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THE AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Action Irish

NORTHERN IRELAND
POLITICAL COLLECTION

APRIL/MAY, 1986

Vol. 11, No. 2

THE AID PACKAGE

by Albert Doyle

As the PEC predicted in our analysis of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, an attempt was made to rush through an "aid package" related to the agreement — all in time for St. Patrick's Day of course so that the usual crowd of St. Patrick's Day politicians could appear to be active on Irish issues. And what better way, dear to the heart of any politico — a taxpayer handout! Of course, we are well aware of the dangers of negativism on this issue. In the past no U.S. help has gone to Ireland, North or South, partly due to the ineptitude of the Irish government, while billions are poured into the Middle East, as well as other areas. And we recognize that, wisely used, such U.S. aid could be helpful to the victims of injustice in Northern Ireland. Thus, we are not against economic aid, per se. But these proposals were being slipped through in the dark of night, with minimum publicity so as to prevent people like ourselves from expressing our views. The Administration's proposal was an unconditional handout to the British and Irish governments. Fortunately, the PEC was alerted by Congressman Ben Gilman, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and we succeeded in having our views presented to the House Committee considering the proposals, together with those of the Irish National Caucus and the

(Continued on Page 6)

NBC PROTEST UPDATE

by John J. Finucane

In following up our protest to NBC regarding the Oct. 14, 1985 airing of "Silent Witness" a NBC-TV special, we have requested a professional opinion from Dr. Kathleen A. Lisowski, Ph.D., Psychologist of Brookline, Massachusetts.

Silent Witness was based on a situation where 3 males raped a young woman in a bar. The rapists and the victim were depicted as Americans of Irish heritage. The producer went out of his way to Irishize these characters. There were two similar real life situations which occurred in fairly recent times, but neither involved any American Irish.

The purpose of the PEC's research is to prove that persistent negative portrayals of the American Irish are harmful and hopefully, to put an end to anti-Irish prejudice.

Since the airing of **Silent Witness**, we have recorded a number of extremely offensive productions. Two in particular by CBS, **A Child's Cry**, 2/9/86 and **One Terrific Guy**, 2/18/86, in which two obviously American Irish are depicted as child molesters.

The following is the professional opinion provided the PEC by Dr. Lisowski:

"Films such as NBC's **Silent Witness** raise some important issues. Persistent negative portrayals of the American Irish such as drunks, (sex offenders), overly religious, etc. does perpetuate negative stereotypes which can lead to discrimination against Americans of Irish heritage. Productions such as **Silent Witness** diminish the self esteem of American Irish. This promotes questions of identity and disassociation from the Irish culture. Recently, New York Governor Mario Cuomo condemned the use of the term, "mafia", saying it, "blackens the name of every Italian-American".

(Continued on Page 2)

NEWS BITS

by Andy Prior

On February 7, 1986 U.S. Senators Joseph R. Biden (Del.), John F. Kerry (Mass), Christopher J. Dodd (CT), and Alan Cranston (Calif.), requested of Senator Richard Lugar that the Foreign Relations Committee conduct extensive hearings on Northern Ireland. In preparation for this request, an aide of Sen. Dodd requested of the Congressional Library and the Congressional Research Service a complete history of all past Congressional hearings on No. Ireland. They were shocked to learn that despite the keen interest about Ireland in Congress, no such hearings had ever been held (AIN-PEC 2/86).

CALIFORNIA — Nineteen months after the extradition case of Liam Quinn was brought before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, that court has ruled in favor of extradition. Judge Reinhardt writing for the majority opinion concluded: "Although an uprising existed in Northern Ireland at the time... there was no uprising in England." He noted there was very little legal precedent for the court to work from, and that the international legal community varied widely on the criterion used to determine political offenses. Quinn's attorneys will now attempt to have the decision reviewed by a wider section of the 9th Circuit Court.

New York City Comptroller Harrison Goldin has issued a comprehensive

(Continued on Page 3)

IRISH WHO MADE AMERICA GREAT

by Kevin Murphy (PEC, Massachusetts)

In this century never has an individual been so influential as Governor, Judge and lawyer Frank Murphy. Frank Murphy was born in Harbor Beach, Michigan to Irish immigrant parents. His father Frank Sr. was a lawyer and union activist who came to America at the age of 19. He took part in the Fenian invasion of Canada in the 1860's. Murphy's grandfather was executed by the British after a rebellion in Ireland.

