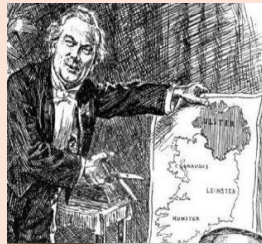


A PERTURBED POLLAK

[Unpublished letter to Irish Times]

Andy Pollak's latest verbal discharge (fortunately uncharacteristically brief) in 'The Irish Times' (11 Feb) endeavours to counterpose the cost of Irish reunification and the solution of the housing and health crises in the Republic. He implicitly attempts to peddle yet again a distortion about the subsidy from Britain to the 'north' and how that would simply transfer to the taxpayer in the 'south'. While the subsidy is said to be about £9.2 billion, studies and analyses from expert sources have revealed that it could involve as little as £2 billion from the Irish exchequer in immediate accountancy terms on national reunification, and not having regard to the economic benefit that could more than compensate from the ending of partition.

As for the diminished figure, something that would help produce it immediately is elimination of expenditure on keeping the British Army in north-east Ireland! And then there are commitments which the British government cannot escape from such as the



substantial outlay required on pensions which have already been paid for by the contributions of citizens over the years. Just as the British had to meet a legitimate bill under various headings on leaving the EU, so they will have to legally fulfil their financial obligations in relation to Northern Ireland. Moreover, Irish unity will involve automatic reintegration of the six counties fully into the EU with the transfers from Brussels that that could mean.

Along with others devastatingly defeated in efforts at scaremongering about Sinn Féin, Mr Pollak now endeavours to frighten the electorate in the 'south' by suggesting the falsehood that their legitimate concerns and demands in respect of basic welfare cannot be met if the nation is reunited.

He thus seeks to swathe himself in benign beneficence as a disguise for his horror at the prospect of the consummation of Irish freedom. How patriotic.

16 Feb 2020