

# IRIS FIANNA FÁIL

FIANNA FÁIL PARTY JOURNAL

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Cosgrave

The economy ...

## A NATIONAL SCANDAL



Ryan

"GIVE us back this country in the same state as you got it from us."

That was the admonishment Jack Lynch gave to Liam Cosgrave on that fateful day in March, 1973, just before he handed over the reins of Government to the National Coalition.

Now Jack Lynch can be forgiven for expressing the hope that the new team on the Government benches in Leinster House would make the effort, at least, to consolidate the progress the country made under Fianna Fáil.

In the event, what has happened over the past 30 months is nothing short of a national scandal.

A SCANDAL because the value of the hard-earned money of our people is being devalued at the appalling rate of 26 p.c. a year.

A SCANDAL because some 103,000 Irish men and women are out of work.

A SCANDAL because this Government has allowed prices to skyrocket by something of the order of 30 p.c. a year — faster than at any time since we took control of our own affairs more than half a century ago.

A SCANDAL because this Administrations' profligate spending has reached such prodigal proportions that Finance Minister Richie Ryan has had to borrow £1 in every £4 that he fritters away.

And the scandal is all the more frustrating for the thousands of lower income citizens, whom it has hit the hardest, because it could have been avoided.

While Cosgrave and Ryan were bemoaning their fate as victims of what they called "the world economic recession" and blaming the oil shieks and the gnomes of Zurich, unemployment and inflation burgeoned.

While Mark Clinton wasted precious months, countless farmers worried through the winter about their very existence in agriculture. The delay in bringing in the Green Pound has been conservatively estimated to have cost the farming community £30 million.

While a whole bevy of Ministers and an array of officials spent months tinkering with the structure of capital taxation, real problems were being neglected.

And the net result of this tinkering has been as George Colley forecast in the Dáil — a flight of risk capital from the country and a consequent alarming restriction of available investment funds.

This serious erosion of business confidence is starkly reflected in figures released in the Dáil earlier this month that 484 companies have gone into liquidation since this Government took office.

Nor is this phenomenon particularly surprising — in view of the fact that the Coalition as in so many areas have got their priorities wrong.

Surely it should be the Government's business to generate the creation of wealth before bringing in measures to tax it?

### WHAT THEY SAID... THEN AND NOW

Before the 1973 election, the Fine Gael Labour Coalition brought out a 14-point plan, which they presented to the electorate with great fanfare as their manifesto. Contrast some of the points of this plan with this year's statements on the economy by the Taoiseach.

**The Plan:** "The immediate economic aim of the new Government will be to stabilise prices, halt redundancies and reduce unemployment."

**Cosgrave:** (May 7, 1975) Unemployment now stands at 103,000.

**The Plan:** "The Government will immediately introduce strict price control."

**Cosgrave:** (May 7, 1975) "In the quarter ended February, 1975, prices rose at an annual rate of 32p.c."

**The Plan:** "The Government will regard the control of price inflation as indispensable to the continuance of the National Wage Agreement."

**Cosgrave:** (May 14, 1975): "Inflation is now of crisis proportions". (May 7, 1975) "We are living largely on borrowed time and the goodwill of our creditors."

**Ryan's first Budget:** The causes of inflation are largely beyond our control.

**Cosgrave:** (March 22, 1973): "Now the predominant causes of inflation are domestic."

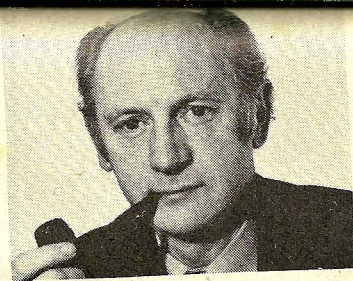
More than a year ago — months before the oil crisis really began to bite — Fianna Fáil called for urgent steps to ensure that this scandalous situation would be avoided.

Food, subsidies, cuts in VAT and other taxes, holding the line on prices in the public and private sector, and support for labour-intensive industries (such as building) were all part of this crisis package.

But the coalition Government vacillated from week to week, putting off the vital decisions only they could take to boost the economy and weather the storm.

Eventually, we had Richie Ryan finally admitting that George Colley was right. Last month he brought in his second 1975 budget, implementing most of the Fianna Fáil suggestions of more than a year ago.

# COMMENT



Mr. Jack Lynch, in a recent article in the annual Journal of St. Peter's College, Wexford, outlined his views on Irish education.

In the course of that article he referred to denominational primary education and said that the time had come to "phase it out."

Mr. Lynch's comment was in the general context of his view of Ireland as a pluralist society. His article received wide publicity, and indeed approval, in many quarters.

Mr. Lynch paid tribute to the Churches in Ireland for their part in the development and maintenance of our educational system. "The people of Ireland," he said, "owe a great deal to the Churches not only for the heritage in learning which has been handed down to us, but also for the infrastructure in schools and facilities which has been developed."

Mr. Lynch went on to say that religious orders have the confidence and respect of the vast majority of the population.

"This element," he said, "is of the utmost importance for, in the development of a new partnership in education between the Churches and the State, we must preserve the best traditions of the existing system while we promote the new and more exciting systems of inter-denominational education and pass on their management to the laity."

Surprisingly Mr. Lynch's comments have earned him some trenchant criticism in the current issue of Intercom, the monthly journal published by the Catholic Communications Institute of Ireland. One commentator went so far as to accuse Jack Lynch of a "tendency towards totalitarianism!"

The section of the article on education is, and was meant to be a logical outcome of the author's remarks on a pluralist society. As Mr. Lynch pointed out, "The politician, in the Irish context, must cater for the needs of a pluralist society."

There are two important factors in Irish education today to which Mr. Lynch's article referred, viz. inter-denominational education and the handing over of authority and responsibility for schools to the laity.

If they wish, any group of parents can establish a denominational school. It seems odd, therefore, that Intercom should say that Mr. Lynch's comments "lack sound educational principles and make no allowance for the rights of parents to choose suitable education for their own children."

The present tendency in Irish education, at both primary and secondary levels, is to pass authority and responsibility to the laity. The interest shown in primary schools by parents is bound to result in participation in management.

The recent campaign by parents for increased grants for voluntary secondary schools indicates an interest in management participation. Lay teachers already hold all promotional ranks.

The position of principal, in religious schools, should be open to lay teachers also. In all instances

## National Executive — 1975

### Uachtarán:

Seán Ó Loinsigh

### Leas Uachtarán:

Seán Mac an tSaoi  
Patrick Smith, T.D.  
Seosamh Groome,  
Joseph Brennan, T.D.  
Tomás Ó Maoláin

### Run. Oinigh:

Senator Brian Lenihan  
Charles J. Haughey, T.D.

### Cist. Oinigh:

A. J. Hederman, S.C.

### Front Bench Representatives:

George Colley, T.D.  
Sylvester Barrett, T.D.  
Gerard Collins, T.D.  
Robert Molloy, T.D.

### Oireachtas Panel:

Senator Seamus Dolan  
Joe Farrell, T.D.  
Ray McSharry, T.D.  
Senator Willie Ryan  
Sean Walsh, T.D.

