

# Controversy on Red Patriotism

Many people have expressed their opinions recently concerning the threat of Communist propaganda which is being sold through our city under the tag of '*Red Patriot.*' Most opinions express the fear of our innocent children being influenced by this propaganda. The society (Red Patriots) has even attracted the attention of Mayor Coughlan, T.D. The Mayor claims that these leftists should be expelled, with their literature, from the city of Limerick. The Mayor does not appear to be moved by the fact that these so called leftists also have the right to free speech in this democratic country of ours. Most of this regional "Red Patriot Party" are Limerick boys who have not found that the opinions of Chairman Mao Tse Tung coincide with their own opinions on Communism. These "Reds" are merely expressing their personal opinions on Communism, a right which no one can deny them.

My own opinion on the matter is that both parties concerned, i.e., the leaders of our city and The Red Patriot Party are missing the "Key" to agreement. This I believe can only be achieved when both sides begin to respect each others opinions. It is obvious from the breakdown in communications between followers of either side, that the cause is centered with opinion. The Mayor and his followers should

realize that the policy of "run 'em out of town" is no answer to the problem. To the "Patriots" I say that they have not got the right to exert their opinions over their own fellowmen by "brain washing" people with nonsensical literature. I believe that Chairman Mao and his followers wish to see their policies fulfilled. They are going to have to include in their doctrine, or Red Book, a phrase regarding "freedom of speech for all men," for it is clearly obvious in China at the present day that one is denied the right along with other human rights e.g., practice of religion.

You, the headmasters of our schools, may forget your worries on Communist infiltration. The greater majority of your students are democratic at heart, for they know they cannot accept a doctrine which is practiced thousands of miles from here, and accept every word of this doctrine "as gospel truth." Of the small minority who do support Maoist doctrine I say, congratulations on expressing your beliefs and risking your very position in your schools, maybe with fear of expulsion. However, one last word to the Maoists and to the Authorities: respect one another's opinion always and then you may be confident of arriving at a proper compromise."

—B. MULCAHY