

# IRIS

# FIANNA FÁIL

ISSUE NO. 18, 1981.

## *Leading the nation safely through*

### 50ú Ard-Fheis

The 50th Ard-Fheis of Fianna Fail marks a watershed in the history of the Party. When we look back to that first Ard-Fheis held in the Rotunda, we can realise the extent to which the Party Organisation has progressed both in terms of membership and political professionalism.

Ours is a Party with a proud tradition. Each Ard-Fheis is a unique occasion and has its own special magic. This 50th Ard-Fheis will prove to be no exception. Let us all regard it as a stepping stone to an even greater future.

We are now into the second year of the Decade of Endeavour, and our record in Government for 1980 is a satisfactory one. The Government achievements listed in this edition show quite clearly that a Fianna Fail Government is a working Government. 1980 also witnessed a great victory for the Party in the Donegal Bye Election. In Donegal everyone in the Party Organisation worked hard together to ensure that such a victory was achieved.

The standard set by the Donegal victory should act as a catalyst to all of us, so that when the time comes, the victory next time will be a national one.

1926-1981

**Frank V. McDonnell looks at the place of the Ard-Fheis in the history of Fianna Fáil.**

At an Extraordinary Ard Fheis of Sinn Féin which was held on 9/10th March 1926 in the Rotunda Concert Hall, Dublin, Eamonn de Valera, President of Sinn Féin moved:—

“That once the admission oath of the 26 County and Six County Assemblies is Removed, it becomes a question not of principle but of policy whether or not Republican Representatives should attend these Assemblies.”

A hostile amendment to this was moved by Father M O’Flanagan and carried by 223 votes to 218. The Ard Fheis however, refused to carry the amendment when put as a substantive motion and it was defeated by 179 votes to 177.

**De Valera leaves Sinn Féin**

The next day de Valera announced his Resignation as President of Sinn Féin, a position he had held since 1917.

Just three weeks later on Good Friday April 2nd 1926 Fianna Fáil as a political party was brought into being at a meeting held in a small room above the old Sinn Féin headquarters at 23 Suffolk St., Dublin under the Chairmanship of Mr. Paddy Rutledge.

The Government Record 1980

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## First meeting

The meeting was attended by eleven men and one woman— Mr. de Valera, Mr. P.J. Rutledge, Mr. Sean Lemass, Mr. Sean MacEntee, Tomas O'Deirg, Mr. Gerry Boland, Mr. Paddy Brennan, Mr. Ben Doyle, Dr. Patrick McGarville, Mr. Liam O'Doherty, Mr. P. L. Sweeney and Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington widow of Francis Sheehy Skeffington who was murdered by a British Officer in 1916.

A lengthy discussion regarding the name of the party took place at the meeting. Mr. de Valera wanted a name in the Sinn Féin tradition and suggested *Fianna Fáil*, dipping into "Na Scealta Finneachta" for it. His purpose was to identify the Gaelic quality of the party, to emphasise that they wanted to revive the Irish language and at the same time to demarcate the party very clearly from Sinn Féin.

"The Republican Party" was put in beneath the main title in deference to Sean Lemass. The choice of name for the new party was also significant in that it indicated a continuity with the movement that had started with the founding of the Irish Volunteers in 1913. The official Irish title of that body had been *Oglaigh na hÉireann* but they were often called by Irish speakers *Fianna Fáil* and the initials "F.F." were incorporated in the Volunteer badge. The title had an even older origin, since it was applied to an ancient Irish organisation of the early sagas. *Fianna Fáil's* first headquarters was opened in two small rooms at 35 Lr. O'Connell Street, Dublin 1 opposite the G.P.O., without staff or money, and with the scanty equipment of two tables, a few chairs, a small safe and a typewriter. Contributions from friends paid the office expenses.

## Circular issued

A circular was sent out to all the Sinn Féin Comhairle secretaries informing them that it had been decided to establish an organisation to progress Mr. de Valera's policy.

In the circular the Organising Committee requested all who were willing to help them in their task to communicate with them. The circular concluded: "when the organisation is fairly established a national convention will be called to confirm the programme and elect the national officers ... There is a place in the new organisation for all who, with Pdraig Pearse believe in one Irish nation and that free ..."

## Immediate Response

The response was immediate and most encouraging. Mr. de Valera set himself to frame a programme which, while also concerned with the social, cultural and economic conditions of the people, would have as its primary objective the establishment of an independent Republic. It aimed to combine all classes in the nation against the restrictions on Irish nationhood imposed by the Treaty. In social and economic matters it was designed to bring the greatest good to all classes. Social justice for the weaker classes in the community was an important part of that programme and has remained so ever since. It was a programme which Pearse and Connolly, working together, could well have written. The programme was outlined by Mr. de Valera in what has become known as the "La Scala" speech at the inaugural meeting of *Fianna Fail* (The Republican Party) which was held in the La Scala Theatre, Dublin on 16th May, 1926.



Supporters entering the La Scala theatre for the inaugural meeting of *Fianna Fáil*.

The programme was received enthusiastically by the overflow meeting, with those present convinced that the Republican movement could, by their future actions, be restored to its former strength.

After that mass meetings were held throughout the country to explain policy and enlist support. From these small beginnings this great movement was steadfastly built up.

## First Ard-Fheis

The first Ard Fheis of *Fianna Fáil* was held on 24th November 1926 in the Rotunda Concert Hall, Dublin under the Chairmanship of Sean T. O'Ceallaigh. Over 500 delegates attended. The date chosen had a particular significance — it was the fourth anniversary of the execution of Erskine Childers. Addressing the delegates Mr. de Valera said:

"We have met to give a constitution to *Fianna Fail* and put it on a permanent basis as a national organisation. My speech of last May in the La Scala gave the point of view, and fairly fully too, the main considerations that prompted me to take the step which has resulted in this meeting. I think you will agree that the time which has elapsed since then has not weakened the force of any of these considerations".

## Executive elected

After the opening speeches the Ard Fheis elected an Executive (Ard Chomhairle) as follows:

Uachtaran: Eamon de Valera, T.D.  
Leas-Uachtarain: P. J. Rutledge, T.D. and Sean T. O'Ceallaigh, T.D.  
Runaithe Oinigh: Sean F. Lemass, T.D. and Gerald Boland, T.D.  
Cisteoiri-Oinigh: Dr. Sheamus O Rian T.D. and Sean MacEntee, T.D.  
Coiste an Chuigir Deag: Frank Aiken, T.D., P.J. Little, T.D., Tomas Derrig, Mrs. Tom Clarke, Rev. E. Coyle P.P., Dr. Conn Murphy, M. Kilroy, T.D., Prof. E. Mullen, Dan Breen T.D., Prof. P. Caffrey, Mrs. Margaret Pearse, Miss Dorothy McArdle, Madame Markievicz, T.D., Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington, Miss Linda Kearns.  
Baill a co-togadh: Eamon Cooney, Robert Brennan, Eamon Donnelly, Sean O'Donovan, Eoin O Caoimh, Sean Moynihan.  
Ard-Runaí: Liam Pedlar.

There was terrific enthusiasm amongst the delegates as they listened to and debated the programme which touched on almost

every phase of the country's political, social, cultural, economic and industrial life.

Speaking on the second day of the Ard Fheis Mr. de Valera said that the object of *Fianna Fáil* was to secure complete independence for all Ireland.

"... The day the Irish people are the real masters, the day no foreign power has anything to say to them, and the day when they can make their own constitution, everything I wish for as regards to Ireland's political freedom will be accomplished ..."

## Well conceived

The procedures and format of the First Ard Fheis were so well conceived and thought out that they have largely stood the test of time and form the basis for the organisation of the much bigger Ard Fheiseanna of the 1980's.

After the 1st Ard-Fheis in the Rotunda the Ard Fheis was held annually (except for three years during the emergency) in the Mansion House Dublin. In the early years it was customary to hold a *Celidhe* in the Mansion House on the eve of the Ard Fheis. Later on this was substituted by a 'Reception' at which the ministers stood in a line near the entrance and were introduced by the Taoiseach to the delegates as they entered the hall.

The limitation on space etc. in the Mansion House was causing increasing concern all during the sixties. All possible locations were examined and finally it was decided in 1970 to hold the Ard Fheis of 1971 in the R.D.S. where it has been held ever since.

## Unique organisation

Amongst Irish political movements *Fianna Fail* has been unique. Other than it, no popular political movement in Ireland has ever proved as enduring, nor accomplished so much of what it set out to do.

All who have identified themselves with *Fianna Fail* as workers, electors or subscribers can look back with pride on their part in the great resurgence of the nation which gave us a succession of political, social and economic achievements that are unmatched in all our history. Those who can remember the circumstances of fifty-four years ago can judge how well the organisation has served the Irish People. To-day, *Fianna Fail*, with the same vigour and enthusiasm as when it began, faces the future with confidence in its ability and leadership to guide the Irish nation to a still greater destiny.