### Committee of "15"

Niall Andrews  
Cathal Brugha  
Michael Donnelly  
Martin Fogarty  
Eamon P. Foley  
Tony Herbert  
Jack Lawlor  
Liam Lawlor  
Mrs. Eileen Lemass  
Tom Leonard  
Conor J. Maguire  
Mrs. Rea O'Brien  
Patrick Kussell  
Des Smith  
Dr. Patrick Tubridy

### Constituency Delegates:

Cavan: D. J. McDonald  
Donegal: Tom Brennan

Monaghan: Francis McConnon

Carlow: Arthur Kennedy

Kilkenny: Peter Smithwick

Dublin/Artane: F. V. McDonnell

D./Ballyfermot: Martin Birrane

D./Cabra: Jos. Tierney

D./Clontarf: Ned Brennan

D./Finglas: Ray Walsh

D./Rathmines: Noírin Slattery

Dublin Nth. Cen: Seán Coleman

Dublin Sth. Cen.: Vera Kinsella

Dublin Sth. East: Ml. de Buitleir

Mid. Co. Dublin: P. P. Mac Murchu

Nth. Co. Dublin: C. A. Leonard

Sth. Co. Dublin: Eamon Davis

West Co. Dublin: Thomas Boland

Dun Laoghaire: Thomas Macken

Kildare: Terence Gillece

Laois: Liam Hyland

Offaly: James Houlihan

Longford: Albert Reynolds

Westmeath: James O'Brien

Louth: Thomas Bellew

Meath: Richard Healy

Wexford: Denis Byrne

Wicklow: Tom Herr

Clare: Dermot P. Honan

Cork City: Thomas Ahern

Cork Mid: Denis Lyons

Cork Nth. East: Jeremiah Sheedy

Cork Sth. West: Peter Callanan

Kerry North: Denis Foley, P.C.

Kerry South: John Walsh

Limerick East: Patrick Kiely

Limerick West: Michael Kennelly

Tipperary North: Michael Smith

Tipperary South: John Kennedy

Waterford: Patrick Wall

Galway East: Edward Haverty

Galway West: Michael J. Glynn

Leitrim: Wm. Farrell

Sligo: Patrick F. Walsh

Mayo East: Liam Ruane

Mayo West: Padraig Flynn

Roscommon: Seamus de Brun

### Co-Options

Michael Campion

Michael Conroy

Farrell McElgunn

the rule that whoever merits the position of principal ought to be given it, whether he or she be clerical or lay.

We endorse the statement of Mr. Lynch that it is "the task of the politicians to create the framework for a new partnership between lay and religious in education,"

When a politician of the stature and experience of Jack Lynch outlines, without any trace of dogmatism, his views on such a vital part of Irish society as education, then one would expect encouragement rather than brickbats.

Matters such as education are too serious to be dragged through the marketplace of entrenched interests.

If there is a cogency to the argument of those who are against the introduction of interdenominational education then let that group spell it out loud and clear. The courage of one's convictions applies to each interest group as well as to the politician.

# THE NORTH: Our policy ...



Ruairi Brugha, T.D.

Our policy on the North is founded on the right of all the people of Ireland to be free of interference from any external source.

We believe that the interests of the nation can best be served by encouraging reconciliation amongst all the people and especially amongst the divided elements who live in the Six Counties. The origin of this policy can be seen in a letter written by President de Valera to Prime Minister Lloyd George on August 10th, 1921, where he said:

'As regards the question at issue between the political minority and the great majority of Irish people, that must remain a question for the Irish people themselves to settle. We cannot admit the right of the British Government to mutilate our country, either in its own interests or at the call of any section of the population; we do not

Ruairi Brugha, T.D. is Fianna Fáil spokesman on Northern Ireland affairs. In an address to a youth meeting of Terence McSwiney, Thomas Russell and Kevin Barry cumainn in Mount Merrion, Dublin, he gave a clear statement of the party's policy on the North. This is what he said:

contemplate the use of force. If your Government stands aside, we can affect a complete reconciliation'.

These words, written fifty four years ago, express our hopes for the future of Ireland.

In the last few months the introductory articles to the Irish Constitution have become central to the controversy about the Northern situation.

Misinterpretation of the meaning and intention of these articles has caused fear and antagonism amongst the Unionist population regarding our attitude towards them.

Articles 1 and 2 of the Constitution clearly set out the inalienable right of the Irish Nation (i.e. all the people of Ireland) to the national territory of the whole island of Ireland.

Inalienable here means the exclusion of any right on the part of Britain to jurisdiction over any part of Ireland or the people of Ireland.

We would be failing in our responsibility to the people of Ireland—including Loyalists—if we tried to pretend that there had been a weakening in the collective will of the Irish

people to control their own destiny.

Article 3 of the Constitution confines our jurisdiction and laws to the Twenty-Six Counties until such time as the position between the Irish Nation and Britain is resolved.

To suggest that these articles imply that we intend to impose our will on the Northern Community is either a misunderstanding or it is dishonest propaganda intended to frighten Unionists.

The matters concerning Unionist anxieties can be resolved through peaceful discussion and agreement given that they are prepared to show goodwill towards Ireland as a whole. Meanwhile we are not and never have been prepared to force or coerce them. Our ideal is a peaceful bringing together of all the people of Ireland."

## Laois Cllr. demands a clear statement on issues



Cllr. Joe Dunne

Laois Co. Councillor Joseph Dunne spelled out a tough message for Headquarters at the recent Laois County Convention.

He said that one of the many reasons given for our general election defeat was the lack of a clearly defined policy.

Cllr. Dunne was speaking to a motion "That: the lack of a publicised policy is detrimental to the Party and the Organisation." It was carried unanimously by the Convention.

Said Cllr. Dunne, "While the Cork and Galway by-elections did result in victories for Fianna Fáil, it is nevertheless very evident that our continued lack of a positive Policy is still influencing the electorate—much to the detriment of the Party."

"It is therefore obvious that we will have to take immediate steps to declare our Policy if we are to regain support and win the next general election.

We have two options open to us at this stage—(1) to publish our Policy now or (2) to withhold publication until a general election is called.

*Cllr. Dunne has been a member of Laois Co. Council since 1974. He is also a member of Portlaoise Town Commission and chairman of Portlaoise Cumann.*

By publishing our Policy now, we will be running the risk of having the Coalition adapting and using it to suit themselves. On the other hand, if we withhold our Policy until a general election, we will, of necessity, have to educate our own members first while at the same time trying to get the message across to what may well be a very sceptical electorate—all in three to four weeks.

We are dealing with a more sophisticated and better educated electorate than ever before—an electorate who expect us to put forward positive and realistic Policies now rather than hold them to be produced as election gimmicks on the eve of the election.

The electorate have indicated by their votes in the by-elections that they are still not satisfied with us and that they expect these Policies now.

## Replace the dole! — a call from Athy

Carrigeen Cumann member Frank Foley told a meeting of the Athy Comhairle Ceanntair earlier this month that a radical re-structuring of the entire unemployment benefit system is urgently needed if the three problems of inflation, economic stagnation and the jobless are to be tackled effectively.

Mr. Foley proposes replacing the "dole system" with a "Supplementary wage voucher system."

The effect of this, he argues, would be to encourage people to work rather than remain idle.

One of the evils of inflation, he maintains, is that employers cannot afford to pay their workers a living wage because of surging costs. The result is unemployment and an ever-mounting dole bill.

The Government should step in and pay such workers a supplement to their wages—being the difference between what employers (notably small

farmers and businessmen) can afford to pay and what is a living wage for working people.

"The dole is demoralising to the great majority of our unemployed, who are, most of them proud and hard-working people," Mr. Foley told the meeting in the Shamrock Lodge, Athy.

"Unemployment involves less and less work being done, less food, clothing and other essentials being produced, mounting prices, a higher level of imports and a crisis of confidence in our country.

"The vicious circle that unemployment and inflation create must be checked and then exterminated," he went on.

"The moral and social fabric of our society is being undermined by the criminal negligence and bankruptcy of ideas of this Government."

"Its time to try something new."