Frank Murphy, attended the University of Michigan. He became a lawyer. Murphy went to Dublin in 1915 to 1917 to study at Trinity College. He befriended many of the Sinn Féin leaders of 1916. Murphy was constantly questioned by British authorities in Dublin. He returned to Michigan where he opened a law practice in Detroit. Murphy also volunteered to teach English to Polish, Italian and Czech, immigrants. Murphy joined the U.S. Army during W.W. I and was promoted to captain.

After the war young Murphy became assistant District attorney in Detroit's Wayne County. His high conviction rate gained him much fame. In 1930 Frank Murphy was elected as mayor of Detroit. He appointed experts to head the city's departments and brought Detroit into fiscal stability. He also built many health clinics for the poor.

In 1932 Murphy was elected as Governor of Michigan. At this time auto workers in Detroit staged a sit-in at the auto plants as a protest of the motor companies refusal to recognize the Auto Workers Union. The powerful auto executives demanded that Murphy call in the state militia to arrest the workers. Risking his political career Murphy refused and issued a statement supporting the striking auto workers. The auto workers won. Murphy soon became a national figure in the U.S. labor movement.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Murphy as Governor General of the Philippine Islands. Murphy later was appointed as U.S. Attorney General. As Attorney General Murphy prosecuted hundreds for political corruption.

In January 2nd 1940 Franklin Roosevelt appointed Frank Murphy as a Justice in the U.S. Supreme Court. Murphy died in August 1949. Frank Murphy exemplified the Irish spirit of compassion and honesty.

INFORMATION CENTER UPDATE

We are happy to inform you that our Local Community Information Center program (LCIC) is off to an excellent start. There are presently 46 members serving as LCIC directors. They are located throughout the U.S. They are distributing high quality information representing the Nationalist point of view to influential citizens. Most recipients of this material have never before been exposed to the Nationalist view.

A LCIC is a one or more persons distributing pertinent information on the tragedy in Ireland. The material is mailed to influential citizens in their community such as; town supervisors, educators, union officials, editors, clerics, professional people, politicians, etc. They also promote subscriptions to the **American Irish Newsletter**.

It is hoped that these volunteers will continue serving as LCIC directors after their initial supply of material is depleted. If you have saturated your community, you can reach out to a neighboring one. We urge you to reproduce our material for further distribution **without sacrificing quality**. If reproduction is not possible, you should order more material direct from the PEC. We will supply the material free. In cases where organizations are backing this effort, we urge them to send a donation to help defray our expenses. This important and effective grass roots education program is costly.

WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS. To volunteer as a LCIC director simply send us your name and address or call (914) 947-2726. We will provide the necessary materials (instructions, PEC cover letter and enclosure by Honorable Sean MacBride) free of charge. **Volunteer today!**

NBC PROTEST

(Continued from Page 1)

Terrorism in the world today creates a climate of insecurity. It is tempting to express the frustration of the country by assigning blame for anti-social acts to one particular ethnic group. This is wrong. We can only address terrorism by examining the social roots of the problems.

Such films create undeserved difficulty for the majority of American Irish who are honest, hard working, and loyal to the ideals of America. Attitude research at Stanford University in Connecticut has demonstrated that persistent showing of such films can influence people who previously held a positive or neutral opinion towards Irish people, causing them to change to having a negative opinion by providing social sanctions for these opinions. Such films also provide a poor model for any young American Irish viewing it. I urge the PEC to continue to campaign against the use of citing any ethnic group when addressing controversial issues such as those raised in these films.

The PEC plans to build a case and then take the appropriate action. In the meantime, we urge you to write to offending networks whenever you witness an offensive program. It is very important that you forward a copy of your letter to the PEC and indicate the same on the bottom of your letter, eg. cc: American Irish Political Education Committee. We want the networks to know they are being monitored.

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OFFENSIVE SITUATION

by John J. Finucane

An offensive situation in the state of Connecticut has been resolved to our satisfaction reports Frank O'Day, PEC Information Director for Connecticut.

