

VISION

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Unemployment** — Your views on one of the most important issues facing young people today.
- **Charles J Haughey** — Leader of Reform. A profile of the Legislative career of the Leader of Fianna Fail.
- **Plus**, Buy Irish ... Recruitment ... Local Elections ... Divorce ... New Ireland and more.

Action Plan!

The following are the key elements in the Ogra Action Plan

- The structure of Ogra and the Fianna Fail party. The plan outlines the relationship between the two and puts the development of Ogra and its structure in perspective.
- The implementation of the **Youth Scheme at constituency level**. This section stresses the leadership role of Ogra at Comhairle Dailcheantair (constituency) level. Emphasis is put on the necessity to elect a Youth Officer at all levels of the organisation and an outline of the role of Ogra at Comhairle Ceantair (local electoral area) level is also given.
- The **National Youth Conference** will be held in April 1984 and each constituency is invited to send along twelve delegates.
- The Action Plan also lists the submission of policy proposals as part of its scheme and all constituencies are asked to give policy review their immediate attention.

WELCOME

Well! here it is! The first issue of VISION, an exciting new magazine aimed at giving you, the members of Ogra Fianna Fail a platform to communicate your views and opinions on any subject of your choice.

Ogra Fianna Fail is, as you are no doubt aware, the single largest young political movement in Ireland today, with over 8,000 members. As this number continues to grow rapidly, the emergence of this bi-monthly magazine is an ideal vehicle in which new views and ideas (new ones please!) from Ogra members and committees can be shared and discussed by all members of the party.

As you know the National Youth Committee recently published an action plan to develop and expand the role of young people within the overall organisation. Vision is part of that action plan but, as with everything else in the plan, it is up to you to make it work. You can do this by submitting material either from yourself or from your Ogra committee for inclusion in the next and all subsequent issues of VISION.

Members of Ogra are invited to make a constructive contribution towards the appraisal and enlightenment of Fianna Fail policy. This is an important opportunity for you to influence the policy formulation and future direction of our party. ➤



- The **Recruitment Campaign**. This will take the form of an intensive - on - the - ground campaign during January and February from all members of the organisation to recruit more members to Ogra Fianna Fail.
- The **Local Elections**. Whether or not the local government elections are held next June Ogra has set its sights on increasing the number of young Fianna Fail County Councillors. All young members of Fianna Fail whether they are in Ogra or perhaps slightly older are urged to seriously consider participating in this electoral challenge.
- The **Third Level Colleges Campaign** which is an all out effort to establish and maintain a visible Fianna Fail presence in each of the third level colleges throughout the country.
- The **Buy Irish Campaign** which is to be undertaken by each constituency has the objective of canvassing shoppers to buy Irish foods for Christmas as a contribution towards the problem of unemployment.
- At the end of 1984 The National Youth Committee will adjudicate on the **Ogra Project of the Year**.

VISION

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Fianna Fail is undoubtedly the most successful political organisation in the country. The party has, since its foundation, made a unique contribution to the State. Its achievements have been the result of progressive and pragmatic policies.

We in Ogra Fianna Fail find our determination for the future in our tradition. We know that we are the most progressive and pragmatic party in Irish Politics. We have a duty to ensure that Fianna Fail is the most attractive political party for young people. We must therefore grasp the opportunity now afforded us by our leader to play an influential part in the

Massive Ogra Promotion

The National Youth Committee are currently involved on a nationwide campaign to promote the Ogra Action Plan. It is intended that each constituency will be visited by members of the committee in order to evaluate and in many cases reactivate Ogra.

After the election of the new National Committee last April at the Annual Youth Conference held in Tralee the members decided that as a

priority it would attempt to establish as many new units of Ogra as possible throughout the country before Christmas. This programme is now well

underway with many constituencies having already been visited and a tremendous response coming from the organisation towards getting Ogra established on a firm footing for once and for all.

The members of the National Youth Committee have broken down their areas with each member having direct responsibility for two constituencies only.

