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3/10/96
 1. Mr Duffy
 2. FTZ file
 PL

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 Pages including this cover page: 10

Comments:

Joan
 Please copy to Will
 Have it copy Gamble.
 Regards, Donald.

Mr T ✓

Mr W... 2/19
 Mr...
 For file PL. (Some
 more on the Free Trade
 Zone...)
 M.
 1/10/96

Mr. Westmacott
Mr. McDonald
Ms McIver
Mr. Madden

Mr. Gibson, DED
Mr. Haire, DED
Mr. Gamble, DED

**MACBRIDE, NI/US FREE TRADE ZONE AND ALL THAT: THE
ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS. (AOH).**

1. Rita Mullen has supplied me with an AOH press release giving the Presidential candidates' responses of interest to Irish Americans. It is no surprise that inter alia MacBride features strongly. However, Bob Dole has also somehow been (sort of) sucked into the Free Trade Zone proposal. No doubt something will be made of these points in the Irish American press (see fairly cynical extracts attached) and they are likely to be picked up at home.

Dr. Nelsen's Conference in Alexandria, September 24th.

2. I copied to you the agenda for this conference as well as my regrets letter. The Irish Embassy were not represented. Rita Mullen went along and gave me an impression of the proceedings. About 20 people attended. /!✓

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most significant figure there was Congressman Jim Moran (D) Alexandria is in his District and, of course he takes an interest in Irish affairs. Others there belong in the do-gooder category of clergy and representatives of Project Children etc. From the description Rita gave I reckon that some of the Pathfinder Group were there as well. Rita said there were many more questions than answers and that the concept of stimulating freer transatlantic trade by making a start with bits of Ireland did not make sense.

Comment

3. It seems clear that the Free Trade Zone idea will run a bit further here with its erstwhile supporters having little thought or interest in the practicality of the idea so long as it serves for the election. John Mackey of Gilman's office will see to it that anything that moves, however daft, will have MacBride tacked on to it.

4. Sean McManus is bound to be pleased with both the responses on MacBride.



Donald J Alexander
30th September, 1996

The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America

Presidential Candidates Questionnaire Responses
September 24, 1996

(1) Peace and Justice in Ireland

The conflict in Ireland is now on the foreign policy agenda of this nation. If elected, what measures would you propose to facilitate continued American involvement in a peace process?

President Clinton response

President Clinton is the first American President to become actively engaged in supporting the search for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. He became the first American President to visit Northern Ireland in the pursuit of real, just, and lasting peace. His historic visit in November 1995 came after his leadership put Northern Ireland at the top of his foreign policy agenda. Even after the tragic breach of the cease-fire, the people's abiding commitment to peace is evident in the many demonstrations and vigils for peace throughout Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The Clinton Administration has remained in touch with all parties in Northern Ireland, including Sinn Fein, to restore the cease-fire and advance the peace process. President Clinton will continue to use America's influence and willingness to take risks for peace to encourage and support those who are seeking a just and lasting settlement.

Senator Dole response

Bob Dole believes unequivocally that the United States should continue to play a role in helping to bring an end to the decades of violence in Northern Ireland. The ties between America and the Irish people are deep and enduring. Moreover, the situation in Northern Ireland is a matter of continuing concern to millions of Americans of Irish heritage and to countless others who are committed to the peaceful resolution of this tragic conflict. The American people have a great stake in fostering efforts to achieve a lasting solution to the problems that have plagued Northern Ireland.

Bob Dole is pleased that the United States has finally become engaged in encouraging all parties who reject violence, to begin the process of negotiating a settlement to the situation in Northern Ireland. But starting this process is insufficient. As President, Bob Dole will apply his energies to reaching a just solution. We all know that when the stakes are highest, so too is the potential for violence. It is therefore critical for the United States to remain engaged, to do what it can to ensure success in an undertaking for which so many are asked to risk so much.

(2) Human and Civil Rights Building Blocks of Democracy

The U.S. has made respect for human and civil rights key elements of our relations with other nations. Britain's violations of these rights in the North of Ireland has been the subject of six major inquiries from the UN to Amnesty International. If elected, what would you do to monitor and curb these violations?

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will succeed. He did a very good job. He was very fair, and this legislation, I

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Clinton

America has been and will continue to be the world's leading champion of human and civil rights around the world. Our government pays careful attention to and monitors human rights practices around the world. With regard to Northern Ireland, the Administration follows closely the issue of human rights, and each year details its concerns in the annual human rights report issued by the State Department. In our view, the best way to ensure the human and civil rights of the people living in Northern Ireland is to achieve a just and lasting peace there. The Clinton Administration is strongly committed to assisting the achievement of such a peace.

