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Co 904/209/290

**CLOSED
UNTIL
1993**

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McNeil - J

No. 15860/S

6/3/16 AMN

The Chief Secretary's Office, Ireland. 2

5/9/17

JUDICIAL DIVISION.

SUBJECT.

MINUTE.

City of Londonderry
Statement by John
McNeill in St Columba's
Hall on Sunday night
as to interview with
Major Price while in
Arbour Hill

Under Secretary
Submitted
with a note from the
Press, as to his instructions
to the Irish Press
10/1/17

The Press Censor (Capt.
Williamson) called me
up late last night,
told me that newsp.
reports of McNeill's
speech were coming
in to his office &
asking whether they
might be published.
I said "certainly not"
until the matter had
been considered.

As I see no ground for
interference with the
discretion of editors in this
matter.

A.E.D

5/9/17

Minute to Press Censor
accordingly, adding that
C.S. concurs in the
view expressed by Lord
Devis in the letter now
attached.

Please telephone in advance
W.P.B. 5/9

C.S. W.P.B.
4.9.17

ITG done 6/1/17
I depd 8/2/17

City of Londonderry.

John McNeill's speech at
a meeting in St. Columbs
Hall, Londonderry, on the
2nd September 1917.

Lord Decies:

The Chief Secretary desires
me to say that he sees no ground for
interference with the discretion of
Editors in this matter.

He concurs in the view ex-
pressed by you in your letter to the
Under Secretary this morning the en-
closure to which is herewith returned.

5. 9. 1917.

It appears to me that by
withholding this article appearing
to the Government are trying to prevent
the facts of the case appearing ~~to~~ to
the public - & it is all pretty well
known by now. Questions are sure to
be asked later in Parliament
which will disclose the story.

I would suggest that this statement
should be released. The published
with certain deletions. -
Perhaps you will let me know as soon
as you can what the best way
is to proceed
Yours
Deakin

PRESS CENSOR'S OFFICE,
85 GRAFTON STREET,
DUBLIN

TELEPHONE:
DUBLIN 151.

Dear Sir
I understand
you have this matter
in hand. Personally
by me the hands over
I have marked in
blue. I do not see
what can be cut out

I think it is a difficult
 matter to prevent publication
 of any speech. That is
 not a difficult

Mr. Hill has been pressed by
 various newspapers to
 make a statement & at
 last he has done so

by and through channels
 marked. I do not see that
 can be objected to.
 It will be a very difficult
 thing to prevent any of his
 statements appearing in
 the Press. & I question if it is
 wise to prevent it. If you stop
 the papers. leaflets containing
 the articles are sure to be
 published & broadcast

CONFIDENTIAL.

15860

P.C. 891.. . .

6

The Under Secretary for Ireland,
Dublin Castle.

Adverting to our telephone conversation of last night, I send herewith the statement made at Londonderry on Sunday, the 2nd inst., by Mr. Doin MacNeill.

I have duly informed the Irish Press that the interview between Mr. MacNeill and Major Price, referred to in the article, is not to be published until they have received an official notification from this Office,

W. R. Williamson
for

PRESS CENSOR,

IRELAND.

Press Censor's Office,
85, Grafton Street,
DUBLIN.

4th September, 1917.

