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POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

November 1979

Rockland County A.O.H., P.O. Box 16, Garnerville, N.Y. 10923

NEWS BITS

..... JOHN J. FINUCANE
IS PRESIDENT CARTER ONCE AGAIN MISLEADING THE IRISH-AMERICAN? . . .
Washington (8/7/79)—President Carter, at a private meeting with Congressman Mario Biaggi, chairman, 130 member Ad Hoc Committee, expressed his intention of having a continuing dialogue on the Irish Question . . . (10/27/76)—President Carter also made the statement, "It is a mistake for our country's government to stand quiet on the struggle of the Irish for peace, respect for human rights, and for unifying Ireland . . ." Daily Mirror (8/79) (Britain)—the editorial again called for a British withdrawal from NI and placed the blame for the situation there on cowardly British government officials . . . Daily Mail (8/4/79)—Tory MP John Stokes said, "It is absolutely appalling . . . that segments of American opinion are enemies of the UK and bitterly hostile to what we are trying to do in Northern Ireland." We call it murder and oppression, Mr. Stokes! . . . Daily Mail (8/8/79)—NI Sec. of State Humphry Atkins is to visit America to explain the truth about NI and to tell concerned American politicians to butt out. DOES MR. ATKINS REALLY HAVE THE NERVE TO TELL THE TRUTH?

General newsmedia (8/27/79)—Lord Mountbatten becomes another victim of Britain's presence in NI . . . General news media (8/31/79)—PM Jack Lynch said NO to Britain's request that British troops be permitted to cross the border in "hot" pursuit of the IRA . . . imagine, once again, a ruthless British army murdering Irishmen in the 26 counties . . . shades of the Black and Tans . . . Daily Mail (9/3/79)—Britain's news media responds to Lynch's NO . . . deny the Irish in Britain the right to vote. . . Sunday Express (9/3/79)—don't vacation in Ireland, don't buy Irish beef, bacon or butter. . . SUGGESTION: BOYCOTT BRITISH GOODS. Republican News (9/8/79)—British para-militaries (UDA) have apparently resumed its terror campaign on Catholics. In the past week 3 Catholics have been shot to death . . . Irish People (9/15/79)—A sixteen year-old Belfast boy, Stephen Montague, remains dangerously ill having been in a coma in the Royal Victoria Hospital for two weeks having been brutally stomped and left for dead by British soldiers.

RIFT IN IRISH GOVERNMENT . . . Irish Echo (9/15/79)—The granddaughter of Eamon de Valera, Sile de Valera, member of the Irish Parliament, attacked what she described Jack Lynch's "so-called solution— such as Council of Ireland or devolved government in Northern Ireland. These were", she said, "half measures which could only exacerbate the problem . . . the country needs leadership of the national cause." Miss de Valera also criticized the SDLP and labeled those who purport reconciliation as "opponents of unity" . . . Miss de Valera is obviously reflecting the peoples discontent with the Lynch government. WHAT'S THE CONNECTION? President Carter gives tremendous reception to His Holiness Pope John II . . . The Barron Report (6/8/79)—private polls in New York and elsewhere show Jimmy Carter in deep, deep trouble with Catholic Democrats . . . Carter is eyeing Gov. Carey or possibly Sen. Moynihan as a running mate. WE WANT ACTION NOT NAMES.

A VIEW OF JACK LYNCH . . . KEN TIERNEY
(PEC Westchester Co) TD Sile de Valera's recent speech at the Liam Lynch commemoration has challenged the position of Prime Minister Jack Lynch.

Like DeGaulle of France, during WWII when he denounced the collaboration of the Laval-Pétain Vichy government, she has put Jack Lynch on the spot.

Now that Margaret Thatcher, Britain's Prime Minister, is in power it is most appropriate that Miss de Valera challenge her.

Many people recognize that the Fianna Fail as it operates is no different from the Fine Gael (party out of power). It should be noted that Jack Lynch was elected on one of the largest votes because of his

stand for a united Ireland. Mr. Lynch's shocking handling of the arms trials, the British agent-provocateurs of Lord Carrington in Ireland and his failure to move on the fraud of Sunningdale make it obvious that he is putty in British hands. His criticism of Miss de Valera proves this further. His false promises to the people of northeastern Ireland after the Derry Massacre also exhibits his weakness. (Sile de Valera is the granddaughter of Eamon de Valera former president of the Irish Republic and one of the leaders the Irish Republican Army (IRA) during the 1916 Rebellion.)