The situation involved a safety program developed by the New Haven County 4-H Safety Committee which is administrated by the University of Ct. Cooperative Extension Services.

Central to this program was the "Talking Police Car, Paddy" which was being used to present a special safety message to thousands of elementary age children. The car is a blue and white altered play car equipped with headlights, flashing red light, turn signals, horn, siren, a bumper that smiles and a CB microphone that enabled individual students to communicate with the car.

While the intent of the program was praiseworthy and no malice was intended, the end result would have been the exposure to elementary school children of the use of a patently offensive and demeaning racial slur (Paddy) which is found only where anti-Irish racism exists. All citizens of Connecticut were inadvertently participating in the perpetuation of this anti-Irish slur as the program is governed and funded by a department of the state university.

Frank telephoned and wrote to the program administrators explaining the demeaning stereotypical characterization connected with the term Paddy and requested that the name of the car be changed and that all existing promotional materials containing the name Paddy be destroyed. Due to state involvement with this program, the president of the university, the governor, district federal representative and senators were informed of the situation.

The campaign to end this ethnic slur was successful and the name of the program has been changed. The U. of Ct. Office for affirmative Action Programs stated that "University policy clearly condemns ethnic or racial pejoration as a form of discrimination and that it would frown upon continued use of an ethnic reference that inadvertently offends some members of a group, once the offensiveness becomes known."

NORTHERN IRELAND INVESTMENT BILL

Ireland's most renowned citizen and Nobel Peace Prize winner Sean MacBride, joined more than 400 Americans of Irish heritage, and a score of national and state American Irish leaders who travelled to Albany, New York on February 10. They were there to voice support for the Dearie-Flynn Northern Ireland Investment Bill.

The bill, sponsored by New York Assemblyman John Dearie and State Senator John Flynn would require U.S. firms operating in Northern Ireland which receive N.Y.S. pension funds to adhere to the popular MacBride principles of fair employment.

The Dearie-Flynn Bill which has the support of Governor Mario Cuomo is sponsored by 45 of 60 State Senators and 102 of 147 Assemblymen. With almost 75% of the legislators sponsoring the bill, it should have no trouble becoming law. This is not the case. Two of the State capital's most powerful people, Senator Warren Anderson and Comptroller Edward Regan oppose the bill because they feel Irish civil rights should not jeopardize pension funds. The bill's sponsors have assured them that it would not negatively effect pension funds.

Anderson, President ProTem of the Senate, initially refused the Honorable Sean MacBride a proper introduction on the Senate Chamber floor. This degrading insult by Anderson brought about immediate outrage from the large number of American Irish present. Assemblyman John Dearie, acting as

(Continued on Page 3)

FROM THE EDITOR

The campaign against the controversial U.S.-U.K. Extradition Treaty is bringing to the forefront in the American Irish community new and powerful political leaders in the U.S. Senate such as Senators Joseph Biden of Delaware, Christopher Dodd of Connecticut and John Kerry of Massachusetts. Unlike certain colleagues in the Senate who are media-made American Irish leaders, these courageous gentlemen enjoy the respect and admiration of many informed American Irish. What makes them popular and different from the others is that while they oppose all violence, these political leaders also speak out against Britain's proven oppressive policies in Ireland. They will challenge the status quo even though it is not the popular thing to do in political circles simply because it is the right thing to do.

We hope that Senator Alfonse D'Amato will join with them as a leader in the Senate concerning British oppression in Ireland. His addition as a Republican will certainly be a great help.

So courageous and fair are these prominent Americans that along with California Senator Alan Cranston, they have recently called upon Senator Richard Lugar who heads the Foreign Relations Committee, to conduct extensive hearings on Northern Ireland. Such hearings which have long been sought after by respected American Irish, are necessary to bring out the truth. Could any fair-minded supporter of justice oppose such hearings? Let us support them in this simple request.

We are indeed very fortunate to now have leaders in the Senate as we already have in the House of Representatives in Congressmen Mario Biaggi, N.Y. and Benjamin Gilman, N.Y. to name a few. They are very important people and they can help us in our quest for Ireland's reunification. It is important that these political leaders remain in office.

INVESTMENT BILL

(Continued from Page 2)

spokesperson, protested strongly and demanded reconsideration. After much discussion Mr. MacBride was given the proper introduction. Mr. Anderson was not present.