# HISTORIC HANDSHAKE



Pictured above at Dublin Castle are An Taoiseach, Charles J. Haughey, T.D., and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Our report below carries extracts from the Taoiseach's summing-up of the Dublin Summit and the full text of the meeting's Communiqué.

**December 8th, 1980, marked a landmark in Irish history. Speaking in the Dail on 11th December, the Taoiseach in his speech on the subject of the Dublin Summit, stated that "The British delegation was, in terms of its composition, the most important to visit this country since the foundation of this State or indeed for a long time before then."**

The Taoiseach continued: "The talks were extremely valuable and were conducted throughout in the most constructive spirit. The Prime Minister and I had a separate discussion lasting an hour and twenty minutes. In parallel, the other Ministers had useful discussions on aspects of the Northern Ireland situation, cross-border economic co-operation

and European Community issues, including the Common Agricultural Policy, EMS and the development of the Community generally."

"When considering the outcome of the meeting, I would invite the Dail to look carefully at the terms of the Communiqué because it summarises meticulously what was discussed; it describes specifically what emerged; it sets out clearly what was agreed among those who actually participated; and it provides the only reliable basis on which the value of the meeting can and should be addressed.

"This agreed Communiqué makes it abundantly clear that progress, substantial progress, was made and has been recorded."

The Taoiseach continued . . . "I would ask Deputies to study carefully the paragraphs of the

Communiqué which deal with the relationship between Great Britain and Ireland and the situation in Northern Ireland and to assess their impact and importance for themselves."

"The Communiqué affirms our acceptance of the need to bring forward policies and proposals to achieve this better relationship. These policies and proposals will be set in the general framework of the development of the unique relationship between the two countries. In this context, we have commissioned joint studies to cover a wide range of matters and we have agreed to give special consideration to these matters later."

In the Dail Debate the Taoiseach went on to say "I hope what I have

# Communique

said here and elsewhere indicates the constructive spirit in which the Irish Government are approaching every area of the relationships which exist and which whether we like it or not must exist between the people who inhabit these islands. To follow that, I want to say that, in what has been agreed, there is nothing to which any Unionist need take exception. Our objective is to advance the welfare and security of all the people of these islands, including those in both sections of the community in Northern Ireland. I have stated before and I gladly restate here, that come what may, the safety and welfare of the community in Northern Ireland, particularly the Unionist section of that community, would be a special personal priority for me and I would add that in any situation which might develop now or in the future that consideration would remain a priority."

The Taoiseach once again referred to the Communique: "In my statement to the House today, I have kept close to the text and conclusions of the Communique. I do this deliberately because the document was drawn up carefully and agreed only after the most meticulous consideration. Its virtue is that it represents exactly what was agreed."

The Taoiseach concluded: "The meeting in Dublin Castle last Monday was primarily concerned with the relationship between the two islands of Ireland and Great Britain. I believe that it represented a major step forward in that long and tangled relationship. I do not conceal my hope that through the development of that relationship a solution to the problems of Northern Ireland will eventually come about. Is it too much to ask all those who comment and criticise from the sidelines that they would accept that these are two noble purposes which can be honestly pursued side by side with malice toward none but rather for the benefits they will bring to countless thousands of ordinary men and women?"



## FULL TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE

1. The Taoiseach, Mr. Charles J. Haughey, T.D., today met the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, M.P., in Dublin Castle. The Taoiseach was accompanied by Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs and by Mr. Michael O'Kennedy, TD., Minister for Finance. The Prime Minister was accompanied by the Right Honourable The Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Howe, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Right Honourable Humphrey Atkins, M.P., Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

2. The meeting, which was the first of those on which the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister agreed when they met in London on 21 May, covered a range of international issues, and the future development of the European Community, including the budget, the Common Agricultural Policy, E.M.S., and fisheries, as well as other matters of concern to both countries.

3. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister noted with satisfaction the useful exchanges at Ministerial and official level since their last meeting, leading to new and closer co-operation in energy, transport, communications, cross-border economic development and security. They agreed that further improvements in these and other fields should be pursued.

4. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister agreed that the economic, social and political interests of the peoples of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic are inextricably linked, but that the full development of these links has been put under strain by division and dissent in Northern Ireland. In that context, they accepted the need to bring forward policies and proposals to achieve peace, reconciliation and stability; and to improve relations between the peoples of the two countries.

5. They considered that the best prospect of attaining these objectives was the further development of the unique relationship between the two countries.

6. They accordingly decided to devote their next meeting in London during the coming year to special consideration of the totality of relationships within these islands. For this purpose they have commissioned joint studies, covering a range of issues including possible new institutional structures, citizenship rights, security matters, economic co-operation and measures to encourage mutual understanding.

7. The Taoiseach and Prime Minister recalled the statements issued on behalf of their Governments on 4th December about the situation in the H-Blocks and reiterated the hope that the statement made by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on 4th December would provide the basis on which the issues could be resolved.

8. The discussions were regarded by both sides as extremely constructive and significant.

## In the news

### Tom Nolan

Mr. Tom Nolan T.D., who has been Minister of State at the Departments of Health and Social Welfare since 27th March last year, was appointed Minister for Labour by An Taoiseach on 16th December 1980. Mr. Nolan has been a member of the Dail for Carlow-Kilkenny since 1965 and was a member of the European Parliament from 1973 until 1979 where he served on many committees including the Social Affairs Committee as First Vice-President.

As Minister for Labour he sees his main priority as promoting industrial peace, and improving the working environment through better communications and participation in the work place. He is looking forward to establishing a good working relationship with the trade unions and employer bodies and says he is available and the services of his Department are available at all times to meet and discuss problems facing employers and workers.

"I believe it is my responsibility as Minister for Labour to ensure that we have effective structures to deal with dispute situations and industrial relations problems in general. The Government have a deep interest in and commitment to promoting good industrial relations." Mr. Nolan said.

The Minister went on to say that members of our community all strive for a better quality of life. "That's what progress is all about" he said "and this includes the quality of working life." The Minister stressed that a worker's involvement in what he is doing is important for personal development. A job should be challenging and meaningful and give the worker job satisfaction, security and promotion prospects. Working relations must be continually improved. "There is a growing desire by workers to be kept informed of the happenings in their work place and to have a greater say in decisions affecting job content, work methods, conditions and their working life in

general and this is something I propose to promote." Mr. Nolan said.

Another area of importance which the new Minister for Labour is anxious to pay particular attention to is the problem of unemployment, especially among young people. He believes that worthwhile employment is vital to the proper development of a young person's working life, after the experience of making the transition from school to the work environment. "Unemployment is a demoralising experience for anybody but it has a particular significance for young people starting out on a career and it is something I want to pay special attention" the Minister said.

### Michael O'Kennedy

"My old friend O'Kennedy, whose courtesy and efficiency you learned to value during his term as President of the Council, two short years ago, when he sat on the opposite side of this Chamber." That was how European Commission President, Gaston Thorn, introduced former Minister for Finance, Michael O'Kennedy, to the European Parliament at Strasbourg for the first time as a Member of the Commission on 12 January.

When the fourteen Members of the Thorn Commission met at the start of their four-year mandate in the previous week Mr. O'Kennedy received the major portfolio of appointment as a Delegate of the President. This appointment — the first of its kind in the history of the Commission — carries with it special responsibility for the development of Community policies, making it clear that such new developments must not call into question the basic principles of the Common Agricultural Policy.

The terms of his appointment are based on the mandate given to the Commission in May last year to bring forward proposals by June next designed to ensure that no member State will face in future the type of unacceptable budgetary situation which faced the British Government in the years following accession to the Community.

In addition to this key political responsibility, Mr. O'Kennedy has been given responsibility for the Commission's Personnel and Administration portfolio and the

Community's Statistical and Publications Offices which have their Headquarters in Luxembourg.

### Michael Smith

Roscrea-born Michael Smith was appointed Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture in January 1981. He succeeded Tom Hussey, who has moved to the Department of Social Welfare.

The new Minister is a true son of Tipperary. His father, Bill Smith, was a founder member of Fianna Fail and organised the Party in North Tipperary. Michael is just 40 years of age, has seven children and is married to the former Mary Therese Ryan. He is an ideal man for the job. When he left Templemore Christian Brothers' School at 18 he began working in the Department of Agriculture. In time, he moved to the A.I. Station at Dovea, outside Thurles. In 1971 he bought his own farm, and now has a mixed farm of 130 acres. He believes in the total efficient use of land, with every acre being used in some way. To be a farmer, in his view, one need not necessarily come from a farming background, provided the necessary knowledge of modern day techniques has been acquired.

His membership of the I.F.A. is a proof of his beliefs. As well as the I.F.A. he is also a member of Tipperary North Riding County Council, and the Mid-Western Health Board since 1970. He was a member of the Irish Transport & General Workers' Union from 1967-1969. Being a Tipperary man, he has of course, a great interest in the G.A.A. He is presently a member, having played minor hurling and football.

In the Department of Agriculture his areas of responsibility include: the Land Commission, Farm Modernisation Scheme, Headage and Disadvantaged Areas.