THE WAY TO RESCUE BRITAIN JAMES F. CLARKE

The following excerpts are from the above titled article by Christopher Hitchens, foreign editor of Britain's *New Statesman* that appeared in the New York Times on July 4, 1979.

"The Irish proclamation of a Republic in 1916 is an unfinished revolution that was supposed to apply to all 32 counties but has only succeeded in establishing a dominion over 26 of them. Britain maintains that the six county's is an internal affair best ignored by other nations. Powerful American politicians have taken up the Irish question and have been torn apart in the British press. British people believe that Speaker O'Neill is only concerned with Ireland because he needs the vote. (British politicians are supposed to be above such considerations when they frame their Irish policy.) The only time that Ireland was mentioned in our recent elections was when all parties took time out to denounce American "interference".

The plain fact is, as the recent stories of torture in Northern Ireland help to make plain, that Britain has lost all competence to deal with the Irish situation. A government that permits such things is not only bankrupt of ideas but shorn of moral authority as well. The international community, especially the United States, would be well within its rights if it made Northern Ireland its business and ignored Britain's claim to exclusive sovereignty. As for the view that such an initiative would be a victory for the terrorist gunmen, it doesn't hold water. The gunmen are only made possible by the unique insensitivity of British policy, and an influx of international credit and concern would do much to isolate them.

Unhappily, some Americans seem unduly apologetic about taking an interest. They should not be so modest. Most American politicians I have met are much more informed about Northern Ireland than their British counterparts.

American opinion could do with some beefing up on Northern Ireland. The British seem to need saving from their own mistakes about every 10 years or so. Keep it up."

SPREADING THE WORD PEG MATONE

On Tuesday, August 21, radio station WRKL generously donated its two hour "Hot Line" to a discussion of the Northern Ireland situation. Newsman Ken Vioght, expertly moderated the program. Speaking with first hand experience was Terry George, a Queens University, Belfast, student, who formerly was a prisoner in Long Kesh. Terry gave a comprehensive summary of the events leading to the current crisis, and related his first-hand experiences as a prisoner. Participating also were PEC members John Finucane, Peg Matone, Jim Trainer, A.O.H. National Director Nick Murphy and Rockland County A.O.H. President, James Browne.

Howard and Barbara Allen (PEC Ulster County, N.Y.) assisted by John Finucane conducted a forum on Northern Ireland at the State University of New Paltz. Guest speakers were Dr. David Lowry (PEC), Professor of Law, Pace School of Law and Martin Galvin, Esquire.

Ken Tierney (PEC council, Westchester Co.) and State Senator John Flynn participated in another discussion on WFAS.

SO YOU SAY YOUR IRISH (Copyright '79) CHRISTINE BERRY

(Cont'd from pervious newsletter). Brian Boru unified Ireland under his high kingship (1002-1014), but, after his death at the Battle of Clontarf, that unity disintegrated. The clan was still the operative unit, not a nation-state ideal, and the clan was governed by the ancient Brehon laws, unwritten customs largely concerned with communal holding of land. The clans lived a semi-nomadic existence. The Irish way may have been more egalitarian, more democratic, but the Norman dictatorship was more efficient. The organization carried over to the battlefield.

The Normans, being political allies of the Papacy, imposed in England the ecclesiastical reforms that popes like Gregory VIII wanted. Henry II was imperial—he held vast territories in France and spoke French. The Normans maintained in England at the beginning the same apartheid that they would later try to impose in Ireland.

In contrast, Ireland seemed backward and isolated. Ireland had not participated in the Crusades, which set her in a bad light. She has not fully recovered from her encounters with the Danes. There were conservative elements in the Irish church, who found it difficult to accept the new way of calculating time by the Gregorian Calendar. The first two Norman Primates, Lanfranc and Anselm, both claimed jurisdiction for Canterbury over the Irish Church. In 1152 at the Synod of Kells the Irish bishops reformed the Church and strengthened its organization. The Irish were still producing saints and scholars in excess, enough for export, but not even St. Laurence O'Toole, the last native Irish archbishop of Dublin, could chase the Norman snakes out.

Ireland had kept alive the faith and indeed, helped preserve civilization itself during the dark ages. Pope Adrian IV's tutor at the University of Paris was the saintly Irishman, Marianus, whom Adrian always praised highly. Unfortunately, the Irish did not have a "good press."

The "Catholic" Normans outmarauded the pagan Vikings, not excluding ecclesiastical person or property. Henry II had to do public penance for his role in instigating the murder of Archbishop (and Saint) Thomas-a-Becket in England. Henry was almost excommunicated for that little caper, but that did not cause Henry or his successors to cease trying to use the prelates of the church as tools of the Crown. Henry could be a charmer, but neither his public nor private life could be considered a source of edification.

