

'Irish Question' Group Draws 200

The Irish National Caucus "is determined to make human rights for Ireland an American issue, legally and morally," the organization's literature proclaims.

"We are walking the halls of Congress day in and day out," the national director of the caucus told a local audience Saturday night. About 200 people filled a meeting room at the Unitarian Church on South Winton to hear Father Sean McManus detail the "gross violations of human rights, the psychological scarring of an entire population," which he attributed flatly to the British.

"They revived the IRA," he said. "It was dead; they revived it."

"And where was America?" Father McManus repeatedly asked as he sketched North Ireland's recent history of death and destruction. Father McManus was born and reared in North Ireland. His group in Washington consists of five people, including a representative of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

They are lobbying for the passage of a resolution in Congress that would call upon the British government "to embark upon a new initiative for Ireland that ends all violations of human rights and promotes self-determination."

They are trying also to organize local groups to increase the pressure for U.S. diplomatic intervention.

Nearly 100 representatives are listed as members of the Ad Hoc Congressional Committee for Irish Affairs and nearly 50 others are named as co-sponsors of the resolution.

Father McManus was invited to Rochester by a group formed last month under the name The Irish Question. Jean M. Arena and Thomas McGuigan chair the steering committee.

The gist of Father McManus's remarks about the Ulster situation is contained in a statement from three prison chaplains that says 5,000 men and women have been imprisoned in the past seven years in the North of Ireland, all of them from poor areas where unemployment ranges from 25 to 30 percent.

"Many of them are the third and fourth generation of unemployment," the chaplains' statement says. "Unemployment contrived by sectarian British Governments and bigoted Northern Ireland Governments."

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Nestle Gives Nod To Ban

Geneva, Switzerland — The Nestle company, the subject of a national boycott in the United States, is one of 12 baby food industries that have agreed to a proposed ban on marketing techniques that discourage breast-feeding.

The ban was accepted by nutritionists, doctors, consumer groups, activist groups and industry spokesmen meeting here at a four-day conference sponsored by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund.

Participants in the conference agreed that "The marketing of breast milk substitutes and weaning foods should be designed not to discourage breast-feeding."

"This is an extraordinary concession for an industry like ours," said Ian Barter, chairman of the British company Cow and Gate Ltd., speaking on behalf of the International Council of Infant Food Industries. The council is made up of 12 companies, including Nestle. According to Barter, they

account for 85 per cent of all baby food sales in third world countries.

The U.N. Assembly will decide at its next meeting in May whether to promulgate the recommendations through ratification at an international convention, or suggest the recommendations to governments as a model for their own national codes on the issue.

Meanwhile, in the United States, the boycott of Nestle products will continue. The agency which is promoting the boycott, Infact, a consortium of church and consumer activists, will confer with Nestle to see how the recommendations will be carried out.

According to Gordon Pedersen, a spokesman at Infact headquarters in Minneapolis, the organization will wait for some form of international monitoring of infant formula advertising in the third world before considering a halt to the boycott.

ACLU Fights Ceremony

Philadelphia (RNS) — The American Civil Liberties Union, which has challenged the city's use of public funds to build a platform for Pope John Paul's Mass here, is now trying to stop the city from lighting a Hanukkah menorah.

brighter than ever " said Seldon Alberts, city solicitor.


ACLU and the city are involved in a dispute over funds used to build a platform where the pope celebrated Mass here before more than a million people. A federal court will hear the arguments.

"The ceremony was magnificent. But the platform was clearly used for religious purposes. That is what we are objecting to," said Hilda Silverman, ACLU executive director.

The city has traditionally lighted the menorah in Independence National Historic Park and a city official said the practice will continue. "In fact, it will be bigger and

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