Michael O'Kennedy (left) and Michael Smith.

# A Caring Budget

## Finance Minister Gene FitzGerald presents the Budget and its background.

When preparing the Budget, my first priority was to work out a strategy which will promote economic growth and provide more jobs. At the same time I felt obliged to cut down on the amount of money borrowed for day-to-day spending. The level of borrowing by the State is too high and it is only prudent that it should be reduced. On the other hand, if severe reductions in borrowing are made at short notice, employment will suffer because then there is less money available to the Government to provide more jobs.

Our purpose is to direct our resources as far as we reasonably can towards investment. The Government have set out what they intend to do in the 1981 Investment Plan. Under this Plan over £1,700 million will be spent on capital investment projects this year.

This Plan will have two main benefits. It will strengthen the base of the economy. It will enable us to take better advantage of economic opportunities and it will also provide considerable employment. The Plan will bring about a big improvement in the country's basic services, such as energy supply, roads, telecommunications, water supplies and harbours — improvements which will assist industrial and commercial development in particular and will also benefit citizens in general. It will also mean more houses, more schools, more hospitals to meet the needs of our growing population.

Apart from the substantial increase in employment which will result from it, the Plan of itself will provide directly about 10,000 extra jobs, most of which will be in the building and construction industry.

The Government's concern for the less well-off sections of the community is clearly illustrated by the increases in the social welfare and health payments. In the National Understanding we gave a commitment that we would increase social welfare payments at least in line with the cost of living and to-day we have more than honoured this pledge. The adult social welfare increases are 25 per cent for long-term benefits and 20 per cent for short-term and these increases will bring a real improvement in the living standards of the people concerned.

Children's allowances go up by £1.50 for the first child to £6 a month and by £2 to £9 a month for each of the other children — a welcome improvement especially for larger families.

Increases are also being provided in the fuel schemes and health allowances and a new scheme of supplementary maternity benefit is being introduced.

The cost of all these improved benefits will be £111 million in 1981.

1981 is the International Year for the Disabled Person and in recognition of this I am introducing a number of benefits for the handicapped. This special package will cost nearly £2 million this year.

I have provided income tax concessions totalling £60 million this year and more than £90 million in a full year. As agreed in the National Understanding the special income tax allowance for PAYE taxpayers is being increased by 50 per cent from £400 to £600. This will benefit about 750,000 taxpayers and cost £40 million in 1981.

I am also widening the 35 per cent rate band to ensure that persons with an income not a great deal more than the average industrial wage will remain outside the higher rates of tax. The exemption limits for the less well-off and for elderly taxpayers are being raised and this will remove 37,000 persons from the tax net. The single-parent allowance is also being raised.

You will all be aware of the severe difficulties being experienced by farmers. The package I outlined in the Budget contains important changes in regard to disease eradication levies, income tax and agricultural rates. These measures will cost the Exchequer £35 million in 1981. The suspension of the disease levies will mean an increase of 34p per gallon of milk and £3 per head of cattle for the farmer. For farmers under £50 valuation there will be full relief from rates and 50 per cent relief for those between £50 and £70 valuation.

There will be full tax relief in respect of increases in stock values and the two payment dates arrangement will continue for a further year. £250,000 is being provided for development of the seed potato industry. Negotiations

are continuing with the EEC for a special package for our farmers and I am hopeful that the outcome will be satisfactory.

In regard to company taxation a number of changes are being made. As companies have enjoyed an exceptionally generous time limit for payment of tax, the payment of the second instalment of tax due from them is being advanced by three months. Improvements in capital allowances in respect of construction work are being introduced and these will encourage greater participation by the private sector in the provision of factories and rented residential accommodation. Stock relief generally is being continued for a further year.

Some taxes have of course to be increased in order to pay for the very generous improvements in social welfare benefits and for the income tax and other reliefs which I announced to-day. I am quite sure that most of you will accept that it is fairer that extra money should be obtained by way of an increase in the duty on items such as drink, cigarettes, tobacco and petrol rather than by way of an increase in direct, personal taxation. Without these increases the choices would be to borrow more or to cut back severely on State services. Clearly neither of these options would be acceptable.

The budget has four main objectives.

- Firstly, to improve the living standards of the less well-off sections of the community.
- Secondly, to provide further relief for the PAYE taxpayer.
- Thirdly, to help the farming community who have been going through a difficult time.
- Fourthly, to provide more jobs to generate economic growth and to reduce the level of borrowing.

We are coming through the world economic recession better than most countries and, with the Budget and the Investment Plan, the foundations have been securely laid to consolidate what we have achieved; to secure substantial economic and social progress this year and to ensure that we are ready to avail of the great opportunities open to us.

# THE GOVERNMENT RECORD

## 1980—A FOUR PAGE CHECK-LIST



**FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE**  
Minister for Finance and the Public Service  
MR. GENE FITZGERALD  
T.D.

### FINANCE

- ★ Participation in the negotiations of the Second National Understanding.
- ★ Maintenance for the second year running of the stability of the Irish pound within the European Monetary System in the face of adverse circumstances.
- ★ Introduction of a totally new concept of income-splitting in respect of taxation of all married couples.
- ★ Establishment of a Commission on Taxation.
- ★ Introduction of a 10% Corporation Tax Scheme for manufacturing companies (effective 1 January 1981)
- ★ Fulfilment of a successful programme of increasing capital resources. There were record sales of securities to the domestic non-bank public, amounting to £319 million — a particularly significant achievement in the first full year of monetary independence.
- ★ Preparation of the Investment Plan 1981 (published early January 1981)
- ★ The involvement of the IDA for the first time as an agent of the European Investment Bank.
- ★ The agreement by the European Regional Development Fund authorities to a joint financing of a five-year £20 million Border Area Development Scheme.

### PUBLIC SERVICE

- ★ Significant contribution to achievement of 1980 National Agreement.
- ★ Office of Ombudsman was established.
- ★ Further development of computerisation in the civil service.
- ★ Provision of support to Gardai through computerisation and Operations Research.
- ★ Continued progress in helping Departments improve their efficiency and effectiveness.
- ★ Significant further progress in restructuring Government Departments and in the provision of greater expertise.
- ★ Arrangements towards decentralising 3,000 civil servants to selected provincial locations.



**AGRICULTURE**  
Minister for Agriculture  
MR. RAY MacSHARRY,  
T.D.

- ★ Successfully resisted proposals from EEC Commission for super levy on dairy production and levy on sugar sector.
- ★ Conclusion of £300m Package for Western Development.
- ★ Significant increase in Cattle Headage Payments Grants under Disadvantaged areas Scheme.
- ★ Negotiation of Common Policy on Sheepmeat which meant greater stability in sheep production and a special premium on ewes.
- ★ Extension of boundaries of Disadvantaged Areas Scheme to allow for certain areas previously excluded.
- ★ Introduction of special measures to help farmers who had a shortage of fodder.
- ★ Arrangements for the provision of £100m in special low interest loans for the farming sector through the ACC and the Associated Banks.
- ★ Introduction of White Paper indicating Government policy on land reform.



**FISHERIES AND FORESTRY**  
Minister for Fisheries and Forestry  
MR. PATRICK POWER,  
T.D.

- ★ Fish landings increased in volume by an estimated 50%, as compared with 1979.
- ★ A record £3½m. was spent on fishery harbour development.
- ★ Agreement was reached with Verolme Cork Dockyard for a new research vessel which it is hoped will enter into service in 1982.
- ★ Work has commenced on an extension to the National Fishery School at Greencastle, Co. Donegal.
- ★ During 1980 the restructuring of the inland fisheries administration was completed.
- ★ A further 7,200 hectares were planted bringing the total forest estate to 299,200 hectares (739,323 acres).
- ★ Work began on the construction of a major sawmill near Fermoy for the Coal Distributors Consortium.
- ★ Jointly with IDA, discussions were held with several international companies with a view to the establishment of a major timber plant to process the increasing quantity of thinnings from State forests.
- ★ In co-operation with the National Sports Council, the first stage of the Wicklow Way long distance walk was opened.

During 1980, 6 nature reserves were established, 52 wild flora species protected, the number of wildfowl sanctuaries increased to 59 and 49 Wildlife Rangers appointed.



**INDUSTRY COMMERCE AND TOURISM**  
Minister for Industry, Commerce and Tourism  
MR. DESMOND O'MALLEY, T.D.

- ★ Thirteen Acts were passed the more significant Acts being (a) Sale of Goods and Supply of Services Act; (b) Casual Trading and Pyramid Selling Acts.
- ★ The 1980 Finance Act gives legal effect to the new 10% manufacturing tax which came into operation on 1st January, 1981.
- ★ The IDA recorded its highest number of job approvals, ever, over 35,000 in 1980.
- ★ The IDA enjoyed continued success in the attraction of world leaders to Ireland for the manufacture of advanced electronics.
- ★ The IDA continued their support of small industries particularly in the Mid-West Region and in 1980 almost one-third of IDA job approvals came from native-owned small firms.
- ★ Due to substantially increased grants, export promotion by Coras Trachtala was vigorously intensified in 1980 resulting in the maintenance of high export achievement despite the severe trading conditions prevailing abroad.
- ★ As a consequence of Government funding, Coras Trachtala launched an extensive programme of aids and services.
- ★ A new hotel bedroom scheme got under way in 1980 with "starts" being made on over 1,000 bedrooms.
- ★ A Natural Gas development programme was initiated; Supplies of Natural Gas were made available to Cork Gas Company.
- ★ Consultants examined the operations of Dublin Gas Company and drew up a development programme.
- ★ Legislation, providing for grant assistance towards private development of bogs for fuel purposes has been introduced in the Dail.



