

Wednesday, February 13 2008

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Kevin Myers



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IRA collusion tale is a bloody, black comedy

powered

By KEVIN MYERS

Tuesday February 12 2008



The dark comedy of collusion continues splendidly. So, who is next in the great and glorious family of Sinn Fein-IRA to be outed?

As revelation follows revelation, we

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KEVIN MYERS OPINION



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gradually see just how sordid and corrupt is the Sinn Fein-IRA movement, with its leadership of murderers, millionaires, liars, informers and double-agents.

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What are these?



The political deal between the DUP's Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness, above, is "as depraved as any in the history of accountable politics," according to Kevin Myers

Moreover, since the political deal with the Orange bigots of the DUP is as depraved as any in the history of accountable politics, it's impossible to say how long the Belfast Executive will last.

But I do know this: naively believing that Prods always keep their word, I was the fellow who forecast that the DUP would never, ever go into government with Sinn Fein-IRA.

So if you want to read anything useful about Northern Ireland, you'd be better off consulting the Taoiseach's phone book than staying with this column. Get thee gone.

All alone? Good. So I may now proceed with my inward reflections, untroubled by the need to entertain an audience which has now scattered to the four corners of this newspaper.

As the years lower the barrier of amnesia and ignorance upon the IRA's catastrophic, cretinous war, it has been possible for the Shinner leadership to create a fictional narrative of the Troubles.

It goes like this. There was a peaceful republican human rights struggle in the Six Occupied Counties which was opposed by loyalist reactionaries, aided by forces of the crown. Finally, MI5 realised it could not win against the indomitable heroes of the republican movement and so agreed to the kind of settlement which the republican movement had been seeking all along.

Such fictions now have a life of their own, like so much that passes for history in the myth-addicted Irish public mind.

And this craving is splendidly pandered to by an army of nationalist historians, who take their academic values from The Cheerleaders Guidebook.

These are the splendid people who have foisted upon the popular imagination the wickedness of the 1916 executions, meanwhile abolishing almost entirely from popular memory the cold-blooded killings of the 77 anti-Treaty prisoners by the Free State.

Alone in this columnar cell, untroubled by intrusions of any kind, let me ask myself serious questions of ourselves and our own morality.

Was Kevin O'Higgins right to execute the 77? Well, he brought the civil war to a speedy end. What would have happened if the governments of this Republic had treated the IRA with similarly robust methods after Bloody Friday or La Mon or Warrenpoint/Mullaghmore or Enniskillen? What if the IRA had been physically crushed in the Republic by ruthless and even illegal methods?

Can you look at the thousands of dead and the tens of thousands injured from the 1970s to the 1990s and seriously propose that the methods employed to deal with the IRA terrorism were either effective or moral?

The Surgeon was one of the IRA's most effective leaders in South Armagh, the military muscle alongside the political weight of another long-standing IRA leader.

What I do not understand is how the security forces of the two states allowed these two ferocious terrorists to remain alive and well and living at home throughout the Troubles, as if they were civil servants.

The utter serenity of their existence must have reassured the IRA rank and file that their enemies were not to be taken seriously; and as far as the Republic of Ireland was concerned, that is entirely correct.



the poor, forlorn prelates

All was quiet in the clerical rest-home for senior clergy, Dun Blessing. The sun shone in through the tall windows, leaving pleasing oblongs of light on the parquet floor, the mahogany sideboard glowed a dark amber, and the air smelt of beeswax polish and freshly cut flowers.

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And one primary reason for the Shinners finally seeking peace was that their leading people were being murdered as they went about their day-to-day business by loyalist killers, rather as the Shinners had been doing to the UDR and RUC for decades.

How was that achieved? Simple. By collusion between elements of the crown security forces and anti-republican paramilitaries.

The melancholy, abominable truth is that there was a counter-terrorist campaign, which involved IRA informers, some of them even in the army council and the IRA's own internal security unit, working for British military intelligence, which in turn set up non-informing (or so I imagine, but who can say?) IRA activists for murder by obliging loyalist paramilitaries. So yes, it was a dirty war: clean wars are only fought by the side that loses.

Unpalatable to any readers, if I had any, but fortunately I haven't, so I can now move on to an even more unpalatable truth: not to fight a war as ruthlessly as possible, so as to bring about a swift conclusion, is immoral.

Being half-hearted in a conflict is merely to prolong it. Once nationalist Ireland had been offered the power-sharing executive, and an all-Ireland council, in 1974, whatever ethical grounds for being indifferent about the IRA, had been removed. Yet the nationalist Ireland dithered for another 20 years, as thousands more died, until finally, through British blackmail and murder, the IRA was brought to the table. And even then, it was not the two democratically elected governments which caused it to disarm, but that bigot, Ian Paisley.


