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American Irish Newsletter - June 1992

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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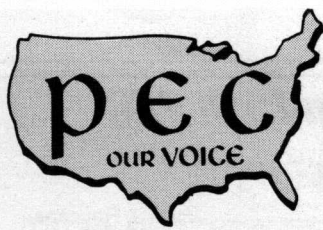
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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 17, Number 6

June 1992

Inside

PEC meets Northern Ireland Protestants . (See Reproduce & Distribute #1).

Another Blow For British Justice

On May 13 in England Judith Ward was released after spending 18 years in prison for IRA related offenses she did not commit.

Her exoneration follows a series of similar legal blows to the English judicial system with the release since 1990 of the Winchester 3, Guildford 4, Birmingham 6 and the Maguire 7.

It is alleged that in northern Ireland hundreds of people have been imprisoned for war related offenses they did not commit. When will these injustices be addressed?

News Bits

by Kathy Regan
NYS Director

WILL PENNSYLVANIA BE THE NEXT STATE TO ADOPT THE MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES? As we go to press we are advised by Pennsylvania PEC State Director John Hatch, AOH State President Ned Maginley and INC rep John Brehenny (PEC member), that on May 19 the State Senate voted 42 to 6 to adopt the MacBride Principles. In April the bill was adopted by the House of Representatives. The bill must be signed by Governor Casey who has previously indicated his support for the Principles. This most important success is the result of organizations and individuals working together. (AIN-PEC 5/19/92).

YOUR INVITATION

Mr. Patrick Donaghy

President & CEO Structure Tone Inc.

Mr. Michael "Mickey" Brennan

Legislative and Political Director
International Association of Ironworkers

Mr. John Finucane

National President of American Irish PEC

Mr. Stephen McFadden

Restaurateur - Ryan McFadden Restaurant

Honorable Paul O'Dwyer

Mr. Patrick "Paddy" Reilly

Restaurateur - Tower View Ballroom

cordially invite you to attend a cocktail reception (cocktails / hors d'oeuvres) which they will host at the exclusive Manhattan Club in New York City (201 W 52 St - corner of 7th Avenue) on Thursday, June 25, 1992 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The proceeds will be used to help fund PEC's *Public Affairs/Media Representation Office* which will be established in Washington, DC.

TICKETS \$125 PER PERSON (R.S.V.P.) -- If you are unable to attend, please send a donation to AIPEC, Fairgrounds Plaza, 18 Route 9W, West Haverstraw, NY 10993. For reservations or information call (914) 947-2726

Ballylumford power station, officially a property of British Gas since April 1, will be contacted by New York City [a shareholder] regarding its employment practices...Under MacBride Principles legislation currently in place, New York will require surveys of companies with Northern Ireland links. Figures for Ballylumford are not yet available but 20% of the former Northern Ireland Electricity workforce was Catholic. (Irish News, 4/22/92 ...While fair employment campaigners in northern Ireland welcomed news that New York City will be contacting British Gas to implement the MacBride Principles in Ballylumford, a Department of Economic Development spokesperson hit out at this report. He said, "This is unwelcome. The government's position on

MacBride is well known..." (Irish News, 4/23/92). Perhaps it is because of the government's activities (or lack thereof) that fair employment campaigners are so happy, that the MacBride Principles campaign continues to highlight employment inequality.

The use of strip searching at the women's prison in [northern Ireland] is reaching unusually high levels. One of the allegations is that up to six prison officers have been seen to sit on some women in order to tear their clothers off. To compound the indignity, women who resist have been charged with assault! (Irish Post, 4/18/92). Forty three Members of Congress have written a letter protesting this injustice to the British

Continued on page two

From The Editor

Certainly the American public would be much more receptive to supporting a united Ireland if they knew that the concept of Irish unity was supported by northern Ireland Protestants. Irish Protestant support for a united Ireland shatters the English myth that the struggle in Ireland is a religious war between Catholics and Protestants. It is a struggle for democracy and freedom.

Certainly the American public would be more supportive of the PEC's, work if they were aware of the fact that since 1989 we have been reaching out to northern Ireland's Protestant community.