*The above item was submitted by Athboy Comhairle Ceanntair P.R.O. Ernest Glynn. Ideas, like this one, are the life blood of a political party. There must be many floating about in your area. Let the Editors of IRIS have them!*

# Fianna Fail in the European Parliament

Five members of the Fianna Fáil Parliamentary Party have been serving for nearly two years now as members of the European Parliament.

Their work, which largely goes unnoticed by the media at home, is nonetheless vital and of a difficult and technical nature. Ireland has 10 seats in the Assembly, which is the legislative arm of the Common Market.

A small insight into the day-to-day duties of some of these deputies and Senators is contained in a booklet published recently by the European Progressive Democrat grouping in the Parliament, composed of Fianna Fáil and the French Gaullist Party delegation.

The booklet gives a comprehensive outline of the detailed debates on agriculture, Regional Policy, food supplies, political affairs and the Social Fund. We here some of those contributions which, we hope, will give members of the organisation an insight into the difficulties of being a member of the European Parliament and of Dáil Éireann, simultaneously.

## Hamfisted

Mr. Jim Gibbons, T.D., Fianna Fáil Spokesman on Agriculture and a member of the Fianna Fáil delegation in Europe described the Government's management of the intervention system as hamfisted and scandalous.

Mr. Gibbons was speaking at the E.E.C. seminar in Clare recently. Mr. Gibbons said that there was a scandalous lack of concern on the part of the Government for the small man in Irish agriculture and untold damage had been done during 1974.

During the course of his speech, Mr. Gibbons frankly admitted that without intervention in 1974, Irish agriculture would have been in far more serious difficulty than it actually was. This did not excuse the mismanagement of the intervention system by the Government during that same period, he said.

## Disastrous

Mr. Gibbons has constantly highlighted the mismanagement of the meat market in the community and we include an extract from a speech of his in the European Parliament in September last year:

"I have warned time and time again that the uncontrolled imports of meat from third countries could not but produce glut conditions and an almost total stoppage of the Community's internal market.

This situation has also led to a disastrous drop in prices,



Fianna Fáil members of the European Parliament presented French Minister of Defence Yvon Bourges with a Kilkenny silver mug at a luncheon M. Bourges hosted for the Irishmen in Paris.

and at a time when soaring production costs make an adequate and fair profit doubly indispensable.

Already the cattle herd within the Community has suffered grave damage through the unnecessary slaughter of thousands and thousands of cows, which will in time lead to a sharp drop in the production of the meat required by the Community.

This in turn will make the Community even more dependent on supplies from the Americans and elsewhere, where herds are being steadily built up while ours are being destroyed and run down.

This is a crisis situation. I must say that I believe that there has been the grossest mismanagement of the meat market within the Community. Consumer prices have not dropped, not in the least, but prime Irish beef cattle, as has been mentioned already, are now being sold at 69% and less of the intervention price and young store cattle are simply unsaleable.

They cannot be sold at all at anything resembling a reasonable price. Although the prices being paid in Ireland for prime cattle going into intervention is practically the only outlet we have."

## The Border

Speaking in a debate on Cross-Border development in the Parliament, Mr. Michael Herbert, T.D., emphasised the need for priority attention to the Irish Border area:

"Some 800,000 people live in this region. It comprises the City of Derry, a portion of

Derry county, Tyrone, Fermanagh, Armagh and South Down on one side of the Border and on the 26 Counties side, Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, West Cavan, Monaghan and portion of County Louth. A growing number of these 800,000 people are becoming more and more aware of the adverse socio-economic implications and the problems resulting from this rather meaningless border.

Within recent years, various bodies in this area, notably the North West Study Group, have examined the problems, looking for a solution, and have made submissions not merely to Dublin and Belfast but also direct to Brussels. A similar development plan can easily be formulated for the eastern portion of the region for here again exist common socio-economic problems.

I have no doubt that the European Community should, when the means for doing so become available to it, give this problem area high priority, allocating to it liberal loans and advances to finance development programmes, including industrial infrastructure projects.

I have no doubt, either that both the Six County administration and the Irish Government should agree to the creation of a development company that would be responsible for the formulation of co-ordinated trans-border development policies — a company that would be broadly based and representative of both sides of the border and would ensure the maximum return for any community investment from an economic standpoint and particularly from the social angle."

## Failure

Mr. Tom Nolan, T.D., speaking on the same topic, outlined his proposals for the area.

"The failure of the Community to implement its own policies brings home all the more clearly the disappointment of people in the depressed peripheral areas of the Community who had hoped for some relief from the Regional Fund.

The disappointment is all the more evident when one looks, for example, at the border area of Ireland, which has been referred to so many times, where people had hoped that a Community dimension and commitment to their problems would help to relieve a war-type situation and give some hope for a future heavy with uncertainties.

The type of programme I envisage would be similar to that proposed by the Council of Europe in its Resolution of 27th February 1974, recommending legal and administrative measures designed to improve co-operation between local communities in frontier areas.

In particular it suggested the establishment of regional frontier committees consisting of representatives of Governments and local and regional communities concerned, to ensure better agreement and co-ordination of regional planning, the easing of administrative rules to simplify and speed up co-operation between local authorities on opposite sides of frontiers and the provision of common areas where local activities could be developed in a concerned way without administration obstacles.

# Gealluinti bhriste ...



Cé gur mór iad na hathraithe atá tagtha ar staid na tíre seo le leathchéad bliain anuas, tá cosúlachtaí áirithe idir cúrsaí polaitíochta na linne sin agus mar atáid fé láthair.

Ag an am sin, ba liosta le lua na fadhbanna a bhí ag an tír. Bhí an Rialtas tar éis aontú i nDáil Éireann le críoch-dheighilt na tíre agus bhí an Mhóid Dhílesachta do Rí Shasana ann fós. Bhí an bhochtaineacht go foirleathan, an dífhostaíocht go hard agus an eisimirce ina lánsruth.

Bhí Rialtas i gcumhacht a chreid narbh aon chuid da ndualgas cur isteach ar an gcóras eacnamaíochta ar mhaithe le fadhbanna an phobail a réiteach. Ba bheag an mhuinín a bhí ag na daoine as an Rialtas sin, um an dtaca sin. Níor chreid siad go raibh ar a cumas na fadhbanna a réiteach, ná fiú amháin go raibh an toil acu tabhairt futhu, ar chor ar bith.

## Dochas

Nuair a bunaíodh Fianna Fáil i 1926 rinne Eamon de Valera tagairt do na fadhbanna móra a bhí ann san am. Chuir se é féin in áit fhir óig ar bith san am ag féachaint ar na deachrachtaí sin agus ag smaoineamh conas iad a réiteach. Ba é freagra de Valera agus a chompanach ná Fianna Fáil a bhunú. Ag an am bhí easba dóchais, easba muiníne agus easba treorach mar scamall anuas ar an tír. Ach ba dream iad Fianna Fáil a raibh an dochas acu.

Chreid siad go bhféadfadh muintir na hÉireann a gcás féin a réiteach ach cur chuige i gceart. Thar aon rud eile, bhí an toil pholaitíochta acu chuige. Na rudaí a bhí mar bhacanna do-bhógtha ag Cumann na nGael ba dhúshlán le sarú iad ag Fianna Fáil. Ba cheannaire é Eamon de Valera a threoraigh

Tá Feargal Mac Giolla Gunna ina bhall de Chomhairle Chondae Liatroma ó 1966. Bhí sé i Seanad Éireann ó 1968 go dtí 1973, agus i bParlimint na hEorpa i 1973. Óna óige tá spéis aige sa pholaitíocht agus bhí sé ina Rúnaí ar Chumann Chaoimhín de Bharra, Fianna Fáil, i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Gaillimh 1954-1956. Is meanmhúinteoir é i gCara Droma Rúisc, áit a raibh sé mar Rúnaí ar M. J. McManus Cumann 1959-1970. Tá sé ar Ard-Comhairle Fhianna Fáil faoi láthair.

an naisiún ó 1916 i leith. Diaidh ar ndiaidh, d'fhás muinín na ndaoine as Fianna Fáil agus d'fhill an dóchas.

