

THE CHURCH 1974

Father Andrew Greeley

All you liberal so-and-sos had better lay off the Republic of Ireland. I mean especially you characters who write for The Christian Century and Christianity and Crisis and who claim to give the inside story about what's going on in Ulster.

According to these guys, Ulster is mostly the fault of the Republic, which is a narrow, conservative, priest-ridden country. If only the Republic would mend its ways and become like the liberal Protestants who read the above mentioned worthy journals, the Ulster majority wouldn't be afraid any more and there could be peace. One reporter even says that the blood of the innocents killed in Ulster is on the hands of the Catholic hierarchy in the Republic.

Would you believe it?

In fact, the Catholic hierarchy could become Anabaptists and the Irish parliament (the Dail, to use the right name) could proclaim Elizabeth II Pope, and the Ulster majority wouldn't change one bit.

They ran one of the nastiest colonial regimes in the world for a couple of centuries, and they are not about to concede basic political and human rights to Catholics no matter what happens.

I am baffled by the liberals. We can't deal with South Africa; we shed no tears for the French colonials who get thrown out of North Africa or the Portuguese colonials who will get tossed out of Angola or the Dutch who got heaved out of Java. Terrorists are heroes in Africa, Latin America, Vietnam. Revolutionary regimes get church money all over the world. Liberation is the order of the day.

But not in Ireland. Irish terrorists are not heroes but senseless killers. Protestant colonials suddenly become people whose problems must be understood sympathetically. Those who support or even fail to denounce strongly the Irish revolutionaries are guilty for innocent blood shed. And liberation is far less important than peace and reconciliation once you cross the border from Donegal.

Well, I don't like terrorists of any sort, and I feel sorry for any trapped colonial group. I am profoundly skeptical of the revolutionary ideologues, and I think reconciliation is the only politically sensible procedure. But those who want to apply such humane and intelligent principles only in Ireland are phonies.

If, the former Catholic priest Camillo Torres is a great liberal hero for dying a terrorist death, then the same thing should be said for the soft-spoken, peaked-cap Catholic layman who goes to communion every morning and kills every evening. Personally, I don't think either kind of killer is a hero, but I wonder why some people canonize the Latin and denounce the IRA man.

And they lie about the Republic of Ireland. Ireland is a new nation, born (again, if you like) just a half century ago. Within a decade of its bloody revolution and civil war it developed a stable, two-party democracy with peaceful changes of power. It has complete religious freedom and a Protestant president.

It has recently achieved a remarkable level of economic growth, becoming the first new nation of the twentieth century to solve its economic problems. More than that its remarkably intelligent and adroit government is pouring a substantial chunk of its income into a foreign aid program to help other new

nations. It has participated responsibly in UN actions all over the world. (Irish troops in Israel.) It plans to stay in Europe even if England leaves the Common Market.

The overwhelming majority of its people vigorously reject violence in the north — as do most of the northern Catholics. The government of the Republic has leaned over backward in the negotiations with England. It has even conceded the right of the Ulster Protestants to stay out of a United Ireland as long as they want — something that no other new nation has ever yielded to colonials.

Ireland's hierarchy is a mixed group, but I doubt that many Catholic hierarchies have men as intellectual as Dermot Ryan, the young archbishop of Dublin, or as socially concerned as Eamon Casey, the colorful bishop of Kerry.

Nor do the liberal writers tell us that when Billy Craig and Ian Paisley and their bully boys were destroying power-sharing in Ulster, the town council of Derry — overwhelmingly Catholic — kept its part of the power-sharing bargain and elected a militant Protestant loyalist Lord Mayor. Nor do they tell us that there is a cease fire in Derry brought about by the new Catholic Bishop, a man who not so long ago braved the fire of British paratroopers to minister to the dying.

Camillo Torres is a hero, in other words, but Bishop Daily is not. The peacemakers are not only not blessed if they are Irish Catholic bishops, they are ignored.

I don't know why the liberals hate the Irish so much. In the U.S. they have even begun to patronize Italian and Latino Catholics on the grounds that they are not Irish. We must be a terrible, terrible people to be hated the way we are.

Ah, but we are a dying race. There won't be any of us left in a few years.

Which is what the Danes thought before they met up with Brian Borou and the boys at a place called Clontarf.

And after that the Danes did the sensible thing and became Irish themselves.

OHD Lists Projects Funded Locally

Thanks to a total of \$4,000 in grants from the Campaign for Human Development, two self-help groups will be able to establish training programs for their members. The Elmira Welfare Rights and the United Church Ministry of Rochester are among the 20 programs that received local funding.

The diocese collected a total of \$108,300 for the 1973-74 campaign. With the theme, "Making us all less poor," the campaign combined the philosophies of human development and respect for life.

Each year one fourth of the total collection is retained for local self-help groups while the remainder is sent to national headquarters for distribution. Local funds that were available for allocation totaled \$32,542. National grants have not been announced.

The Elmira Welfare Rights organization received a grant of \$1,500, the Rev. George Kingsley announced. He is director of the Metro Interchurch Agency and a member of the Elmira task force responsible for evaluating proposals from the area.

Designed to use existing community resources, the welfare rights program will deal with the problem areas of inadequate employment and training vehicles and inaccessible products for low income groups. Mr. Kingsley explained that the funding will be used to establish classes in sewing and tailoring and furniture repair.

Directing the training program for members of the United Church Ministry of Rochester is Rev. Melvin Hoover, an episcopal clergyman with expertise in community development and human relations. The grant of \$2,500 was used for salaries and supplies.

The United Church Ministry is an organization of black churches whose aim is to "discover the extent of church influence in the community and to relate closely with the area problems and the ecumenical community," said Rev. Marvin Chandler, associate executive director of black ministries of the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries (GEM).

A provisional board is heading United Church Ministry and the

campaign grant will allow for its training in the areas of decision-making, policy development and community relations.

Other locally funded groups include:

*Rochester Action for Welfare Rights, \$3,750; offers leadership training.

*Wayland Mission Council (Perkinsville), \$200; provides counseling and room and board for the needy.

*Steuben County Cooperative Extension Association in Bath, \$1,250 to expand food and nutrition education.

*Corning Area Council on Alcoholism, \$800.

*Project Reach Youth Outreach of Cohocton, \$500.

*G.A.R.B. Center, Hornell, \$200; offers low cost clothing, small furniture and food during emergencies.

Additional grants were awarded to the Tioga Youth Home, \$500; Alternatives, Inc., \$500; Auburn Minority Coalition,

\$341; FISH in Auburn, \$500; Auburn Hospitality Association, \$500; Youth Opportunities of Canandaigua, \$529.

And, Turning Point Palmyra, \$500; Livingston County Bail Loan Fund, \$500; Ridge Parent-Child Day Care Center, Sodus, \$1,500; Legal Aid Society of Lyons, \$6,000; Come-unity Center, Williamson, \$3,000, and Serenity Farms, \$500.

A series of regional meetings this month for task force members will plan campaign procedures for this year. The 1974-75 campaign will focus on "People Helping People, People Helping Themselves."

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