*Certainly the recent meetings in Belfast between leaders of two pro-united Ireland groups with a strong Protestant influence and leaders of the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC), make perfectly clear the existence of Protestant support for a united Ireland (See R & D article **PEC Meets With Northern Ireland Protestants.**)*

But what good is this significant breakthrough if the public is not made aware of it?

It is up to you, the PEC member, to get the news out!

You can help by:

1. *helping the PEC raise funds to support our Public Affairs/Media Representation Office. (See **Help Raise Funds For Our Washington, DC Office** on page 5). This office will play a key role in getting the news out on a timely basis to the mainstream media and public, and*

2. *reproducing and distributing this newsletter issue's R & D **PEC Meets With Northern Ireland Protestants.** Mail copies to the media, politicians, clergy, educators, and other influential members of your community. Distribute copies at organization meetings and social gatherings.*

Offensive Situations

By Kevin P. Murphy, *Massachusetts State Director*

Unfortunately every St. Patrick's Day season some greeting card companies and manufacturers of alcoholic beverages turn the feast day of the patron saint of Ireland into an advertisement for drunkenness and ethnic slurs against the Irish. Under the leadership of the American Irish PEC, many large greeting card companies have cleaned up their act. However, **the beer companies have yet to follow.**

Two principal offenders are **Coors Beer** and **Anheuser Busch**. Their advertising for St. Patrick's Day associates drinking with being American Irish. Members are urged to write to: August Busch III, President, Anheuser Busch Inc., One Busch Place, St. Louis, MO 63118 and Peter Coors, President, Coors Brewing Co., BC300, Golden, CO 80401. In your letters inform them that you are fed up with their advertising for St. Patrick's Day that associates the American Irish with drinking alcohol. Ask that they discontinue the practice of associating things Irish with drinking beer.

Send all Offensive Situations to Kevin P. Murphy, PO Box 8895-J.F. Kennedy Station, Boston, MA 02114.

The American Irish PEC

founded 1975

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Treasurer.....Loretta Fitzgibbons
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**Supported in part by the Emerald Society,
NYC Fire Department**

NEWS BITS continued from page one

Ambassador to the US....**Jacqueline Brown** was arrested in an early morning raid and taken to the South Belfast holding center where she was released after two days. During her time there, Ms. Brown said detectives made a concerted effort to recruit her after they were unable to get her to admit to a series of IRA incendiary attacks. They offered to pay off a DHSS debt that she had run up. She refused and they started to take a different line. They said they could make it very hard for her family if she didn't cooperate with them. Shortly afterward, her elderly mother's home was raided. (Andersonstown News, 4/25/92)

David Andrews, the Republic's Minister of Foreign Affairs, has visited closed border crossings in Monaghan and Leitrim saying that over 1 billion Irish pounds had been spent on securing the border areas. He said, "Can you imagine what we could do with that money?" (Irish Post, 4/18/92).

PEC Meets With Northern Ireland Protestants

by John J. Finucane, *National President*

Reproduce & Distribute #1

According to representatives of the *Irish Protestant Education and Action Group* and the *Campaign For Democracy* in Northern Ireland, a large section of Northern Ireland's Protestant community would be prepared to accept reunification of Ireland as part of a settlement which would include adequate protection for their interests, such as a bill of rights.

In continuing its program *Outreach* begun in 1989, leaders of the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC) met in Belfast, Northern Ireland on April 11 and 14 with representatives of the Irish Protestant community who support a united Ireland.

They met with founding members of the *Campaign For Democracy* (CFD); Bobbie Heatley, Roger Kelly, Kevin McCorry and Jack McDowell; an organization comprised of both Catholics and Protestants committed to a democratic, united Ireland; and Robbie McVeigh, founder of the *Irish Protestant Education and Action Group* (IPEAG), an all-Protestant group of mostly young people. Representing the PEC were John Finucane, National President, Sandy Carlson, PEC Belfast correspondent and Ned Delaney, PEC Indiana State Director.

Protestants have been represented as a one dimensional body loyal to Britain, and adamantly opposed to reunification of Ireland. This is false. There is no one Protestant opinion about the British presence in Northern Ireland. That this one dimensional portrayal of Protestants is wrong is obvious when one considers the existence of groups like *Campaign For Democracy* (CFD) and *Irish Protestant Education and Action Group* (IPEAG). These groups were formed to promote a United Ireland and to bring the peoples' attention to a part of the history of Irish Protestants which the ruling powers and media would rather see forgotten: namely the long tradition of Protestants who want the creation of a Republic of Ireland -- a united Ireland.