Tá sé spéisiúil a léamh anois cad a bhí le rá ag na nuachtáin ar fad, seachas "Scéala Éireann", faoi Fhianna Fáil. Dar leo, ba "Cummanaigh" iad a bhainfeadh a maoin de mhuintir na tíre, no "fir fhiaine" a chuirfeadh cogadh eilt ar siúl. Chomh maith leis sin, dar leo ní raibh an cumas céanna i bhFianna Fáil tír a rialú is a bhí sna hAíre cliste, éirimiúla a bhí i gcumhacht ó 1922 i leith.

Ach tar éis d'Fhianna Fáil teacht i gcumhacht i 1932 thug Eamon de Valera an treoir don náisiún a bhí in easnamh go dtí sin. Cuireadh deireadh leis an Móid Dílseachta do Rí Shasana. Leagadh bunchlocht le forbairt thionscalaitochta na tíre. Bunaíodh córas leasa shóiséalaigh a d'fheach chuige go mbeadh cabhair éigin le fáil ag an gcuid ba laige dar bpobal.

## Easba Treorach

Le linn an Chogaidh Eacnamaíochta sheas muintir na hÉireann, agus muintir na tuaithe go háirithe, le Fianna Fáil in aghaidh iarrachtaí Shasana toil an phobail a bhriseadh. Faoi 1938 bhí Bunreacht nua i réim — bunreacht a tháinig ó na daoine agus ní ó

Chonnradh ar bith le Sasana. Bhí seilbh arís againn ar na calafoirt a choimead Sasana di féin sa Chonnradh.

Thug Fianna Fáil an tír tríd an Dara Cogadh Domhanda 1939-45 cé gurbh iomaí iarracha a rinneadh muid a tharraingt isteach ann. Ba mhór iad na deacrachtaí a bhí le linn an chogaidh — easba bunábhair, agus ganntanais riachtanais sa bhaile agus bagairt on dtaobh amuigh, ach ní raibh aon easba treorach, easba muiníne ná easba dóchais ann. Ach sa bhliain 1948 tháinig an chéad Chomhairle i gcumhacht.

Ní raibh ach aon rud amháin a n-aontú, sé sin, an rún a bhí acu Fianna Fáil a choimead as oifig. Iar dteacht i gcumhacht dóibh moladh iad sna nuachtáin mar bhuíon sár-chliste a dhéanadh miortúiltí, ach níorbh fhada gur thit siad as a chéile tar éis dóibh failli a dhéanamh sna seansanna a bhí acu chun dul-chun-cin na dhéanamh. Ach tugadh an dara seans dóibh agus tháinig an dara Comhairle i gcumhacht 1954. Thit an lug ar an lag ar an tír leis an dream sin agus nuair a d'éirigh siad as oifig i 1957 bhí drochbháil ar an tír. Bhí céad míle daoine dífhostaithe, bhí ráta imirce bliantúil daichead míle ann agus thar aon rud eile bhí dóchas, muinín agus treoir imithe.

## Eisimirce

Iar dteacht i gcumhacht d'Fhianna Fáil arís cheannas Eamon de Valera níorbh fhada gur tháinig an dóchas agus an mhuinín arís. Bhí foireann Airí ann — cuid acu a raibh seantaithí acu ar bheith i Rialtas agus cuid eile óg, éirimiúil. Tosaíodh ar fhobairt na tíre ar scála nach bhfacthas a leithéid riamh roimh sin.

Tháinig meadú thar na bearta ar caighdeán maireachtála na ndaoine. Thosaigh an daonra ag meadú agus eisimirce ag titim. Leathnaíodh gach seirbhís ar mhaithe leis an bpobal. Ní gá ach feachtaint ar an bhfeabhsú a rinneadh i gcúrsaí Sláinte agus Oideachais chun samplaí a fháil den obair sin. Réitíodh an tionscalaitocht

agus an talamhaíocht do bhallraíocht na hÉireann i gComhphobal Eacnamaíochta na hEorpa, mar thuig Fianna Fáil gur mar bhall den eagraíocht sin ab fhearr dúinn as seo amach.

Ach faoi 1973 bhí dearmad déanta ag alan ar an dá Chomhairle a bhí ann sna Caogadaí agus mealladh iad ag geallúintí Fhine Gael agus Páirtí an Lucht Oibre.

Bhí tacaíocht ag an dream seo ó na meáin chumarsáide ar fad, nuachtáin, radio, teilifís. Dar leo, ní raibh a leithéid d'fhoireann ann riamh is a tháinig i gcumhacht mar Chomhairleas 1973 — éirim aigne, tuiscint, ciall, — bhí gach suílce agus gach bua acu. Bhí cúrsaí eacnamaíochta na tíre ar fheabhas nuair a d'fhág Fianna Fáil oifig agus bhí lán dóchas agus muinín ar an bpobal.

Dúirt Sean Lemass uair amháin — gurbh é aidhm a bhí aige na eacnamaíochta na hÉireann a chur ar bhun chomhdaingean sin nach bhféadfadh fiú amháin Comhairleas eile é a lot. Ach taobh istigh de trí bhliain, tá an Rialtas seo imithe i bhfad ar bhóthar a loite. Arís, tá níos mó ná céad míle duine as obair, tá cúrsaí airgidis, cúrsaí talamhaíochta, cúrsaí tionscalaitochta na tíre ina bpraiseach. I ngach áis feachann an Chomhairleas leigheas gearr-théarmach a fháil nó cuireann siad a fhadhb ar an méar is faide.

## Tir a rialú

Is léir anois do na daoine nach mian leis an Rialtas seo tamhairt faoi na morfhadhbanna atá ann a réiteach. Tá an t-éadóchas ag féileadh agus an easba muiníne leis. Níl treoir le fáil uatha ar mhórcheisteanna na linne mar an Ghaeilge agus Aontú na Tíre. Dar leo is fearr tost ná treoir.

Fagann seo gurbh é Fianna Fáil ap t-aon pháirtí ar féidir leo an treoir, an dóchas, an mhuinín teacht uaidh. Threoraigh Seán Ó Loinsigh an náisiún ar fheabhas ar feadh sé bliana agus tá muinín ag an bpobal go mbeadh an treoir sin ann arís dá mbeadh Fianna Fáil arís in oifig arís. Ó na blianta fada a bhí acu in oifig mar Rialtas tuigeanann Fianna Fáil cad a bhaineann le tír a rialú.

Tá an cumas acu polasaithe a tharraingt suas chun fadhbanna a réiteach agus tá an toil pholaitíochta acu iad a chur i bhfeidhm. 'Sí mór-obair Fhianna Fáil ná treoir, dóchas agus muinín a thabhairt arís don phobal. Tá sé de dhualgas orainne mar Éireannaigh gan staonadh ón obair sin go mbeidh Fianna Fáil in oifig arís.

## Brendan Daly

Brendan was first elected at the 1973 general election. He won the seat previously held by Dr. Patrick Hillery, now an E.E.C. Commissioner.

Born in Cooraclare, Kilrush, Co. Clare, in February 1940 he is married to the former Patricia Carmody. They have 1 son and 1 daughter. Brendan was educated at the Kilrush Christian Brothers school.