The National Youth Committee are also considering a new format for the National Youth Conference to be held next year. Whereas in previous years the conference has been along the lines of the Ard Fheis next years conference will break up into discussions groups with party spokesmen and invited experts to discuss policy issues and then return to the main conference hall with their deliberations and proposals.

While it is important that there be a high element of crack in the weekend the conference is fundamentally the policy making organ of Ogra Fianna Fail.

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VISION VISION VISION

Contributions to VISION are welcomed from all members of Ogra Fianna Fail. Due to pressure of space, contributions should be kept short, and must include the author's name and address. Copy deadline for the next issue is February 25, and all contributions, correspondence etc. should be sent to The Editor, VISION, 13 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2, before this date.

Local Elections

THE LOCAL ELECTIONS are due to be held in June 1984.

They will provide Ogra Fianna Fail with an ideal opportunity to bring a year of intensive activity to a successful conclusion.

Members of Ogra will play a vital role in the local elections because of the large section of the electorate now under 25. However, Ogra are anxiously awaiting the announcement of the Tanaiste and Minister for the Environment that the elections will proceed on the same day as the European elections, June 14, 1984. We are presently informed by the Government that they have not yet taken a decision on when the elections are being held.

Ogra Fianna Fail strongly object to the failure of the Minister to confirm June 14 as the date of the elections so they can be held in conjunction with the European elections as happened in 1979.

On the Minister's own admission it will cost the state one million pounds to hold elections on a date other than June 14. Yet this Coalition government have boasted of their commitment to open government and to avoiding wasteful expenditure. Ogra-Fianna Fail challenge them therefore, to announce without further delay June 14 as the date for the local elections.

The Elections will see many young people carrying the banner for Fianna Fail throughout the Country.

The Ard Fheis recommendation to the Party to have a young person on each Party ticket is at present being implemented, and members of Ogra are preparing themselves for a major onslaught next June.

It is now expected that there will be a dramatic increase in the number of Young people presenting themselves at Party Conventions. Many candidates have now got their plans at an advanced stage. Any attempt to postpone the local elections will be vehemently opposed by Ogra Fianna Fail.

The Government should now confirm the election date so that we can proceed with our election strategy.

appraisal of party policy.

We in Ogra are proud of our role within the Fianna Fail organisation. We form an integral part of its democratic structures. We seek to imprint the hallmark of youth in the party. We have set ourselves a difficult task in seeing this Action Plan achieve its objective.

The task demands a supreme effort from each individual and each Coiste Ogra throughout the Country. With initiative, hard work and enthusiasm we will succeed.

Frank Fahey T.D.
Chairman,
NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE.

letters.....to the editor

Constitutional Crusade?

Successive Governments, both Fianna Fail and Coalition, have failed to respond to the problem of marital breakdown in Ireland. This problem cannot be avoided for very much longer and immediate action is necessary.

Currently, an all-party committee on marital breakdown is in session and it is to be hoped that they will have the sense to realise that some type of divorce is the only solution - if and when they report.

The reason why Governments are loath to tackle the problem is that our Constitution states in article 41.3.1 that: *"The State pledges itself to guard with special care the institution of marriage on which the family is founded, and to protect it against attack"*. Also in Article 41.3.2, it states: *"No law shall be enacted providing for the grant of dissolution of marriage"*.

A Referendum would have to be held as a prelude to the introduction of divorce legislation, but Governments seem to be unwilling to hold referenda on 'controversial' matters unless they are sure that they will win.

It must be recognised that many politicians fear the influence of their local clergy and their anti-divorce ideology. It's up to the politicians to cast aside this self-centred fear and give a lead to the community by doing what they are paid to do - legislating.

I cannot believe that an accommodation for marital breakdown would raise the hackles of the Roman Catholic Church in the same way as the Amendment in relation to abortion. There is a world of difference between abortion and divorce. Divorce is widely accepted as a humane solution to marital breakdown. All Churches accept the right of the State to legislate for civil divorce, and yet we are the only country in Western Europe which hasn't done so.

The following statistics should illustrate the desperate need for some kind of divorce legislation:

- There were 8,698 deserted wives with 11,819 children dependents in receipt of benefit from the State on

31st December, 1982. This is seen as only the tip of the iceberg as there are literally thousands more who apply, but do not fall within the perimeters laid down by the Department of Social Welfare.

