

# Would Direct London Rule Please Catholics?

By LAURENCE MULLIN

New York — (RNS) — An American Jesuit priest, recently returned from an investigative visit to Northern Ireland, said here that a majority of Ulster's Roman Catholics, convinced that the provincial government simply cannot reform itself, would warmly welcome direct rule from London.

Father Daniel Lyons, S.J., editor at large of *Twin Circle*, a national Catholic weekly, said that many Catholics felt that under direct British rule they would have a "fairer shake," that two of the most pressing obstacles to tranquility in Ulster — discrimination against Catholics in employment and gerrymandering of the Cath-

olic vote — would be effectively dealt with.

At present, Father Lyons said, two of Belfast's biggest industries clearly manifest discrimination in their hiring practices. There are "less than 400 Catholics" among a work force of 11,000 at the Harlam and Wolfe Shipyards, he said, and among the 5,000 employed at the Sirocco Engineering Works, "only 15" are Catholics.

Further, only "between 1 and 2 percent" of people hired for local and provincial government jobs are Catholics, he added.

The dividing of the voting districts throughout Northern Ireland so as to insure the domination of the ruling (Protestant) Unionist Party, the Jesuit priest said, can be exemplified by Newry (scene of a Catholic civil rights march

on Feb. 8). There, he said, in a town that is 90 per cent Catholic, Catholics have never won a local election, for the simple reason that under the gerrymandered set up, a Catholic election victory is "impossible" no matter what.

Basis for Catholic confidence that direct rule from London could remedy the situation, said Father Lyons, is the feeling, "based on experience," that Irish Catholics who work in England are "fairly treated." They also agree, he said, that the London-appointed housing commission in Londonderry "has been very fair."

Thoroughly convinced that the government of Prime Minister Brian Faulkner "cannot reform itself," Catholics have found some encouragement in the fact that two prestigious British newspapers, the *Spectator* and the *Catholic Tablet*,

have called for the dissolution of the Stormont government, Father Lyons said.

The internment-without-trial of Catholics "suspected" of Irish Republican Army (IRA) connection continues to be a major irritant in Ulster, according to the Jesuit editor. He said he had interviewed about 100 relatives of men currently interned and learned that "the standard policy" of "ill-treatment" or "torture" was still being applied during the first 48 hours of detention, in what he believed to be a practice designed to extract information.

Father Lyons told RNS that among the 750 now being held in internment camps in Northern Ireland there are some 50 women.

On the question of IRA violence, the Jesuit said that "only by bold, imaginative re-

forms" that will make the Catholic minority feel they are no longer second-class citizens can the violence be ended. The IRA cannot operate without the support of the Catholic population, he said, and if Catholics were given some realistic hope for amelioration of their situation, the IRA would lose their support and cease to have any effectiveness.

Father Lyons is convinced that, neither IRA violence, which, he said, is often mindless and indiscriminating, nor repressive British Army methods can be effective in bringing peace to the strife-torn province.

"Terrorist war" must give way to "a well-organized propaganda assault" which, he feels, will be far more effective in bringing domestic tranquility to Ulster, than all the bombing, sniping, and internment-without-trial in the world.

## CRS Sends More Help to Bangladesh

New York (RNS) — Materials for new housing, food and other relief supplies were airlifted from here to Dacca, Bangladesh, by Catholic Relief Services to aid thousands of refugees returning to their new country from India.

The \$96,000 relief cargo included 32 tons of aluminum roofing and nails, sufficient for 1,000 new houses, three tons of baby food and powdered milk, and more than a ton of medicines and a jeep ambulance.

The special flight marked the opening of the Lenten campaign in Catholic schools across the country that is providing financial support for the annual overseas aid appeal by U.S. Catholic bishops.

Besides the airlift, CRS headquarters here announced that it is shipping an additional 70 tons of iron sheeting material from Singapore to Bangladesh for the construction of 2,000 more houses.

To date, CRS has provided more than 85,000 tons of emergency supplies, valued at more than \$14 million, for aid to refugees on the Asian subcontinent, including several millions who fled the former East Pakistan area into India.

Since the nation of Bangladesh was formed in December, CRS has sent \$200,000 in cash to Dacca for the purchase locally of relief supplies and shipped 8,000 tons of food, clothing and medicines to that region. It collaborated with Church World Services, U.S. Protestant relief agency, on a shipment of 37 tons of emergency supplies in January.

## ZPG Almost Here

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The new Census Bureau study shows that the nation is fast approaching "zero population growth" among women 18-24 years old.

Between 1967 and 1971, the average number of children expected by wives 18 to 24 dropped from 2.9 to 2.4—the sharpest drop since 1955 when birth expectation statistics were first published. The fertility rate for all women in this age group, married and single, is estimated at 2.2 children.

This figure is short of zero population growth — the rate needed simply to replace deaths is 2.1 children—but the drop in birth rate is considered striking by the Census Bureau.

One implication of the new findings is that if the rate of 2.4 children per wife continues, the total population in the U.S. in the year 2000 will be about 280 million compared to the present population of 208 million.

If the 2.9 rate had continued, the population in the year 2000 could have been 305 million. These figures do not take immigration into account.

The census report also showed a dramatic increase in the number of young wives who wanted two children or fewer. In 1967, only 44 per cent wanted families of such size. In 1971, the figure leaped to 64 per cent.

Two main reasons were given by the report for the sharp and rapid drop in birth expectations among younger wives. The average age of marriage among women rose from 20.3

to 20.9 years between 1960 and 1971. At the same time the proportion of women who are single at ages 20 to 24 jumped from 28 to 37 per cent.

The census report was based on interviews with 15,000 wives, 18 to 39 years old, from 50,000 households last June. The report is based on a combination of figures — those for children already born and those for total expected family size by wives in the survey.

Among all wives between ages 18 to 39, the average expectation figure in 1971 was 2.8 children, compared with 3.1 in 1967.

Demographic experts also cite as reasons for the declining birth rate the rapid increase in the number of working women, the women's liberation movement and the "marriage squeeze" — a short-term current phenomenon occurring as young women born during the post-war baby boom reach marriageable age and find a shortage of older men, born during the low birth depression and war years.

Concern with population control is also said to be a factor, and becomes increasingly possible because of improved contraception and recent liberalization of abortion laws.

## Got Some News?

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## Chiang To Step Down?

Chiang Kai-shek, president of Nationalist China, has called upon Taiwan's National Assembly to elect a new leader. The 84-year-old Chiang said: "Although I am more than willing to continue serving the country, I have been in office a long time." Some doubt that he will leave office. A spokesman for the Nationalist Party said the president's offer was "customary, it has no implications whatever." The National Assembly, which meets every six years, is meeting to elect officers and consider constitutional issues. In his speech to the delegates, Chiang warned against appeasement of Red China, saying, "Any appeasing actions by foreign countries in order to seek a balance of power with such an evil entity cannot possibly serve the cause of world peace." Picture above was taken on his 83rd birthday, Oct. 30, 1970. (RNS Photo.)

## Hits Fleischmann Report

New York — (RNS) — The national director of the Hebrew Day School movement charged that the Fleischmann Commission report opposing state aid to non-public schools in New York State was not a serious study of the issues involved, but only an "epitaph" on the decline of religion-oriented schools.

"The commission's prevailing interest was only to announce our decline, our death

and to position itself as our ever-ready pall bearers," declared Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky, national director of Torah Nmesorah, National Society for Hebrew Day Schools.

"Nowhere do we find in the commission's conclusions a soft and realistic word as to the quality of education we offer," he said. "All we find is a dirge and a mournful tune but no note of praise or realistic tone of our contribution."

## Looking Up