Deputy Daly is now a full time public representative. Before his election he was a rate collector.



He was a member of Macra na Feirme 1960-66 and a former assistant secretary to Limerick Board of Fishery Conservators.

# Around the constituencies . . .

## Miss Byrne new Galway Mayor

Miss Mary Byrne, a Fianna Fáil Councillor, is the first woman ever to be elected Mayor of Galway.

Early this month, she defeated her Labour opponent by 7 votes to 5.

Miss Byrne was first elected to Galway City Council in the local elections of 1967, and was re-elected with a big majority last year.

She is a nursing sister on the staff of Galway Regional Hospital.

Interviewed after her election as Galway's First Citizen, she listed her principal concerns as community welfare and the environment.

Fianna Fáil public representatives in the new Dublin South-Central constituency, Mr. Tom Fitzpatrick, T.D. and Cllr. Pat Cummins, P.C. are available to their constituents on four nights every week at Rialto Boys' School on Fridays (7.30 to 9 p.m.) and at 55 Charlemont St. on Mondays (7.30 to 9 p.m.).

Deputy Fitzpatrick is also available at 73 Thomas St. on Saturdays between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Cllr. Cummins will be at 2E Markievicz House, Pearse St. on Tuesdays from 7.30 to 9 p.m.

Blacklion (Wicklow) Cumann elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. D. O'Brien;  
Vice-Chairman: M. Maguire;  
Treasurers: Mrs. Condell and Mrs. Stephenson;  
Secretary: Mr. Niall Maguire;  
Delegates to the Comhairle Ceanntair: M. McCarthy and Miss P. Kenny.

The organisation in Clare held a seminar on the E.E.C. in Dromoland Castle recently. Among the distinguished speakers were Mr. Jim Gibbons, T.D., Mr. Michael Herbert, T.D., Mr. Des O'Malley, T.D. and M. Jean Claude Eckhout, a member of the staff of Ireland's E.E.C. Commissioner, Dr. Patrick Hillery.

Sean Traynor Cumann, Delgany (So. Dublin) elected the following officers.

Chairman: Seamus Kavanagh;  
Vice-Chairman: Sean O'Brien;  
Treasurers: Miss J. Fisher and John Fagan;  
Secretary: Mr. K. O'Reilly.

Delegates to Comhairle Ceanntair: Sean O'Brien and Joe Murphy.

North Wicklow Comhairle Ceanntair elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. G. Glynn;  
Vice-Chairman: Miss K. Whittle;  
Treasurers: C. O'Reilly and D. O'Donovan;

Secretary: Sean Whelan;

Delegates to Comhairle Dáilceanntair: D. O'Donovan, J. Melia and Miss A. Fleming.

*Deputy Sean Moore, (Dublin S.E.) has sent us the first edition of his local F.F. Newsletter, a four page brochure, circulated to all houses in the Beggars Bush, Irishtown, Ringsend area. It announces the opening of a new F.F. Information Centre at 33 Ringsend Rd. (Thurs, 7.30 — 9 p.m.).*

East Waterford Comhairle Ceanntair held a special meeting recently to discuss the future of education in the area and the Criminal Jurisdiction Bill. Mr. R. Egan presided and the attendance included Mr. W. Kenneally, T.D., Mr. J. Fahy, T.D. and Senator P. Brown. Mr. Seamus Brennan, general secretary, was the guest speaker.

Some 360 people attended the Annual Dinner Dance of the Laois Comhairle Dáilceanntair. Guests of honour were Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson. Deputies Paddy Lalor and Ger Connolly were also present.

Kilmacanogue Cumann (Wicklow) elected the following officers:

Chairman: B. Fitzsimons;  
Vice-Chairman: J. Butler;  
Treasurers: Mrs. M. Sutton and Mrs. P. Stephens;  
Secretary: Brian Morgan;  
Delegates to the Comhairle Ceanntair: J. Byrne and J. Butler.



Mrs. Irons of Ballyboden has been a member of the party since 1927. Aged 75, she was a personal friend of the late Senator Margaret Pearse. We are glad to hear she is still active on behalf of Fianna Fáil and wish her many more fruitful years.

Michael Dwyer Cumann (Mid County Dublin) held an open forum recently where members of the parliamentary party answered questions from the floor on party policy. A first class idea that might well be followed elsewhere!

Thomas Davis Cumann (Dublin South Central) elected the following officers:

Chairman: Eoin O'Brien;  
Secretary: Mrs. Eithne Armstrong;  
Joint Terasurers: Miss Liz Whiston and Frank Bent;  
Delegates to the Comhairle Ceanntair: Richard Brown and Des Smith.

Tomas Mac Curtain Cumann, (Cork) elected the following officers:

Chairman: Tom Walsh;  
Vice-Chairman: Michael Kidney;  
Secretary: John O'Riordan;  
Treasurers: Jack Donnelly and Tony Walsh;  
Delegates to the Comhairle Ceanntair: J. O'Riordan and T. Walsh

We hope you all had a very successful National Collection. As it is unfair to subscribers to keep them waiting for receipts we appeal to you to return the proceeds to Mount Street at once. Your co-operation as always is appreciated.

Headquarters are in the process of opening a library for the benefit of Oireachtas members, local representatives and all members of the Party.

It will be staffed initially on a part-time basis and it is hoped the facility provided will be of benefit to any member requiring access to reports or other documentation for research. The library should be in full swing by the end of the summer.

The Editors of Iris Fianna Fáil would like to get your views by way of letters or signed articles, together with any news from your Cumann and Constituency. Contact us now for the next issue of "Iris" at 13 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.

## The veteran new boy

JOHN CALLANAN came into the Dáil for the first time at the last general election — just two months before his 63rd birthday.

This makes him the undisputed veteran of all the new F.F. deputies in 1973.

John entered politics late in life, but for many years has been active in public affairs in and around his native Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

For example, he was a founder member of Macra na Feirme and has served as its national vice-president, a founder member of the Irish Farmers' Association (and vice-president for five years.)

Locally, John is president of Ballinasloe Agricultural Show Society and chairman of the West of Ireland Marts Committee.



In his younger days, John was a member of the Connaught Council of the G.A.A.

The new deputy was elected in the Clare-South Galway Constituency. The F.F. team there for the last election secured the second highest Fianna Fáil poll in the country — 57.2 p.c. of the vote.

That speaks volumes for the popularity of John Callanan, the Ballinasloe farmer, in South Galway.

# The second T.V. channel

Fianna Fáil supports the claim of television viewers in the single channel area for a choice of television programmes.

Fianna Fáil believes a second television channel in Ireland, which is expected to be operational in 1976, must remain under Irish control and we oppose the Government proposal to hand effective control to a foreign broadcasting company to facilitate the re-broadcasting of B.B.C. 1 only.

In recognition of the genuine desire of viewers in the single channel areas for choice of programme, Fianna Fáil proposes the establishment of a Second Channel Programme Council.

This Council would control the selection of material and production of programmes to be transmitted through the second channel and would be strongly representative of the present single channel areas.

It's terms of reference would provide for a regional quality in it's home produced programmes and news broadcasts. The headquarters of the new Council would be centred outside of Dublin in a single channel area.

Posts and Telegraphs Minister Conor Cruise O'Brien proposes to hand over R.T.E.'s second channel to the B.B.C. in London. Fianna Fáil unequivocally opposes this insisting upon keeping authority and control of broadcasting at home. Here is why and how we propose to do it.

The Programme Council would function under the aegis of the existing Broadcasting Authority, whose membership would be enlarged to strengthen single channel representation.

