

BOB CONSIDINE

On the Line



Ireland's Prime Minister Jack Lynch had an uncommonly hairy time during his short trip to the U.S., where live about 25,000,000 of Irish extraction — ten times the population of the dear Old Sod. The tiny American splinter of the IRA egged him at a New York TV-network building, and booted him when he appeared at Columbia Pictures headquarters to show a fine film about his nation's industrial progress.

Police and Secret Service agents were never very far from his side, even when he went to the White House, or for a steam at the New York Athletic Club, or, on his final day, a luncheon for travel writers at one of the private dining rooms of the Plaza.

The boisterous little band of US-IRA, several of whose members were arrested during a Fifth Avenue demonstration, had at Mr. Lynch for trying to make peace in Ulster: for sitting down and talking with the British on ways and means of ending a bloody civil rights and religious war that has turned Belfast, Londerry and other fine old cities in Northern Ireland into cruelly treacherous battlegrounds.

Apparently, the American IRA doesn't mind his sitting down, so long as he doesn't sit down with Britons who just happen to be her Majesty's proconsuls in Ulster.

The young and athletic Taoiseach (Prime Minister in Gaelic) had a so-so visit with Mr. Nixon, who makes periodic trips to Ireland in search of an Irish ancestor or relative. They discussed that little matter of landing rights in Dublin for U.S. commercial planes that have routes across the North Atlantic. Ever since that traffic started, suc-

cessive Irish governments have ruled that American flights must put down at Shannon, and if a passenger wants to go on to Dublin he must transfer to Aer Lingus.

By contrast, we permit Irish International Airlines jets to fly into New York, Boston and Chicago. Our civil aviation board threatened in 1971 to erase the profitable New York market, in retaliation for the Irish stand about landing rights at Dublin. The matter hemmed, hawed, and almost came up for decision just before the last election. The President, who has the last word in such matters, decided it wouldn't be particularly politic to throw Irish International out of John F. Kennedy Airport on the eve of the balloting.

The matter is still pending, but Mr. Lynch came away from his White House conference with the flickering vision of a light at the end of the tunnel. The President told him that he had ordered a special study made of the dilemma and had appointed a White House associate to look into the case. The White House associate's name is Peter Flanigan.

"There are two main reasons why we want American tourists to debark at Shannon," Mr. Lynch told the travel writers. "First, our West must be developed. It is the most beautiful part of Ireland, as you know, and we want people to see it, enjoy it, bring tourism and trade there. Second, we must spread our population if we are to go forward. Twenty per cent of the entire population is now concentrated in Dublin. That's simply against our economic policy."

He did not discuss with Mr. Nixon the sometimes touchy

question of why the U.S., once the "Golden Door" for Irish immigrants, has clamped down with a rigid quota.

"No need to debate that," he said with a smile. "It's time our people stayed at home. We need them more than any other nation does."

As a Catholic, I winced at the prayers of that Brooklyn congregation for the return of several hundred thousand dollars worth of jewels stolen from their altar's holy images.

They should pray for peace, not carats. Jesus never could afford even a dog.

Aid Group Proposed

The Bishop Kearney High School Political Action Committee is organizing a Monroe County group for protection of Catholic parents' rights in education.

The group's objectives will be twofold: First, to provide the five Monroe County regions of the diocese with an action organization to secure public financial aid to non-public education, and second to provide channels of communication to educate all Catholic parents about the problem of getting aid.

A three part structure is planned. There will be a regional organization of parents, a board of directors, and three standing committees. These committees will be concerned with research, legislation, and publicity.

Mass League Drops Dues

New changes in the Mass League which will return it to its original no-dues policy have been announced. Founded 30 years ago, it was originally known as the Daily Mass League but about two years ago the present name was adopted and the original policy of no dues and no meetings was abandoned.

8:30 a.m. Sundays and will continue to cosponsor First Friday luncheons at the Top of the Plaza. It also sponsors Wednesday night Pentecostal prayer meetings and Masses at St. Peter and Paul Church on West Main Street.

NEW ARP CHAPTER

A new local chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons will serve the areas west and south of Rochester. An organizational meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 24, 1:30 p.m. at the Community Christian Church, 2647 Chili Ave. Anyone age 55 or older is welcome. For further information call Rev. Sherman Skinner, 889-9896.

DEADLINE

The Courier-Journal welcomes news of your club or organization. A deadline of Thursday noon preceding publication must be observed.

The league has amassed 40,000 names and addresses from around the world but over the years the list has become obsolete, according to Angelo L. DiNieri, president. Two years ago the league concentrated its operation locally and each of the 6,000 diocesan members was asked for \$2 a year dues.

DiNieri said in a recent letter to members, erasing the dues. "I sincerely believe the Holy Spirit was telling us to quit trying to run the league as a business and get down to serving the Lord. That is what we are now doing."

The league will continue to cosponsor the Mass for Shut-Ins over television Channel 10 at

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