

TEXT OF THE INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS delivered by **PROFESSOR SÉAMUS Ó CINNÉIDE**, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, on 17 May 2002, on the occasion of the conferring of the Degree of Doctor of Literature, *honoris causa*, on **PETER R. KAIM-CAUDLE**

A Sheansailéar, a mhuintir na hOllscoile, agus a dhaoine uaisle,

Our scholar-champion has spent his life crossing borders: political boundaries between countries, disciplinary defences between areas of academic specialisation, limits of status and function, such as those between the roles of student, researcher, teacher, public servant and policy analyst, ocean barriers between continents. When he crossed a border he made himself at home with the people on the other side; by asking the awkward questions he enabled them to discover themselves.

Peter Robert Kaim was born into a professional Jewish family in Berlin on the 14th of December 1916. His ambition to become a civil servant in Germany became unattainable when the Nazi party came to power. When he was sixteen his family, always admirers of England, sent him there with one of his two brothers, to safety and an English education. His struggles with the English language were intensified by an unrecognised overlay of dyslexia. But he overcame these difficulties and matriculated at the University of London, where he studied economics at the London School of Economics. In 1939 he completed his studies and went to work in business. During the war he was interned for fifteen months as an "enemy alien", first in the Isle of Man and later in Canada. His career in education began with informal classes for internees.

Peter's family in Germany were killed in the Shoah, the Holocaust. After he returned to England from Canada he was blessed to meet Patricia Caudle and, with her, the prospect of a new family. They were married in 1945, joining their lives and their surnames inseparably to become Peter and Patricia Kaim-Caudle.

Peter began his academic career in Dundee, but in 1950 took up an appointment in economics at the University of Durham. Having formally retired from there as Professor of Social Policy in 1982 he continues as Emeritus Professor. In the intervening years Durham was his home, the site of his academic endeavours, the arena of his involvement in politics and social services, the base from which he went out to teach and to do research throughout the world.

Peter had found his *métier* in social policy studies. As a teacher he served many categories of students. He taught Durham miners, Irish trade unionists, university students, public servants, research colleagues. The challenges of language that he encountered enabled him, indeed obliged him, to develop a simple, graphic and forceful style of exposition, enlivened by the memorable phrase, the illuminating example. He had three further advantages. First, he transcended artificial boundaries between subjects: he is by education and training a statistician, an economist, a lawyer, and he can draw on insights from all these areas. He is persuasive on the interconnections between economic and social policy. Second, he had a wealth of practical and policy experience.

He was district chairman of the Workers Educational Association and the Citizens' Advice Bureau; he served on the Durham Social Services Committee; he was a government appointee on several committees of enquiry; he played an active part in professional associations. Third, he owns and conveys a deep-felt commitment to the humane and equitable values that must infuse all social policy. With him academic rigour and an ambition for reform reinforce rather than diminish each other.

We in Ireland are fortunate that Peter Kaim-Caudle discovered Ireland, and in coming here crossed a barrier to understanding that is wider than the Irish Sea and much older than social policy. He came first in 1963 to the Economic Research Institute. At that time social science was a puny thing in the universities and social policy studies did not exist at all. But it was a time of expanding horizons and social policy change. He produced two path-breaking monographs, on social security and on housing; these were the foundations of a pioneering student textbook, *Social Policy in the Irish Republic*, published in 1967. At the end of the sixties he came back for a second stint, at what had become the Economic and Social Research Institute, and produced penetrating analyses of pensions and of the key para-medical professions: dentistry, pharmacy and ophthalmics.

He was ahead of his time in highlighting the role of the professions and the implications for expenditure. But that is only half the story. He came to Ireland every year for over thirty years to teach and excite a succession of students at the Institute of Public Administration and in the universities. Never idle, he produced a long list of articles on Irish topics down the years. He was a valuable outside observer and commentator, alert, sensitive, provocative, lucid. For as long as social policy and the social history of Ireland in the late twentieth century is studied, Kaim-Caudle will be listed in the sources.

But Peter Kaim-Caudle's energy could not be confined to these islands. While on leave from Durham, and also since his nominal retirement, he has taught and researched on the five continents – at famous universities in Sierra Leone, in Canada, in Australia, in Fiji and in Taiwan, as well as here. His 1973 ten-country study, *Comparative Social Policy and Social Security*, was unprecedented in its scope and clarity of analysis; it was translated into Chinese and Japanese and made him welcome wherever he went. And after a long and painful hiatus he was reconciled through his scholarship with the country of his birth.

Wherever he went, almost invariably, Patricia went too. Wherever he went his four children, Robert, Stephen, Helen and Kate were always close to them, if latterly only in spirit and by telecommunication. Wherever he went he did not just teach students: he also befriended so many of them and inspired them.

Peter Kaim-Caudle's election to be honoured by the National University of Ireland can, then, be seen not just as a particular election by the University community, but on this day as a general election by all those who admire him and have reason to be grateful to him, his family and the friends of a long and fruitful lifetime, his colleagues in academic, administrative and political life in Britain and Ireland, as well as his countless former students throughout the world.

We celebrate Professor Peter Robert Kaim-Caudle as an exemplary teacher, as a founding father of social policy studies in Ireland, as a world-renowned scholar in comparative social studies.

PRAEHONORABILIS CANCELLARIE, TOTAQUE UNIVERSITAS:

Praesento vobis hunc meum filium, quem scio tam moribus quam doctrina habilem et idoneum esse qui admittatur, honoris causa, ad gradum Doctoratus in Litteris, idque tibi fide mea testor ac spondeo, totaque Academiae.