

Both Sides Split in Ulster

IRA Rejects Truce

Belfast — The Irish Republican Army used a renewed campaign of violence to stress its rejection of any truce in Northern Ireland despite a growing desire for peace among Ulster Catholics.

Last Friday a bomb killed three men in suburban Belfast and a sniper killed a British soldier in the Ballymerry section of the city.

The killings came even though William Whitelaw, the British secretary of state for Northern Ireland, announced the release of 73 IRA suspects in a move to ease tension.

The violence emphasized a split within Catholic ranks and even within the IRA. A leader of the principal political voice of Ulster Catholics welcomed the freeing of the prisoners as "an important step in the right direction." In Dublin, however, a Sinn Fein leader, called it a "carefully calculated political move."

Then on Sunday, despite a call for peace by 30 Catholic priests in Northern Ireland, a pregnant mother of three was tarred and feathered as her children looked on.

All this happened after a brief interlude of fretful peace marked by dissension among rival groups of Catholic women.

Following a peaceful march in Armagh on April 3, Miss Mairin de Burca, a local spokesman for Sinn Fein, the political arm of the official IRA, said, "We must feel some shame for the deliberate campaign of bombings against civilian targets." She condemned violence on humanitarian grounds and because it must "lead inevitably to sectarian civil war."

Her rejection of violence was supported by a statement from the official IRA military wing that called for social agitation, but insisting, "We have rejected the concept of victory through terror."

Seamas Traynor, a local Republican leader, said that the British initiative of imposing direct rule of Northern Ireland from London had altered the situation and that, "providing the British Army leaves our people alone, we will give the initiative one year to work."

Meanwhile, in the Roman Catholic Andersonstown area of Belfast — where the militant IRA "provisionals" are in complete control — some 100 women held a demonstration against the IRA's refusal to call off its terrorist campaign. It was broken up by IRA supporters.

3 Vie to Lead Protestants

Belfast, Northern Ireland — (RNS) — Three Protestant leaders in Northern Ireland appear to be involved in a struggle for control of the province's Protestant majority.

Former Prime Minister Brian Faulkner, William Craig, leader of the militant Protestant Ulster Vanguard Movement, and the Rev. Ian Paisley, seem to be jockeying for position as spokesman for Ulster's 1,012,000 Protestants, in the wake of the British takeover of the Protestant-dominated provincial government.

When Britain announced the appointment of William Whitelaw, leader of the House of Commons, to serve as secretary of state for Ulster, with a commission of Protestants and Catholics to advise him, Faulkner denounced the commission as a rubber-stamp body, and the British move as a "totally undemocratic sham."

On March 28, Faulkner made a surprise appearance before a crowd of 50,000 at a Vanguard Movement rally outside the Parliament building at Stormont, Belfast. He shook hands with Craig, his long-time political enemy, whose Vanguard Movement he had earlier labeled a "comic opera," and assured the crowd that Ulster would never surrender.

Faulkner also told the cheering crowd: "We will refuse to cooperate with any undemocratic commission. We are elected representatives of the people of Northern Ireland."

Two days later, however, apparently under pressure from other leading members of his own Unionist Party, Faulkner changed his tune, pledging to make a "constructive contribution" to Whitelaw. "We will cooperate with... all proposals to meet the needs of the people," he said. "We shall not be truculent or unreasonable."

Meanwhile, Mr. Paisley, once a symbol of Ulster Protestant extremism, has emerged in recent weeks as a voice of political moderation.

The 46-year-old member of the British Parliament and moderator of the Free Presbyterian Church of Northern Ireland, has condemned the policies of Craig and his Ulster Vanguard Movement.

Mr. Paisley also opposed the recent two-day general strike called by Vanguard that crippled Northern Ireland and has called for the integration of Ulster into the United Kingdom, a move which Mr. Craig and his group strongly oppose.

Catholic Journals Pleased By British 'Occupation'

London — (RNS) — Leading British Catholic newspapers have welcomed the British government's decision to impose direct rule from here over strife-torn Northern Ireland but warned of the potentialities of violence, if not civil war.

