

NOTE

MEETING WITH HAROLD McCUSKER, MONDAY 17 JUNE

PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Harold McCusker MP  
Mr Harrison Goldin  
Mr Pat Doherty (Aide)  
Miss Bush (Central Secretariat escort)

1. Mr Goldin presented himself as an investor and a potential re-investor with a moral obligation to ensure that there was equal opportunity for all sections of the community in the job market. He asked Mr McCusker what was being done at present and what were his Party's future plans and policies in relation to ensuring that all sections of the community had equal opportunity in the employment field. He once again highlighted the finance, banking, insurance and engineering industries as the main economic base, yet where there was the most evidence of discrimination against the Catholic population.
2. Mr McCusker's response concentrated on past historic reasoning, such as the Catholic education system, attitudes and location of employment, stating that employment was not peculiar to one section of the community. He also gave examples of reverse discrimination but Mr Goldin dismissed these arguments and said that he was more interested in the present and future and did not want to dwell in the past.
3. Mr McCusker stated that all first-year apprenticeships are now carried out under the Government Training Scheme and that over 50 per cent of the young people in such schemes were Catholics. As a result of this he felt that the proportion of young people obtaining employment through the system must be representative or indeed marginally over-representative of Catholic young r Mr Goldin seemed very interested in this aspect and hoped investigate this further. (I am not sure that Mr McCusker accurate in his description of the scheme nor in the figures gave for the proportion of Catholic and Protestants. Are



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first-year apprentices controlled by the Government Training Scheme and is there more than 60 per cent of people on this scheme from the Catholic community?)

L BUSH

20 June 1985

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