

FATHER MCDYER

Tourism is particularly obnoxious in obliterating local traditional culture, because tourists come from afar, whether it's from this country or other countries, and naturally people in an isolated place like this are inclined to ape the tourists in their way of life and in their value and particularly in their mode of speech.

The girls here in charge of our Folk Museum if they meet tourists, as they do, they have to converse in English. So very gradually the Irish spoken residue that we have here is becoming eroded through the development of tourists. Now of course it's a catch 22 question: are you going to leave this into a sort of an Indian reservation and have no development at all or are you going to risk the language or the culture by having development?

I came down heavily on the side of the latter because I claimed that if you didn't have development you would soon have no people here at all. But I do think having got a certain amount of development going industrial-wise and tourist-wise then you've got to work twice as hard then to try to restore the values that have been lost and especially the language that has been lost.

[End of recording]