Direct rule became a fact March 30 when a special government bill was passed into law after a speedy passage through both Houses of Parliament and an overwhelming vote in favor. Under the law all responsibility and power is placed in the hands of a secretary of state, or minister, who has already been named — William Whitelaw, until now leader of the House of Commons and a close friend of Conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath. The Parliament at Belfast's Stormont is suspended for at least a year, and Whitelaw will be answerable direct to Parliament.

The mass-circulating Universe, a Roman Catholic newspaper which has the largest circulation of any religious journal in Britain, declared in a long front-page editorial: "Whither Northern Ireland now? Who can say? None but a prophet and they are hard to find. But what we know is this: In the Westminster package lies the last side-turning on the road to civil war. Immediately beyond is the point of no return."

"These are drastic concessions and measure the extremity in which Westminster finds itself. Both are offered in the knowledge that the price to be

paid is the alienation of the (Protestant) Unionists, or at least the hard core of them.

"But the 'surrender' is not so subject as these would have us believe. Within the package lies the implied guarantee that Northern Ireland's constitutional status will not change without the agreement of the majority of the population. As this has always been the biggest plank in the Unionist platform the guarantee should sufficiently console them for the bitter blow administered to their pride.

"Mr Whitelaw has said he will make himself responsible for the internees released; he should know that he will carry even heavier responsibility for those he still keeps behind the wires. A complete end to internment — and bringing the real criminals to trial — would bring an entirely new atmosphere to the situation.

"Any action taken now is a gamble. As the stakes are peace or war, any gamble that can reduce the risk of war and dispose of the extremists and the embittered minority towards peace is worth taking. Open wide the gates of the internment camps, Mr. Whitelaw, and you may be opening the road to peace."

The respected weekly Catholic review, The Tablet, also in a front-page editorial said the facts of the situation in Northern Ireland — the IRA gunmen ranged against the Stormont command — had become patent "and Britain has acted on them with admirable resolution."

It added that the present arrangement of direct rule "gives an opportunity for passions to cool and for the general situation to calm down. The Catholics will do well to help in every way towards a new deal and to seek peaceful reconciliation. Protestants who genuinely believe in the link with Britain cannot logically oppose direct rule from London.

"As we write the extent of Mr. (William) Craig's belligerence and disruptive power (as leader of the militant loyalist 70,000 Protestant Vanguard movement) cannot be estimated."

The Tablet concluded: "Stormont is now suspended for a year. In that period can come the making or breaking of a people. At every level political skill, courage and human understanding will be needed in abundance. There must be an end, as Cardinal Conway has pleaded, to sectarian feelings. Catholics and Protestants, whether engaged directly in politics or not, must come to realize that an old and ugly era is passing away. They must disavow the violent elements in their midst. The responsibility for this is ultimately with the ordinary people. It is up to them to build the future anew and together. A United Ireland will surely come in the long run but only when the contending parties have learnt to trust and respect each other. They still have a lot to learn and a long way to go."

Boys Town

Richest in U.S.A.?

By THOMAS F. DOYLE
Religious News Service

Omaha, Neb. — (RNS) — Boys Town, famed center for homeless boys 10 miles west of here, reportedly has piled up so much wealth since its founding 55 years ago that it may now be the richest town in the United States.

At the same time, the Roman Catholic tax-exempt institution's population of boys — around 750 at the end of 1971 — has been gradually declining, and it is being reluctantly forced in a changing society to accept delinquent and disturbed boys it wouldn't have admitted a few years ago. A survey is now being made to re-evaluate the institution's future function and direction.

These disclosures were made in a copyrighted special report in the Sun Newspapers of Omaha which said that Boys Town — founded in 1917 by the late Irish-born Father Edward J. Flanagan and incorporated as a municipality in 1936 — has a current debt-free wealth of at least \$209 million (in stocks, bonds, notes and other assets), and "a money machine bringing in \$25 million a year... more than five times as much as it spends to take good care of its boys."

