



Sons of Erin: Five outstanding Irish Americans talk things over at the St. Patrick's Day meeting called by the American Irish Defense Association. Left to right: Tim Murphy, Major General John F. O'Ryan; Eugene P. Connolly, Professor William Agar, and Christopher Emmett. —Daily Worker Photo

Irish Americans Denounce Christian Front at Rally

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By Beth McHenry

A round crowd of Chelsea Irish—old folks and middle ones and children who ran up and down the aisles—filled the auditorium of P. S. 11, 321 West 21st St., with their applause Tuesday night—lauding their heroes and denouncing the Christian Front as “traitor” Irish.

The occasion was a St. Patrick's Day meeting called by the American Irish Defense Association and addressed by a number of outstanding Irish Americans including Major General John F. O'Ryan, Prof. William Agar, Eugene P. Connolly, Tim Murphy and Christopher Emmett, who's a direct descendant of the great Irish patriot, Robert Emmett.

Mr. Emmett, who served as the chairman, set the tone for the meeting with his tribute to “the legion of brave Irish Americans who are now doing their duty on land and sea and in the factories of America.”

DISGRACE TO IRISH

On the other hand, he pointed to the shameful “loud voices” that are bringing disgrace to the Irish Americans—the “Gallaghers, McWilliamses, Cassidys, Coughlins and Currans.”

He spoke of the “probable attitude of the great Irish patriots” toward today's war.

“Robert Emmett, Wolfe, Tone, Lord Edward Fitzgerald and Charles Stewart Parnell all were nourished in the tradition of liberty which expressed itself in the American and French Revolutions,” he pointed

out. “They opposed tyranny wherever it was found. Since they disapproved of the tyranny of Napoleon, even though Napoleon fought against England, it is not hard to guess what they would have thought of Hitler, who has tortured and enslaved every free country in Europe.”

Dr. Agar, the head of Freedom House, also scored the Coughlins and Currans, declaring:

“The whole story of the Christian Front, based as it is on anti-Semitism, is a straight piece of the Nazi line.”

TIME FOR ACTION

Asserting it is time for Irish-Americans to speak up and “kill the idea that people have got of us because of these vocal villains,” Dr. Agar urged unity to win the war.

“The issue is too great for us to permit ourselves to be anti-this or anti-that or anti-the other thing. We have got to win this war.”

Tim Murphy, a read-headed Irish “sandhog,” member of Compressed Air Workers' Union, Local 147, AFL, took the house down with his forthright remarks of why he “as an Irishman, a Catholic and an American trade-unionist supports the war.”

“The way I see it,” said he, “is that these three groups have about the most to lose in this war.”

Warning against the many tactics which Hitler's agents used to divide the people and weaken the fight against the Axis, Murphy struck out at race and religious hatred and at red-baiting.

“Red-baiting has only one pur-

pose,” he warned, “and that is to weaken and divide the workers who are the great and militant heart of our war effort.”

Paying tribute to the glorious fighting of the Red Army, Murphy said derisively of Hitler:

“He was turned back in Russia this winter. He blamed it on the cold. It is up to every freedom-loving person to see that next summer becomes too hot for him.”

General O'Ryan said of the Christian Front, “these people aren't Christians, they're masquerading.” He expressed his confidence that the Irish will play their brave, historic role in the fight against Hitler.

“The Irish have always had a wholesome loathing for things that crawl on their bellies and do not walk upright as men,” he said. “On St. Patrick's Day, then, we call upon all of Irish heritage, wherever they may be, in new world or old, to help drive into the sea the serpents of fascist Italy, Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.”

Eugene P. Connolly, New York County secretary of the American Labor Party, called to mind the long and splendid record of the Irish in building democracy in America.

“Let us remember that our place today is still in the fight for freedom. We are fighting now with the soldiers of the Soviet Union, Britain and China. These people are our allies and we must not only fight with them but strain every resource to give our allies the things they need.”