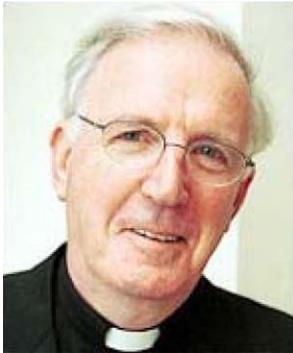




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The Placating of Rome



Cardinal O'Connor

Politically and ecclesiastically, the United Kingdom's surrender to Rome continues and accelerates. In complete defiance of history and, more importantly, the teaching of the Word of God and the standards and confessions of the Protestant churches in the United Kingdom, the Queen invited the head of the Roman Catholic church in England and Wales to preach for her in Sandringham. In the political realm, four MPs from the murderous organisation, Sinn Fein, had the rules of the parliament, by which every other MP must abide, waived by the Prime Minister, in order to placate them and their followers.

The action of the Queen is both contrary to her position as head of the Church of England and as monarch under the Constitution. In this ecumenical world, however, neither the truth of God, the law of the land or a coronation oath counts for anything any more. The universally accepted creed is: "the end justifies the means." Back in October 2000, when visiting the pope at the Vatican, the Queen said in a statement: "I am pleased to note the important progress that has been made in overcoming historic differences between Anglicans and Roman Catholics . . . I trust that we shall continue to advance along the path which leads to Christian unity." Following the announcement of the Queen's invitation to the Cardinal to preach at Sandringham, Buckingham Palace issued a statement which said: "This is in the spirit of co-operation, unity and friendship. It is a sign of the ecumenical age we are in."

Bill of Rights

Sadly, the Queen has become a chief promoter of the destruction of the Protestant faith which she swore to uphold 50 years ago this coming June. No Protestant, under the Constitution, is required to swear allegiance to a monarch who is openly working for reunion with Rome. The Bill of Rights states: "It hath been found by experience that it is inconsistent with the safety and welfare of this Protestant Kingdom to be governed by a Papist Prince or by a King or Queen marrying a Papist Every person who is, or shall be, reconciled to, or shall hold communion with the See or Church of Rome, or shall profess the Papist Religion, shall be excluded, and be for ever incapable to inherit, possess, or enjoy the Crown or Government of this Realm and Ireland and in every such case the people of these Realms shall be, and are, hereby released of their allegiance." Bill of Rights, Sections 8 and 9.

Bowing before Gunmen

While the Queen bows before the pope of Rome, her Prime Minister bows before the gunmen and bombers of the IRA. Despite refusing to swear the requisite oath of allegiance, Sinn Fein's four MPs have been given offices in the House of Commons and the accompanying £100,000 office expenses per MP per year. The move, which was made possible by new laws being forced through the House of Commons by Blair's government, has caused deep resentment within the British establishment. Tony Blair's officials angrily denied that



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Sinn Féiners Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness, Pat Doherty and Michele Gildernew did get red carpet treatment when they moved into new Westminster offices.

Welcome

However, they were “welcomed” to London by Tony Blair who met them at No10 before they picked up the keys to offices in the Commons. The timing of the Downing Street meeting has angered Conservative and Unionist MPs and was immediately branded an “insult”. The “Daily Telegraph” called it ‘another surrender.’ In an article, the newspaper said: “Even now, after five years of concessions, the Government’s readiness to jump through republican hoops still has the power to shock. Tossing aside 700 years of parliamentary tradition, ministers have broken with the principle that all MPs are of equal status. From now on, MPs will be required to take their seats in order to qualify for their expenses, unless they happen to be Irish republicans. By the same token, we now have two categories of political party.

Labour, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats are not allowed to accept donations from outside the European Union. But IRA/Sinn Fein, which rely heavily on the funds they raise in North America, are to be exempt from the rule. What makes all this especially galling is that the Government is getting nothing in return. Indeed, it knows that it is getting nothing in return: when the Tories moved an amendment that would have made the grant of offices to Sinn Fein conditional on IRA disarmament, Labour MPs dutifully trooped through the lobby to vote it down. Again and again, ministers have laid down supposedly non-negotiable conditions, only to retreat when Gerry Adams quirks an eyebrow. All-Ireland bodies? There you go. Prisoners set free? No problem. An end to the RUC? Nothing easier. Watchtowers down? Consider it done. House of Commons offices? Right away, sir. Yet, having pocketed all these gains, IRA/Sinn Fein are no closer to adopting democratic norms. On the contrary, the lesson they have understandably drawn is that an ounce of Semtex is worth more than ten thousand votes. A process that was meant to civilise the men of violence has instead violated our civil society. One by one, the institutions that underpin the rule of law in Britain have been traduced: the police, the judicial system, the Armed Forces and now Parliament itself.” There was growing resentment at Westminster that the Sinn Fein members had been found sought-after offices which most MPs would have to wait years for. Bob Russell, Liberal Democrat MP for Colchester, said: “I think it is outrageous. I have spent four years in a windowless room as have many long-serving MPs who have been sent here by the electorate to do a job of work. Sinn Fein have decided they will take the money but not be proper MPs yet they are being given some of the best offices available.”

Dr. Ian Paisley, MP said: “I have been here for 25 years and for a long time I had no office at all. When I did it was an office with no windows. Why should people who are not really MPs in the fullest legal sense have the red carpet rolled out for them in this way?”

Boot Licking

Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, Quinten Davies slammed Tony Blair for granting offices and expense accounts worth more than £400,000 in taxpayers’ money, to a party which said it would use the facilities and funding to promote the cause of a united Ireland among the British public. He went on to say that the Prime Minister was “deliberately con-



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tributing to a great propaganda coup in which ... the British Government are licking republicans' boots." "I feel very sorry particularly for the victims of the IRA, the people who have been tortured, been maimed, the families of the people who have been murdered. It is going to be made far, far worse by seeing these people treated in this fashion."

Ecumenism

The episode serves to underline just how ecumenism has eaten the heart out of the nation, blinded its ears and addled its brain until we find that the most wicked people are fawned over and grovelled before, and that in the supposed interests of truth and righteousness. Our nation is being governed in defiance of the warning of the Word of God pronounced by Isaiah the prophet. "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!" Isaiah 5:20-21.