

30 Aug 92

C-SPAN,

I'd like to comment on the program you aired on the North of Ireland. I happened to tune in while the show was in progress but did view a good 2½ hrs of it. I'd like to know why no one from Sinn Fein was interviewed during the 'politics' segment? Since we never get to hear their point of view through the regular media, as Gerry Kelly pointed out they are censored. Also Bobby Sands was representing Sinn Fein and received 30,000 votes to become M.P. for Fermanagh/South Tyrone. Gerry Adams and others have been voted in as M.P.s too. So, there are people who vote Sinn Fein. I would think you'd have interviewed

Someone from Sinn Fein to make the show a fair and impartial one.

My second comment concerns the interview with the under secretary for the Northern Ireland office, David Watkins. I'd like to say his statement that during the late 1960's Civil Rights Movements the British army was sent in to stop the I.R.A. was totally incorrect. The British army was sent in to protect the Catholic community from the Protestants as the R.U.C. and the B-Specials could not control them. I've read many books on the subject of the North of Ireland and everyone has stated the same fact. To name but a few: 'Biting at the Grave' by Padraig O'Malley Pg 17. 'The I.R.A.' by Tim Pat Coogan, various pages

but pg 425 in particular. To quote Leon Uris in 'Ireland: A Terrible Beauty' pg 196 "British troops were now pouring in. At First Catholics welcomed them as a peace force..." and 'Bloody Ulster' by A.J. Barker pg 99. Read them. They are not all pro Republican books, many are very 'objective'. In future maybe your interviewers should read up on history so as to catch 'convenient' mistakes in peoples interpretation of that history.

Lastly, I felt the interviewer was wrong in trying to make the struggle in the north into a religious one. I hate to admit it, but, Ian Paisley was right for once, its not a Catholic/Protestant thing anymore. Throughtout Irish history there have been many Protestants who

have fought and died for the cause to end the tyrannical British Occupation in Ireland. To mention a few: Naper Tandy, Samuel Neilson, Henry Joy, Thomas Russell, Willie Orr and Wolfe Tone. The list goes on and on. Call it what it is: Irish vs British. As it was here in 1776, American vs British. We defeated the enemy then, and now our government turns its back on the Irish people and supports our one time foe. The British government calls the I.R.A. 'terrorists'. I am sure back in 1776 this same government labelled George Washington 'terrorist'. I am tired of our government kowtowing to unfeeling and uncaring nations like Britain. Its time we let the world know who the true terrorists in the North of Ireland are: The British government!

As they have been to all the Celtic races throughout the 'British Isles', and to many nations throughout the world.

Keep showing programs like the one on the North Ireland issue. But, remember not to forget people who are oppressed and repressed by their governments and the media. We would like to hear their opinions too.

I would like to see the program in its entirety. Is there anyway it can be purchased? Will it air again?

Sincerely,

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