- The Divorce Action Group claim there are 70,000 people involved in marital breakdown throughout the country - 1 in 14 marriages. There are 38,000 in Dublin alone and this has been substantiated by independent research.
- In 1982 there were 2,500 applications for Barring Orders made to our Courts.
- Because of the non-availability of Civil Divorce or some type of accommodation for marital breakdown, Irish persons have to seek foreign divorce in order to establish their capacity to re-marry. Generally, these foreign divorces are not valid and this brings into question the legitimacy of children of these marriages.
- It is a fact that the Roman Catholic Church will re-marry those of its members who have received a Church annulment - in direct

contradiction of Criminal Law. These marriages are bigamous, but the State does not prosecute. In Northern Ireland and other countries throughout Europe and the world, the Church insists that its members must gain a Civil Divorce first.

- If the Roman Catholic Church, one of the most conservative institutions in the world, recognises that marital breakdown does occur, then why not the Irish Republic.

Our Constitution was written in 1937 and there can be no denying that Irish society has changed radically since that time - mainly since the 1960's and in common with all other western countries. However, we as a political party have made very little effort to reflect these differences in terms of Family Laws either in Government or Opposition. How long can we continue to ignore the genuine distress of thousands of our Citizens?

- A recent opinion poll stated 66% of our population were in favour of divorce.

I do not advocate divorce in the manner of the United States or Britain but I do say that we should not deny the right to people to try again.

Bernadette Egan,
Dun Laoghaire

Ogra policy input

Perhaps the most significant break-through for Ogra in recent years has been the assurances from the Party Leader - Charles J Haughey, TD., that Ogra now have a direct line of input into the parliamentary party policy committees on any issue of national policy.

If any unit of Ogra feels strongly enough about the issue of party policy it should commit its thoughts to paper and submit them to the National Youth Organiser in Party Headquarters.

Your policy position paper will then be forwarded on to the parliamentary party for consideration. If your suggestion is adopted then you will be credited with the idea and if for any reason

your suggestion is not acceptable as party policy the reasons why will also be given in writing by the parliamentary party.

This is further proof of the degree of commitment that Fianna Fail have to young people. The challenge now lies with us to accept the responsibility of participating fully in party affairs. **Let us not be afraid to rock the boat rather than fly it under false colours.**

The New Ireland

THE INDIFFERENT and half attentive mind, which most people turn towards politics is like a very slow photographic plate. He who wishes to be clearly photographed must stand before it in the same attitude for a long time. A bird that flies across the plate leaves no mark.

Fianna Fail's national philosophy for fifty years realised our development as an independent and sovereign nation and ensured our having a national life of our own.

As a young Irish citizen, I cannot ignore the thirteen years of violence and 2,000 deaths which have brought sorrow, bitterness and frustration to the Northern part of Ireland.

I refuse to accept that the Northern Ireland situation is beyond redemption and that there is nothing we can or should do about it. At the moment the North of Ireland survives only by virtue of an artificial life support system from Britain - the presence of a massive British Military force and direct subsidies of over one billion pounds a year. These entities do not improve the situation but hinder the communities developments and growth.

The improvement of any nation will come most effectively from the conscious co-operation of individuals and not from blind conflict. The improvement of the whole island will come only from a recognition of the value of racial as well as individual variety.

The Irish people have a right to the territorial integrity of their own country. Furthermore it is only in the context of Irish unity that a lasting solution to the whole problem can be found. Irish unity can only come about through the use of constitutional political means - the formulation of a new constitution - where all sections of Irish people, North and South can participate.

MARY WHITE,
Meath Ogra Dailcheantair



Charles

including the enactment of the Criminal Justice Legal Aid Act of 1962.

He is generally recognised as the best Minister for Agriculture this country ever had.

