

Brothers,

At the 2005 Ohio State Convention we were reminded that the US-UK Extradition Treaty Supplement is still before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Last year the AOH launched a national effort to stop it before it came out of committee. Hibernians in Ohio played a special role in that effort. With our Senator George Voinovich on the foreign relations committee, we generated over one thousand letters to his office that stated our opposition to it. That the treaty supplement did not go before the full Senate may indicate a measure of success through our efforts. However, it is still alive and therefore could still be presented to the full Senate at any time.

We are again being asked to write to Senator Voinovich to remind him that Ohioans have not forgotten. Please send a letter to let him know that we expect him to reject the US-UK Extradition Treaty Supplement #108-23. The primary issues of concern are:

- 1) The elimination of the political offense exception for certain alleged offences. (This has been a part of extradition treaties since the founding of our nation.)
- 2) It would allow for extradition without facts to support probable cause. (An allegation by a single witness is sufficient to grant extradition.)
- 3) The elimination of the statute of limitations. (Anyone accused of an alleged offense may be extradited, regardless of how long ago it occurred.)
- 4) The revised treaty is retroactive. (It applies to any alleged offense that may have occurred before ratification.)
- 5) The determination of political motivation is transferred from the judiciary to the executive branch. (Due process is bypassed.)
- 6) It allows for extradition even if the alleged offense does not violate any U.S. federal law.
- 7) The United Kingdom may seize all assets of anyone sought for extradition.
- 8) The Rule of Specialty is eliminated. (An individual may be extradited on a specific charge, then once in U.K. custody, may be charged with additional and unrelated offences.)

Please review the following web link to a sample letter from the Irish American Unity Conference. The letter is a good source of information but it should not be copied verbatim. The State Board is asking that we write our own unique letters, based on common issues of concern.

Legal scholars have warned that this unprecedented treaty with the U.K. holds the potential for devastating results on American citizens involved in shining a light on the facts regarding England's continued colonization of six Irish counties. While some will argue that the treaty supplement is only directed toward threats to U.K. security, history shows that when governments are given the legal right to target law abiding citizens that oppose policy, they will seize on any opportunity to do so. This nation was founded by patriots that faced similar threats.

Bear in mind that this is as much an AMERICAN issue as an Irish-American issue.

Please mail two copies to me or e-mail your letter to me at:

Michael T. Coleman
2410 Dawnlight Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43211

mcoleman@voyager.net

Mail the original to:

Senator George Voinovich
317 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
Washington, DC 20510

For a sample letter, check out:

<http://www.iauc.org/iaucextradition.htm>

Michael Coleman
Chairman FFAI/PEC