**ENERGY**  
An Tanaiste and Minister for Energy  
MR. GEORGE COLLEY,  
T.D.

# 1980

# Achievements

- ★ A wind energy programme was launched by the Tanaiste and a Director was appointed to co-ordinate the programme.
- ★ A Biomass demonstration programme involving short-rotation forestry was also launched.
- ★ A new hydro-electricity power station was commissioned by the ESB at Parteen Weir on the Shannon.
- ★ Exploratory talks on the restoration of the North/South electricity interconnection were initiated.
- ★ A national energy conservation award programme was launched.
- ★ A grant scheme for the insulation of domestic dwellings was introduced.
- ★ A new round of exploration licences was announced covering 108 blocks.
- ★ An onshore gas exploration licence was issued for drilling in Co. Cavan.
- ★ The Department of Energy played an important role in mitigating the hardship caused to oil consumers due to an industrial dispute by petrol tanker drivers last October.
- ★ The Irish National Petroleum Corporation secured its first supplies of oil from Saudi Arabia and Iraq.
- ★ Government support is to be given to strengthening the national capacity of stockholding imported fuels, in particular strategic oil stocks as well as the national refining capacity.



**EDUCATION**  
Minister for Education  
MR. JOHN P. WILSON,  
T.D.

- ★ The recruitment of an additional 600 teachers took place in order to reduce class size, to provide for remedial teaching and to cater for the increased numbers.
- ★ The recruitment ex-quota of 100 extra teachers for remedial education in Post-Primary schools.
- ★ The payment of the employer's share of Pay Related Social Insurance for teachers in Secondary Schools at an estimated cost of £2.3m. and the full cost of substitute teachers at an estimated cost of £0.5m was undertaken.
- ★ A record sum of £59.9m. was spent on the capital programme for school buildings which enabled 176 cases of new schools and other major projects to be approved for contract and for the invitation of tenders.
- ★ A sum of £5.0m. was made available from the Tripartite fund for the provision of sport and recreational facilities.
- ★ A White Paper on Education was published at the end of the year.



**HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE**  
Minister for Health and Social Welfare  
DR. MICHAEL J. WOODS, T.D.

## HEALTH

- ★ During 1980 the general hospital development programme gathered pace with the first stage of the development of St. James's having commenced; work on the new hospital at Beaumont is on schedule for completion in 1982; and the construction of a new hospital at Tralee and the major expansion of Letterkenny General Hospital are nearing completion.  
A variety of new facilities catering for the mentally handicapped and physically ill were commissioned during the year.
- ★ There have been several improvements in the area of community care, and a re-organisation of the National Social Services Council has also been undertaken, one of its features being the establishment of a National Council for the Aged.
- ★ Work on the drafting of the report of the Task Force on Child Care has been completed.

- ★ The Health (Mental Health) Services Bill 1980, which in a major way proposes to amend the law governing the treatment of the mentally ill has commenced its passage through the Oireachtas.
- ★ The Health (Family Planning) Act 1970 came into effect on 1st November, 1980.
- ★ 1981 has been designated International Year of the Disabled Persons, and a National Committee and an Advisory Body has already been established. The Committee has already announced an initial programme and a comprehensive calendar of events for 1981.

- ★ In 1980 the Minister received the report of the Working Party on General Nursing. This report which makes far-reaching proposals for the re-organisation of the nurse training and the nursing services, has been circulated to the various interested groups for their views and comments.

## SOCIAL WELFARE

- ★ The total Exchequer spending on the services and administered by the Department of Social Welfare represented an increase of over 30% as compared with 1979.
- ★ The Minister introduced a Bill which provided for a double week's payment in December 1980 in weekly social welfare payments to long-term recipients.

- ★ The winter fuel scheme was improved and extended nationwide by the introduction of the National Free Fuel Schemes in October 1980.
- ★ The bank holiday restrictions on the free travel facilities for old people have been removed. Just over 350,000 people benefit under this scheme.
- ★ The Minister has arranged for a modification in the manner in which land transfers have been treated for non-contributory pensions.
- ★ There was a reduction in the qualifying age for blind persons pension from 21 years to 18 years in April 1980.
- ★ The Minister arranged for those in the 65 to 66 age group to receive their Unemployment Benefit on either a weekly or four-weekly basis if they so choose.



**GAELTACHT**  
Aire na Gaeltachta  
MÁIRE NIC EOCHAGÁIN  
ÚI CHUINN

- ★ Cuireadh go mór leis na gníomhaíochtaí ar mhaite leis an nGaeltacht agus leis an nGaeilge agus tá méadú dá réir tagtha ar an gcaiteachas Stáit: tá breis agus £23.5m ar fáil i mbliana — dúbailt an chaiteachais sa bhliain 1976. Ón mbliain 1977 ar aghaidh rinneadh méaduithe móra ar na deontais faoi Achtanna na dTithe (Gaeltachta). Tá £950,000 ar fáil i mbliana chun na deontais a íoc — beagnach trí oiread na ndeontas a íocadh i 1976. Mar chabhair chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn tá £1.65m ar fáil i mbliana — suas le ceithre oiread na ndeontas a íocadh i 1976 le Bord na Gaeilge, Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge, Gael-Linn, Conradh na Gaeilge agus eagrais eile.
- ★ D'fhonn dlús a chur leis na hiarrachtaí úsáid na Gaeilge mar theanga bheo a leathadh i measc an phobail cuireadh Bord na Gaeilge ar bhonn reachtúil ar 1 Samhain 1978 faoi Acht a ritheadh sa bhliain sin.
- ★ Faoi Acht a ritheadh i 1979 bunaíodh Údarás na Gaeltachta ar 1 Eanáir 1980 le fómhor-na gcomhaltaí (7 as 13) tofa go daonlathach ag pobal na Gaeltachta: iarradh ar an Údarás lánfhostaíocht a chur ar fáil a luaithe is féidir do chainteoirí Gaeilge na Gaeltachta agus tugadh cead dó cúnaimh suas go £0.5m a thabhairt dá rogha féin chun aon tionscal áirithe a chur chun cinn. I mbliana tá £15.5m d'airgead poiblí ar fáil do chaiteachas capítal an Údarás ar mhonarchana a thógáil, scaireanna a cheannach agus deontais a íoc chun tionscail a bhunú agus a fhorbairt.
- ★ Anuraidh díláraíodh aonad feidhmiúcháin de chuid Roinn na Gaeltachta ó Bhaile Átha Cliath do trí oifig nua tógadh d'aonghnó sna Forbacha i nGaeltacht na Gaillimhe agus aistreachar tuilleadh d'obair na Roinne sia go luath.





**ENVIRONMENT**  
Minister for the Environment  
**MR. RAPHAEL P. BURKE,**  
T.D.

- ★ In the second half of 1980 the Capital Allocation for Sanitary Services was increased from £40m. to £46.75 m. in accordance with Government commitments on employment under the National Understanding.
- ★ In July 1980 the EEC Council of Agricultural Ministers adopted a new Regulation which provides for the stimulation of agricultural development, including rural water supply schemes, in the less favoured areas of the West of Ireland.
- ★ For the third year running over 10,000 grants were paid in respect of houses which were connected with a piped water supply under the Private Group Water Scheme programme.
- ★ 1980 was the first year of operation of the Road Development Plan for the 1980s.
- ★ Work commenced on the earthworks and drainage element of the Naas By-Pass which, when completed, will allow traffic using the Dublin to Cork and Limerick roads to by-pass the town.
- ★ Work also commenced on the new Heuston Bridge in Dublin.
- ★ Work continued on a number of other major schemes, including the Ennis/Limerick and Cork/Mallow roads and on by passes and inner relief roads at Monaghan, Roscommon and Dundalk.
- ★ A new bridge was completed at Ferrcarrig, Co. Wexford on the National Primary Route from Rosslare to Dublin.
- ★ In 1980 a record number of 21,785 houses were completed.
- ★ Capital expenditure on housing for the year was £201 m.



**FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
**MR. BRIAN LENIHAN,**  
T.D.

- ★ Ireland's election to a seat on the Security Council in the United Nations for the years 1981-1982.
- ★ Continued participation in and contribution to negotiations at the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea.
- ★ The successful convening of a meeting involving 12 countries contributors to the United Nations Interim Force in the Lebanon (UNIFIL) in Dublin in May 1980.