Both the CFD and IPEAG made it clear that there would have to be changes in a united Ireland, including a lessening of Church influence in government -- a separation of church and state. According to Mr. McVeigh, a major road block to eliminating the separation of Catholics and Protestants is the interference of both Catholic and Protestant Church leaders in the country's affairs.

The CFD and IPEAG see the British government as the cause of many of Ireland's problems (north and south) and the main obstacle to Ireland's reunification. The CFD expressed serious concern that the British government wants sovereignty over the whole of Ireland for the purpose of strengthening England's position in the European Community. They are also concerned that within the Republic of Ireland there are people who would have no problem accepting British control over a united Ireland.

This, they say, would end all hope of Ireland, north and south, developing its own economy.

They also stated that English domination over Irish affairs prohibits the development of democracy and is the reason why Ireland has never developed either economically or politically. This will continue as long as England occupies a part of Ireland. If democracy is to flourish and if Ireland, north and south, is to achieve economic and political independence, England must go.

All of the representatives were well aware of the ability of Irish people to develop a sound economy, as proven by their success in

other nations, particularly in the United States; and state that there is no reason why they will not be successful for Ireland, if given the opportunity through a united Ireland.

Both the representatives of the CFD and the IPEAG emphasized the proud history of Protestant support for a free, democratic Ireland. They stated that, since the late 1700's, there has been considerable Protestant opposition to British rule and injustice both to themselves and to the Catholic population. They also pointed out their history has been suppressed by modern historians. They further stated that most leaders of the early Irish republicanism were Protestants. Some of these leaders include: Theobald Wolfe Tone, Charles Stuart Parnell, Samuel Neilsen, John Mitchel, John Martin, Robert Emmet, and Erskine Childers.

Since the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement in 1985, an identity crisis has surfaced within the Northern Ireland Protestant community. They have lost confidence in the English who, they believe, have turned their backs on them. They are becoming conscious of the fact that they are Irish and not British (British is not a nationality), and that they have more in common with their fellow Irishmen, that is, the Catholic population.

The efforts of Irish Protestant equal-rights activists to educate their community about the history of Irish Protestant Republicanism and their support for Catholic equal rights will certainly help bring about Ireland's reunification.

A new Irish government along the lines of the United States - separation of church and state -- is not a high price to pay for peace and justice in a united, independent Ireland. This, of course, requires compromise by all parties. The problems in Northern Ireland are clearly not of a religious nature. They are economic and political. The only benefactors of these divisions are the English. England's concern is, and has always been, her own interests, whether this be based on economics or so-called national security interests. It is time for the people of Ireland to begin thinking of their own future, a future that will benefit them and not the English.

Americans should make sure that this information is widely distributed and brought to the attention of our elected officials, the media, the leaders of the different churches and particularly to Catholic and Protestant clergy.

The purpose of the American Irish Political Education Committee's operation *Outreach*, begun in 1989, is to make every effort to reach out to the Northern Ireland Unionist community: to assure them that we are not their enemy, to learn more about their concerns and fears, and to develop an understanding and an ongoing dialogue.

Since 1989, leaders of the PEC have met in Northern Ireland with community activists, and community, religious and political leaders from the Nationalist and Unionist communities.

The PEC looks forward to the day when it can concentrate its energies on promoting the economic development of a democratic, united Ireland.

For further information, contact the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC) at 800 777-6807 or Fairgrounds Plaza, 18 Route 9W, West Haverstraw, NY 10993.

Published June 1992 by the American Irish PEC

Northern Ireland Human Rights Assembly

by Ned Delaney, Indiana State Director

Ned Delaney represented the PEC at the recent Northern Ireland Human Rights Assembly in London, England

From April 6th through April 8th, an international assembly was held in London to hear testimony concerning human rights violations in English ruled northern Ireland. This assembly was organized by the Committee on the Administration of Justice (Belfast), the National Council for Civil Liberties (London), the National Peace Council (London), and the Britain and Ireland Human Rights Project.