However, despite its accumulated wealth, the Sun declared after a long and intensive investigation, Boys Town is still "sending out poverty-pitched fundraising letters at the rate of 34 million a year." And it added: "Though millions of Americans have sent in checks and cash — most of it in gifts of nearly widow's mite proportions — Boys Town has never felt it necessary to tell them where the money is going."

Boys Town raised \$17 million in donations in 1970 and investment income totaled over \$8 million, the paper said, adding that meanwhile it had continued to sink "deeper into secrecy" concerning its finances and "indeed has flatly refused questions about finances from donors and newsmen."

The Sun article brought replies from Archbishop Daniel E. Sheehan and Msgr. Nicholas H. Wegner, the head administrator. Both insisted there were valid reasons — among them inflation and uncertainty about the future — why the institution should build up its investment to meet expanding needs.

Archbishop Sheehan said "this institution has been supported by voluntary contributions since its inception," and the endowment fund was intended "to ensure that the home would maintain its reputation of excellence."

The endowment fund," he added, "has grown as a result of the careful husbanding of money. What we have to do now is to decide what future needs will be and how we should meet them."

Msgr. Wegner voiced concern that public knowledge of Boys Town finances would cause people to stop sending in money. According to the Sun report, this view was shared by most of those closely associated with Boys Town. It quoted one "insider" as theorizing that the visitor traffic hurt the institution because "when people see how well off we are, they quit sending money."

The Sun said Boys Town today

finds itself "wedded to an almost frighteningly successful money-raising program without a plan for spending the money."

That, it noted, was one reason why the 17-man board of directors of the non-profit Boys Home Corporation had decided for the first time on March 8 to instruct the administration of Boys Town to seek professional counsel "to survey the total institution and to make recommendations as to the future of Boys Town." A special committee was promptly appointed to advise Msgr. Wegner in his search for professional consultants.

In an old, five-story building in downtown Omaha owned by Boys Town, rows of women have worked sending out Christmas and Easter fund appeals. But, in the future, Archbishop Sheehan told Religious News Service, the Easter appeal will be discontinued. Total postage paid at the Boys Town Post Office in 1971 fiscal year was \$1,364,435, records showed.

Boys Town began in December 1917 when Father Flanagan borrowed \$90 to pay the first month's rent for a two-story brick house in Omaha to house the institution's first five boys. The priest, a native of Roscommon, Ireland, was an assistant at St. Patrick's parish in O'Neill, a northern town which was recently proclaimed by Gov. James J. Exon as "the Irish capital of Nebraska."

The priest was on thin financial ice during his 30 years at Boys Town. He died in 1948, when money had begun to pour in and he had moved his boys to what is now the 1,400-acre site of one of Omaha's major tourist attractions.

Financial statistics, according to The Sun, reveal that Boys Town's wealth — it also includes properties in Omaha, Iowa and Wyoming — makes it "far and away richer than any Nebraska industrial firm," and its net worth would rank about 230th in Fortune Magazine's 1970 listing of the "Top 500 Industrials."

In his comment on The Sun report, Archbishop Sheehan said the newspaper emphasized the financial picture and "a lot of people may feel that there are more acute needs elsewhere." He said "we are not sure what the cost will be of operating an institutional type of home in the future."

"However, Boys Town will remain a national institution with resources that might not be available to foster homes or even to community institutions. Across the country, you can see the closing of things like orphanages. You don't see the type of institutional care found at Boys Town."

Observing that Boys Town is getting more boys with problems, Msgr. Wegner said this was in sharp contrast to conditions under Father Flanagan, whose wayward orphans needed only "discipline, traditional schooling, hard work and moral inspiration."

Msgr. Wegner criticized social welfare experts who want "to get rid of the institutions." He blamed the new type of troubled boy on what appears on television and movies and in newspapers. He cited also "those downtown shabby book stores, where boys can pick up any kind of book that's against organized society."