Submitted to Press Censor
By Editor Irish Independent

Echo of Rebellion
in Macneil's Interview
with Major Price

An important statement with regard to incidents following the rebellion was made by Mr. Eoin MacNeill at the Sinn Fein meeting in St. Columb's Hall, Derry, on Sunday night. He said in this movement his personality, nor any other person's personality, did not matter at all at present. (Hear, hear.) It was not a question of this man or that man, but a question of the Irish nation and its fortunes in the greatest crisis that had arisen in their time. Consequently, he went on, I do not want to take up your time with a personal question, but I notice within the last few days in the "Irish News," of Belfast, and repeated from that paper in the "Freeman's Journal," a personal challenge to me. The "Irish News" asked how it was that I had not repeated since I came back from England or how it was I had not brought before the public certain facts which transpired during the time I was in prison. Well, now, I saw no particular reason for bringing those facts before the public, but it is suggested in these papers—in one of them at all events—that I had some sinister motive in keeping them back. To show that I had no sinister motive in keeping them back you are going to get them now. (Applause.) On 2nd May last year, the Tuesday following Easter Week, I was arrested on the charge of being a rebel, and I was sent to Arbour Hill and placed there in the cell from which my old friend and comrade, Patrick Pearse, had been taken. (Applause.) On the following day (Wednesday) Sir John Maxwell—(hisses)—don't waste your hisses on him—commander of the British forces in Ireland, came to me in the prison. I was brought from the cell into his presence, and the presence of other British officers. There he suggested I should make a statement. I told him I had no statement to make to him. I was then taken back into the cell. You will see from what I tell you later on why he wanted me to make a statement. The next day (Thursday) I was taken out in the middle of the day for exercise into the prison yard, and there was a body of British recruits engaged in musketry training. They were drawn up in a file, and part of their training was presenting their rifles and pulling off the triggers. The rifles were empty, but my exercise—a large part of it—was to march up and down in front of the file while the rifles were being presented in my direction, and the triggers were being pulled off. During that time, in another part of Dublin, the triggers of rifles that were not empty were being pulled off, too. Immediately after my exercise I was brought back to the cell. As soon as the door of the cell was closed it was opened again, and the man who arrested me walked in—Major Price, ex-policeman, chief intelligence officer to the military forces in Ireland. He is in that position still. He at once entered into conversation. What he said was this:—He says, "Your life will be spared on one condition, and that is that you make a statement implicating persons higher up than yourself." I wanted to get the whole story out of him, and I said, "What do you mean by persons

higher up than myself. I am the President of the Irish Volunteers." "I mean," he said, "men higher up in political life than yourself. I mean Mr. John Dillon, who is bitterly anti-British, and Mr. Jos. Devlin. You have, he said, only got to make a statement implicating these men in the rebellion. You won't be asked to substantiate it in evidence. You will be asked to put it in writing. On that condition your life will be spared." Now, you understand what Sir John Maxwell meant when he asked me to make a statement. Naturally I refused to make any such statement. (Applause.) I deserve no applause for that. There is not a man, woman, or child in this Hall, and very few in Ireland, who would have made such a statement. (A Voice—"None.") Well, I at once took a note of that conversation, and I communicated it immediately afterwards to two other persons who remember the terms in which I communicated it. As soon as I was allowed to see my wife, which was some days later, I gave her the statement in writing. My legal advisers advised that I should make no use of it during or until after my trial, and perhaps they had a good reason for that. At all events, on the day I was removed from Dublin to Dartmoor my wife posted to Mr. Joseph Devlin a letter, of which I have a copy, giving an account just as I have given to you of that interview between Major Price and myself. I understand, but I only know this from hearsay, because I was in prison at the time, that a very considerable time after that a question was put about the incidents in the British Parliament, and that the answer was that it was a serious accusation and required investigation. Nothing more, however, was heard of it for several months, when another question was put. The answer was that the Chief Secretary was satisfied that no stigma rested on Major Price. I do not know that the question asked whether any stigma rested on Major Price, but whether a certain thing was true or false. I do not know what Mr. Duke's or any other British Minister's opinion of what a stigma would be in a case of that kind, and I don't care, but now I am challenged in the "Freeman's Journal" and the "Irish News" for not having made this statement earlier. My answer to that reproach is that when the statement concerned Mr. Dillon and Mr. Devlin I want to know why one of the junior—and though I don't want to say anything hard about any man—one of the least considerable members of the Irish Party was put up to ask that question—Mr. Tom Landon. Evidently my statement was believed or the question would not have been asked, and I would not be challenged if it was thought to be a lie to state it in public. If it was believed, why did the Irish Party acquiesce in Major Price occupying then—and he occupies to this hour—the position he is in. No public protests have been raised against it. Is it right that a man capable of acting like that should hold the position of principal political adviser to the Military Governor of Ireland at the present time. No stigma rests on Major Price, perhaps. He is no better and no worse than any other man doing the same work would have been. (Applause.)

