Editor.....Margaret Matone

(Continued from Front Page)

the clamor of so many Irish-Americans, quickly responded by applying pressure on Lynch's behalf. Ultimately, the Parole Board was forced to grant Mel Lynch parole and the power of Edgar Bronfman was broken as surely as the English fell before the Irish Brigade at Fontenoy.

Mel Lynch can never be repaid for the years he languished in prison to appease the anger of a society that caters to the wealthy. But his case has roused the slumbering giant that is the Irish community in New York. Politicians, take note. There is an Irish vote in New York State. And when an issue touching upon the well-being of the Irish community is raised, the Irish are not about to accept it lying down. Mel Patrick Lynch did not suffer in vain. (Ed. Note: *The details of the Mel P. Lynch case appeared in the February/March, 1981 issue of the PEC Newsletter.*)

THE HUNGER STRIKE IN PERSPECTIVE

John McCormack

The "magnificent obstinancy", as the London Daily Mail put it, of Margaret Thatcher seems to have convinced the Irish Republicans that a continuation of the hunger strike could no longer be justified as a reasonable attempt at moral persuasion. A government of reasonable men (or women) would have at the very least sought a compromise before there were any deaths. It seems that the hunger strikers had erroneously, but honestly, gambled that the English were at least rational enough to realize that a succession of deaths of hunger strikers would put the lie to the claim that the Irish Republican prisoners were "criminals" and not political prisoners.

The death on hunger strike of the Right Honorable Bobby Sands, Member of Parliament for Fermanagh — South Tyrone, demonstrated that indeed there are "political" prisoners in Long Kesh (Maze). Francis Hughes, wounded in combat and captured in full military uniform was, under international law, a prisoner of war. Eight other brave men and more preparing to follow them proved that Sands and Hughes were not exceptions; the IRA simply are not criminals.

But it also took ten deaths to prove that Mother England doesn't care how many **Paddy's** die. This irrational disregard both for human life and for their own major "criminalization" propaganda campaign can only be explained logically by the apparent existence among the English ruling class of a sub-rational, pathological race hatred of things Gaelic and of

ENGLAND'S PLASTIC BULLET — A KILLER

Ray O'Connor (PEC-Florida)

Recent riots in England highlighted the question of whether the plastic bullet, used by English occupation forces in Ireland, is as the English government contends, "non-lethal".

After the Liverpool riots, Home Secretary William Whitelaw — former Northern Ireland secretary — rejected use of plastic bullets in the rest of Britain, noting they could cause death or serious injury. The Thatcher government said it favored using the bullets only as a last resort. The Association of Chief Constables, a group representing police chiefs throughout England, wants no part of the bullets.

These same plastic bullets are used freely in Ireland — over 24,000 fired in the last seven months and with deadly effect. There have been seven deaths (mostly children) and 161 serious injuries reported so far this year.

The following is an excerpt from the Hartford Courant, "British Use of Plastic Bullets Creates Irish Terror", October 4, 1981, an incident witnessed by Margaret Toner, Twinbrook Estates, Belfast:

"The children came into view just as four army jeeps pulled around a bend in the road. A shot was fired and 12 year old Carol Ann Kelly crumpled to the sidewalk.

As Toner stood shocked, one of her neighbors rushed to the girls side and shouted for a towel... I ran inside, got a towel and came running out. He put the towel under her head. There was one massive big hole in her head.

By then, the patrol — later identified by the army as members of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers — had returned, jeering and shouting, 'One for our five mates.' Earlier that day — May 22 — five British soldiers in another part of Northern Ireland had been killed by an IRA bomb blast... With Toner and her neighbors watching, one of the soldiers jumped from a jeep and ran to the sidewalk. 'He threw his rifle down and knelt down alongside Carol Ann Kelly.' Some other soldiers came up to join him and he turned and shouted, 'It's only a little girl'.