- ★ Participation in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe which is currently in course at Madrid.
- ★ In the Bilateral Aid Programme, expenditure increased in 1980 from £3.3m to £3.5m.
- ★ The Department contributed to the preparation of the two bilateral Summit meetings between the Taoiseach and the British Prime Minister.
- ★ The Department concluded and signed cultural agreements with the Netherlands, Greece, Belgium and Spain.



**JUSTICE**  
Minister for Justice  
**MR. GERARD COLLINS,**  
T.D.

- ★ A total of 446 Gardai were recruited in 1980, resulting in a net increase of 313.
- ★ A substantial number of additional part-time and full-time Traffic Wardens were recruited, with a view to improving the flow of traffic in Dublin.
- ★ Additional measures to combat serious crime were implemented; the Special Task Force and the Special Investigation Section of the Technical Bureau being substantially strengthened.
- ★ The Government's commitment to provide the Gardai with the resources necessary to tackle the crime problem resulted in substantial expenditure on transport and equipment in 1980.
- ★ Arrangements have been made to provide accommodation for a residential Police College within the Templemore Garda Training Complex for the provision of training to Garda Chief Superintendents, Superintendents and Inspectors.
- ★ The development of facilities and services in the treatment of offenders area is proceeding.
- ★ Various Measures were enacted among them were the following: The Landlord and Tenant (Amendment) Act 1980; The Arbitration Act 1980.
- ★ Several Bills were introduced such as the following: Courts Bill 1980; Criminal Law (Rape) Bill 1980; and the Malicious Injuries Bill 1980.

- ★ The Scheme of Civil Legal Aid and Advice was introduced in August 1980 and is being administered by the Legal Aid Board appointed by the Minister.



**LABOUR**  
Minister for Labour  
**MR. TOM NOLAN T.D.**

- ★ Negotiations of Second National Understanding for Economic and Social Development.
- ★ New Division of Labour Court set up.

- ★ Discussion Paper on Worker Participation published.
- ★ Regional Manpower Committees set up.
- ★ Inter-departmental Committee on placement of disabled persons in the Public Service was set up and a special competition held.
- ★ Safety in Industry Act became law.
- ★ New Commission for Safety and Health at Work was set up.
- ★ New regulations under the Dangerous Substances Act were enacted.
- ★ Council for the Status of Women opened new offices and was recognised as a consultative body by the Government.
- ★ National Manpower Service and AnCo continued to expand in their services in the placement and training for industry.



**DEFENCE**  
Minister for Defence  
**MR. SYLVESTER**  
**BARRETT T.D.**

- ★ During 1980 the Defence Forces continued to act as a back-up force to Gardai Siochana involving operations such as movements of cash, patrols and checkpoints.
- ★ In the Middle East, Irish troops made a significant contribution to the United Nations Peace Keeping operations and a number gave their lives in the cause of peace.
- ★ The setting up of the Women's Service Corps got under way with the appointment of eleven female Cadets.
- ★ Following a Government decision, the Army undertook the delivery of supplies of petrol and oil on a countrywide basis during the tanker driver dispute.
- ★ The fishery patrol vessel L.E. Aisling was commissioned at the Naval Base, Haulbowline on 21st May, 1980.
- ★ A record sum of £4½m. was spent in 1980 on the construction of new buildings for the Defence Forces and the improvement of existing premises.
- ★ The new uniform approved for members of An Forsa Cosanta Aitiuil was made available for issue during the year.

# SUCCESS LIST



**POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS AND TRANSPORT**  
Minister for Posts and Telegraphs and Transport  
**MR. ALBERT REYNOLDS, T.D.**

## POSTS & TELEGRAPHS

- ★ Over 62,000 telephones installed, almost 50% more than the highest ever in any year.
- ★ 2,500 trunk circuits brought into service.
- ★ Exchange capacity increased in over 60 centres.
- ★ Installed a record number of telex and data lines (770 telex, 200 data)
- ★ The achievements listed above could not of course have been realised but for the co-operation and goodwill of the staff which was forthcoming at all times and at all levels throughout the year.

- ★ Adopted digital technology and entered into agreements for manufacture of such exchanges locally.
- ★ Publication of Green Paper on the Reorganisation of the Postal and Telecommunications Services.

## TRANSPORT

- ★ The Government, after consultation, have decided to establish the Dublin Transportation Authority. The Minister has already set up a Task Force to implement this decision.
- ★ A bus-building factory has been established in Shannon.
- ★ A Bilateral Agreement between Ireland and Britain on the international carriage of goods by road came into operation in 1980. Negotiations have been completed on eight further bilateral road transport agreements with Denmark, Luxembourg, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Italy, and Greece.
- ★ Construction of an aircraft fuelling facility, including storage for Soviet-origin fuel was completed and came into operation.
- ★ Aer Lingus, stemming from the successful growth of their ancillary activities in the field of aircraft engine overhaul, established a subsidiary company, Airmotive Ireland Limited, who are providing a jet engine overhaul factory.
- ★ Following the conclusion of Bilateral Talks under U.S.-Ireland Air/Transport Agreement, two new U.S. carriers were authorised to operate scheduled services to Ireland, and for the first time a direct service will operate between Shannon and the West Coast of the United States.
- ★ Work was commenced on the provision of airport facilities at Waterford and Sligo. Approval in principle was announced for two further airports, one in Mayo and the other in Donegal.



Group pictured at the Cáirde Fáil dinner with An Taoiseach

# Elections

**Ray MacSharry, Minister for Agriculture and Donegal Bye-Election campaign Director, reports on a great victory.**

The convention that selected CLEMENT COUGHLAN as the FIANNA FÁIL Candidate for the Donegal bye-election was marked by a feature which dominated the main campaign. This was the unanimity with which he was selected. While Coughlan was a good and popular candidate, he was backed by a strong and united party organisation.

Donegal is a demanding county and its people seek the very best at all times. These demands frequently come to bear on the county's public representatives. Clement Coughlan is no stranger to such demands having served as a County Councillor for nine years.

While the candidate was being selected the organisation of the campaign throughout the far flung county of Donegal was taking place.

The county was divided into its Comhairle Ceanntar areas. With the help of the Ministers of State, the local representatives were given the responsibility of running the campaign in their own areas. Local election Headquarters were established with the main Headquarters in Letterkenny.

The poster campaign got underway. FIANNA FÁIL led from the very beginning and was never matched by any of the other candidates' campaigns.

As the first weekend approached, members of the Oireachtas began to arrive. They had already been allocated their areas. They were now given the responsibility for canvassing specific localities and on the Sunday they addressed the local people at after-mass meetings.

The most significant visitor of all was An Taoiseach CHARLES J. HAUGHEY T.D. His well-known personality was established on this campaign with his "Meet-the-People" tours of Donegal. Each weekend he visited village after village, town after town, meeting the local people with the candidate soliciting their support on polling day. No area was left untouched, hospitals and factories in particular were visited. The Donegal people responded by turning out everywhere to meet the Taoiseach and to welcome the candidate to their locality.

As the campaign built up, so did the effort of the party workers. Door-to-door canvassing was intensive. The Election Address was compiled, printed and posted. Rallies were held in Donegal town, Ballybofey and Letterkenny. On the Sunday before polling day FIANNA FÁIL's originality was again displayed with the distribution of a newspaper "Donegal Election Special". On polling day the workers were busy at the polling booths and in ferrying the voters to cast their votes.

The hard work and dedication was vindicated when the first results began to come in. The FIANNA FÁIL vote was up. That trend continued throughout the day. The result of the first count gave Coughlan a lead by a commanding margin. The result was inevitable — FIANNA FÁIL had won a resounding victory.



The Taoiseach congratulates Donegal bye-election victor Clement Coughlan

## Next Euro Vote

The changes which come into force in the various constituencies at the next General Election will mean very little for the purposes of the next election to the European Parliament in 1984. A brief study of the existing position will show why. Later I will make some observations on possible new methods for European purposes, but for the present, deal only with things as they are, says Euro Deputy Sean Flanagan.

The sheer size of Euro constituencies against Dailcheantair is the principle source of difference. Each T.D. will represent some 20,000 people; each Euro member must try to represent roughly 250,000 people. At the moment there are fifteen members who represent our part of Ireland in Europe; there are 148 members in the Dail, being increased to 166. Allowing for continued growth in our population the proportion by 1984 will be roughly as stated.

The two functions cannot be easily compared, as the question of the Fianna Fail attitude to the dual mandate falls to be considered at this juncture. On the one

hand, the deputy is expected to be available to his constituents at all times. When at Leinster House he must not merely attend to his strictly parliamentary duties, but must be on hand to look after urgent matters (developing all the time) from his constituency base.

By the nature of his occupation the European deputy is out of the country for a great deal of his time, at Parliament for a week each month, at Committee meetings for two to four days of the remaining weeks. Representing such a vast area he simply cannot be expected to cope with the sort of urgent work which requires the T.D.'s attention. Implicit in what I am saying here is that I fully support the Party view that the dual mandate is undesirable. It is virtually impossible to carry the burden of the two disciplines and certainly puts a potentially intolerable strain on those who bear the double obligation. At the same time, I fully recognise the benefit, in terms of close contact with the members of the Parliamentary Party, which will be lost when no dual mandate exists.