R. H. Malone
Secretary

Original File
from G. O. C.

11096
—
S

sent to

Chief Secretary

5. 4. 1916

The Chief Secretary's Office, Ireland.

JUDICIAL DIVISION.

10

SUBJECT.

MINUTE.

Letter in "Irish News"
of 25th October
from Bernard MacGilliam
Chicago -

Lord Lieutenant
In response to your
Excellency's inquiry of the
27th Oct. EOT
10-X-16

A.U.S.
Major Pucci's note
was not attached when
file was received by me.
S.M.P.

11/11/16

Mr Proet,
The note was
attached -

Seen by LK
S.M.P.
14/11/16

Asst Under Secretary
With reference
to His Excellency's
inquiry regarding
Mr Gilliam, please
see note from
Major Pucci and
report from Dublin
Police. The file with
copy of letter of 6th
March was sent to
the Irish Office, but
is not now forthcoming.

W.M.
18/11/16



Dear Comrad

Detach copy 11

of numerous
censored letter
vs. W. C. Gilman

I command
find any trace
of Police file
(if there is any)
as to this man's
identity.

W. C. Gilman

9/1930/1
MacNeill

COPY OF CENSORED LETTER FROM B. MacGILLIAN to
EOIN MacNEILL ESQ., 25 PARNELL SQUARE, DUBLIN.

12

1231 Unity Building,
Chicago, U.S.A.
March 6th 1916.

EOIN MacNEILL ESQ.,

Dear Mr. MacNeill,

It has just come to my knowledge that a plot to deluge Ireland in blood is being hatched in this country, in fact, so far as plans are concerned is complete, and only lacks the sinews of war, which are now being raised. The intention is to foment a 'rising' in Ireland next Summer, which of course will speedily be drowned out in blood. It may be that, blinded as they are by hatred of England, many of the plotters cannot or will not see, that an attempt at armed insurrection in Ireland would be suicidal to the participants in it, but no rational man who has any knowledge of the situation can have any delusions on that head. I am convinced, however, that the arch-plotters are more interested in discrediting Mr. Redmond than they are concerned in the success of the plan. I realise, of course, how impossible it seems to even conceive of Irishmen inciting their brothers at home to such a suicidal step, but I have the best possible reasons for the conviction that such is their intention. Full knowledge of these men convinces me that they are willing to pay, or rather have Ireland pay, any price to discredit Mr. Redmond. It is only the conviction that a terrible tragedy impends that impels me to write to you in the hope that you may be able to avert it. Knowing your high standing with the Irish Volunteers, who would probably be used as the tools of these people; believing implicitly in your patriotism; feeling that you are too well informed as well as too far seeing to have any doubts of the madness of such an attempt at this time, and that you can probably do more than any other man to avert the threatened tragedy, I write you this.

/Do not,

Do not, I implore you, consider this the fantastic dream of an alarmist. Instead it is based on information which I am convinced is absolutely reliable. The action of the so-called Irish Race Convention in New York is counted upon to convince wealthy Germans here of Ireland's desire to strike England. Indeed this is the main purpose of the Convention. These Germans are expected to contribute liberally to the war chest.

Feeling that Mr. Redmond should be warned of this plot, I am about to write him along similar lines. Oh, if only you and he and he could act jointly to avert the tragedy which impends. I realise fully the chasm which separates you and Mr. Redmond, but in the face of a deadly peril threatening the land you both love and serve with the same high purpose - if along different lines - personal and political differences should be forgotten for the time being, at least.

Of course you will not recognise my name appended to this. I have had the pleasure of meeting you but once. It was in St. Mary's Hall, Belfast, the night, some 20 years ago, when you addressed the Belfast Young Ireland Society on "The De-Anglicization of Ireland", since which date I have been an Irish Irishman. Maire De Buitleur can tell you something of me. So, too, can Seamus Mac Manus, if he is in Ireland. An Chraoibhin, likewise, may recall my name, I having had correspondence in the past with him and met him in Belfast and Pittsburgh. Peadar MacIonlaigh, too, used to be a good friend with me in the Belfast Y.I.S.