The Assembly was proposed by a conference convened by the National Council for Civil Liberties in London on Human Rights Day, December 10, 1990. Participants included the above and: the International Federation of Human Rights (Paris), the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, the Haldane Society, Justice For All (Northern Ireland), the National Union of Journalists, and the Scottish Council for Civil Liberties.

Oral and written testimony was obtained within the framework of the following twelve Commissions: 1) The Right To Life, 2) Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 3) Liberty and Security of Person, 4) The Right to a Fair and Public Trial, 5) The Right to Respect for Private and Family Life, 6) Freedom of Expression, 7) The Right to Justice Without Discrimination, 8) Freedom of Movement, 9) The Right to Take Part in Public Affairs and to Equal Access to Participation in Public Service, 10) The Right to Self-Determination, 11) Equal Social and Economic Rights Without Discrimination, 12) The Right to Participate in Public Life.

Participating as commissioners were: Professor Kader Asmal, Professor of Human Rights Law at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa; Georges-Henri Beauthier, Avocat, Brussels, nominated by the International Federation of Human Rights; Professor Richard Falk; Professor Albert G. Milbank, Professor of International and Practice at Princeton University; Anne-Carine Jacoby, Avocat, Paris, nominated by the International Federation of Human Rights; Nathalie Muller, Avocat, Paris, nominated by the International Federation of Human Rights; Dr. Yvo J.D. Peeters, Chairman, Foundation for the Study of Plural Societies, Vice-Chairman, Belgian Helsinki Committee; Lois Whitmen, Lawyer, Deputy-Director, US Helsinki Watch.

To fully comprehend the scope of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Assembly (NIHRA), a basic understanding of the nature of international human rights is helpful. International human rights law is concerned with the rights of individuals or groups as they relate with the State. The law does not govern relations between individuals, groups or States. In order to successfully argue that your rights have been violated, you must prove that the State has been negligent.

Commissions focused on the human rights set out in what are referred to as basic documents. These documents include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the International Covenant of Civil & Political Rights (ICCPR), and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). By focusing on these basic documents, the

Assembly drew attention to the obligations which the United Kingdom (UK) government has agreed to abide by in the international arena.

In international law, treaties, covenants, and conventions are binding upon those states which are party to them. Declarations, such as the UDHR, are not binding. Therefore, treaties that are binding on the UK should have, theoretically, a greater impact.

Significantly, the only international body to which individuals within the jurisdiction of the UK have access to lodge a complaint against the UK government is the European Commission of Human Rights (ECHR). In order to lodge a complaint, an individual must be able to show that one or more of his/her rights were violated as set out in the ECHR.

No avenue exists within the jurisdiction of the UK for individual petition, other than that previously stated, because the UK has not ratified the optional Protocol to the ICCPR. This Protocol allows individuals to complain of alleged violation of their human rights directly to the United Nations Human Rights Committee. The UK government further complicates the matter of individual rights by not regarding international treaties, covenants, and conventions to be part of domestic law.

The northern Ireland situation is also unique in the sense that the UK has derogated from international law. Under the ECHR and ICCPR, States may derogate from certain rights. However, the European Court of Human Rights has stated that the right to life (not to be confused with the abortion issue), freedom from torture, and discrimination solely on the ground of race, color, sex, language, religion, or social origin can not be derogated. Here lies the focus of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Assembly.

The UK has in effect a derogation under the ECHR and ICCPR in respect to prolonged detention under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). Briefly stated, the PTA permits authorities to detain anyone "reasonably suspected of involvement in terrorism connected with the affairs of Northern Ireland...." Under the PTA, authorities may: 1) arrest and detain you without charge for up to 7 days; 2) search your possessions and require you to account for yourself, under penalty; 3) exclude you from the UK or restrict you to a particular part of the UK without giving reasons or allowing you an appeal.

On the third day of the Assembly, Martin Sweeney of northern Ireland was scheduled to testify before the Commission on Torture. The Commission was advised in mid-day that he had been detained by authorities under the PTA. After intervention on his behalf by many of the delegates, he was released -- six hours later, at the close of the Assembly.

Commissions established under the focus of the Assembly were not tribunals, and verdicts, as such, were not recorded. However, each Commission was charged with the responsibility of issuing a final report based on the examination of specific aspects of human rights. Each report will seek to identify issues and possible breaches in human rights, consider proposed remedies, and make observations. Final reports will be made available in London, Belfast and Dublin. Formal submissions will also be made to the Council of Europe, the Helsinki process, and the United Nations Council of Human Rights.

