

- Letters

Welcome for President Obama

Madam, – The rapturous reception accorded President Obama thrilled the hearts of those of us whose ancestors were forced to take the boat. And the accusation that Taoiseach Enda Kenny plagiarised some of President Obama’s words also gave us great comfort to know that whingeing and begrudgery are still alive and well in Ireland (“Kenny plagiarism claim denied”, Breaking News, May 24th).

This plagiarism claim reminded us of our experience while living in Ireland in 2002 when then taoiseach Bertie Ahern lashed out at the press for attacking his proposed national stadium, “the Bertie Bowl” and said, “I’ll not have it whinged to death in the press”. The next day, RTÉ had a contest for the greatest whinge uttered in Ireland. The winner was Peegen Mike’s famous lament: “Oh my grief, I’ve lost him surely. I’ve lost the only Playboy of the Western World”.

It seems to us that if there is anyone out there who still doubts that Ireland is a place where a good whinge is still possible; who still wonders if the begrudgery of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of poaching a good line, this allegation and your headline (“Kenny plagiarism claim denied”, Breaking News, May 24th) are your answer.

– Yours, etc,

ROBERT & NONA LYONS,
Kennebunkport,
Maine, US.

For those who did not hear the original speeches: Begrudgery and whingeing of all kinds was unleashed in the Irish print media and talk radio about this speech--much of it with tongue in cheek I think. I couldn't resist a take-off on the original speech. Long live Ireland!

Prime Minster Enda Kenny's speech introducing President Obama on College Green, Dublin, Monday, May 23, 2011: "IF THERE'S anyone out there who still doubts that Ireland is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our ancestors is alive in our time; who still questions our capacity to restore ourselves, to reinvent ourselves and to prosper. Well, today is your answer. Because today, on this day, the President of the United States, Barack Obama and his first lady, Michelle Obama, come to visit.

President Obama in 2008 at Grant Park, Chicago on the night he won the election said:

“If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer.”