(Ed. Note: A similar bill has already been adopted in Massachusetts. Bills are also pending in New Jersey, Florida and Connecticut.)

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Vol. 11, No. 2

NEWS BITS

(Continued from Page 1)

sive report on American investment in Northern Ireland. In the report he charges that some U.S. companies doing business there do not adhere to fair employment practices. These companies are: American Brands, Ford, Hughes Tool Co., VF Corp., TRW, Fruehauf Corp. and General Motors.

ALBANY — Sen. Alfonse D'Amato is attempting to block Nassau County Controller Peter King from becoming the state GOP's candidate to oppose Attorney Gen. Robert Abrams, according to Nassau and Albany Republican sources.

D'Amato, who is running for re-election this year, denied that he is working against King. But, according to the sources, he has objected to King's candidacy on two grounds: King's out-spoken support for Northern Irish independence is potentially controversial; and since both he and King reside in Nassau, a state ticket including both of them would be "unbalanced" geographically. (Newsday — 3/18/86)

BOSTON — Bill O'Reilly, Best kept secret in the country, Chet. Did you know that President Reagan wants to send two hundred and fifty million dollars in aid to Northern Ireland? I didn't until today. I knew about the Contras, the shuttle, the Philippines, and Oil Can Boyd, but nothing about this aid. That is because the press does not care much about Northern Ireland, it doesn't affect national security, it's complicated, and

(Continued on Page 4)

APPEAL OPERATION ONE MILLION

In our last issue of the Newsletter we appealed to all our readers to support Operation One Million. To date the response has been discouraging — only 16%.

Operation One Million is intended to give the PEC the ability to reach large numbers of American Irish by direct mail in a short period of time. We would like to reach one million people during 1986. This is the only way we can build an organization that will be totally effective in Washington, D.C. Bear in mind that at least 3% of them people who receive our direct mail join with us. Most importantly, at least 13% of them will become letter writers and that is where our strength lies.

When you support the PEC, you are supporting an active organization that works for the American Irish community. Not only are we effective concerning Ireland, but we are also effective in defending the Irish image in America (it was the PEC who prompted both American Greetings and Hallmark to discontinue production of St. Patrick's Day greeting cards that depicted the Irish as drunken fools.) Currently, we are continuing our campaign against NBC and are also taking action to assure that the Irish immigrant is not forgotten during the upcoming Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Festivities. As of this writing, none of the immigrants to be honored are Irish.

Please give us your support. Become a sponsor of Operation One Million today! (Whatever you can afford will be greatly appreciated — suggested sponsorship is \$100.) To do so simply fill out the coupon below and return with your check or money order to PEC, Malloy Building, Two North Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980.

(Please Note: Operation One Million replaces our annual financial appeal which takes place during the month of April.)

YES, I wish to sponsor OPERATION ONE MILLION. Enclosed, find my check (money order) for \$_____ in ☐ full ☐ part payment of my sponsorship. My total pledge for 1986 is \$_____ which I will make _____ installments.

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ENGLAND: FRIEND OR FOE?

by Bob West - PEC, Illinois

I don't know why Americans should be so shocked by the reaction of our "allies" to our sanctions against Libya, especially England who claims to be our "truest ally", "greatest friend", etc. Our "allies" actions do not agree with their pronouncements. They only support us if it does not conflict with their own interests.

Are our "true" or "trusted allies" really to be trusted without reservation? Who are our friends? Judge for yourself!

In 1946, the English sold 55 jet engines to Russia which were later used in MiG-15 fighters against Americans in Korea.

During the Korean War, we sent Lend Lease wheat to England, who resold it for cash to our enemy, North Korea; and English mortars were captured from North Koreans.

During the Cuban missile crisis, England was the first to ignore our blockade of trade with Cuba.

During the Vietnam War, England traded with the Communist North Vietnamese, supplying arms and materials while Americans were being killed and maimed. Only Russia had more ships calling on Haiphong harbor. Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines sent troops to our aid.

In 1973, during the Arab-Israeli War and Arab oil embargo, England refused to let U.S. planes refuel there when supplying Israel with urgently needed supplies. Of our NATO "friends" only the Netherlands stood by us and refused to knuckle under to the Arab oil cartel.