In other words, as always, IRA = I Renege Again. These are terrible, terrible thoughts.

Thank God I have no one to share them with.

- *KEVIN MYERS*

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Comments


 Presumably, since the combatants in N.I. were run, in effect, by MI5, according to Myers and the rest of his chums, he and they will now demand that the odious leader of that band of assassians be brought to justice for, inter alia, the murders committed in Brighton; remember some of the survivors from that carnage are still suffering from their wounds, as indeed are many survivors of all the other terrible events which were effected by people organised, manipulated and controlled by the security arm of the U.K., according to Myers. There is no limit to the fevered outpourings of Kevin's politically poisoned mind. Sir Winston Churchill (being dead, a suitable target for Kevin's acidic pen) said that "Jaw Jaw" was better than "War War". It seems that Myers does not subscribe to that dictum. Thank God, the people of Ireland and Britain do.

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Posted by *R.Phelan* | 12.02.08, 21:51 GMT

 Spot on Myers. Both the Irish and British governments have a lot to answer for on how they let the murders go on for 30 years. If both sides had taken a much better approach to gaining peace in the 70s as opposed to taking ridiculous steps against the other governments. The ignorance of the people in ROI to the troubles has to be addressed.

Posted by *JC* | 12.02.08, 16:35 GMT

 Collusion is an illusion of the mind; unless you're of no sound mind!

Posted by *v.gerrard* | 12.02.08, 14:48 GMT

 A most revealing and intrinsically paradoxical piece that is cynical and, as ever, both historically selective and inaccurate. A bit like being privvy to only one side of a boorish pub argument. Nevertheless, in vino veritas, Jerry Springer the Column. It appears likely that this will come back to haunt Myers whenever he tries to persuade others that his opinions on pressing matters are based on a balanced and incisive interpretation of available information and a desire for fair play. Instead, his proposed strategy and tactics make those pursued by the RUC, British Army and the IRA appear quite reasonable under the

circumstances.

Paisley and McGuinness are far from perfect, but they have, temporarily or otherwise, delivered something that Myers and his fellow-travellers would have been completely incapable of. This is because they are more courageous and, much as it surprises me to say such a thing, more intelligent, humane and honest.

Posted by Kieran Magennis | 12.02.08, 13:29 GMT

- Well, Well MR Myers you actually believed that the unionists of the Faulkner, Chichester Clark and Craig variety spoke the truth when they opened their mouths to speak. This fact alone speaks volumes about your intelligence. You would be hard put to find a more disreputable bunch of politicians in any country you care to mention. But of course the fault of Northern Ireland lies in only one area, and you have constantly told us which one it is. Thankfully Ireland both north and south is slowly and painfully coming of age. It may take a while but it will get there.

Posted by Irish of Perth | 12.02.08, 13:08 GMT

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Posted by Kieran Magennis | 12.02.08, 12:57 GMT

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Posted by Kieran Magennis | 12.02.08, 12:48 GMT

- The vast majority of loyalist victims were innocent civilians Kevin - was this a price worth paying for a resolution of the conflict, or was this a necessary part of the pressure being applied to the IRA? Ask their victims' families.

Posted by Cormac | 12.02.08, 10:49 GMT

- A new low.

What would have happened is exactly what did happen after other ruthless and illegal methods, such as internment, were tried out. There would have been "collateral damage" and a wave of sympathy for the IRA. As we're going further than that, innocent people would have been killed. There would have been even more people signing up for you to illegally kill. The right push, here and there and you've sucked the Republic into the Troubles, and if we are really lucky a new civil war.

The Civil War and the manner it was ended was also not without cost, and not without lasting impact on the country. Either you support a real Republic, with due process, habeas corpus and the rule of law, or you believe in murder. There is no middle option.

Posted by kensei | 12.02.08, 10:37 GMT

- Here's a hint, given you have resigned yourself to the 'fact' that there is no one to share your unhinged opinions with, why not try, NOT submitting your article for publication? Ha? Go on, give it a go! Its ok to stop a war by any means necessary, in that case, you must wage war by any means necessary? Well wouldn't that make you at least as bad as those you are attempting to stop? Kevin there are good people and bad people on both sides. As Thomas Mann said "War is a cowardly escape from the problems of peace."

Posted by Tom O'Donovan | 12.02.08, 10:34 GMT

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