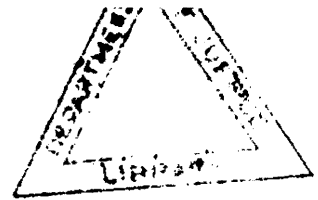


ADDRESS.



BY

HONORABLE HERBERT BROWNELL, JR.
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

Prepared for Delivery
at
The Society of the Friendly Sons
Of St. Patrick in the City of New York
Annual Dinner

Hotel Astor
New York City
Tuesday, March 17, 1953

To your rousing and gracious "Caed Mile Failte,"
let me respond with an equally heartfelt "Slante."

And lest you conclude from my impeccable Gaelic
accent that I am just a greenhorn with a turncoat name, I
will speak the sad truth to you.

I am not really Irish, at all, a-tall.

There never was a Brownell ever saw the sun come
up over fair Kenmare. Not a one of us ever knew the joy
of dancing a wild jig at the crossroads at Ballyheath.
Never a Brownell ever listened to the wonderous talk of
the little people who prance the craggy bluffs where dark
Mourne meets the sea.

And more's the pity.

But before you rise as one and shout, "Throw the
rascal out," let me put before you some facts of my life
that might qualify me as a speaker before this gathering
of Gaels.

To begin with, my wife was born in Dublin --
Dublin, Texas, to be sure -- but Dublin, none-the-less.

Secondly, I have heard and read a great many
speeches by one of the most Irish Irishmen this side of
Bantry Bay -- Father Robert Gannon. And anyone ~~who~~ has
ever come under the spell of that famous Soggarth of Park
Avenue will testify that it is hard to listen to him and
not come away feeling half transfused with the blood of
kings.

The third leaf in my spurious shamrock is the

fact that I once rooted for Notre Dame against Southern Methodist. However, in all honesty I must confess that had I done otherwise, my good friend Tom Curran would have lathered me with his shillelagh.

There are my credentials -- poor lot though they are. But if anyone of you wishes to challenge them -- if you are in for a row or a raction -- just tread on the tail of me coat.

But now that you have admitted me to the lodge, what can an Irishman-of-the-day say to you who wear the green all year 'round?

I think there is a common ground we can dwell on. Our mutual aversion for the color red.

Red these days, is the color of disloyalty, of deceit, of dissembling.

Red is the ensign of those who feign loyalty to America while giving true allegiance to a foreign power that seeks to bully, malign, threaten, attack, conquer and enslave this America of ours.

But before discussing the Reds, I'd like to touch briefly on some distinctions between citizens. We have on the one hand the man who loves America better than life -- and yet maintains an understandable concern for the land of his ancestry. This dinner is a perfect example of what I mean.

It is my belief that Irish-Americans -- though cherishing the memory of the land of their fathers, while

revering its saints and its heroes, while loving her lakes and her fells -- these Irish-Americans yield to no race of fellow immigrants -- whether eighth generation Americans or first -- in their zealous pride of America, in the sacrifices they have made and are willing to make in her behalf.

I need only to glance at the roster of guests and members here tonight -- and think of the contributions some of you have made to the culture, commerce and commonweal of the United States -- to know that "Irish-American" is really a misnomer.

You really are American-Irish.

But what of the other kind of citizen, the dissimulator, who outwardly salutes our flag and behind false lips murmurs the Communist oath? What of those who have come to our shores or have been born within them whose loyalty is to no land; whose love and zeal and time and toil are freely given to a menacing ideology that strives to undermine our way of life, to sap its strength, to decay its roots in the hope that soon it shall topple like timber, prey to the axe and saw of Communism?

How can we ferret them out of the vast mass of loyal Americans?

Distinguishing Red from true blue is not always easy. But we are finding a way...like Mrs. O'Flaherty, the Irish mother of identical twins. When she was asked, "How do you tell the two darlings apart; they've the same

handsome face, the same heft and manner, the same lilt to their talk?" -- Mrs. O'Flaherty replied, "When I puts my finger into Dennis' mouth and he bites me, than I know its Michael."

We, in the new Administration, are finding a better way to distinguish between the loyal and the subversive.

Today, the entire attitude of the Government toward the problems of subversion from within our ranks has changed. Under the old system, we had the case of William Remington. He started out with TVA. His first job was brief, but he was back again in May 1940 as an assistant to the Assistant Director of the National Resources Planning Board. From there he went to CPA as an associate economist and then in February 1942 to the War Production Board. It was while with this Board that he gave Miss Elizabeth Bentley, self-avowed Communist spy courier, secret figures on aircraft production during World War II. He was commissioned in the Navy in 1944, but almost immediately was loaned to the Mission for Economic Affairs and attached to the United States Embassy in London. After the war he went to the Council of Economic Advisers and then in March 1948 transferred to the Commerce Department. It was while he was with the Council of Economic Advisers that the Department of Justice began bringing evidence to the Grand Jury of his prior connection with and work for the Communists. He appeared personally before that Grand Jury in February 1947 or nearly 6 months before he transferred to

the Commerce Department.

It was after he transferred to Commerce that he had access to all important secret defense data. He was Chairman of a Committee which decided what type of defense material to send to Russia and her satellites in return for badly-needed critical materials such as manganese needed by the Air Force for jet engines.

What was wrong here? It was the fact that Remington -- subject of a Grand Jury investigation for Communistic activities -- was receiving the most secret details of our stock piling of critical materials. He wasn't suspended -- he went right on working in a most sensitive position. Knowledge as to critical shortages is something which our enemies naturally would seek. It would be of great assistance to them in planning their own defense programs.