During the Iranian hostage crisis, England traded with Iran and refused to hide escaped Americans that our Canadian friends willingly concealed and smuggled to safety.

During the U.S. boycott of the Moscow Olympics, England sent her team.

In 1982, England and France ordered their firms to ignore the American ban against selling high-technological equipment to Russia to build its trans-Siberian natural gas pipeline.

In a March 1983 speech, President Reagan cited the expansion by a marxist regime of Grenada's Port Salines Airport, including a massive runway, as a potential threat to American security. Prior to our October 1983 rescue mission in Grenada, Gov. Paul Scoon, the British Governor-General of Grenada, asked the U.S. to intervene rather than his own country, much to the chagrin of the English Government. Did the English Government turn a deaf ear to his pleas for help? After all, as citizens of the Commonwealth, Grenadians were entitled to the full protection of the Crown. England vilified us for the Grenada rescue. This not only demonstrated England's indifference to U.S. interests in the Caribbean but indifference to the protection of those that England considers to be British citizens. This should come as no surprise to us since neither Britain nor any other Western democracy have a system like the U.S. that guarantees 'liberty and justice for all' with the full protection of the lives and rights of each of its citizens. One fact that may come as a shock to most Americans, as it was reported in the Wall Street Journal on October 21, 1985, is that of non-communist European countries "... only the British lack guaranteed liberties at home", that the British have no written constitution, no catalog of freedoms,

recognize no supreme law, and no inalienable rights. Amplifying that, the Wall St. Journal continued, "Unlike the U.S., it (Britain) permits no judicial review. Neither the Magna Carta nor any other document guarantees the rights of ordinary people against an act of Parliament. The British system is founded on the legislature's absolute power, a principle Americans fundamentally reject. Since Britain is not concerned enough for their own citizens to guarantee them liberties and rights, why should Americans expect decent treatment."

Even though England failed to come to Grenada's aid, she immediately reasserted her authority over Grenada. After 19 Americans died securing Grenada, the New York Daily News reported on November 5, 1983 that British authorities forced 27 soldiers of the American 82nd Airborne to take an oath of allegiance to the Queen. Later news organizations discovered that the construction of the Port Salines Airport by Cubans was being partially supervised by the Plessey Company, a British firm subsidized by the British Government.

In 1985, the Los Angeles Times reported that 4 Victoria in London is the hub of Iran's black market procurement and shipment of American weapons, aided by businessmen and brokers in the British trading network and the U.S. prosecutors complain that Iran's procurement operation is protected by British authorities. How many Americans, civilian and military, have been killed by the weapons and explosives that were shipped out of our "truest ally's" country?

Of course the U.S. should cooperate with countries we have treaties with, like NATO, but our unreserved cooperation should only be within the context of those treaties. All "allies" should be treated equally and observed with a wary eye, for after all, they are not Americans. Actions on our behalf, not pronouncements, reveal best friends. No foreign country should have an inordinate amount of influence in the U.S. and be singled out for special treatment.

The information media have told us so often that England is our best friend, most Americans believe it. This media, with the exception of the Christian Science Monitor and few others, have "bent" international news in England's favor even to the detriment of the facts in trying to persuade us of England's friendship and righteousness.

At the early outset of the Falklands/Malvinas crisis, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the American Ambassador to the United Nations, commented on the extent of English influence in this country by suggesting the U.S. State Department could be disbanded in lieu of the dictates of the British Home Office!

The U.S. jeopardized its relations with South America when it sided with England during the Falklands/Malvinas crisis, in contravention of the Monroe Doctrine and O.A.S. treaties.

We support our "allies" but they do not support us unless it is in their own interest to do so. We saved England's 'bacon' in WW1, WW2 and in the Falklands/Malvinas and what do we get from them and other "friends?"; 'the bad end of the stick'.

Ed. Note: How many American Irish have refused to help Ireland in its struggle for freedom, because it would be detrimental to Britain, "our truest"? If America, the greatest power in the world cannot trust Britain, what hope does that little Irish nation have!

NEWS BITS

(Continued from Page 3)

never ending.

