

## A Word With You

By ROBERT CLANCY

In these enlightened days of unremitting tension and warfare—more general than at any time since the days when the Roman Empire was collapsing—one wonders whether all the "new" ideas and goals and methods involve much more than man's age-old battle with man over the possession of land.

As far as we can penetrate, even to the dim epochs when myth and legend are the only records handed down to us—this struggle plays a dominant role. For instance, in the myths of the ancient Irish (traditionally a bellicose people anyway) we find stories of one set of mortals or deities replacing another in countless waves of invasion. The last of these mythological invasions, succeeded thenceforth by historical invasions, concerns the Milesians. These were just plain human beings who invaded Ireland which was then held by the god-like Danaans. The Milesians won the struggle and the Danaans, instead of being annihilated or banished, were rendered invisible and thenceforth occupied an invisible Ireland, side by side or intermeshed with the physical Ireland, and to this day the Irish will tell you that the unseen folk still pay their visits.

True, today there exists a physical division of Ireland, along about the 54th parallel, about which there is bitterness that only stops short of such action as was taken in reference to a 38th parallel in a certain country to the East. But the Danaan issue, at least, has been settled.

Now we don't know what the Danaans are doing among themselves. It is always tempting to imagine that people we don't know much about are happier than we. It might well be that they are quarreling among themselves. But a people smart enough to possess the whole country they lost might just be smart enough to conclude that their whole country belongs to their whole people.

I can suppose that when a Danaan appears to a mortal Irishman, the latter assumes that the former has a stake in the land where he lives. What about the landless Irishman? If he were talented enough to put in an appearance in the land of the Danaans, could he say he came from *his* land? Would not all invisible Erin rock with laughter?

If the Danaans can solve their land question, why not the descendants of King Miletus? And why not the descendants of a lot of other people?