His term as Minister for Finance was one of a growing and prosperous economy; he provided free electricity and free transport for old age pensioners. He established the *Special Regional Development Fund* for the West of Ireland. He increased the budget for the Arts Council. He provided free television and radio licences for old age pensioners. He provided a special Income Tax allowance for married couples during the first years of marriage. He abolished road tax on the cars of disabled drivers. He provided free petrol for Disabled motorists.

Leader of Reform

The Ministerial career of the Fianna Fail Leader, CHARLES J. HAUGHEY T.D. is an unrivalled one of radical reform and extensive innovation. First elected to Dail Eireann in 1957, following a distinguished academic and sporting career, Charles Haughey was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice three years later and Minister for Justice in 1961.

As Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice from 1960-1961; as Minister for Justice from 1961-1964; as Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries from 1964-1966; as Minister for Finance from 1966-1970; as Minister for Health and Social Welfare from 1977-1979; and as Taoiseach from December 1979 - June 1981 and, again, from March to December 1982, the record of Charles Haughey is one of extraordinary achievement.

Not even his most partisan political opponents would deny that that record is one which has few, if any, parallels since the foundation of the State.

These achievements and these reforms relate to practically every aspect of Ireland's economic, social and cultural life, but most especially to the standard of living and to the quality of life of the less well off sections of the community; the aged, the handicapped and the Social Welfare beneficiaries. The well-being of the small farmers of the West and North West was always of special concern to him and he undertook many practical measures to preserve and protect their way of life, and, in accordance with a fundamental objective of Fianna Fail, to maintain as many families as possible on the land.

Penal Reform

As Minister for Justice, Charles Haughey put through a radical law reform programme, most notably, the Civil Liability Act of 1961 and the Succession Act of 1964. In addition, he launched a programme of Penal Reform



He introduced a tax exemption scheme for creative artists. He established a Special Fund for Youth and Sport. He provided Special allowances for Deserted wives. He established a Special Fund for the promotion of Conservation; and he introduced a Superannuation scheme for Civil Servants, with special provisions for their widows and families.

Status of Women

Thanks to Charles Haughey, the record of Fianna Fail on the status of women is way ahead of that of any other Party. It was he who set up the *Commission of Enquiry into the Status of Women* followed by the establishment of the *Council for the Status of Women*. He was also responsible for the appointment of the first ever woman Cabinet Minister, District Court Justice



es Haughey

and High Court Judge.

His record as Minister for Health is an equally spectacular one, extending the Health Services, undertaking a major hospital building programme and enacting the Family Planning Legislation.

With Charles Haughey as Taoiseach, Ireland had achieved an average economic growth of 3.7 per cent per annum, and a rate of investment of around 30 per cent, one of the highest levels in the European Economic Community. The steady growth of exports up to the present time, notwithstanding the economic recession, is the main result of these policies.

There was a tremendous influx of new industry in the Country, most of it in the area of high technology. A level of job

of their own.

In the field of education, considerable progress was made, the reduction of the pupil-teacher ratio, doubling the number of remedial teachers and expanding the schoolbuilding programme. From December 1979 to June 1981, Ireland was less affected by the world economic recession than most other countries.

Charles Haughey's Programme for the Eighties, Fianna Fail's 1981 general election document, covered every aspect of the nation's life. That programme was designed to develop the full potential of our national resources in order to improve conditions, and raise living standards for every section of the community.

The March 1982 Fianna Fail Government's Budget, under Charles Haughey as Taoiseach, clearly demonstrated that there were acceptable and realistic methods of dealing with our economic and financial difficulties. The Coalition's proposal to impose VAT on clothing and footwear was scrapped.