I mention these names to show you that I am not altogether an irresponsible. I feel sure that you will soon learn from other sources that a rising is planned. You may not hear then of its main motive, however. I assure you it is only the desire to avert the shedding of Irish ~~XXXXX~~ to no purpose that impels me to thus address you.

Regretting my inability to express myself in Irish as clearly as I could wish, with very best wishes,

Is mise, le meas mor,

BRIAN MacGILLIAN.

(BERNARD MacGILLIAN).

P.S.

Finian MacColum, Father M.O'Flanagan,
and Diarmuid Ua Lourig[?] of Cork also know me.

(1858.) Wt. 5333—66.4000.12/14. A. T. & Co., Ltd.
(6559.) Wt. 3103—96.20,000.8/15.

Telegrams: "DAMP, DUBLIN."
Telephone No. 22.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE:

No. 13024
7 NOV. 1916
METROPOLITAN POLICE,
DUBLIN

CHIEF SECRETARY'S
20340 -- 7 NOV. 1916
OFFICE

Detective Department,

14

Dublin, 6th November, 1916.

Subject, MR. BERNARD MCGILLIAN.

With reference to attached, I beg
to state that there is nothing known of
Mr. Bernard McGillian to the Police here.

I can find no record of a report
being furnished last Spring regarding this
man in connection with an open letter in
the Irish Volunteer to Mr. John McNeill.

Owen'Brien
Superintendent.

The Chief Commissioner.

The U. Secretary
Submitted -
W. J. Hurst
ce 7/11/16

VICE REGAL LODGE,
DUBLIN.

27.10.16.

Dear Connolly.

The excellency is anxious to know who Bernard Mac Gillon is? The writer of the open letter to Sir Edward Carson. see page 14. Do you know anything about him, if not, perhaps you could find out.

Yours v. truly

S. H. Power

19452

15

Dear John

I think an open letter from Mr Gillon to John in their appearance in the "Irish Potentia" last Spring & that you should enquire about him, but the rule is in a nutshell. Write your thoughts let

me have a copy: ~~1577~~ 1577
S. H. P.

Wm. G. G. G.
11/11.

NOV 5 1916
METRO
DUBLIN

No. _____

CHIEF SECRETARY'S
19456 - 28 OCT. 1916
OFFICE

THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE, IRELAND

JUDICIAL DIVISION.

SUBJECT.

MINUTE.

16

Extracts from Dublin, Belfast, and
Cork morning papers dated WEDNESDAY,
25th October, 1916.

- I. LORD LIEUTENANT
- II. CHIEF SECRETARY.

507

25th October, 1916.

Seen W.

26.10.16

W.M.K.

Mr. Connolly

17

Please have these papers
attached to file

H.C.

6-2-17



with
2/17

Force (Regt. to be stated)?

9. If so, has he been raised by a Serjt. Instructor of his Corps?

9. _____

* Strike through whichever does not apply.

CERTIFICATE No. 1.

The above-named man has been finally approved by me as a _____ (i)

Signature _____

Rank _____

Date _____ 191 ____ .

Station _____

(i) In the case of Royal Artillery or Royal Engineers, insert "Gunner," "Sapper," "Pioneer," "Driver," "Tailor," or "Shoemaker."

CERTIFICATE No. 2.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above particulars are correct