'He was a bit of a kid and you could see the tears in his eyes... He would have cried if his mates hadn't come up.' An army medic tended the girl until an ambulance arrived. But, after the ambulance left, the soldiers remained nearby, waving plastic-bullet guns.

'You should be ashamed,' Toner shouted. 'One for our five mates,' a soldier shouted. Three days later, Carol Ann Kelly died."

those who would restore an authentically Irish Ireland. It would seem that Cromwell's men are here again, genocidal in substance, however legalistic in form.

Now that "criminalization" is out, the next English tactic is to brand the IRA as part of an international terrorist network (see "60 Minutes" on CBS October 4). Last year it was all the money raised among romantic Irish Americans that was keeping the IRA going. What will be the next red herring of English propaganda?

The IRA is just one of many native Irish nationalist responses to the ultimate cause of "the troubles" in Ireland, and that is the continued English sovereignty over the island of Ireland, its islands and territorial seas:

FROM THE EDITOR

Since the death of Irish hunger-striker Bobby Sands, the English government has been receiving considerable bad press. English-inspired news articles give the impression the English government is the victim of a highly successful Irish propaganda effort. One gets the impression that England is unfamiliar with propaganda! The world knows that the contrary is true. Since the current war started in 1969, England has been able to control the media. Until they bungled the hunger-strike situation. The vast majority of news releases from northeast Ireland are reported by Associated Press and United Press International wire services. There are no AP or UPI offices in Ireland, north or south. The wire services depend on the *British Military Information Service* for news on the guerrilla war — the longest in the history of the west. In fact, the English propaganda machine has been so successful, prior to the hunger strike, that they have actually shaped world opinion. How many times have you asked the uninformed for their opinion on the north and they have responded, "The IRA are terrorists," or "It's a religious war." Most people, Irish-Americans included, don't even know that the cause of the troubles is England's *illegal* occupation of Ireland. These people are saying exactly what the English government, via the wire services, wants them to say.

The hunger-strike, at least temporarily, has broken the back of the British propaganda machine. Today people do not depend on the wire services for information. They are questioning the creditability of the wire services.

Before being found guilty of gross violations of human rights in Ireland by Amnesty International (1978) and Britain's own Lord Bennett Commission (1979), most people could not believe that an English Army of Occupation could be capable of such behavior. With the full knowledge of the atrocities committed by the English colonials against the inhabitants of the colonies (historians tell us that English colonial troops have killed, either directly or indirectly, close to 60 million people in 800 years of colonial rule), how can Americans still hold England in such high esteem? Who would ever dream of associating the injustice, the inhuman treatment, the massacres and even the genocide — all of which England has perpetrated on Ireland (London Sunday Times) with the so-called English sense of fair play or with an Oxford accent?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Jim Trainor

Today, in English occupied northeast Ireland, Nationalists (predominantly Catholic) are murdered, subjected to house searches without warrant, tortured, imprisoned without charge and are denied their basic human rights. These are the same tactics used by the *Chinese Communist* against the Catholics in their early 1950s. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHINESE COMMUNISM AND BRITISH COLONIALISM?

U.S. Senator **Barry Goldwater**, former candidate for the Presidency of the U.S., voted against the 1964 Civil Rights Bill so that he would not have to "rent his house to a drunken Irishman or a communist". Source: A Conversation With Barry Goldwater by Albert R. Hunt, Wall Street Journal, August 3, 1981. HOW MANY OF OUR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SHARE HIS SENTIMENTS?

NEW PECs

Michigan State — For information contact: Patricia Almeida, Chairperson, 16451 Locke Drive, Linden, Michigan 48451.

Pennsylvania — For information contact: George P. Weekes, Jr., Chairperson, 29 Well Fleet Way, Media, Pa. 19063

Rhode Island — For information contact: Walter E. Purdy, Chairperson, 35 Harrison Avenue, Newport, R.I. 02840

BOOK REVIEW

THE IRISH-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: A GUIDE TO THE LITERATURE, BY DR. SEAMUS P. METRESS. UNIVERSITY PRESS OF AMERICA, PO BOX 19101, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036. Paperback \$10.95 — Hardcover \$19.95.