R.T.E. would continue to function in it's present capacity and provisions would be made through the Authority for the arranging of programme schedules of R.T.E. and the second channel in order that a truly alternative choice of programme be provided for the public.

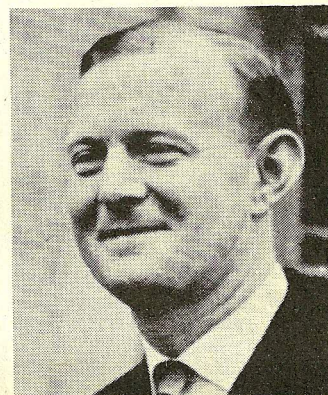
The second channel would be responsible for the selection of programmes for transmission and would choose a cross section of the three outside channels (B.B.C. 1, B.B.C. 2 or U.T.V.).

In this way the best programme schedule could be ob-

tained. The second channel would include some home-produced programmes including current affairs, sport and regional news in some detail.

Fianna Fáil believes that a second channel run on the above lines would give the best of re-broadcasting to the single channel areas while retaining effective Irish control.

In view of the complexities of copyright and the known trade union opposition in Britain and Ireland, Fianna Fáil feels the Government proposal to re-broadcast B.B.C. 1 in toto is unrealistic, and protracted debate along those lines can only delay indefinitely the making of arrangements for programme transmission on the second channel next year.



Tom Fitzpatrick, T.D.

TOM FITZPATRICK, a Cork man but a Dublin Central T.D., is our new Front Bench spokesman on Posts and Telegraphs.

Shadowing Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien, he will immediately be plunged into the forefront of the current national debate on a second television channel.

Tom has been 10 years in the Dáil, being first elected in 1965.

In the last few months he has been a very busy man. With Deputies George Colley and Vivion de Valera, he has headed up the Fianna Fáil team debating the Government's intricate capital taxation programme.

Tom is 49 and was born in Rathluirc. He is a licensed vintner and a past vice-chairman of the Licensed Vintners' and Grocers' Association.

He has a keen interest in soccer with St. Patrick's Athletic club, of which he is vice-president.

Tom is married and lives in the Inchicore district of his constituency.

## OBITUARY

MRS. MARY CALLAGHAN of Barry Ave., Mervue, Galway. She was long-time active member of the party and one of the founders of the Mervue Cumann, of which she was Secretary.

Mrs. Callaghan was a delegate to both the Comhairle Ceanntair and Comhairle Dáil-Ceanntair.

A native of Carraroe, she was a fluent Irish speaker.

She is survived by her husband Barney, sons Padraic and Brian and her brothers and sisters.

## A view from Athboy . . .

Athboy Cumann chairman Dr. Derrick Waldron-Lynch reinforced official Fianna Fáil thinking on the second T.V. channel issue when he addressed the annual meeting of his cumann recently.

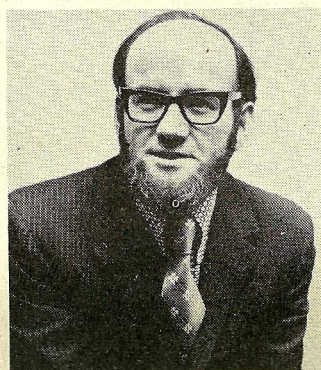
"The Government proposals", he said, "would seriously endanger the heritage of our people and could well result in making us a British off-shore island — a backwater of Anglo-American culture."

"The Broadcasting Bill had now appeared, and has grave and serious implications for us all."

"The Minister seems intent on handing over the second television channel to B.B.C. 1, and if this happens it would be a tragedy as our national service would be reduced to a minority service."

"This is what is recommended by the Broadcasting Review Committee to which this cumann made a submission."

"The present thinking of the Minister seems to be that instead



Dr. Derek Waldron-Lynch

of providing the best of European and world television on a second channel, he is intent on completely handing over the channel to the B.B.C."

"There would be some excuse for this if it was fitting in with his original concept of open broadcasting. That is that R.T.E. radio and television

would be made available in the Six Counties and throughout Britain."

"But there is nothing to be gained and a great deal of what is basic to our Irish culture to be lost if we should import exclusively British programmes and have no opportunity to influence thinking in Britain by letting them know the facts about this country."

"If this goes ahead, the eventual death of the national Broadcasting service will have serious ill-effects on the nation's cultural life. For removal of effective control from R.T.E. will lead to a reduction of interest in and love for Ireland's history and heritage."

"And there is very real danger that this country will be transformed in spirit to a provincial region of Britain."

"This would be particularly unfortunate in view of the distinctive cultural contribution which Ireland can make and is making in the European Economic Community."

# The rights of women in modern society

To demonstrate that we regard the status of women in our society, as a matter of major social importance, we have set out in this document areas which we consider should be included in a Special Document on Womans Rights. This document is intended to ensure the full equality under our social and legal system of women in Ireland.

We feel that the woman who wishes to pursue her chosen career should be free to do so and that discrimination in all its aspects be eliminated. It is hoped to create a framework within our country under Fianna Fáil Government which will encourage change in attitudes and traditions in order that the basic right of equality may be recognised.

Fianna Fáil's commitment in this direction has already been proven by the setting up of the Commission on the Status of Women to study the major obstacles that confronted women anxious to play an equal role in our society.

## Working Wife

It is our view that the role of a woman working in the home with the responsibilities of wife and mother should not be undermined, but it is important, however, for the proper development of married women in the community that if they wish to work outside the home, whether for economic reasons or otherwise, they should be free to do so and any barriers in their way should be removed.

Many girls on leaving school see their future in terms of a relatively short period of employment. To a large extent this is due to social attitudes in our society. While recognising the fundamental need for career guidance for girls towards marriage and parenthood, it is desirable that education should adequately prepare them for careers in employment.

If, however, they decide to interrupt their careers on marriage, the opportunities should be provided for them to return to those careers at any time in the future if they so wish.

Improvements in the status of women will be necessary in many areas of our society. It is proposed that the Special Document of Womans Rights should include changes under the following headings:- Employment, Training, Social Welfare, Taxation and Family Law.

Last month, Fianna Fáil standing committees at headquarters launched important Discussion Documents on two vital areas of national policy — health and the rights of women in society.

They are each an outline of the party's current thinking and their main purpose is to serve as a basis on which the organisation as a whole can discuss them. At a later stage, the headquarters committees will be publishing Policy Documents in a whole range of areas.

In the meantime, the National Executive is anxious to receive the views of the organisation, so that they may be taken into account in the formation of election policy.



Gene Fitzgerald, T.D.

## Employment

The elimination of sex discrimination on entry to employment either through direct recruitment or through occupational apprenticeships and training schemes.

The provision of equal access to potential benefits including opportunities for upgrading and promotion and through the normally recognised means of overtime, bonuses, shift work, and service pay on an equal basis.

Equal protection against dismissal, or redundancy or other acts to the detriment of women.

The raising in the level of remuneration, the improving of conditions in jobs mainly staffed by women, the placing of more responsibility and the enlargement of career prospects.

The elimination of discrimination on promotional prospects, on pension rights or any other conditions of employment based on marital status.

Twelve weeks maternity leave for women in employment with appropriate financial provision for that period.

The introduction of special safety measures to protect expectant mothers in the working environment.

The introduction of proper standards of controls for day care centres.

The encouragement of staggered working hours and part-time employment, where such is possible, to facilitate parents.

The elimination of exploitation of out-workers, freelance workers and other part-time workers and the registration and control of employment conditions for them.

## Training

Equal access to training schemes and apprenticeship schemes.

Equal access to financial help during training or other studies.