From The North

by Rev. Des Wilson, *Director, Spring Hill Community, Belfast*

During the recent British election West Belfast democrats had to endure the spectacle of a nationalist party (SDLP) fighting a republican party (Sinn Fein). The SDLP uttered no criticism of the British regime, reserving its condemnation for its Sinn Fein rivals.

It was not the first time the British establishment had persuaded nationalists to fight their battles for them. It will not be the last.

Sinn Fein held up almost completely. Many people voted for the SDLP believing their position that the struggle was over and there would be justice if the war ended. The evidence unfortunately is that no progress whatever is intended either by British loyalists, unionists or government.

People are uncertain about what the British government will do with West Belfast. Will the government spend money on West Belfast or will it continue its old policy of squeezing the life out of the nationalist areas, knowing that the seat will not return to Sinn Fein, the government's real political enemies, for at least another 4 years.

On the other hand, the government wants to lend credibility to the SDLP member, Joe Hendron. He does not

have the confidence of a majority of Catholics in his area. One way of shoring up his position is for the government to pour money in at Dr. Hendron's behest. Hendron will say he will get jobs here, the government may respond by providing money. Hendron may get a factory opened and the people will say, Joe is a good representative.

But if the British government acts with its customary meanness they will say he's got the seat and what more do we want? Perhaps they will give the area less and less, or just nothing. No use buying what you already got. The SDLP is the party favored by the British to control the Catholics.

Meanwhile, pro-British loyalist gunmen have given Mr. Hendron some credibility. They came up the Lanark Way which connects the Loyalist and Nationalist areas in West Belfast and shot dead a pharmacist's assistant. They knew her well because she delivered medicines to sick people among the loyalists. They escaped through the connecting link.

The Lanark Way is well known for providing approach and escape routes for British loyalist death squads. So what happens after this -- or because of this -- "senseless sectarian killing"?

Dr. Hendron comes on the scene, demands that the authorities close off Lanark Way, which so many have done before him, and lo and behold the

police close the route.

The Loyalists hope the people will hail Dr. Hendron as their saviour and the SDLP as their chosen party. The loyalists wanted the SDLP firmly and irretrievably in there so as to keep Sinn Fein firmly and irretrievably out.

So, after this "senseless sectarian killing" the SDLP position will be strengthened. Dr. Hendron and the SDLP will know nothing of this and would not condone it if they did. But in the north of Ireland there is seldom such a thing as a "senseless sectarian killing". Killings are done for a purpose: when a killing occurs people quietly ask, for what reason, who benefits, for whose political advantage? In this case the killing on Lanark Way had little sectarian meaning but a lot of political meaning.

So while the future of West Belfast remains in the balance, some observers believe the government will spend a lot of money on the area at the behest of the SDLP and the money will be seen to be flowing from their victory. But if current policies are continued, this money will be sent in but will not be productive. It will produce "jobs", but not wealth.

Of course, the British may produce an economic miracle and show that for once they are honest, honorable and democratic.

But even Dr. Hendron would not be too optimistic about that.

Where Is Justice ?

by Sandy Carlson
Reporting From Belfast

In April, two British soldiers who admitted to brutally attacking a man were not jailed so that they could serve in the British army in northern Ireland.

The two soldiers, along with a third man, admitted kicking a man unconscious and leaving him badly injured about the head and chest. The judge told the men that, because the attack was so brutal, he would be "fully justified in sending all three immediately to prison." But, he said to the two soldiers, "Both of you are performing for all of us a necessary and vital role. For the next two and a half years,

you will be giving valuable service to the community in a dangerous area, at no little cost to your own safety."

The third man, who is not a soldier, was released because the other two were also released -- albeit for "service" in northern Ireland. All three were fined a small sum in costs and compensation. The decision was condemned by the Campaign for the Administration of Justice.

This incident illustrates Britain's contempt for the Irish people, for Britain is prepared to unleash confessed thugs to patrol Irish streets in the name of law and order. It also indicates the valuelessness of the law, inasmuch as those who flagrantly break it in Britain are free to do the same, in the name of order, in Ireland.
-- PEC

More MacBride Successes

NEW YORK State Director Kathy Regan informs us that on May 12 the Yonkers City Council adopted unanimously MacBride Principles *contract compliance* legislation (7 to 0). This success was organized by Bob Stauf, chairman of the Mayor's Committee on Irish Affairs.