Dole

When Bob Dole is President, human rights will be an integral part of a comprehensive US foreign policy. Bob Dole's record of experience and conviction in dedicated foreign policy leadership for this country confirms his belief that America enjoys a unique position of leadership in world affairs. In a Dole Administration, the United States will not hesitate to raise human rights issues in its bilateral relations with friend or foe, whenever appropriate.

(3) Fair Employment Guidelines

A contributing cause of the conflict in Ireland has been anti-Catholic discrimination in employment. The MacBride Fair Employment Principles have been accepted by major U.S. employers in the North as a helpful set of guidelines to ensure fairness of employment opportunity. Will you, if elected, advance the use of these principles as a means of addressing this grievance in the North and require their use as a condition to any U.S. financial aid?

Clinton

President Clinton is a strong supporter of the MacBride Principles. He has asked Brian Atwood, the Administrator of the Agency for International Development, and James Lynch, the U.S. Observer for the International Fund, to ensure that the Fund supports employment projects which are consistent with the principles of equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in employment, regardless of religious traditions. In addition, President Clinton has worked hard to create employment opportunities for all in Northern Ireland. The Clinton Administration is the first Administration to request funding for the International Fund for Ireland, and after the cease-fire, he increased the amount requested from Congress. The International Fund, to which the United States has contributed over \$250 million, has created 29,300 jobs in Northern Ireland, and the border counties of the Republic since its inception.

Dole

Bob Dole believes that broad-based economic opportunity is the cornerstone of any permanent peace in Northern Ireland. He supports encouraging private U.S. investment in the North, fully consistent with the MacBride principles for fair employment. Without reservation Bob Dole supported the first federal legislation to be approved in the United States Congress which would advance principles of fair employment in the North as a specific policy of the United States government.

legislation to establish a free trade area between the United States and Ireland, the border counties of the Republic, and the United States in America. If enacted, this legislation will dramatically expand employment opportunities in areas of high unemployment. Bob Dole's record demonstrates principled support for free trade as an engine of economic growth. It is ultimately economic prosperity and job creation which will serve as the greatest guarantors of lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

(4) Extradition/Deportation Cases

Today there are more than a dozen cases of Irish men and women being threatened with extradition/deportation from the U.S. for violating insignificant provisions of the rules of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The Justice Department's campaign to return these individuals to England is not justified, is tearing apart families, and leading them to financial ruin. Would you, if elected, create a special commission to examine these cases to determine if a grant of Executive Clemency or pardon would be appropriate?

Clinton

The Clinton Administration has followed closely the concerns regarding whether Irish nationals may have been unfairly singled out for deportation under our immigration laws. Because of these concerns, the President asked Attorney General Janet Reno to review the handling of these deportation cases. Following that review, she concluded that the cases have been handled appropriately and in accordance with established guidelines. The Clinton Administration will remain alert to these concerns.

Regarding deportation, the application of U.S. immigration law depends on the facts of each case. In some cases, equitable factors, such as the presence of an American child, may provide a basis for suspension of deportation or other relief. In other cases, however, the Executive branch may have little discretion in the application of the immigration law. Accordingly, these cases necessarily require fact-dependent inquiries on a case-by-case basis.

With regard to those people facing extradition, this is subject to judicial review. The final decision is with the Secretary of State who will, of course, consider all relevant information.

Dole

The United States government must enforce its immigration laws in a fair and reasonable manner. Under Bob Dole's leadership, the letter and the spirit of the law will be applied equally to all who seek to immigrate to the United States. In order to correct current abuses, a Dole Administration will take the initiative of directing the independent Inspectors General of the Justice Department and the

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Immigration and Naturalization Service to review any and all allegations of improper extradition or deportation actions by either agency

(5) U.S.-Ireland Commemoration of the Great Hunger

Centuries of British fear and hatred of the Irish reached its zenith in the period of 1845-1850. A staple cash crop of the poor, the potato, failed and Britain's response caused over 1.5 million to die of

Clinton

As President Clinton said in Dublin last year, the tragedy of the Irish famine brought "the most bittersweet of blessings:--the arrival to our nation of millions of new Americans "who built the United States and climbed to the top of its best works." Commemoration of the famine and the contribution of the Irish Diaspora is indeed appropriate and we remain prepared to review appropriate requests to do so.