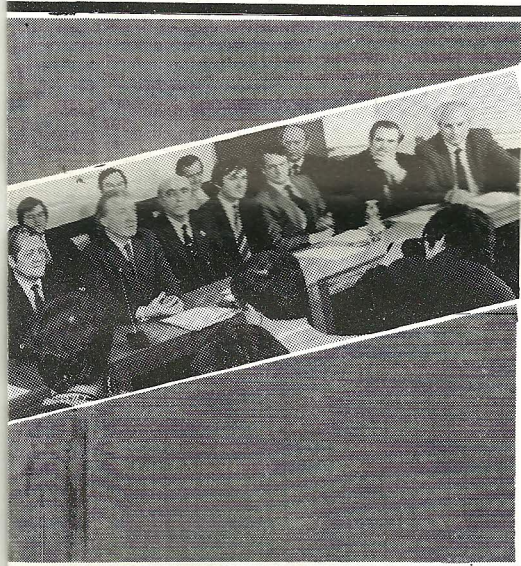
Improved financial allocations were provided for Health, Social Welfare, Building and Construction. Long term Social Welfare benefits were increased by 25 per cent. £1M was allocated to a Special Taskforce for the care of the elderly and an additional £10M was provided for the Health Services.



Charles Haughey promoted and encouraged cultural activities as never before, establishing Aosdana so as to provide financial assistance for creative Artists. Legislation was in train for the setting up of a National Heritage Council.

The above is by no means a complete catalogue of the achievements of Charles Haughey, as Taoiseach and, previously in the various Ministeries which he has held with such distinction since he first attained Ministerial office in 1961.

That proud record of extraordinary achievement is the Irish peoples' sure guarantee that these are the kind of progressive policies which will be implemented by the next Fianna Fail Government. With Charles Haughey as Taoiseach there is another and better way.



creation unparalleled in the history of the State had been reached.

Radical proposals to modernise our infrastructure were formulated and many were already being implemented. Plans were made to radically alter our over-dependence on imported oil and for the development and distribution of Natural Gas.

A major plan was initiated for road development, for the modernisation of our railway system, and for the creation of an internal network of air services. A crash programme for the expansion and modernisation of our telephone system was undertaken.

Record levels

By 1981, housing completions had reached the record level of 29,000. Subsidies for first time buyers were provided for young people seeking homes



Unemployment -

IN DECEMBER 1982 THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AGENCY published 'A Policy Framework for the Eighties'. In this statement the Agency outlined its views on the background and causes of high youth unemployment and the policy priorities that followed from those views. Many of the concerns expressed in that document had been foreshadowed in the Agency's contribution to the development of the National Economic Plan 1983-1987 ('The Way Forward') published by the Fianna Fail Government in October 1982.

Firstly, it recognises that the impact of the recession on economic activity and employment is the major factor underlying youth unemployment. Overall, the numbers out of work have doubled since the beginning of the recession in early 1980. Youth unemployment has grown even faster tripling from 20,000 at the beginning of 1980 to 60,000 in the latter part of 1983. In the recent past, however, the number of young jobless has been rising more slowly, with an increase of 6 per cent between

January and September this year, as compared with a 15 per cent increase in the same period last year.

Turning the tide of youth unemployment depends, crucially, on job-creation and recovery from the present recession. The timing of the recovery remains uncertain - rapid economic growth is now underway in the United States, but there has been little impact on the EEC's economics so far. Nonetheless,

Youth unemployment has grown from 20,000 at the beginning of 1980 to 60,000 in the latter part of 1983.

industrial production is likely to increase here by 5 per cent this year and the sharp improvement in the balance of payments increases the scope for a return to growth.

Most youth unemployment is of relatively short duration. The Agency's analysis of Live Register duration figures suggests that up to 70 per cent of young people who become un-

The fatal spiral

THE REALITIES we are faced with today are that we are losing jobs faster than we can create them - due to our inability to sell competitively. As a result any actions we take with regard to our unemployment crisis must not cause us to be unproductive and thereby uncompetitive, otherwise we will enter the fatal spiral which will inevitably lead to economic and political breakdown.

The hard, cold statistics for the immediate future indicate that in the next four or five years we will need to provide at least 17,000 new jobs per annum - just to keep unemployment at its current rate. It's like running on a treadmill - you need to run fast just to keep your position, slow down and you fall off! Failure to recognise these realities is fatal.

The idea that everything will be alright in the end lulls us into a sense of false security and near apathy, before we know where we are we are facing a problem of unmanageable proportions. Neither will mere slight of

hand accountancy help the solution, for we can have both a perfect set of accounts and an economy in tatters. Indeed, such seems to be the aim of the present Government.