The provision of special courses in training centres, vocational schools, through womens organisations and at third level for the education, training and re-training of women who wish to return to the work-force.

The encouragement of career counselling and vocational guidance at all levels of education. It is felt that a need exists for greater co-operation between the agencies of Labour and Education in this regard.

The promotion of home economics and home management courses.

## Social Welfare

The review of all provisions of the Social Welfare Code that are at variance with the principal of equal treatment.

The recognition of the special weak position of widows, deserted wives, unmarried mothers and prisoners' dependents and the provision of appropriate benefits to minimise their difficulties.

## Taxation

It is proposed to review those aspects of the Taxation Code which discriminate against women, e.g.

The equal distribution of earned income allowances and dependent allowances between both husband and wife.

The consideration of special allowances for employment of housekeepers.

## Family Law

We are fully conscious of the need to protect the legal rights of both of the marriage partners, and the rights of the family in all its relationships with our society.

It is obvious that improvements in family law will be necessary to ensure that all of these rights are protected. In this context, Fianna Fáil is at present preparing a comprehensive Discussion Document on the whole question of Family Law.

In addition, further areas should be examined as well.

The encouragement of eliminating the idea of male-orientated and female-orientated jobs in sectors where duties could be performed with equal efficiency by either sex.

The participation by AnCO in female training in technical fields and the encouragement of women participation in these fields.

## Advertising

The encouragement of a new approach to control the standard of job advertisements with a view to eliminating discriminatory references to age, marital status, sex or wage differential based on sex, affording persons with similar qualifications and experience equal opportunities.

The inclusion of the need for the creation of employment opportunities for women as well as men in regional development plans.

The promotion of equal opportunity for boys and girls in the educational system by the encouragement of effective co-education.

The up-dating of working conditions and regulations ensuring the removal of any obstacles which may exist for equal access to employment.

To make provision for joint leasing of local authority houses by husband and wife giving the wife security of tenure.

# HEALTH: patients the top priority

## Policy

Our Health Policy will have two fundamental objectives:

1. To provide a general health service designed to secure the most widespread improvement in the physical and mental health of the people of Ireland.

2. To ensure that no person shall be denied any medical care of which they have need, because of their inability to provide it out of their own resources.

In formulating a Health Policy to achieve these two fundamental objectives, we will adhere to the following guidelines.

(a) As the total resources which the community can make available for health are limited, the most efficient use must be made of them. This will mean a greater concentration on the provision of home care and preventative medicine.

(b) Services must be provided on the over-riding objective of fulfilling patient needs.

(c) The quality of the service and the best use of resources both require the establishment of the best possible relationship between the Minister for Health and the professional bodies involved in the provision of the health services and between these bodies themselves.

(d) An existing service should only be extended when it is clear that this can be done without disimproving the quality of the services provided for those already in receipt of it.

(e) The atmosphere and working conditions must be such that all those engaged in the health services will find it congenial and satisfying, and which will enable them to make the best contribution of which they are capable.

(f) An essential element of all the services is that they be readily and easily available for those for whom they are intended.

(g) While basic services must be uniform and of the highest possible standard throughout the country, regional and national centres for highly specialised units will be provided.

(h) The health service must be related as closely as possible to the local community and be an integral part of community life. There must be the highest possible degree of community involvement and the health services must be carefully co-ordinated with the social welfare and community care services.

(i) The escalating cost of the health services in a modern community is something which is causing increasing concern in almost every country. It is clear that not even the richest nation

can afford the cost of everything that might be considered desirable.

### The Costs

The hope that was once entertained that a comprehensive health service would ultimately reduce the overall cost to the community has proved illusory and it is now clear that progressive improvement in community health and life expectancy creates a need for still more services. The success of any service creates a greater demand for it. At the present, about one sixth of our national exchequer expenditure is devoted to health. An examination of the trends of expenditure here and other countries points to the conclusion that the present approach is basically misguided and that the best service cannot ultimately be provided along the lines being followed at present. It is obvious that a radical change of emphasis is called for and a re-allocation of financial resources. That must be the bringing of medicine out into the community and devoting an increased proportion of resources to community services and preventive medicine, with a corresponding reduction in the necessity for hospital admissions and institutional care.



Charles J. Haughey, T.D.

(j) Experience here and in other countries indicate that the fullest possible use must be made of voluntary insurance schemes if adequate services are to be provided for the community as a whole.

### General Services

We believe that the local health centre as the focal point of the general medical service must play an increasing role in the administration of our health services. It is in this way that the best possible use can be made of the resources available. We believe that there must be a steady and progressive extension of the general medical service,

and the facilities and services provided in the health centres. This will involve a change in recruitment and deployment of personnel. It will mean a containment of hospital staff recruitment and the negotiation of a new contract of service for the general medical service.

### Community Care

We propose a major shift of emphasis from institutional to community care. This is attractive on humanitarian and social grounds and it also makes economic sense. It will involve a comprehensive service of support for the aged, the handicapped, the weak, the chronically sick and the disabled in their own homes or in community conditions resembling their own homes as nearly as possible.

The success of this effort will depend on a caring community and even individuals in the community. The family doctor is the corner stone of a community medical programme. Accordingly, his services must be provided through the general medical service to as wide a section of the community as possible.

### Geriatric Service

We will award a high priority to the development of a com-



# I remember

It was "business as usual" in Dublin on Wednesday, 24th November, 1926. The citizens went about their lawful occasions completely oblivious of the event which was to change the face of Ireland and make their city "great among cities" as the capital of a Sovereign State.

The chug-chug of the Guinness barges, the rumble of the trams, the clatter of horses hooves, the fruit-sellers and news boys screaming for attention at the Pillar — all seemed louder than ever as if to emphasise that Dublin didn't want to hear anything that might disturb its complacency.

The morning was mild and dry and the sun shone in an almost cloudless sky—a good omen I thought, as I made my way to the Rotunda buildings in Parnell Square for the first Ard-Fheis of Fianna Fáil, which was due to begin at 11 a.m. and to continue until 11 p.m. And it did, with a break of one hour at five thirty for a quick meal. The Ard-Fheis concluded its deliberations after an eight-hours session on Thursday.

The delegates (of whom there were just 500), came from remote parishes in the south and west and from the far north, as well as from the towns and cities. Most, if not all, paid their own way. "The under-30's were in the majority" and there was a small sprinkling of women, and a few priests who had remained loyal to the Republic in its darkest hour.

In these days of ignorant comment by the O'Brien-Kelly duetists it is well to recall that "the first Ard-Fheis was an All-Ireland assembly and that one of the Six-County delegates was in fact, elected to the National Executive."

The Provisional Organising Committee had not attempted to organise branches of Fianna Fáil in the Six-Counties. They had established contact with Republican groups in many centres, but, being anxious to avoid unnecessary divisions in the ranks of Republicans there, they had not worked with the existing organisations, and had not been interfered with. The Ard-Fheis directed the National Executive to do everything possible to arrive at an arrangement with other Republican organisations whereby the Unity of Anti-Imperialists in the Six Counties would be maintained.

## No Pageantry

There was no pageantry at this Ard-Pheis. The national tricolour provided the only decoration. There was a constant flow of speakers and the speeches were, in the main, short and to the point. A few of the Resolutions however, gave rise to a heated discussion with no punches pulled.

This applied particularly to one I proposed advocating a united front of Anti-Imperialist organisations and to smash the Free State Government at the coming General Election. I accepted an amendment giving the National Executive authority to implement the resolution as far as practicable.