The form of election to be used for Europe in 1984 has yet to be agreed and, with present preoccupations, may not be settled until later in the decade.

Various systems of election were used throughout Europe during the last direct election to the European Parliament. In Ireland, of course, we used our own system of Proportional Representation. In Britain, for example, the first past the post system was used. This tends to give an unequal representation among the political parties and would not be popular in this country. The system most favoured in Europe is the list system. Time will tell if such a system could be favourably applied to the Irish election system.



Sean Flanagan M.E.P.



## **"UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL"**

**Noel Davern, T.D. M.E.P.,**

The Resolution on Irish farm incomes which I initiated and prepared for the December session of the European Parliament in Luxembourg was supported and indeed co-signed by all the Irish Political Groups in the European Parliament, North and South of the Border, with the exception of one Irish Member.

At all times, I have highlighted the situation of the Irish farmer to the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council. In the Budget debate in Luxembourg on 4 November last, I spoke of the difficulties facing Irish farmers.

I continued this crusade when I tabled a Question to the Commission during the Strasbourg session on 17th November, 1980.

I had hoped to be able to give some element of encouragement to the Irish farming sector as a result. Regretfully, due to a 'non-answer' from the Commission this was not possible. It was at this point that I made it publicly known in political circles (including Irish) in the European Parliament that I intended to table a Resolution during the December Plenary Session.

In the meantime, during an Agriculture Committee Meeting in Brussels, I received an assurance from the late Commissioner Gundelach in person that elements like particularly high energy and transport costs and related expenses would be taken into account in Ireland's case in the 1981 price agreements.

My comprehensive Resolution in defence of Irish farmers' incomes was submitted to the Parliament on Wednesday, 17th December 1980, with a request for urgent debate. Amongst others it was signed by fourteen out of the fifteen M.E.P.s from Ireland. The missing signature, by his own choice, was that of T. J. Maher.

At that time I commented: "United we stand, divided we fall" These were never truer words when it comes to defending the interests of the farming community.

On the morning of Thursday, 18th December the European Parliament voted the need for urgency to discuss the crisis in farming incomes in Ireland. This urgency was voted by a majority of three notably by Sir Henry Plumb, Tory Chairman of the Agricultural Committee, Northern Ireland Unionist, Mr. John Taylor, one of the co-signatories of the Resolution and the Rev. Ian Paisley.

At the time of tabling my Resolution the latter commented: "Much as I would like to, I cannot sign your Resolution for reasons which I am sure you will understand. However, I will vote for you and, if possible, I will speak favourably on your Resolution."

Some reports have it that T. J. Maher did not support my Resolution and this of course can be interpreted in a number of ways. I therefore feel that it is necessary to clarify this point. As my Resolution had been drawn up for some time prior to December as part of a concerted plan, and on learning that T. J. Maher had made a statement that he intended to do a similar exercise, I immediately proposed to the Liberal and Democratic Group that we compare notes and possibly table a Joint Resolution. The reasoning behind this was very simple. By increasing support I wanted to increase our chances of a positive vote on this vital issue. I received no answer to my proposals, even though I was assured that they had been forwarded to the right man.

An interesting point to note is that T. J. Maher was unable to obtain the required 21 signatures for his Resolution from his own Group and was obliged to revert to the smallest radical group in the Parliament for the missing signatures, despite the fact that there are 39 Members in the Liberal and Democratic Group. In fact his Group's name does not appear anywhere on the Resolution, with the obvious conclusions.

It was only when the vote on urgency on my Resolution had been assured with support from the Liberals, which indeed is not

surprising as both Groups are objective allies on most topics, including agriculture, but also from some Members in practically all the other political groups, that it was announced from the floor that the other Resolution was being withdrawn.

By maintaining his Resolution, which was primarily national, until the last minute, T. J. Maher could have jeopardised the whole thing. Had his text been radically different from mine I could have understood. In fact, it was similar in every way except one — it was less documented on certain aspects of the farmers' plight.

The reader will appreciate the difficulty in getting Parliament's approval for a Resolution such as mine but when you have the additional handicap of a divided approach I can assure that the outcome is more often than not disappointing to say the least.

It was in the above respect that T. J. Maher failed to support me. It is not true to say however, that he did not vote for my Resolution after a full debate on the problem.

Did he have any real alternative?

When the final vote of the overall Resolution was taken on Friday, 19th December, there was a massive vote in favour despite the fact that the British Conservatives abstained from the vote. My undertaking was not an isolated one. As I mentioned earlier, this was part of a perfectly co-ordinated plan. I had been aware for quite some time of Minister Ray MacSharry's initiative in proposing to the Commission, a series of measures, independent of 1981 price arrangements, which would greatly contribute to resolving the crisis in the Irish farming industry.

In consultation with our Minister, the Fianna Fail M.E.P.s had decided to seek the approval of the European Parliament, for the Minister's initiative. In the final reckoning we not only received approval, we also received its full support.

Our aim had been achieved. Minister-MacSharry got the full backing of the European Parliament which is a vital element for the success of his initiative. This is what the European Parliament is all about.

# Constituencies

## Wicklow

Wicklow Comhairle Dailcheantair Quiz Competition for the T. C. Herr Trophy commenced at Comhairle Ceantair Level in January. The County Final will take place in Aughrim on a date to be agreed in March.

The recent Members Draw in Wicklow was well supported and realised approximately £500 profit.

## Greystones

A Joint Greystones Social will be held in Horse & Hounds, Delgany on Friday, 27th February, 1981.

## Glenealy

The Glenealy Cumann (Wicklow) are to hold their Annual Social on 25th March, 1981.

## Enniskerry

Eight years ago Enniskerry Fianna Fail Cumann in the Wicklow Constituency had a membership of 10 members. This number has increased steadily in the intervening period and today the Cumann has an active membership of over 50 members.

Three years ago the Cumann changed its method of taking up the National Collection from a Church Gate Collection to a House to House Collection. This required a tremendous effort from its members as the Cumann area takes in wide areas of sparsely populated countryside such as the Glenree Valley, and Kippure Mountain. The effort proved most rewarding, however, as the Collection increased from £27.50 to £552 to leave Enniskerry with the highest National Collection in the Wicklow Constituency for 1978.

Two years ago, the Cumann introduced a local newsletter. This is published on a quarterly basis and is distributed free to all households within the Cumann boundaries. Deputy Ciaran Murphy and Senator Valerie Goulding live within the Cumann area and both are members of the Cumann.

The Cumann holds an Annual Dinner Dance for the past three years, and the fourth Annual Dinner will take place on 10th April 1981 in the Dublin Sports Hotel. — Thomas Coleman, Secretary.

## Dublin South West

The Dublin South West Organisation was saddened recently by the death of long time Party member, Paddy Murphy. A native of Duncormack, Rathangan, Co. Wexford, he had also lived in Naas for a time before moving to Tallaght where he became a popular member of the community, serving on the officer board of Tallaght Comhairle Ceantair for many years.

## Tipperary

The death took place of Mrs. Mary Bridget Ryan, a former T.D. for North Tipperary. She had succeeded her late husband Martin as the Fianna Fail representative in that constituency. Cllr. Tom Duggan, the oldest serving Member of Tipperary South Riding County Council has also died.

*Leaba i measc na naoimh dá raibh acu.*

## Tallaght

The third annual Dinner Dance of the Jim Ryan Cumann, Tallaght, Co. Dublin attracted a good crowd to the local Belgard Inn. Guests of honour were: Dr. Michael Woods, T.D., Minister for Health and Social Welfare, and Mrs. Woods who were welcomed by Cumann Chairman, Lillie Ryan, and Hon. Secretary, Charles O'Connor. The attendance also included Eurodeputy Sile de Valera, T.D., Sean Walsh, T.D., Senators Richard Conroy and Mary Harney, and Councillors Chris Flood and Damien Murray.

## Dublin South Central

The death took place recently of Frank Kavanagh, late of 205 Crumlin Road, Dublin. He was a member of the Roger Casement, Dublin South Central, and was a founder member of Fianna Fail. He was a member of Fianna Eireann from 1917 onwards when he joined the 13th Dublin Sluagh.

## Causeway

Causeway Comhairle Ceantair are holding their Annual Dinner Dance on February 20th in Banna Beach Hotel, Ardfert.

## Killiney

The annual social evening of Killiney Cumann will be held in the Killiney Court Hotel, on Friday, February 27th.

## Clare

North Clare Comhairle Ceantair are holding their Annual Dinner Dance in Lisdoonvarna, on March 6th.

## Laois

Laois Comhairle Dailcheantair are holding their Annual Dinner Dance in the Montague Hotel, Portlaoise on March 6th next.

## Tramore

Tramore Comhairle Ceantair are holding their Annual Dinner Dance in O'Shea's Hotel, Tramore, on Friday, March 27th.