OHIO State Director Kathy Whitford has informed us that the City of Parma, (pop. 100,000) has passed a MacBride resolution. Resolutions are also pending in Euclid and Lakewood.

The above successes are a direct result of organizations working together.

When will you introduce the MacBride Principles in your community?

Remembering The Great Hunger

By Tom O'Reilly

With the 150th Anniversary of the worst of Ireland's several "famine" periods due in 1995-1999, there is an organization raising consciousness about this sad chapter of our heritage. The human rights group is called AFrI (Action From Ireland) and was founded in 1975 to support small poverty projects in the Third World.

As many as two million people perished during the Irish "famine" of the 1840s. According to Thomas Gallagher, author of Paddy's Lament, over one fourth of Ireland's population was lost in just four years.

The origin of the Great "Famine" Project was unintentionally sown by Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa when he visited Ireland in 1984 as AFrI's guest. He spoke of starving young children who drink water to fill their empty stomachs in a country which is a net exporter of food to the world. "People starve in South Africa not because there is no food. They starved because of deliberate government policy . . ." Quite the parallel with the year 1847 ("Black Forty Seven") when the Irish died of "green mouth" (due to eating grass) and England shipped out of Ireland over \$46,000,000 (in 1847 dollars!!) worth of barley, wheat, oats, and cattle. This quantity of food, **capable of feeding twice the Irish population**, was instead, allocated by the crown to supply her "other" colonies. The history books tell us the Irish died of a famine. In reality the great genocidal "starvation" was deliberately man-made.

AFrI commemorates the Irish "Holocaust" with an annual walk (through 1995) in County Mayo. The 10 mile route stretches out on the road between Louisburgh and Doolough where, in 1849, **600 starving people died in a single day** of exposure during a fierce storm! This was after being refused food at a British workhouse.

The Great Famine Project is also involved with identifying the hundreds of unmarked famine communal mass graves which exist throughout the island. A national memorial will be dedicated to

those who perished and the burial sites will be marked with Celtic crosses.

An interesting development involving the PEC occurred when Don Mullan of AFrI met with the PEC and learned that the American Choctaw Indians had donated \$710 to help the starving Irish in 1847. This was indeed the most touching of all the worldwide acts of generosity since the Indians themselves had such meager resources. The donation is mentioned in three books: Liberty: The Statue and the American Dream by Leslie Allen, The Great Hunger by Cecil Woodham Smith, and Angie Debo's The Rise and Fall of the Choctaw Republic. Quite an intriguing story unfolds. It seems the Choctaws heard of the "famine" in Ireland through the migrating Gaels fresh off the "coffin ships" and heading west across America seeking a better life. While stopping on the Choctaw Indian reservation in Skullyville, Oklahoma they told their story of hardship to the Indians who empathized with the immigrants because the tribe themselves had endured very similar hardships a decade earlier. The Choctaws could relate to the Irish plight because they had undergone in 1831 a forced march of 1,200 miles to barren Oklahoma along the "trail of tears" during which 14,000 Choctaw died - To Hell or Connaught!

There are many striking similarities between the 800 years of Irish and 400 years of American Indian persecution inflicted by European colonists. Parallel actions/incidents include: depriving the indigenous cultures of their language and land.

An irony during the Great "Famine" was that the starving Irish were given marginally nutritious, low nutrient "Indian meal" (nicknamed "stirabout" by the Irish) from the British workhouses as the only food to try to subsist upon. This transparent and worthless alibi/excuse for compassion was shipped in from America!!

Another horrendous fact of existence during the colonial era which both races had to suffer/endure was the encouragement of widespread disease. In the Indians case smallpox infested blankets were traded by the whites for trinkets, and alcoholism with its sorrowful results of mental depression. With the Irish - typhus, dropsy, scurvy, and dysentery were allowed to run rampant. These

policies were followed in order to decimate both native populations.