Basically the problem dates back centuries. A Catholic minority in Northern Ireland is kept down by the Protestant majority. Unemployment among Catholics is much higher than among Protestants, and forget about civil rights or fairness. So the IRA fights, and Ulster, backed by Britain, fights back ... America's intentions are good: to send aid to Northern Irish economy that is nearly ruined. But there is a problem with sending aid ... New York Congressman Mario Biaggi points out there are no strings attached to the aid package. The Northern Irish can spend it any way they want. Biaggi wants the money tied to fair employment, and nondiscrimination for all. That sounds good to me. But what do politicians around here want? Well, Tip O'Neil supports ending the aid as is: he likes President Reagan's plan (no strings attached) (Newscenter Five, WCVB-TV [ABC], 3/6/86).

4

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"NORTHERN IRELAND: THE PHYSICAL STATE"

by Nelson Kelly Ritschel-PEC, Massachusetts

On a specific autumn morning I drove my rental automobile from Dublin on N1 toward Belfast. The driver was pleasant, the rain was holding off. After 90 minutes I reached the Ulster border. The land appeared the same, the landscape unchanged — surely it was Ireland still. There was no checkpoint, only the Union Jack, flapping wildly in the wind. I drove on, on with the flow. Two miles, and the traffic ahead was stopped.

As the automobiles, one at a time, moved up, it became clear that we were experiencing a checkpoint. A checkpoint being carried out by the British Security Forces — the RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary) in conjunction with the British Army — or was it the UDR (Ulster Defense Regiment)? An RUC officer, dressed in black leather, stood in the road center. As each auto advanced, he asked for a driver's license. While he inspected, a fellow officer, also young and tall, stood on the roadside by the passenger door, staring at each driver — as each was stopped before him. Moving up the small hill directly behind this second officer, under the shade of a large bent tree, sat two British soldiers in their green fatigues — complete with green camouflaged faces. Nestled with them and their neatly arranged sandbags was a mounted machine gun — possibly .30 or .50 caliber. One soldier constantly aimed this impressive weapon at the waiting autos below. The other read the Daily Mirror, his FN rifle resting beside him.

Across the roadway, on a diagonal, lay two additional British soldiers, their RN automatic rifles aimed on any driver who might try to run the checkpoint. If they failed to stop him, or her, surely the next pair of soldiers, on yet another diagonal across the road, could stop the running vehicle.

The RUC officer pondered the American passport, offered in lieu of a local license. "Having a look about?" he asked, and when the reply was "Yes," I was waved along. The concern was where my evening destination was to be.

Driving for the next thousand or so feet, one is aware of eyes — eyes watching, watching from where? Are more soldiers behind the ancient stones, or under the tree on the left — in the tree? Where? How many rifles are aimed at me now? . . . The solitary Dublin-registered auto speeds ahead for Newry.

Newry strikes one immediately as a small Irish city. The streets are narrow and bendy, one could be driving through Waterford — then there is a speed bump. The automobile slows, eyes turn to the left. There, in its dark gunmetal facade, stands the Newry RUC station. Its command post peers down on the street through its filtered protective windows. The men inside move about, as if the cells of a maddening mind. The walls are high and appear as one. If there is weakness, it is from above — as was tested February last by the IRA. And from all this ugliness looms the Union Jack, waving aimlessly in the winds that hold the rains at bay.

Mounted corner television cameras turn on the watching vehicle. Time to move on — over the speed bump the auto proceeds. To the left are the blueish-gray armoured trucks of the RUC. Ten or twelve lined up in perfect discipline. One understanding Bobby Sands' poem "Chin Up" in a new dimension. The engine of the Japanese import hums, and Newry is left behind.

Towards Belfast we begin to pass the beautiful Irish countryside. The dreamy hills, valleys, green fields and ancient stones. The road curves, and the reality returns. There is now a roadside curb, as if a city — but there is no city, only paint of Red, White and Blue. Above these bright curbs are lampposts — each affixed with its own Union Jack. No, it is not American Red, White and Blue, but English. Soon this display ends, we drive beyond Banbridge, then Dromore and Hillsborough. Suddenly the map is confusing. Stay with A1 onto M1? A1 wins, and the town is Lisburn.