## Ballincollig

Sean McCarthy Ballincollig Comhairle Ceantair are holding their Annual Dinner Dance in the Hotel Blarney on April 3rd.

## Castlereagh

Castlereagh Comhairle Ceantair are holding their Annual Dinner Dance in Tully's Hotel, Castlereagh on Friday, April 10th.

## Dublin West

Following the success of their constituency Bulletin, the introduction of their 1981 Fianna Fail Diary (which contained the names & addresses of all our T.Ds., Senators, members of the Árd Comhairle Committee of 15 and Constituency Delegates) has aroused so much interest that they are now in the process of producing a diary for 1982. Full details later.



### Eileen Lemass T.D. reports on the Fianna Fáil Women's Consultative Affairs Committee.

The women's consultative committee was inaugurated by the Taoiseach, Mr. Haughey, some months ago. It consists of women members of the Dail, Senate and National Executive, fourteen in all.

Its main function, as I see it, is to meet with the various groups of women in Dublin and throughout the country to discuss with them, and obtain their views on legislation concerning women which the Government will be bringing before the House in the coming months.

Already, the committee have met with members of the AIM group, and have discussed with them the Criminal Rape Bill. Much progress was made in 1980 in respect of the commitment given by the Government to eradicate all forms of legislative discrimination against women.

The Finance Act 1980 introduced the system of 'income splitting' under which all married couples, whether with one or two incomes, will have the benefit of double and personal allowances, and rate bands applicable to single persons.

The Courts Bill 1980 is at present before the Dail. The effect of the proposals will be to allow the lower courts to offer comprehensive solutions to family law difficulty in a more convenient, speedier and less expensive manner than at present.

Also in the area of family law, the reform of the law on criminal conversation is currently being considered by the Minister for Justice.

Legislation to bring in a scheme of paid maternity leave will, hopefully, come into operation in April 1981, and steps are also being taken to establish a representative working party to examine the position of child care services, and facilities for working parents.

A bill which will up-date the law in relation to children is being prepared in the Department of Health.

The implementation of equal treatment of men and women workers in the matter of social security is also being dealt with.

The committee hopes to meet Sylvia Meehan of the Employment Equality Agency in the near future to discuss amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Pay Act, and the Employment Equality Act, and the Minister of State, Mr. Brendan Daly, T.D. has stated that he is prepared to examine suggested amendments of the legislation as appeared to be required.

We, in the women's consultative committee, see ourselves as the liaison group between the women's organisation and the relevant department which will be dealing with the legislation.

It is obvious that the present government, and in particular, the Taoiseach, is deeply concerned about the welfare and the equality of the women of this country.

A great deal of progress has already been made in removing basic economic and social discrimination against women, and measures have been taken to remove whatever discriminations remain.

We are anxious that members of the Organisation convey to the women in their constituency the positive action this Government is taking to bring about the equality of women, and so ensure their participation in the economic, social and cultural life of the country on an equal footing with men.

## Taoiseach in Mayo

By a Special Correspondent

Last October, the Taoiseach and his family were present at the unveiling of a plaque in his honour in Castlebar, Co. Mayo. The plaque which was unveiled by Monsignor James Horan, of Knock, commemorated the birth of the Taoiseach in the town 55 years ago.

At the ceremony, Monsignor Horan, described Charles Haughey as "having the business acumen, initiative and flair to make a great success as Taoiseach". Further tributes were paid to him by Mr. C. Duffy, Chairman of the Organising Committee who remarked that the people of Mayo were justly celebrating the arrival at the summit of Irish politics of a native son of that county.

Members of the Taoiseach's family attending the ceremony were his wife Maureen; his mother, Mrs. Sarah Haughey; brothers, Fr. Eoghan, Sean, and Pdraig; sisters Eithne, Maureen, and Mrs. Bridie Dore.

On his arrival in Castlebar, the Taoiseach was given a civic reception by the Urban Council where the Chairman, Mr. John Heneghan told him that the people of Castlebar were proud of the fact that he was born in the town and had risen to hold the highest office which an elected representative could attain in the land.

Replying to the many tributes the Taoiseach said: "if a person had to choose a birthplace among all the towns of Ireland, he or she could hardly do better than choose the town of the Land League and the town in which the Republic of Connacht was proclaimed in 1798. On an occasion like this, in a town like this, it is natural to look at things from a perspective of history; to recall the great battles and the achievements of the past and to look to the future and to the part we must play in our time in the historic process of nation building."

During his two-day stay in Mayo the Taoiseach travelled the length and breadth of the county visiting both town and country and meeting with the people. An Taoiseach remarked that Mayo was experiencing all the signs of a growing economy . . . It had seen a first growth of

industrial employment, to be followed by more as the infrastructure improved and the technological skill of its people increased. To help Mayo with this growth the Government were preparing a plan which would include the building of an airport, the establishment of an Agricultural College at Ballinafad and the building of a new General Hospital in Castlebar.

Concluding his speech in Castlebar the Taoiseach said "Our Republic today is a modern nation confident of its ability and ready to face the challenges of the future. We have to face them together in the right spirit to surmount them. There are still great tasks to be performed, the achievement of full employment, the further improvement of the status and welfare of the poorer and weaker sections of the community, the development of a lively and indigenous Irish culture, the unification of our country in peace and harmony."

The Taoiseach's visit to Mayo was an historic occasion, one that will not be forgotten for years to come.

## U.N. Security Council

Last year Ireland was elected for the first time to the United Nations Security Council and in January of this year formally became a member of one of the most powerful instruments in the world for peace.

From being one of 154 countries represented at the United Nations this country has become one of ten in the United Nations' most important decision making body. The responsibility falls squarely on the shoulders of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Brian Lenihan, T.D., who has said:—

"Ireland will bring an independent voice and judgment to the Council which has primary responsibility under the UN Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security, and will play its part in efforts to resolve whatever international disputes are considered by the Council, in keeping with the general aims of Irish Foreign Policy for a more peaceful, stable and just international order."

The Security Council consists of five permanent members (China, France, U.K., U.S.A., U.S.S.R.) and ten non-permanent members, five of which are elected each year by the General Assembly for terms of two years commencing on the following January 1st.

The Charter provides that "due regard be specifically paid in the first instance to the contribution of Members of the U.N. to the maintenance of international peace and security . . ." This country has a noticeably good record in regard to supplying troops to serve with UN peace-keeping forces abroad.

In 1962 Ireland was co-opted on to the Security Council for a half term.

# Croi Cine

SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS BY ÉAMON DE VALERA 1917-73. Edited by Maurice Moynihan. Gill and Macmillan, Dublin and St. Martin's Press, New York. £38.50.

Bhí an t-ádh le hÉirinn gur mhair Dev. Bhí an t-ádh dearg linn gur le linn na tréimhse is tabhachtaí i stair an náisiúin a mhair sé. Tá sé ina steillbheatha sa leabhar seo, agus beidh go deo.

Bailiúchán de na hóráidí is na ráitis is suntasaí dár thug Éamon de Valera ó 1917 go 1973 — 126 acu ar fad — atá ann, agus is fíor go bhfuil éacht déanta ag Maurice Moynihan agus a leithéid de shárshaothar a chur amach. Táimid go mór faoi chomaoin aige. An costas an locht is mó atá air, agus creidimse gur maith is fiú an t-airgead é.

Na hóráidí atá i mbéal an phobail, táid uile anseo, ar ndóigh — an freagra cáiliúil ar Churchill 1945, an teachtaireacht Lá 'le Pádraig 1943, dhá cheann a mbeidh buan-chuimhne orthu: óráidí an Chonartha? 1921-22, a theachtaireacht mhaorga álainn chuig Óglaigh na Poblachta ag deireadh an Chogaidh Chathartha, agus a thuilleadh nach iad. Oireann go breá do na hóráidí sin focail Yeats a d'úsáid an tUachtarán de Valera faoi Thraolach Mac Suibhne agus Caoimhín de Barra:

"They shall be remembered for ever,  
They shall be alive for ever,  
They shall be speaking for ever,  
The people shall hear them for ever."

Níor fágadh ar lár na nithe conspóideacha a dúirt sé, rud a chuireann go mór le hiomláine an tsaothair. Tá againn, mar shampla, an ráiteas faoin RIC (Aibreán 1919) nó an ceann faoi mharú Sir Henry Wilson (Meitheamh 1922). An-chabhair tríd síos is ea an cúlra a thugann tráchteaireacht agus nótaí an eagarthóra, léirithe go cruinn comhthéacs na n-óráidí uile, agus ní beag an méid Gaeilge atá sa leabhar, dála an scéil. Is díol suntais gurb é de Valera féin a chinn gur de réir an Chaighdeáin a scríofaí an Ghaeilge.