The main areas where will have to look for future employment are manufacturing, construction, private services and small national industries. We cannot realistically hope to see further increases in the public service - indeed net

natives: job sharing, early retirement, shorter hours etc.

Various studies, at National, EEC & OECD levels have shown that if excessive overtime and double jobbing were curtailed more people could be employed without effecting overall competitiveness. Overtime - it must be recognised - is very often a most economic and efficient way of working, particularly in smaller industries where productivity and competitiveness are of the essence.

The idea that everything will be alright in the end lulls us into a sense of false security and near apathy

employment there will have to level out over the next few years.

Of course there is no one solution to a problem as complicated as this. The provision of new jobs alone will not solve the problem, it is imperative we adopt new attitudes to employment, that we examine all avenues open to us, and not adopt a dog in the manger approach. There are various suggested alter-

To eradicate overtime would cause severe hardship on families who depend on it as a method to supplement inadequate basic earnings, as well as putting many small businesses at risk. To curb the abuses of excessive overtime and double jobbing is what's necessary - not only does it deprive someone of employment, it also deprives the State of revenue.

One method of curbing these excesses is to review the

What lies ahead?

employed leave the unemployment register within 20 weeks. But some young people experience long periods of unemployment and the longer they are out of work, the less likely they are to re-enter employment.

Many school-leavers, even in periods of employment growth, face difficulties in finding a first job quickly. This is particularly true of those who leave school early and without qualifications. Even for those who find work, the months after leaving school may be difficult, given the change in their environment and the large number of far-reaching choices they must make.

However, the need for planning, co-ordination and monitoring is obvious when one considers that about 55,000 young people will have participated in education, training and special employment programmes funded by the Youth Employment Levy this year. This contrasts with about 22,500 in 1981 — the last pre-Levy year — and by any standards (e.g. as a proportion of total youth unemployment or of school leavers) makes the volume of Irish pro-

vision of manpower services for young people one of the highest in the OECD countries.

The challenge now is to continue to improve the quality of these programmes. They must continue to help young people cope with the high levels of youth unemployment brought about by the current recession. But, over the

Population projections show that increases in the number of young people available for work will level off in the coming years after a period of rapid growth since 1971.

longer term, these programmes must become the sharp cutting edge of a major assault on the deep seated structural problems of youth unemployment which have always been a feature of the operation of our labour market.

Niall Greene, the author, is the chief executive of the Youth Employment Agency.

statutory limits on adult working hours, which have not been changed since the 1930's, and as a result do not reflect our present situation. Fortunately we in Fianna Fail in our policy programme *The Way Forward* recognised this and stated we would legislate that the working week be 40 hours, limit overtime to 40 hours in any 4 weeks or 100 hours in any 12 weeks.

But this is not in itself sufficient, as there already exists in our tax system a disincentive to work overtime — in many cases most of the money earned in overtime goes not to the worker but to the Revenue Commissioners — this itself encourages nixers, foxers and double jobbing.

The immediate priority is to further build up infrastructural services to encourage and help existing industries, and more important to help young people to go it alone. The various state bodies should be given the facilities to help young people seek new opportunities for themselves. The actual infrastructural development itself would provide jobs and if used properly, opportunities for young people to play their own unique role in the formation of a new industrialised and employed Ireland.

Derek S. Mooney,
Dublin South-East

Spiorad na hAoise

DÍFHOSTAÍOCHT, cogadh, tithíocht, coir agus foréigean: cuid de na fadhbanna atá ag cur as do dhaoine ága faoi láthair. Cá bhfuil réiteach na bhfadhbanna sin? Conas is féidir le aos óg na tíre seo spiorad nua dóchais a chrúthu?

D'fhéadfaimis suí siar agus feitheamh ar na polaiteoirí na gardaí agus na fostaitheoirí nó b'fhéidir, cabhrú linn féin. Le blianta beaga anois tá a lán daoine ag cailliúint misnigh agus dóchais, agus tá easpa muiníne go forleathan ní amháin as na polaiteoirí ach asainn féin mar dhaoine, mar Éireannaigh.