in every respect, that the Recruit has been paid up to and for _____

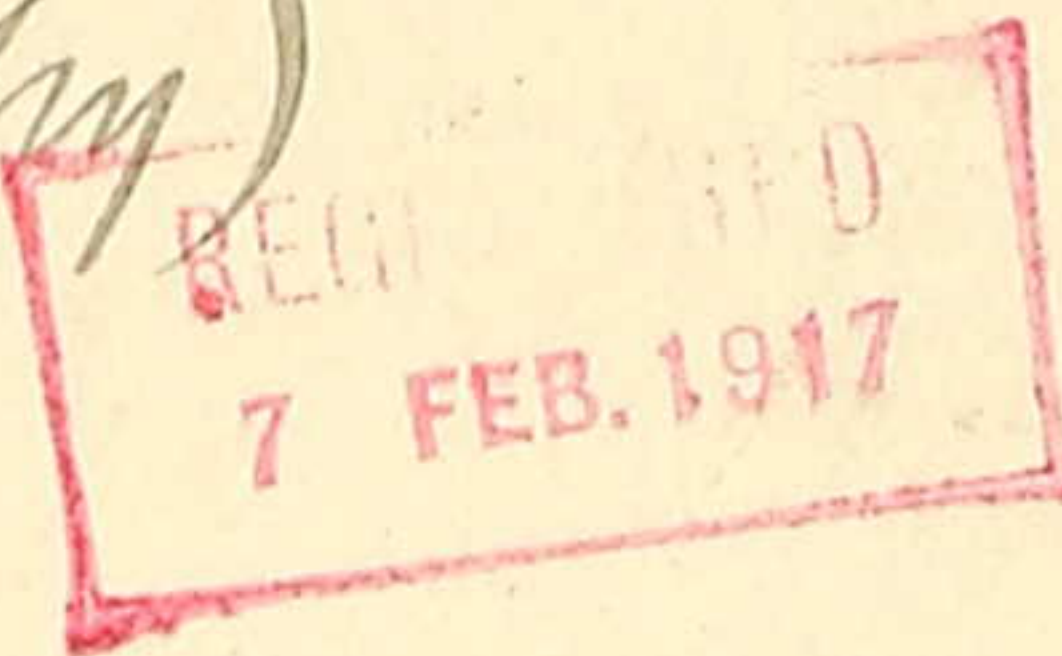
~~Secret~~

13461

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE

DUBLIN CASTLE.

(Copy)



5 Feb. 1917.

My dear Group,

19

Sir Edw. O'Farrell and I both think that if Sir Cecil Spring Rice can nip the John Mac Neill Petition in the bud, without exciting public comment, it would be better that he should do so.

It is much easier to make a case that would seem a good one to the man in the street for John Mac Neill than against him. If the U.S.A. have a little trouble of their

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE

DUBLIN CASTLE

20

own on hand, in the
shape of a share of a
European war, their
Government may not be
so disposed to help their
Irish citizens diplomatically;
So the matter loses importance

Yours truly

W. P. Byrne

Mr Whetton

Please copy my
letter to Group,
and then send
it.

WPK

done
H.D.
6.1.17
572/17
P. to go with
file.

WPK

13461

22

7 FEB. 1917

HOME OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W.

3 Feb. 1917.

Dear Byrne.

I enclose a copy
of a note I have from
Lord Hardinge with an
extract from a telegram
from the Ambassador at
Washington.

As John Macmillan was
convicted by Court-Martial,
it is the military authorities
who have the legal power
to remit his sentence - but
I suppose we could release

run on license, and in any
Case the decision will no
doubt rest with the Irish
Government.

I think we have heard
from other sources that
the pro-Ally Irish in America
are going to be induced to
petition on his behalf.

Do you think Spry. Rice
should be authorized to
do anything towards
stopping the petition as he
suggests? If so what

Should he be told to say?

Yours sincerely
Edward Thompson.

REGISTERED
7 FEB. 1917

24

Copy of Letter from Lord Hardinge to Sir E. Group

Foreign Office
February 3rd 1917

My dear Group
I enclose an extract from the decypher of a private telegram to me from our Ambassador in Washington. Would you very kindly let me know what answer I should send?

I am writing to you on the supposition that John MacNeill is held by the Civil Authorities here. I do not know whether it is necessary to consult the Irish Authorities. If it is, perhaps your Department would do so.

Yours very sincerely
(Signed) Hardinge of P.

Copy of extract referred to by Lord Hardinge

Decypher. Sir C. Spring Rice (Washington)
to Lord Hardinge

R. 11.30 A.M. February 1st 1917.

no. -

1. - Quinn who is a friendly Irishman told me some people are getting up a petition for release of John MacNeill. He recommends his release if possible if not allowed to come here. I said that I could express no opinion. Shall I say anything? I might perhaps stop it.

