

Progressive Era and thereafter (Vinyard 1997, p. 466). Moreover, Irish nuns and priests have been important leaders in America's parochial school system.

In the mid-nineteenth century, the Irish established themselves as the dominant ethnic group within the American Catholic Church, and have held that status ever since (Vinyard 1997, p. 462). In 1970, for example, over 50 percent of the bishops and 34 percent of the priests of the American Catholic Church reported an Irish background (Blessing 1980, p. 542). Such outstanding individuals as Cardinal William O'Connell of Boston, Cardinal Francis Spellman of New York City, and Spellman's successor, Cardinal John O'Connor, honorably led the Catholic Church through the transition of Vatican II. The Irish, therefore, left an unforgettable imprint upon American Catholicism, creating a model for both national and religious allegiance.

"Immigrants, but more often second- and third-generation Irish, helped to create a new American urban culture that emerged in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries" (Meager 1999, p. 288). Irish Americans were highly visible in the theater during this period. Playwrights like Eugene O'Neill, and novelists like James T. Farrell, Edwin O'Connor, and, in the 1920s, F. Scott Fitzgerald, made world-class achievements in American literature. At the same time, the Irish excelled in sports: John L. Sullivan in boxing and such individuals as Connie Mack, John McGraw, and Charles Comiskey help to transform baseball into America's pastime.

It is only been in the second half of the twentieth century that the scope, and depth of Irish contributions to America has been given its full recognition. In January 1897, when the founders of the Irish American Historical Society issued that organization's founding statement, they lamented that their countrymen had received "but scant recognition" from U.S. historians and attributed this neglect to "carelessness, ignorance, indifference or design" (American Irish History Society, in Griffin, 1973, p. 121). Despite their English-language advantage, the Irish were subjected to both ethnic and religious prejudice. This anti-Irish bias unfolded in waves, increasing during the immigration period of the 1840s, the Progressive Era at the turn of the century, and into the 1920s with the revival of the anti-Catholic Ku Klux Klan. As historian Patrick Blessing has put it: "The Irish were the first major immigrant group to threaten the stability of American society. Out of their interaction with the host society, came a more diverse and tolerant America" (Blessing 1980, p. 545). Despite decades of bigotry and repression, the Irish assimilated into the American "melting pot". Indeed, not only did they serve as a model for other immigrant groups, in the process of becoming full-fledged Americans, they altered, enlarged, and enriched the very definition of an "American."

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HOYER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HUNTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RESTRUCTURING THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEKAS. Madam Speaker, I say to the Speaker and to the Members that the ghost of Mohamad Atta has attacked our Nation. Following the real Mohamad Atta and his crash into the World Trade Center, his ghost, like ashes left at Ground Zero, has arisen and entered the public consciousness again.

This time, as everyone knows by now, we learned from the aviation school in Florida that the visa for

Mohamad Atta has been approved, 6 months to the day after the real Mohamad Atta crashed into our Twin Towers.

This, of course, is unacceptable, and the President of the United States has said so, and the President immediately took action to start the investigation into the matters that led to this unseemly development in the school in Florida.

But it brings to mind that the President of the United States, as candidate George W. Bush in the Year 2000, noted that his observation of the Immigration and Naturalization Service was such that it could not go on in the structure that was extant at that time, that we must separate the law enforcement segment of INS from that of the process of visas and naturalization and citizenship.

This is a theme which members of the Committee on the Judiciary took to heart, and we have introduced legislation and worked on legislation for bifurcation of the INS so that we can home in on student visas, like the kind that Mohamad Atta abused, so we can home in on those who overstay their visas, like the Mohamad Attas of the world, so that we can keep track of the attendance of students in our country and note the end of their scholarship at a particular institution and then take steps, when necessary, to make sure they leave the country at the expiration of the visas.

All those are problems that are anticipated to be solved when we proceed with the bifurcation, the new structure, of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

One giant step that we have already taken to get to the bottom of this is that I have instructed our Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization to formulate a hearing on this very same subject, and next week, or as soon as possible, we are going to look into how this incident occurred. We are going to determine from the INS internal workings how this large hole in the process appeared, and we are going to take steps to cover that hole forever, probably with a new structure that we anticipate under the legislation that we have in front of us.

The important thing to recognize here is that we know, and we knew before September 11, and so did Candidate Bush know in the Year 2000, that we must do something about the INS. It had grown, in agonizing detail, uncomfortable in so many respects, not only to the people who are subject to its process, who had to wait such long periods of time for validation of their particular applications, but also on the question of border control and the large question of illegal aliens and how many of them should be deported on the spot. All these are problems that we anticipate will be alleviated, if not removed entirely, by the new structure that we envision.

Now, to his credit, the President, together with the Attorney General, has