Dole

Irish-Americans have made immeasurable contributions to our country. It is entirely fitting that we as a nation officially recognize and commemorate the pioneering men and women who sacrificed to share the American dream, and to help make our nation the greatest on earth. Bob Dole supports efforts to establish a national committee composed of members from the Irish-American Community charged with that purpose. Especially given that the 150th anniversary of the potato famine is upon us, the United States should recognize the events that spurred many Irish in those tragic circumstances to seek a better life in America.

(6) Policy Regarding the Family and Life

(a) The rich tradition of Irish devotion to the Catholic Faith has enhanced their success and contributed to an improved quality of life in America. Today values of our Faith seem under siege with public policy which prizes convenience over compassion and fails to consider the special burden on families practicing their religious beliefs.

We as Hibernians believe the family is the basic unit of our society. We should cherish and nourish this wellspring of strength.

As president, would you support more choice for parents by allowing the issuance of education vouchers or tax credits for the schooling of our children?

Clinton

President Clinton supports giving parents greater opportunity to choose which public school their children will attend. He has urged every state to pass laws that provide parental choice among public schools. The President proposed and signed into law the Charter Schools Act, which provides start-up funds for charter schools. His fiscal year

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(FY) 1997 budget more than doubles funding for charter schools. President Clinton also favors efforts to increase parental participation in education through programs such as parenting education, creating parental resource centers, and Secretary of Education Riley's Family Endowment campaign.

Recent voucher proposals call for vouchers which would only partially cover the costs of private ~~school tuition~~; while reducing overall funding for public education. President Clinton opposes voucher measures which would limit or weaken the quality of educational opportunity provided by American public schools.

President Clinton appreciates the valuable work done by private, including Catholic, schools. He has called for the overturning of Aguilar v. Felton, a 1985 Supreme Court case that prevents parochial schools from getting all the Title 1 funds they are due. President Clinton is the first President to call for the overturning of this case. He has also consistently supported increased funding for Title 1 that can go to parochial and private schools. The Department of Education recently issued a letter restating the Department's position that special education services may be provided "on site" at Catholic and other religious schools. Finally, Catholic educators have been actively

merican family.

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Bob Dole believes strongly that choice over education should be returned to the family, where it belongs, regardless of income. And as President, he will propose legislation to provide Opportunity Scholarships worth at least \$1,000 for elementary school students and \$1,500 for high school students from low- and middle-income families, to attend any accredited school - public, private, or religious - that chooses to participate. The federal funds for the Opportunity Scholarships will be matched each year by \$3 billion in state funds. These scholarships will help give 4 million low- and middle-income families the financial ability to choose the best schools for their children.

Bob Dole has also proposed an Education Consumer's Warranty - a set of ten assurances that parents should receive, on the quality, safety, and flexibility of their children's schools, in exchange for contributing their hard-earned money and entrusting their children to the American public school system.

(6) (b)

As President, would you support the sanctity of human life, including parental notification of an abortion involving a minor, and the protection of human life from conception to natural death?

Clinton

President Clinton believes that abortion should be safe, legal, and rare.

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While President Clinton is protecting a woman's right to choose, he is also working to reduce the number of abortions. Our goal must be to make abortion less necessary and more rare, not more difficult and more dangerous. President Clinton supports contraceptive research, family planning, comprehensive family life education, and policies that support healthy childbearing.

The abortion rate is dropping. Now we must continue to support efforts to reduce unintended pregnancies, and we call on all Americans to take personal responsibility to meet this important goal.

Bill Clinton has long opposed later term abortions except where necessary to protect the life of the mother. As Governor of Arkansas, he signed a bill that barred third trimester abortions, with an appropriate exception for life or health. President Clinton vetoed federal legislation on third term abortions because it failed in certain rare and compelling cases, to prevent serious threats to women's health. If Congress sends President Clinton a bill that barred third trimester abortions with an appropriate exception for life or health, he will sign it.

Dole

Bob Dole recognizes that the traditional family is the basic building block of a successful society. It is thus government's responsibility to protect and promote this essential institution, including protecting the rights of the unborn. Since 1974, Bob Dole has opposed the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion on demand. He supports restrictions on abortion subject to the exceptions of life of the mother, rape, and incest.

Bob Dole supported the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 1996, which was vetoed by President Clinton. A very modest and bipartisan measure, it would have restricted a procedure that the National Conference of Catholic Bishops has described as "one-fifth abortion and four-fifths infanticide." Despite President Clinton's veto, it is clear millions of Americans - Republican, Democrat, pro-life and pro-choice - agree that it is time to outlaw such a brutal and indefensible practice.