HUMAN RIGHTS—WHAT ARE THEY? JAMES F. CLARKE

(Cont'd. from previous newsletter). Stoicism held that the individual is a part of universal human nature and as such is a citizen of the world. Thus, law and justice were seen as transcending the confines of any single political unit. Cicero elaborated that his higher law of eternal justice, while superior to the state law, becomes the source of those rights to which all men are entitled as human beings and which governments must not assail. In fact, government is only a means to determine and enforce this fundamental law. The state originates because of man's inborn social inclination; its roots and explanation are in the depths of man's very nature:

Cicero influenced Roman law which became the foundation of the legal systems of nearly all the countries of Europe and in modern times, its influence pervades the political thought of every nation that has adopted Western culture. Cicero, through Roman law, developed the modern doctrine that government rests upon the consent of the people. During the seventeenth century, this doctrine was reinforced with the right of revolution.

Roman law was passed on to the middle ages through the "Body of Civil Law", a revision and codification authorized by the Emperor Justinian in the sixth century. This law became the foundation of the legal systems of nearly all the countries of Europe, and, in modern times, its influence pervades the political thought of every nation that has adopted Western culture.

St. Augustine, in the fifth century, merged the best of classic philosophy with Christian theology. A good state is characterized by justice—the virtue regulating man's relations to God. Only a just state can achieve the true purpose for which it exists—peace, or, "the calm that comes out of order." (*Excerpts from Lecture I: Philosophical and Historical Perspectives I*, by Dr. V. Custer, O.P., as appeared in the course titled, "Human Rights: Behind the Headlines", as copyrighted 1977 by St. Thomas Aquinas College, Sparkill, N.Y.).

OFFENSIVE SAINT PATRICK'S DAY CARDS JOHN J. FINUCANE

Since February, 1976 the P.E.C. has been conducting an ongoing campaign to educate the Irish-American community on the offensive nature of certain St. Patrick's day cards. In 1976 the P.E.C. successfully brought forward several resolutions condemning the sale of these cards. Since then, members of the P.E.C. have visited numerous stores in which these cards are sold requesting that the cards be removed from the display racks. This effort has been expanded each year since. In 1978 a resolution was adopted by the Rockland County Human Rights Commission. This story was carried

in newspapers throughout the country. This years activities were highlighted with a large demonstration by the Rockland County Ancient Order of Hibernians (men & women). Participating also, were members of the Rockland County Legislature and Human Rights Commission and N.Y. State Senator Linda Winikow.

At the request of the Political Education Committee, State Senator Winikow, introduced in the N.Y.S. Legislature a resolution condemning these cards. This measure was defeated in the Senate through the efforts of State Senator James Donovan 46th District. The resolution passed in the Assembly thanks to the efforts of Assemblyman Sean Patrick Walsh.

YOU TOO CAN HELP DAN MEEHAN

Is there an event (dance, concert, cultural, etc.) planned for your locality? Obtain permission from the sponsoring organization(s) to set up a table for the distribution of free material on the injustices suffered by the minority in Northern Ireland. Let the PEC know and if you desire, we will provide, free of charge, the necessary material. WE WANT TO KNOW what you or your organization is doing to help the cause of justice in Northern Ireland. Send a brief outline to the PEC at the above address. We would like to publish these activities for the benefit of the brothers and sisters throughout the country.

ACTION LETTER CHARLES McCARTHY

We are now in a very crucial period as to the solution of the war in Ireland. Some kind of an initiative is in the making. Will it be a *peace with justice* or a peace at any price?

The positions of President Carter, Senator Edward Kennedy and the other Presidential hopefuls will have tremendous influence on the outcome of any initiative. WE MUST SHAPE THEIR POSITIONS.

In the June newsletter we asked you to write to President Carter (if you have not written, please do so now and forward the petition). We now ask you to write to Senator Edward Kennedy. Please make a very special effort to have the presidents of any organizations or unions that you belong to, to also send a letter on their letterhead. Below, for your convenience, is a sample letter that you may use as a guide or simply rewrite your letter.

Address _____

Date _____

Honorable Edward Kennedy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

As you are a potential candidate for the Presidency of the United States, I call upon you to immediately include in your campaign program statements of the following: President Carter's silence on the violation of Human Rights in Northern Ireland; and your support for self-determination for all the people of Ireland. I am aware of your recent statements on a united Ireland and Human Rights violations.

Sincerely,
signature