Is í sin, dar liom, an fhadhb is mó atá le réiteach againn. Cinnte, is iad na fadhbanna ábharacha is cúis leis, ach cá bhfuil an tidéalachas agus an dóchas a bhíodh le feiscint fadó? Sinne atá páirteach sa pholaitíocht agus i bhFianna Fáil ach go háirithe, creidimid san todhchaí, i bhfiúntas an duine. Tuigimid gur féidir linn dul ar aghaidh as an aois ghruama seo.

Cad faoi na millte eile? Ní gá go mbeadh suim ag gach

duine sa pholaitíocht, ach ba bhreá an rud é dá mbeadh gach duine óg "páirteach". Is focal é páirteach, nó rannphairtíocht a chloisimid go minic inniu. Séardisbríleis ná bheith agglacadh páirt iomlán sa chomhlúadar i do rogha slí.

Tá clubanna de chuide shaghas ann — cluichí, gasóga, cultúrtha, daltaí, feirmeoirí, ealaíontóirí srl.; obair dheanach — ní amháin ag am Nollag ach go rialta, ceard-cummann — chun dothuairim a luadh, ranganna oideachasúla — le haghaidh taitneamh agus foirfeacht. Is as an rannphairtíocht a thagann tuiscint ar a chéile agus as an gcomh-oibriú tiocfaidh neart agus dóchas.

Agus é sin ráite cad faoin easpa síochána atá sa domhain, an rás airm idir na tíortha móra, agus na ceannairí a choimeádann an cumhacht chun an domhain a scríosadh. An féidir bheith dóchasach? Is féidir, ach caithimid leanúint ar aghaidh ag obair ar son na síochána. Lig do 1984 bheith síochánta agus sonasach, agus bíg páirteach go hiomlán i saol na tíre seo.

Mary Hanafin

NOBODY need be reminded of the present chronic level of unemployment — nor of the exceptionally high level of youth unemployment — not only now, but projected for the future as well.

The Youth Employment Agency was created with responsibility for "the furtherance of the employment of young persons" (the Agency's Memorandum of Association). The one per cent levy was 'sold' to the general public on the basis that this agency, would, in an energetic, determined and realistic way, actually set about the creation of new jobs for young people.

However, it is now generally accepted that the Agency has failed in this area. Instead, it has

The Youth Employment Agency is a powerless and expensive addition to the semi-state bureaucracy.

merely financed various training schemes (which used to be financed by AnCo and other agencies). But further, and even more serious, it has only been given control of a fraction of the 1 per cent levy (the rest of which has been used by the Government for its budget-deficit policy), and it has utterly failed in its attempt to become the co-ordinating body for all youth-training and job creation activity.

This is not an argument for the abolition of the YEA. On the contrary, it is an argument for a strong, independent YEA that will have as its two aims (and in this priority); the creation of new jobs for young people — and the co-ordination of all effort directed at the creation of jobs for young people.

The third essential aspect of the YEA if it is to be successful is that it must fully control the one per cent employment levy.

One thing is certain; if these charges are not made, young people and the general public will get very angry because an important job is not being done and their money is being wasted.

Michael Mulcahy

Backbite

The Column that gets under your skin!

Sean O'Connor, the erstwhile doyen of Ogra in Dublin and probably the most famous nephew in the country returns for a brief visit to his native shores in mid December. Sean, who has started a business in Kuwait must be dreaming about Sally O'Brien (who?) at this present moment.

Roscommon Ogra created a big impression with their members and contribution at the recent Euro Election Seminar held in the Don Arms Castlereagh. **Padraig Muldoon** and media personality **Eugene Murphy** have completely turned Ogra around in the constituency over recent months.

A new cumainn has been set up in Athlone Regional Technical College. **Noel Cullinane** from Kerry and **Colm Hilliard** from Meath are two of the leading lights. They are receiving support and encouragement from **Mary O'Rourke**, TD our Spokesperson on Education.