Soiléire, simplíocht agus comhsheasmhacht, dar liom, na tréithe a bhaineann leis na ráitis. Is neamh-choitianta ar fad an tsoiléire a fheictear i dtabhairt faoi deara agus i bhfriotal an Uachtaráin de Valera, fiú ar na hócáidí is corraithí, m.sh. an ráiteas a d'éisigh sé an lá a thosaigh Cogadh na gCarad ("England's threat of war — that, and that alone — is responsible for the present situation"). An tsimplíocht a bhíonn de ghnáth san fhriotal aige a chumhdaíonn an bua ba mhó a bhí aige, measaim — a ghairne do chroí an náisiúin Ghaelaigh. Is léir sin in óráidí iomadúla, go háirithe, ámh, i ngiota beag gleoite a chum sé ar bord loinge agus é ag fágáil slán ag Meiriceá le filleadh go hÉirinn i mí na Nollag, 1920. Bhraitheá da mbeadh guth ag anam Na hÉireann, gur mar sin díreach a labhródh sé!



A lán den ábhar atá anseo, is le spéis na staire amháin a léifear anois é — an Míorín Géillsine, na hAnáidí Talún, na Calafóirt, an Imirce, stádas agus ceannasacht an stáit agus seasmhacht na bhForas a bhunaigh an Stát, cuir i gcás — rud a nochtann go cruinn dúinn ollmhéid an dul chun cinn a rinne rialtais an Stáit neamhspleách Éireannaigh a raibh de Valera ina cheann ar a bhformhór. Ró-mhinic a sciarrann daoine thar na fadhbanna go léir atá réitithe go leagann siad an iomarca béime ar an gcuid nár réitíodh fós. Bíodh sin mar atá, ní mór, is trua, tagairt do na fadhbanna sin agus don chuid d'aidhmeanna náisiúnta Fhianna Fáil nach bhfuil baint amach go fóill: aontú na tíre agus athréimniú na Gaeilge.

Is intuighthe go mbeadh an-chuid faoi na nithe seo in óráidí de Valera agus ar ndóigh, is amhlaidh atá. Tá cuid mhaith de thar a bheith suimiúil fós, bíodh gur iomaí lá anois ó chéadchumadh é. Ní fúm dul ag plé le ceist an Tuaiscirt anseo, de bharr an dul chun cinn stairiúil atá ar siúl sa ní seo faoi láthair ag ár Rialtas féin. Is leor a rá go mba gheall le Dev a bhfuil á dhéanamh. Níor mhiste srachféachaint a chaitheamh ar a ndúirt sé faoin nGaeilge, áfach. Tá aidhm thraidisiúnta Fhianna Fáil faoin nGaeilge le feiceáil sna leathanaigh seo, agus is mór idir í agus dearcadh liom leat na bpáirtithe eile. Labhraíodh de Valera ina fhocail féin:

"... Much as I would desire to see unity — and I told you it was because of partition I came into politics — if I were told tomorrow "You can have a united Ireland if you give up your idea of restoring the national language to be the spoken language of the majority of the people", I would, for myself, say no." (Seanad Éireann, 7 Feabhra 1939)

"... Cuirimid i dtuiscint do chách gurb é ár dtoil an dearbhú sa Bhunreacht do chur in éifeacht go hiomlán, ní hamháin sa chéill gurb í an Ghaeilge an teanga is dual sinsear dúinn ach, chomh maith le sin, sa chéill gurb í an teanga a labhartar in Éirinn." (Radio Éireann, 29 Nollaig 1938).

Go luathaí Dia an lá gurb amhlaidh a bheidh! Mholfainn go láidir do chách gur spéis leo Éire an leabhar seo a iniúchadh. Tar éis é a léamh beidh siad in ann a rá, mar a dúirt Seán Ó Ríordáin, file:

"Is do chuala croí cine soiléir."

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Please allow me a few lines of Iris Fianna Fáil to suggest that the Fianna Fáil Party erect a life size statue of the great founder of Fianna Fáil, Eamon de Valera, on the site formerly used by Lord Nelson in O'Connell Street, Dublin.

Daniel O'Connell, Jim Larkin and others are honoured in O'Connell Street, Dublin, and I think that Eamon de Valera deserves that honour from the nation and the Party more than anyone else.

Yours sincerely,  
Patrick Joseph Ryan,  
Oldbawn Cottage,  
Cloagheralby,  
Loughmore,  
Templemore,  
Co. Tipperary.

## IN MEMORIAM

### TOM RYAN

The death took place in 1980 of Tom Ryan, Lattin, Tipperary. He was a life-long member of the Party. His untimely death during the year, was a tragic loss to the whole organisation in Tipperary, at Cumann, Comhairle Ceanntair and Comhairle Dail Ceanntair level. He epitomised everything that was best in Fianna Fail.

Is mór an meid a rinne sé ar son Fhianna Fáil agus ar son mhuintir an Ceanntair go léir. Sampla dúinn ar fad, ba ea a shaol. Chreid sé go daingean in idéal na Poblachta. Suaimhneas síoraí i measc na Naomh go raibh aige.

Comhairle Dailcheantair, South Tipperary.

### FERGUS KEELY

Many members of Fianna Fail will have already learned of the sudden death of Fergus Keely in the first few hours of the New Year. A man of boundless energy, jin particular on behalf of Fianna Fáil, he had participated in some of the more recent Bye-Elections and for that reason was known far outside his own Constituency. He had been Constituency Delegate on three separate occasions since 1973, and had been a member of the National Executive for Dublin/Cabra and subsequently for Dublin Central and Dublin West County.

A candidate in the Local elections for Dublin Corporation and a candidate in the General Election in 1974, he was a well loved figure in the Phibsboro/Cabra area. We extend to his wife Clair, and his daughter Siobhan, our sincere sympathy on their tragic loss.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam. — Jim Hughes.

**50ú**  
**Ard-Fheis**

**Fianna Fáil**  
The Republican Party

## Dublin Youth Conference

### HUGE SUCCESS

More than 240 Coiste Ogra members attended the first Dublin Youth Conference, organised jointly by the Coiste Ogra Secretaries in the Dublin Euro area, Sunday, 1st February, in Jurys' Hotel.

The first session was on Law Reform which passed two motions calling for Family Law Reform and rejected one calling for Divorce. Other motions passed included calls for Legislation to curb underage drinking, unofficial strikes, and a far reaching motion on legislation required for computerisation. This session was chaired by Edward Walsh, BL. (Dublin South Central) and Sean Doherty, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Justice, replied to the Motions.

The second session on 'Youth in Politics' was chaired by Sean O'Connor, Dublin Youth Representative to the Ard Chomhairle. Motions carried under this session included one against the proposed Rugby Tour to South Africa, a number of motions calling for changes in the Youth Scheme, as well as Northern Ireland and Education. Bertie Ahern, T.D., replied to these motions.

Two motions under this section calling for the inclusion of persons under 25 and 30 on the Fianna Fail ticket in future elections, was rejected by the Conference.

In addition to the many Deputies, Senators, Councillors and Members of the Ard Chomhairle present were Ministers Raphael Burke, T.D., and Michael Woods, T.D.



Voting at the Dublin Youth Conference.

### "A SENSE OF MOTIVATION."

The Coiste Ogra today is an accepted part of the Fianna Fail Organisation. It represents the extent to which Fianna Fáil is prepared to go to clasp young people to it's bosom writes Michael Patten. The Organisation gives youth each year a platform on which to express it's opinions on policies and takes careful note of all creative ideas and constructive criticism made by the Coiste Ogra. If this is the case and it is, why then is the Coiste Ogra cursed with a never ending problem? Why, especially in the Dublin Area, are there so few involved with the Coiste Ogra? Why aren't young members in cumann so often not interested in joining Coiste Ogra?

As Chairman of Coiste Ogra in a large constituency these questions have gnawed at me and no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't find a solution. Today, the solution is apparent, it has always existed yet so rarely recognised and it is this:

The first priority of a Young Person in Fianna Fail, and rightfully so, is being a member of and working for his Cumann. The Coiste Orga is seen mainly as a social gathering where Young People come together to discuss matters relevant to themselves. Many meetings contain a basic agenda after which they talk amongst themselves.

This aside, there is no basic purpose to the Coiste Ogra, no motivation, no sense of

belonging. In some Coiste Ogra an involved and interested Officer Board are doing great things. Such is the case of Dun Laoighaire Coiste Ogra, whose initiative heralded the birth of the Northern Initiative Movement, with corresponding high attendance and deep involvement by Young People. In North Central we are initiating something similar with a gradual, yet positive, increase in numbers. There are, however, many Coiste Ogra who, through no fault of their own, have not been able to get off the ground. Even as I write I know of two Coiste Ogra in Dublin who haven't had their A.G.M. since the reorganisation of the Constituencies. The answer, I believe, is simple and two-fold:

Firstly, while not interfering with Cumann Work, a set scheme should be published giving a ground plan to Coiste Ogra for positive and constructive work within the constituency. Thus they would know what to do, when to do it and how to do it, yet leaving scope for variations of that ground plan.

Secondly, there should be an immediate implementation of a recruitment drive aimed at youth which will give the young person in the street information on why he should join Fianna Fáil. With these two measures taken I am confident that a definite increase in Coiste Ogra membership will take place.

**LEADING THE NATION SAFELY THROUGH**