A bustling town, Lisburn is on this Monday morning. The sun tries to break, and it becomes clear, for the first time there is only one vehicle with Dublin registration. The yellow of the English plates bounce from the rear of each auto. The light changes, A1 vanishes. A sign for M1, the Dublin rental turns, and in the mirror appears a British Army armoured truck. The light is red. The truck ap-

proaches with heavy slowness. It pulls alongside, a soldier, perhaps sergeant, peers down at the Dublin auto. A look of hatred, then a sneer dances across his face. The light changes. The soldiers pull out, its back doors are open — a private aims his FN rifle at the Dublin auto. We separate, and route M1 is joined.

The highway is fast, and Belfast is at hand. Signs are followed for Falls Road, and we are there — there in what the British government designates as a "hot spot." The wind brings a chill through the autumn air. This, the host of past riots and demonstrations, is perhaps the very heart of the Irish resistance, known as the Republican movement. And its spiritual center, since 1981, lies in the Milltown cemetery.

The grass is overgrown, as all Irish cemeteries. Celtic crosses stand in abundance. A drive, a turn and the Old Republican monument is seen. Seen are the names of Irish soldiers killed in their fight against English occupation — dating from the 1600's to Michael Divine, Hunger-Striker 1981. A short walk reveals the recent Republican Plot. Here lie volunteers like James Mulvenna 1978 and Bobby Sands 1981. Their graves are simple, quiet. They overlook a valley maimed with barbed wire — the sky cracks, a British Army helicopter roars terribly overhead. Moments, and it is gone, silence returns. . . . There is room yet, in this Republican grave site . . .

A right turn from the cemetery delivers one onto the Falls. Immediately the eyes go to the wall murals with their glorious colors. "FOR A NEW IRELAND, VOTE SINN FEIN" proclaims a blonde woman on a building. Another states women's solidarity, portraying an Irish woman. "BRITS OUT, PEACE IN" the murals scream. The Divis Flats are to the right, the homes of the poor of the poor. Two soldiers in fatigues cross the street, eyes darting, fingers on triggers. Are they British or UDR? An elderly woman watches, clutching groceries. They are gone. A turn, another, and there is a RUC station. It seems more menacing than its Newry partner, if such a thing is possible. The television cameras record, always record. The walls are higher. A lifting door is by the street. No vehicles can be left out by the RUC — not here, not in the Falls. . . . Something of this station is medieval. Yes, regardless of all its modern technology and design, it is medieval, so, so medieval.

A short drive to turn about — there, there is a closed gate. A gate like all the gates that surround this Nationalist neighborhood. When the authorities desire, no doubt from their station, they can close all gates, shutting down all vehicle traffic. In effect closing down the Nationalist neighborhood, imprisoning it within itself. A Loyalist neighborhood can be seen. Looks the same, but no police, no soldiers . . . no soldiers at all.

A disturbance, Falls Road, by a variety store close to the Royal Victoria Hospital, there is a disturbance. We turn. Two British Army armoured trucks, and an armoured RUC vehicle are by the store. The Army trucks are topped with two soldiers each — aiming their FN automatic rifles at the people — directly at the people. Fingers pressing their triggers. One, a young lad, has difficulty with his plastic face guard. He adjusts it and adjusts. An RUC man, flak jacket and helmet, runs along the sidewalk, submachine gun in hand. He turns, heads for his truck. People step back as the gun points to each. Playing children stop — hatred fills their eyes. He climbs back up. Dismounted soldiers follow, each heavily armed, pile into their armoured trucks. Today there is no arrest. The soldiers atop continue their aiming. Looking about, eyes always moving. The trucks pull, commanding the road. The young soldier adjusts his face guard again, again. A turn, the trucks vanish into the RUC station, or fortress if you like.

A turn onto Whiterock, then another to Ballymurphy. Here, in these flats, in this neighborhood waves the flag of Ireland. Each lamp-post displays the tri-color. Perhaps in answer to the earlier posts with Union Jacks. And watching over this neighborhood, over its church is perhaps the largest wall mural in Belfast. Soldiers, not English, but IRA with the words "OUR DAY WILL COME."

The day will come, that is inevitable. Will it come through the gun of the IRA and ballots of Sinn Fein? But the day must come — for how can people, in this our modern age, be expected to live in such a blatantly oppressive state? A police state that must equal or surpass any that the terrors of history ever contrived.