Joe McPeake tells us that **Sean McBride**, Senior Counsel and Nobel Peace

Prize winner, has agreed to give a paper to Ogra Fianna Fail Dublin on the subject of partition in the '80's. This should add another dimension to the whole question of Northern Ireland and is certain to cause great interest.

Congratulations to **Mary Hanafin** on her award of the prestigious Robert Schumann Medal, which is presented by the F.U.S. Foundation, Germany and Les Amis de Robert Schuman, France to young people "who in their own

Many thanks to Party Leader MR HAUGHEY, TD. for the splendid support he has given Ogra at all levels in particular since the publication of the Action Plan. He has visited colleges, socials, projects, quizzes, shopping centres - in fact anything connected with Ogra. He certainly sets a fast and furious pace!

countries have been notably active in working towards European unity". Mary was

nominated by the N.Y.C.I. through the Irish Council of the European Movement.

The best of luck to **Mrs Bernie Feeney** and her husband **Kevin** as they move to London for a few years. Bernie, better known as **Bernie Lacy**, has carried the flag for Ogra in Dublin South over the past five years. She has contributed in a large way to the success of Ogra in Dublin by her hard work, dedication not to mention her mischievous humour! **Kay Cogan** and Ogra in Dublin South made a presentation to Bernie on Tuesday 29th October,

Romance seems to be sweeping the ranks of Ogra Fianna Fail with Chairpersons seeing a lot of their secretaries, a great demand for show numbers at Ogra dinners and discos and even the odd member of the National Youth Committee raising politics to a more spiritual level!

Ogra Fianna Fail Dublin recently organised a Public Meeting on human rights in Central America. Chaired by Joe McPeake, the meeting was attended by more than 200 people who heard the Nicaraguan Ambassador, **Dr d'Escotu**, Nobel Peace prize winner



Sean McBride and **Niall Andrews** TD speak on the problems of the area. Recent reports from Nicaragua suggest that the US Government is to cease supporting the contras - the guerilla group intent on overthrowing the government there. Dare we suggest that this is as a direct result of Ogra lobbying on this issue?

Correction!

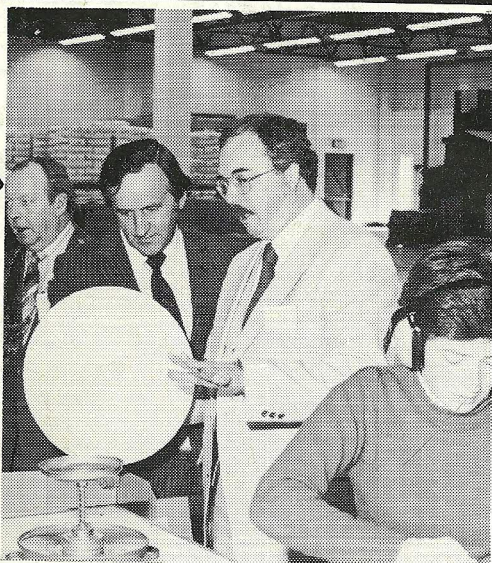
Included in some of the literature for the Ogra Fianna Fail 'Buy Irish' campaign were some errors in the names of our distinguished members of the European Parliament and Dail Eireann. To **Gerry Collins** TD., **Noel Davern** MEP., and **Gerry Cronin** MEP we tender our sincere apologies.

The Action Plan is intended for distribution to all Coiste Ogra at Comhairle Ceantair and Comhairle level. Some units missed out on the circulation because of a lack of a comprehensive list of registered Ogra. Huge progress has been made however in recent weeks with many new Ogra being registered. If your Ogra has not got its copy of the Action Plan please request it immediately from Party Headquarters.

... PRESS ... STOP PRESS ... STOP PRESS

The latest reports from Coalition circles indicate that Fine Gael and Labour are running for cover on the holding of the local elections.

The latest indications are that the LOCALS may be postponed due to cold feet on the part of the Government after their disastrous showing in the Dublin Central By Election.



Albert Reynolds crystal-ball gazing. Will I make Taoiseach- Is Petfood just a passing fad?

A special prize and a life subscription to VISION for the best Limerick to accompany the photo beginning with ... When Albert gazed at his crystal ball,