This attempted extermination of the two cultures was performed using excuses such as "divine providence" and "manifest destiny," when in actuality the driving force was basically just pure, unadulterated greed. The effort to "tame" the two groups of "savages" was ludicrous because they both already were ancient civilizations with developed social order: they just possessed desirable real estate! Unfortunately, the problem continues to this day for both races.

The PEC found this all very intriguing and researched the matter a bit further with the Bureau of Indian affairs and the Labor department in Washington, D.C. and enabled Mr Mullan to get in touch with the present day Choctaws. The result was that Choctaw Chief Hollis E. Roberts and Assistant Chief Gregory E. Pyle were invited to Ireland to lead the "Great Famine Walk" along with Bishop Desmond Tutu. The trek was entitled the "Trail of Tears." Quite a feather in the PEC cap. It was the first time out of North America for the Choctaws as a nation. Don Mullan was made an honorary Chief of the Choctaws and received a traditional Choctaw headdress while presenting Chief Roberts with a Bog Oak Celtic Cross. The relationship between the Irish and the Choctaw nations is part of a display in the Irish World Heritage Center in Manchester, England. Chief Roberts was hosted at a reception by the Lord Mayor of that city.

This poignant conclusion to the ugliest chapters in British history (i.e., "The Great Famine" - **An Gorta Mor** - indeed, the "hunger") - and American history - (the treatment of the native Indian people) has enabled two very proud and noble cultures to rediscover their common heritage. To this day the spirit of these people remains unbroken, as unbroken as their mystical bond with their ancestral lands.

Ed. Note: The Emerald Society, Fire Department, City of New York, plans to erect in New York City in 1995, a monument to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Great Hunger. The monument will consist of a Celtic Cross and 6 to 10 figurines of an Irish family during the Great Hunger.

Help Raise Funds For Our Washington, DC Office

You can do it! You too can run a fundraiser in your community to help raise funds to support the PEC's *Public Affairs/Media Representation Office*. The Office is scheduled to open in Washington, DC on or before September 1, 1992. The Office operation will cost a minimum of \$80,000 for the first year.

To maintain this office will require **ongoing** fundraising.

The Office will provide an excellent opportunity to "break the silence" of the news media. The key to ending the tragedy of northern Ireland is an informed and friendly media.

Some suggestions:

- . Organize a dance, concert, cocktail party , or a social in your community
- . Organize a social in your home (or home of a friend)
- . Organize a breakfast or luncheon inviting prominent members of the community
- . Business people and professionals can contact their colleagues for matching donations
- . Organize a Bake sale
- . Organize a Yard / Garage sale

SURELY EVERYBODY CAN HELP

... by selling our \$3 raffle tickets (5 for \$12). This year the raffle tickets will be used to support the Office and the MacBride Principles campaign.

To order tickets or for further information contact the PEC at (914) 947-2726 or write AIPEC, Fairgrounds Plaza, 18 Route 9W, West Haverstraw, NY 10993.

The success of the new office is of major importance. Please do what you can to help raise the necessary funding.

NEW BOOKS --- NEW BOOKS Buy Both Books and Pay Only \$37 + \$2.50 P&H

**The Dissenting Voice
by Flann Campbell**

In recent years the clarity and compassion of the 'dissenting voice' in Irish politics and culture - that of the liberal Protestant, allied to radicalism, socialism and even nationalism - has seemed to fade into the mists of history, gravely neglected by historians, often drowned by the bitter sectarian rhetoric of extreme loyalism. In effect, a 'conspiracy of silence' still surrounds those northern Protestants who at various times and in their different ways condemned the landlord system, called for a wider franchise, disapproved of religious bigotry, or even sought to break the connection with Britain.

Challenging the popular belief that northern Protestants have formed a monolithic bloc, all holding the same

political, social and religious views, *The Dissenting Voice* quarries the historical record to expose the complex truth. Urgently reappraising the crucial role played by the radical Protestants who defied privilege, hierarchy and imperialism, this is an incisive and timely reminder of a hidden but powerful undercurrent in Irish history. Paperback, 513pp
Order# SC513.....\$29.95

**A Molly Maguire Story
by Patrick Campbell**

On June 21, 1877, ten Irish-Americans were executed in the mining areas of Pennsylvania. All were accused of being members of a terrorist group called the Molly Maguires, and all were convicted of planning and carrying out the murder of a number of mining officials. Ten more Irish-Americans were later exe-

Misleading The Public

by John J. Finucane
National President

An objective of the PEC is "fairness and accuracy in the media" concerning news about the conflict in northern Ireland. The media in general, including the Catholic media, has failed in this undertaking.

