

THE HIGH COURT

BETWEEN

SEAN McMANUS IN RELIGION

PLAINTIFF

-v-

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
JOHN CUSHNAHAN,
THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
NORTHERN IRELAND AND
SEAMUS McKEE

DEFENDANTS

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Delivered this 4th day of August 1989
by Malocco and Killeen, Solicitors, 3/4
Lower Kevin Street, Dublin 8, Solicitors
for the Plaintiff.

1. At all times material to this Action the Plaintiff was and is a Redemptorist Priest and the National Director of the Irish National Caucus, a non-profit United States Corporation organised under the laws of the District of Columbia in the United States of America.
2. The first Defendant broadcasts programmes throughout Northern Ireland and to its knowledge the same are received in the Republic of Ireland.
3. At all times material to this Action the second named Defendant was a Servant or Agent of the third named Defendant and a Spokesman for it concerning employment matters and practice in Northern Ireland.

4. The third named Defendant is a Department of the Government of the United Kingdom and at all times material to this Action it had responsibility for employment and economic matters in Northern Ireland.
5. The fourth named Defendant is a Radio Broadcaster.
6. On the 16th day of December 1988 at or about 1 o'clock pm during the course of a Broadcast Programme entitled "News at One", the second named Defendant, acting as the servant or agent of the third named Defendant and in the course of his employment by it together with the first and fourth named Defendants falsely and maliciously broadcast or caused to be broadcast and published by Radio of and concerning the Plaintiff and of and concerning him in his said Occupation the words following, that is to say:-
"..... because their Agenda is not Fair Employment. Their Agenda is Economic Destabilisation and that is best illustrated by the fact the Chief Witnesses that have been appearing across the United States are Sean McManus, of the Irish National Caucus, and Martin Galvin, of Noraid, Organisations renowned for their sympathy and support for the I.R.A."
6. By the said words in their natural and ordinary meaning the Defendants meant and were understood to mean:-
 - (i) that the Plaintiff supports the I.R.A.
 - (ii) that the Plaintiff is well known for his support of the I.R.A.
 - (iii) that the Plaintiff associates himself with an Organisation well known for its support of the I.R.A.
7. Further or in the alternative the said words meant and were understood to mean:-

- (i) That the plaintiff supports the use of violence.
- (ii) that the plaintiff supports terrorism.
- (iii) that the Plaintiff has no respect for human life.
- (iv) that the Plaintiff was guilty of a Criminal Offence.
- (v) that the Plaintiff has no respect for the Rule of Law.
- (vi) that the Plaintiff is a violent person.
- (vii) that the Plaintiff's support of terrorism is well known.
- (viii) that the Plaintiff's support of the use of violence is well known.
- (ix) that it is well known that the Plaintiff has no respect for human life.
- (x) that the Plaintiff is a dishonest and deceitful person.
- (xi) that the Plaintiff is lacking in candour.
- (xii) that the Plaintiff seeks to disguise his support of violence.
- (xiii) that the Plaintiff is not a fit person to be a Priest.
- (xiv) that the Plaintiff is lacking in respect for the Office of the Priesthood.
- (xv) that the Plaintiff is a person lacking in sincerity.
- (xvi) that the Plaintiff actively seeks to promote the use of violence and terrorism to bring about change.
- (xvii) that the Plaintiff's interest in fair employment in Northern Ireland is not genuine.
- (xviii) that the Plaintiff's interest in Fair Employment in Northern Ireland is not sincere.
- (xix) that the Plaintiff's interest in Fair employment in Northern Ireland is but a guise to promote the use of violence and terrorism.

8. By the publication of the said words, the Plaintiff has been greatly injured in his credit, character and reputation and in the way of his said Profession or

Occupation and has been brought into ridicule
and contempt.

And the Plaintiff Claims damages.

Hugh Martin Rodgers.

To: McCann Fitzgerald Sutton Dudley,
Solicitors for first named Defendant,
30 Upper Pembroke St,
Dublin 2.

To: John Cushnahan,



To: Department of Economic Development
Northern Ireland,
Stormont,
Belfast,
Northern Ireland.

To: McCann Fitzgerald Sutton Dudley,
Solicitors for the fourth named Defendant,
30 Upper Pembroke St,
Dublin 2.

To; The Registrar,
Central Office,
High Court,
Four Courts,
Dublin 7.