

REMARKS OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, U. S. REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND AT OPENING OF NEW
IRISH PROGRAM OVER STATION WPAW, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1960 AT 4 PM

Thank you, Jim Durkin, for this opportunity to say a brief word in connection with this well-known Irish Program. I know that it is widely enjoyed by those listeners who are of Irish origin or ancestry and that it has also served to delight many others and to acquaint them with the music, culture and life of the great country of Ireland.

It is always right and fitting when speaking of Ireland to dwell upon the glories as well as the many sorrows of her long and honorable history. The songs and poems written by Irish bards reflect the great love which Irishmen everywhere have always had for the motherland of their ancestors and for her great traditions of the past. Yet, we have every reason to take an equal interest in the great and honorable international role which the free Irish Republic and its distinguished representatives are playing in the world at the present time.

The Irish people have fought for freedom in every part

of the globe. They have always been identified with individual liberty and the right of self-determination for all nations. They put spiritual values above material goods and although they are known to love a good fight in a good cause, they are fundamentally a kind and peaceful nation.

These qualities have made Ireland a unique force in modern world affairs. For a long time, the Soviet Union managed to veto Ireland's membership in the United Nations. Since 1955, however, Ireland has become an increasingly significant member of that international body. Her remarkably able representative Frederick H. Boland has already proven himself to be one of the most outstanding Presidents of the General Assembly ever to preside there, The standing ovation which he received from the delegates for the strong manner in which he dealt with the barbaric antics of Nikita Krushchev was a tribute not only to Mr. Boland but to the nation which he so well represents.

Few people in this country realize the extent to which Ireland has won the respect and confidence of the leaders of the nations of Africa which have just won their own independence. They know that Ireland is as vigorous an opponent of colonialism as she is an equally strong opponent of Communism. Mr. Boland's work on committees having to do with African affairs was an unusual example of fairness and justice to all concerned. It is no exaggeration to say that if the new African states finally decide to stand with the free world against the Communist bloc, Ireland will be justified in claiming an important share of the credit.

Ireland does not aspire to be a great military power. She does aspire to be fully and completely free so that her national life will be unimpeded and her economic development well balanced between agriculture and industry.

Like every other man of Irish ancestry, therefore, I can see much in the Ireland of today which makes me as interested

in Ireland's welfare and as proud of her present accomplishments as I am of her past glories. The United States, like every other freedom-loving country, has no more loyal friend in the world than the Republic of Ireland. Many changes for the better have come to her in modern times, but her ancient spirit remains unaltered. Respect for the things of God, respect for freedom of conscience, respect for human dignity -- these are Ireland's greatest treasures. To free men everywhere, and to those who hope someday to throw off the yoke of oppression, she remains a burning and a shining light. Freedom for Ireland, for all of Ireland, has and always will be one of my great concerns, for I firmly believe that the cause of liberty and self-determination for every people is one over the whole earth.