The employing agencies had been told about the evidence against Remington but there was no move to suspend him until the eve of the startling public disclosures by Miss Bentley before Committees of Congress. He was suspended July 18, 1948, 9 days before Miss Bentley told her story on Capitol Hill. Then what happened? A fourth Civil Service Region Loyalty Hearing Board ruled that there was reasonable grounds for belief that Remington was disloyal but on appeal he won a Loyalty Review Board decision that the evidence did not establish reasonable grounds for such belief. And, on February 9, 1949 it ordered him restored to duty.

Meantime the investigations continued and in May 1950 he again was called before a Federal Grand Jury here. As a result of his lies the Grand Jury indicted him for perjury. It was not until the day after his indictment that the Secretary of Commerce demanded and received his resignation.

To sum it up, Remington appeared before 3 different Federal Grand Juries, the House Committee on Un-American Activities and the Senate Investigating Committee prior to his indictment and his forced resignation. Yes, the old loyalty program was a failure.

This old discredited employee loyalty program covered only a portion of the Federal employees -- many were not checked at all, even when they transferred to the so-called "sensitive" agencies. It endeavored to set up a standard for employment which was unworkable -- it sought to probe the employee's mind to establish subjectively a narrow test of "loyalty." It provided for almost endless advisory appeal boards -- and in one case where the advice of all the appeal boards didn't suit a top Government official, a special superadvisory board was set up to rehear this particular case. These advisory appeals, while they did give employment to a large staff of examiners and clerks, of reviewers and analysts, did not serve so much to protect the employee under investigation as to pillory him publicly in long drawn out proceedings which assumed the aspects of a treason trial.

The old loyalty program is now to be discarded. A new employee security program is being set up. Under it the test will be whether the employee is found, after full opportunity is given to answer the written charges against him, to be a good security risk for employment by our Government at this time in our history when active subversion by foreign powers has made the problem of internal security of major importance. Under the new program, an employee or an applicant for employment may be loyal in his own mind, but still because of personal habits of conduct, a background of carelessness, negligence or failure to observe reasonable rules of security, he is in fact a security risk -- and therefore not acceptable as a Government employee.

As President Eisenhower has said: first Government employment is a privilege and not a right, and second the job of weeding out security risks is primarily one for the Executive branch of the Government. Accordingly the final decision in each case, after hearings, will be made by the head of the Agency in which the person is employed. And finally, to insure fairness and efficiency in the operation of the new program, a supervisory function will be given to an impartial Agency, such as the Civil Service Commission. To avoid repetition of the pussy footing attitude shown in the Remington case, an employee may be suspended during the time he is under investigation.

Another change of attitude in Washington is toward the F.B.I. -- that great organization under the splendid

leadership of J. Edgar Hoover. Since the F.B.I. is in the Department of Justice, I have a daily opportunity to see this change in attitude. In recent years this great investigative agency has been under attack from Communist groups and "front" organizations with more or less covert support from some Government officials.

In fact I always suspected that the support allegedly given the F.B.I. in recent years by the Government was as doubtful in real meaning as the words of the priest who was trying to think of something appropriate to say to a hardened criminal in the death house. The time came to leave for the execution and the priest, still at a loss for words, walked along with the criminal. At the end of the walk, as the unregenerate outlaw stepped forward to the electric chair, the priest made one last effort to comfort and support him and said -- "Well, more power to you."

That kind of ambiguous by worded support, often failing at the crucial moment, is not what the F.B.I. needs or deserves.

Not only in the field of internal security but in the enforcement of the criminal laws, the entire administration is now giving the F.B.I. the backing it needs. We in the Department of Justice are providing lawyers of integrity and first class competence to try the cases which the F.B.I. develops. Evidence is now in the hands of the F.B.I. which conclusively proves espionage in certain cases, but this evidence cannot now be used in court because of

present rules of evidence. Accordingly, we are sponsoring a legislative program to strengthen the application of rules of evidence in espionage cases.

Also, on another front, we are vigorously pursuing a program designed to rid the Nation of all naturalized and alien Communists where evidence is found that they have violated our immigration and nationality laws.

Nearly 10,000 naturalized citizens are under investigation. They are believed to be or to have been engaged in subversive activities or presently to be or to have been members of, or affiliated with, the Communist Party.

These investigations are to determine whether their naturalization can be revoked. If naturalization is revoked by the courts, these persons will again be aliens and subject to deportation.

Turning to another phase of the program, investigations are being conducted to determine whether nearly 12,000 aliens residing here may be deported because of their subversive activities or membership in or affiliation with the Communist Party. Wherever these investigations uncover evidence of such activities or membership, deportation proceedings will be instituted against these aliens.

For instance, such proceedings already have been instituted against Irving Potash, John Williamson and Jacob Stachel. All have since been convicted under the Smith Act. The deportation proceedings against these three

national leaders of the Communist Party were temporarily suspended during their trial, but since conviction, final orders for their deportation have been entered.

Another person involved in such proceedings is Mrs. Earl Browder. Both Mrs. Browder and her husband are under indictment for making false statements in connection with her application for citizenship. The Government charges that they both lied about her Communist activities.

In all, 280 Communist leaders are currently under deportation orders. Many obstacles remain to successful completion of this program. It's a job worthy of a modern day St. Patrick to drive those snakes from our shores, but steady progress is being made -- and we are determined to succeed.