This, the physical state of Northern Ireland, Monday September 30th, 1985.

ACTION LETTER

by Albert Doyle

"NO IRISH NEED APPLY." So read the familiar sign in Britain and the 19th century nativist U.S. Today most American Irish, contented and unaware, believe that the bad old days are gone forever, that they have "made it" in the great American melting-pot. There is no doubt that the most blatant forms of anti-Irish prejudice have subsided. However, we have recently become aware of an astounding matter which reminds us that anti-Irishism still exists, particularly in those circles which pride themselves on their sophistication. In connection with the Statue of Liberty — Ellis Island celebrations this July 4th our government will honor certain high-achieving immigrants to this country. Twelve people have been named by the selection committee. Despite the fact that people of Irish heritage are one of the three largest immigrant groups in this country (with the German and British); despite their having proved their loyalty to this country in all of our wars; despite their success and high achievements — **NO IRISH PERSON IS INCLUDED IN THE LIST** (nor any recognized German, Italian, or Hispanic, among others.) We have no desire to denigrate the persons selected, except to say that the list is most imbalanced. We think we deserve to be represented. This month's letter is a reminder to the President that we are still alive — and aware. Please write and ask your family, friends and organizations to do so. **DO IT NOW!**

For your convenience we provide the letter below. Please write the letter in your own words using our letter as a guide. If this is not possible, simply rewrite our letter as is on your own stationery.

Your address and date

Hon. Ronald Reagan
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
Dear Mr. President:

I have just been made aware by the American Irish Political Education Committee that no Irish person is included in the list of twelve immigrants to be honored with the Medal of Liberty at the forthcoming Statue of Liberty Centennial celebration. The list itself is most imbalanced and in no way representative of the immigrant populations of this country. In view of the great contributions of the Irish to the building and defense of this country, I urge you to correct this glaring omission by adding to the list. The Irish are not the only ones slighted. The list should be expanded so that the principal immigrant people are all represented.

Very truly yours,

6

AID PACKAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

AOH. We made the following points: we favored aid which benefited the victims of injustice in Northern Ireland; that advance commitment to such use of the funds was essential; that the package should not be bait for the adoption of the U.S.-U.K. extradition treaty changes, as suggested by Senator Lugar; that the Conference created by the Anglo-Irish Agreement should not be the vehicle for the aid; that the aid should not be used to fund the Conference or "security" objectives; and that the British and Irish governments should be asked to produce specific plans in advance to demonstrate how the money would be used to improve the lot of the victims of injustice in the North.

At this writing we are pleased to report that our views were heard and the House bill was amended to impose at least some conditions on the aid — largely through the efforts of Congressmen Mario Biaggi and Ben Gilman. This was accomplished despite the personal (and highly unusual) intervention of Speaker "Tip" O'Neill and Majority Whip Thomas Foley in opposition to the imposition of any condition, as well as the testimony of administration witnesses to the same end. Interestingly, after arguing against any conditions (in effect, in support of the Administration bill — except that he would have increased the cash amounts from \$20 million to \$50 million), the Speaker and Irish government are now claiming credit for the House-passed bill — with its conditions! Make no mistake the conditions in the House bill would never have been included but for the efforts of Congressmen Biaggi and Gilman. We believe that our efforts were at least in part responsible for the minimal conditions thus far attached to the package. Those conditions included a requirement that the funds be used in a non-discriminatory fashion, that a U.S. representative should be on the body dispensing the funds, that the funds be used only for economic and social purposes (i.e. not "security"), and that the President report yearly on the progress achieved. An attempt was made to rush a similar proposal through the Senate in time for St. Patrick's Day. It was reported that Garret Fitzgerald was here to pick up his check. However, the Senate refused to be stampeded. The Senate Bill will be reviewed in detail before a vote. An attempt will be made in the Senate to return to the inadequate Administration proposal and possibly to tie the aid package to approval of the pending U.S.-U.K. Extradition Treaty. The PEC will be working to strengthen the conditions in the House bill. The PEC had presented its views on conditions to all 100 U.S. Senators. As we go to press we are hopeful that the reasonable conditions we suggested will be in the package. One great message to all of you is this: we can have an impact. They know that we are watching.

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