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Nationalists complain of lack of respect in Northern Ireland

Sinn Fein is making much of the allegation that little respect is paid to them and their culture in Northern Ireland. That, like most of their utterances, is a lie.

They have received support for their propaganda from the former deputy leader of the SDLP, Seamus Mallon. He is quoted in the Irish News of 21st January 2017.



Seamus Mallon

"Martin McGuinness is not the only nationalist deputy first minister to have experienced a lack of respect from their unionist counterpart in office, as Seamus Mallon can testify. Mallon, who went into the first partnership devolved government with former Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble in July 1998 as DFM, says he received almost daily snubs from the then first minister and his office."

Respect works both ways! The Bible says: "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly," Proverbs 18:24. A commentator said of these words: "Friendship ought to be mutual and reciprocal, as between David and Jonathan; a man that receives friendship ought to return it, or otherwise he

is guilty of great ingratitude."

Those in the Nationalist and Republican communities who complain of a lack of respect for them and their culture by Unionists do so in a spirit of utter hypocrisy.

For centuries Irish Roman Catholic nationalists campaigned against the Protestant settlers simply on the basis of their religion. Slaughter and terror were their weapons. This is a matter of public record.

Irish citizens may enter UK and claim all they can of the benefits of the British State. They likewise have gone to the United States and Australia and there freely partaken of the benefits of life in these lands. However, their attitude to the Ulster Protestant, who came to Ulster in the time of the 'Plantation' in the early 1600s has EVER been one of hostility. This population movement may be largely seen as the return of a people who had moved from Ulster to Scotland and the borders in a former time. But that made no difference. Irish Nationalists do not act as they expect the citizens of the USA, Australia etc., to act toward them when they landed on their shores! No, their attitude toward the Ulster Protestant was seen in a breaking forth in murder and terror on many occasions, right up to this present generation, as we are all aware.

Roman Catholics enjoy religious freedom in Northern Ireland. The abundance of elaborate chapels, monasteries and nunneries dotting the land show that.

Compare that with the state of the Protestant minority in the Republic of Ireland. It has dwindled since 1920 when Ireland was partitioned until it is half of what it was then. (See **The Treatment of Protestants in the Irish Republic**)

Roman Catholics have their own school system in Northern Ireland, paid for in full out of the public purse. Seamus Mallon enjoyed a salary and now a teacher's pension paid for by the Northern Ireland State as a teacher in a Roman Catholic school. He was headmaster of St. James's Primary School in the largely Protestant village of Markethill.

Such a choice of schools is something the Protestant majority do not have! If a group of Protestant parents wish their children to receive a Bible-based Protestant education then they will have to pay for the building, the school equipment, the teachers' wages and the transporting of their children to the school. The privileges enjoyed by Roman Catholics are denied to them! Romanism rejected the State school system and campaigned for their own schools. They got them, fully financed and free. Never once has a word of gratitude



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for these things, not enjoyed by Bible-believing Protestants, been uttered or their provision acknowledged as beneficial by Irish Nationalists. Rather, slanderous complaints have been their only response.

When the Northern Ireland State came into existence, born of a fear of life under an independent Roman Catholic, all-Ireland state, it was treated with contempt by Roman Catholics. An example of the animosity and churlishness of Irish Nationalism may be seen in this incident in the affairs of Londonderry. In July 1964, when Nationalists protested at the failure of the Londonderry corporation to appoint Nationalists to committee chairs, the mayor pointed out that fifteen or sixteen years ago the Nationalists had said that they would refuse to take such chairs and that they would only take part in corporation affairs in order to disrupt them!

Many of the acts of so-called discrimination against Roman Catholics were, in truth, merely actions taken to minimise the disruptive activities of Nationalists who were bent on hindering every aspect of life in Northern Ireland. During World War 2, the USA interned many citizens of Japanese ethnic origins in order to stop the possibility of espionage. In Northern Ireland no such measures were taken but with an amazing degree of tolerance, the Nationalist anti-Ulster campaign of social disruption was endured by Unionists and the mildest political counter-measures engaged in.

It was a public policy of the old Nationalist Party, which was swallowed up by the rise of John Hume's Social, Democratic and Labour Party in the late '70s, to do all possible to incur the waste of public money. This was done through individuals ignoring government correspondence and then when a second letter arrived to reply to it giving false or incomplete information which then resulted in further correspondence and of course added expense to the civil administration.

Bitter animosity and terror attacks by Irish Nationalists greeted the new Northern Ireland state and these have continued sporadically up to the present day. McGuinness and Co may have considered entering into the political activities of Northern Ireland a more profitable means of attacking the Northern Ireland State, but their spirit lived on and their weapons employed yet in the on-going activities of those ex-IRA men now euphemistically called 'Dissident Republicans'. They are in truth, the continuation of the savagery of Irish Republicanism, from whose ranks McGuinness, for his own reasons, stepped aside a short time ago.