The April 23 editorial of the *Catholic New York*, which has a large readership in New York, implied that Catholics in West Belfast voted Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams out of office. This information is wrong and misleading. **Where did they get this information?**

Mr. Adams out-pollied his SDLP opponent Joe Hendron in the West Belfast Catholic community by about 500 votes, just as he did in two previous elections.

SDLP candidate Joe Hendron won because he received upwards to 3500 votes from the small Loyalist enclave (7000 voters) in West Belfast. This is the first time that the Loyalist community in West Belfast voted in large numbers for a Catholic candidate. It is reported that the Loyalists voted for Hendron at the request of the Ulster Defence Association (UDA) -- a "tactical vote".

The UDA is responsible for the murders of almost 700 innocent civilians, which is more than any other para-military organization, including the IRA.

The *Catholic New York* and the Catholic media must take a constructive role in resolving this tragedy. Such careless editorializing is certainly not constructive and will not serve the cause of justice.

cuted in Pennsylvania on the same charges.

The Molly Maguire executions generated a great deal of controversy in Pennsylvania from the 1870s to the present, with Irish-Americans claiming the Mollys were framed by the mine owners, while other ethnic groups believe that they were guilty and deserved their punishment. Paperback, 192 pp

Order# PC192.....\$11.95

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO :AIAC

Action Requests

Action Request #1 -- Strip searching is back with a vengeance according to the *Committee on the Administration of Justice* in northern Ireland. On March 2, Maghaberry womens' prison guards clad in riot gear searched every prisoner. The process lasted ten hours. Shocking allegations have emerged from the prison that up to six officers sitting on women as their clothing was torn off, of prisoners' mouths being covered to stifle screams, of male guards being used in the operation and being within eye or earshot as the strips were carried out. **Write to:** News Editor, *World News Tonight*, 47 W 66 Street, New York, NY 10023.

Action Request #2 is to Mr. H. Ross Perot, candidate for President of the United States. **Write to:** Mr. H. Ross Perot, Perot For President, PO Box 517010, Dallas, TX 75251-7010 - Fax# 1 800 925-1300.

NOTE: Write the letters in your own words or simply rewrite our sample letters. Have your family, friends, business associates, and organization(s) write. **If you are an American war veteran, include that information in your letter(s).**

Action Request # 1

Dear News Editor,

According to the Committee on the Administration of Justice in Northern Ireland (phone# 011 44 232 232394) some 21 women prisoners were forcefully strip searched in Maghaberry prison in Northern Ireland on March 2. The women were beaten during the search, which lasted ten hours, and male prison guards were "within eye and earshot as the strips were being carried out". Please investigate these allegations and the trial of British soldiers accused of the shootings of Fergal and Michael Carraher in northern Ireland which I have previously requested.

Information is also available through the American Irish PEC (914) 947-2726.

Action Request #2

Dear Mr. Perot:

Please advise me as to what your positions as President would be on the following: the MacBride Principles, English presence in Ireland, the appointment of a special envoy to northern Ireland, and American foreign policy as it relates to supporting English policies in Ireland (Northern Ireland). For assistance contact American Irish PEC (914) 947-2726.

Sincerely,

LAST NOTICE

Western Region Conference -- June 6

If you plan to attend the PEC Western Region Conference in Boulder, Colorado on June 6 make your reservations now. For information call Susan Catt at (606) 982-0370 or PEC national office (914) 947-2726. Registration fee is \$30.

Join Or Support

The American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC)

I want to join in/support the struggle to end British government civil and human rights violations in northern Ireland. I am sending you this completed form together with my membership fee/donation.

- Regular Membership Membership Renewal \$20
 Senior Citizen, \$15 Student, \$15
 Additional Donation \$ _____
 Donation Only \$ _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Members receive the monthly *American Irish Newsletter*.
If you give a donation only and would like to receive the newsletter check here .

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Make checks payable to American Irish PEC and mail to American Irish PEC, Fairgrounds Plaza, West Haverstraw, NY 10993 -- Phone number (914) 947-2726.

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