A comprehensive bibliographical survey of written materials. It is organized into topical categories such as: The Irish in the Labor Movement or Irish-Americans and Irish Nationalism, and regional categories such as The Irish in the Far West and The Irish in Canada. This work should be a valuable reference source for scholars in a variety of fields and to Irish-Americans interested in the history and development of Irish people in America. The survey contains over 2000 references to books, periodical articles and unpublished university thesis and dissertations.

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 PACKAGE

Letter writing is effective. Since the hunger-strike started, President Ronald Reagan has been under increasing pressure to take an active and **public** role in the resolution of the troubles in Ireland. He has been active **behind the scenes**, but not forceful. The only way we can encourage President Reagan to go public and to be forceful is to increase the pressure (letter writing, mailgrams, participation in demonstrations and rallies, etc.).

Each one of us must work to increase the amount of mail sent to his office. How can we do this? First, we ourselves should write to him at least once a week, simply reminding him of our request that he speak out against English oppression in Ireland and that he call for a British declaration of intent to withdraw. Second, urge your family, friends, co-workers, etc., to do the same. To simplify this, you could put together a small ACTION PACKAGE to be carried with you at all times. This package should include a short letter (perhaps one of your letters to Reagan) that the individuals can use a guide for writing their letters, some envelopes, stationery and postcards. Make every effort to have the individuals finish the letter and give it to you to insure its mailing. **ALL PEC CHAIRPERSONS PLEASE START THIS PROGRAM IN YOUR COMMITTEES.**

ACTION LETTER

On July 22, 1981, Fr. Brian Brady, Irish Human Rights activist from Northern Ireland, presented evidence to members of the Ad Hoc Congressional Committee on Irish Affairs, that subsidiaries of American-owned companies in Northern Ireland were practicing discrimination against Catholics in hiring practices. These inequitable conditions prevail in spite of the **Ribicoff Amendment**, which specifically prohibits American firms from participating in and/or supporting discrimination in the conduct of business overseas. (Ed. Note: For a Free copy of Fr. Brady's report, send a self addressed, **STAMPED** envelope to the P.E.C. attention: information director.)

The action letter of this issue will be sent to International Telephone & Telegraph (IT&T) whose subsidiary is Standard Telephone and Cables of Enniskillen, County Fermanagh.

ROCKLAND COUNTY ELECTION NOTE

PEC supporter and Irish activist William A. Kelly will be a candidate for Town Justice of Clarkstown, N.Y. at the general election on Tuesday, November 3rd. Mr. Kelly, who presently serves as a senior trial attorney in the Bronx District Attorney's Office, is a long-time activist in the struggle for Irish freedom and Human Rights and an A.O.H. division president.

STC has a work force that is less than 20% Catholic which should be 38%.

Change in action letter format: For this letter and all subsequent action letters, we ask 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. We **do not want** any letters to be identical. When you are finished with this action letter please pass it on.

Address _____

Rand V. Arskog, President
International Telephone & Telegraph Corporation
320 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Arskog:

I have recently been informed that a subsidiary of IT&T in Northern Ireland, namely, Standard Telephone and Cables of Enniskillen, is discriminating against Catholics in employment. This is specifically prohibited by the **Ribicoff Amendment**.

Please take whatever steps are necessary to correct this disgraceful situation.

Sincerely,
signature

**FOR GREATER EFFECT,
YOU ARE ASKED TO WRITE AN ORIGINAL LETTER**

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ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
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GARNERVILLE, N.Y. 10923**

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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)

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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. Lennihan, 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.

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

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, Swisssvale, 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

POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
P.O. BOX 16
GARNERVILLE, N.Y. 10923

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