To this day, Irish Nationalists such as Seamus Mallon cannot even utter the words 'Northern Ireland'! We are 'The North' or some other derogatory term. They have been often challenged on this but remain sadistically stubborn in their hatred even of the proper name of our country.

The security forces were shunned by Roman Catholics in earlier years. Much was made in more recent times of the absence of Roman Catholic members within the police force and the 'wise men' of Westminster for a long time imposed recruitment to the police on a basis that Protestants could only be recruited in equal number to that of Roman Catholic recruits, or 50-50 recruitment as it was called.

But the lack of Roman Catholic recruits was the result of the antipathy of their community toward service in the forces of the State, not the result of a policy of discrimination. Any Roman Catholic who may have wished to join the police had to face the wrath of his community which, more often than not, resulted him having to leave his home and go and live in a Protestant area! The case of one of the last policemen murdered by the IRA, a Roman Catholic living in Omagh, Ronan Kerr, is illustrative of the danger such recruits face when they defy the hostility of their community toward the police.

(See newspaper article: '**Catholic grammar school embroiled in bitter spat over RAF recruitment tweet**' for an illustration of the inherent ongoing enmity toward the Crown forces within the Nationalist community.)

In recent days, the press has often voiced outrage at the rejoicing seen amongst some Muslims in the Middle East whenever a soldier of an opposing force has been killed. We in Northern Ireland have lived with that spirit for a long time. I still recall the shock of a young nurse in the old Erne Hospital in Enniskillen when it was announced on a radio in the nurses' room that two soldiers had been killed by the IRA on the nearby border with the Republic of Ireland. The announcement was met by cheers from two Roman Catholic nurses



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The British people were subjected to an example of this same spirit of evil rejoicing when the television news services screened the brutal attack upon two off-duty soldiers, Corporals David Howes and Derek Wood, who strayed into the fringes of a republican funeral procession. The men were taken from their car by a baying, cheering mob and brutally done to death. The incident well illustrates the utterly lack of humanity that is to be found amongst the ranks of Irish Republicans.

No Roman Catholic will customarily stand for the playing of the National Anthem. In the cinema, at the last showing, a rush for the door by Roman Catholics begins as the credits of the film appear for soon the National Anthem would be played and they did not wish to stand for it.

The antipathy of McGuinness toward the Royal family was seen in the hullabaloo surrounding his shaking the hand of the Queen in June 2012. The press and news media made a great thing of the concession McGuinness was making by engaging in this minor act of courtesy. Discourtesy toward the Queen and all things 'Royal' in the past was the hallmark of a good Republican.

It used to be said, sagely, by Unionists that Nationalists hated the British Crown but loved the half crown (2 shillings and 6 pence in old money or 25p today).

Again, Republicans play the National Anthem of the Republic of Ireland at all their sporting and social functions in Northern Ireland. The GAA, of which Seamus Mallon was a member, plays the Irish national anthem at all its games in Northern Ireland and would never play our National Anthem. Republican/nationalist districts are bedecked with Irish Tricolours. In a cowardly and perverted act of appeasement toward these communities, the British Government imposed a law upon Northern Ireland whereby a Republican could complain to the police if a neighbour's 'Union Jack' was an annoyance to him and the police would come and remove it from the Protestant's private property in order to appease the Republican.

On the other hand, it has never been possible to get the police to act against the flying of the thousands of foreign 'Tricolours' along the thoroughfares used by both Unionists and Nationalists in the cities, towns and villages of Ulster. For them to act would provoke rioting and arson on a major scale.

Most Roman Catholic sportsmen and women who have benefited from the facilities and grants available to them in Northern Ireland will not participate in sports events as part of a Northern Ireland or United Kingdom team. Instead they will participate as members of the Irish team and then come back to Northern Ireland and expect a civic reception should they have had some success in their particular sport!! Nothing illustrates better the brass-necked effrontery, the sheer gall of the Irish nationalist except of course it be McGuinness and Mallon complaining about a lack of respect being shown to them and their community!

Respect, gentlemen! It's a two-way process and you and your ilk have a lot to learn as to the meaning of the word.

Of course, neither man wishes to have the respect of the Unionist population. Rather, they want them to roll over and surrender. They want an Ulster dominated by the policy, the philosophy of Roman Catholicism. They want to push Protestantism into the sea, as the issue was put by some Republicans some years ago.

How can a Protestant show 'respect' to that scheme of things without committing national suicide?

Rev Ivan Foster.

23rd January 2017.