Eamon de Valera, was, naturally, the centrepiece of the Ard-Fheis and the warmth of his reception when he took his place on the platform testified to the deeply-felt affection of

At the outset of an inspiring address Mr. de Valera recalled that the Ard-Fheis was meeting on the fourth anniversary of the execution of Erskine Childers. He asked the delegates to stand to honour the memory of one whose character and death made certain for him an abiding place among the noblest of all those who had laid down their lives for Ireland.

Sean T. O'Ceallaigh, T.D., who presided, welcomed the delegates and declared that Fianna Fáil wanted to unite the whole body of Nationalists in Ireland, all those who stood for an Irish Ireland, free and independent, as against those who stood for an English Ireland, unfree and fettered.

This was the keynote for all the speeches on the political and economic sections of the Agenda, and “the teachings of Wolfe Tone and Fintan Lawlor, of Thomas Davis, and Padraic Pearse, of James Connolly and Liam Mellows, were extensively used to hammer home the views of the delegates.”

He was a brilliant publicist and a gifted speaker. He was foremost amongst those in the North who urged acceptance of the treaty in December 1921 in the belief, supported by promises from Griffith, that it would end Partition. The great bulk of Nationalist opinion in the North agreed with his line and it was not until December 5th 1925 that he and thousands of others realised that they had been betrayed and that de Valera had been right after all.



Tomás Ó Maoláin

## The Officers of 1926

The Officer Board of the National Executive (1926-27) was elected as follows:

President:  
Eamon de Valera, T.D.

**Vice-Presidents:**  
Sean T. O'Ceallaigh, T.D. and  
Patrick J. Rutledge, T.D.

Hon. Secretaries:  
Sean F. Lemass, T.D. and  
Gerald Boland, T.D.

Hon. Treasurers:  
Sean McEntee, T.D. and Dr.  
James Ryan, T.D.

### The first Committee of 15

Frank Aiken, T.D.  
Rev. Eugene Coyle, P.P.  
Michael Kilroy, T.D.  
Dan Breen, T.D.  
Mrs. Margaret Pearse  
Madame Markievicz, T.D.  
Tom Derrig  
Miss Linda Kearns  
P. J. Little  
Mrs. Tom Clarke  
Dr. Conn Murphy  
Prof. Eugene Caffrey  
Miss Dorothy McArdle  
Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington

the delegates and to their unshakeable confidence in his ability to lead the Irish people to freedom.

There was more to it than that, however. We remembered especially the black night that fell over Ireland in 1922 when despite all his work to prevent it, Civil War engulfed the land.

And we remembered how, when the Republican Army was defeated, he took the blame for all the blundering of the "Generals" who had rejected his advice and treated with contempt his herculean efforts to preserve the Republic by saving the peace through political action.

We regarded Eamon de Valera as the greatest revolutionary leader since Tone and were immensely proud to serve under his command in this new attempt to reach the objectives as clearly defined by Tone and Pearse and Connolly.

They left no doubt as to where the Ard-Fheis stood on the great political and social questions of the time. And they set them out clearly and unequivocally in a comprehensive Programme of Action to implement the Coru (Constitution) which they adopted.

It is noteworthy in this International Women's Year that six of that first Committee were women—a commitment that Fianna Fáil has honoured all down the years and culminating with the magnificent victory of Galway's Maire Geoghegan Quinn earlier this year.

Canon Coyle

Very Rev. Eugene Canon Coyle from Fermanagh was the most outstanding of the delegates which it was decided to admit from the Six Counties to ensure that the Ard-Fheis would be representative of the whole island.

The publication of the London - Belfast - Dublin Pact giving Craig the title deeds of his statelet, and its rapid approva by the Dáil came as a stunning blow to Canon Coyle's hopes of Union with the South. Sincere and honest man that he was, he lost no time in denouncing the Agreement and placed himself at the disposal of Fianna Fáil as the Party most likely to pursue the ideals of a united Ireland.

I should be mentioned here for the record that "the National Executive also maintained close contact with the Six Counties for many years through the election on the Committee of Fifteen of Peadar Murney, M.P., who lived in County Down," and had one of best attendance records at meetings of the Executive, and not even the most office-hungry candidate ever asked for his Cumann and Constituency!

The National Executive in due course co-opted six men, each of whom had given valuable service to the National Cause. They were Robert Brennan, Eamon Cooney, Eamon Donnelly, Sean Moynihan, Eoin O Caoimh and Sean O'Donovan. Regretfully, only Eoin O Caoimh survives.

*Tomás Ó Maoláin is a vice-president of the organisation. In the next issue he continues this series, dealing with the period immediately before Fianna Fáil came into office in 1932.*

# YOUTH

## Front Bench hears more young views

### Tipperary

### Give us a say in Executive

Following the highly successful National Youth Conference in Dublin early this year, young people in Fianna Fáil are more and more taking their rightful place in the party.

In North Tipperary recently, the organisation there held its first area youth conference.

More than 300 delegates between the ages of 16 and 23 spoke their minds in no uncertain terms on a whole range of policy of burning concern to youth.

A trio of Front Bench spokesmen, together with the General Secretary and local representatives Sen. Des Hanafin and Cllr. Michael Smith were put on their mettle in replying to motions on education, organisation, health, social welfare, the North and finance.

On organisation, **Borrisokane** cumann called for youth committees to be set up in each constituency, who would meet three times a year with the National Executive at Headquarters.

**Thurles** cumann wanted youth to be given a "definite oratus" in the party.

And **Borrisoleigh** cumann thought that cumainn might be organised exclusively for young members.

General Secretary, Seamus Brennan told the delegates that Headquarters welcomed all the ideas of young members, and promised that the National Executive was currently examining the question of giving youth an institutional status in the party.

A second National Conference was being planned for the end of the year, he added.

On health, **Rahearty** cumann recommended a programme of health education in all post-primary schools—a proposal ably echoed by Thurles's Maura Scully elsewhere in this paper.

**Inch** cumann called for an amendment to the Health Acts to include medical services from the age of 16.

And on finance, **Cloughjordan** cumann thought that there



Cllr. Michael Smith

should be higher tax reliefs for young workers.

Some 30 motions were debated during the one-day conference at the Ormond Hotel, Nenagh.

Replies to motions were also delivered by Mr. Michael O'Kennedy, T.D. (spokesman on Foreign Affairs), Mr. Sylvester Barrett, T.D. (Transport and Power), Mr. Pearse Wyse, T.D., (Youth and Community Care), Cllr. Smith and Sen. Hanafin.

Cllr. Antoin O Briain, secretary of the North Tipperary Comhairle Dáilceantair, welcomed the delegates.

Mr. Tony McKenna, chairman of the Comhairle, presided.

### Kilkenny

Another constituency with its eye on the youth of the party is Kilkenny.

There, **RAY LANNEN**, of St. Patrick's Cumann, paid high tribute to the long and faithful service so many thousands of our older members have given all down the years.

Still, he went on, the officer boards at cumann and comhairle ceantair level often have a disproportionate number of older members—sometimes to the exclusion of young people.

A more balanced mix between experience and youth is essential at local level if the party is to remain a vital, forward-looking organisation.

His advice—some older officers should retire to the backbenches, as it were, and make room for youth at the top.

He goes on: "Advice, guidance, experience are needed by the party; so too are youth, drive and fresh thinking on many old problems.

Both can be provided if the senior members of the party learn to trust those who have grown up in peaceful times and who desire to push forward to new and greater projects."

Mr. Lannen continued with an outline of the functions of an ideal Fianna Fáil cumann.

Among the points he raised was the desirability of forging a partnership between local groups up and down the country and the leadership in the vital job of planning and initiating policy.

The organisation has long been calling for this.

And with this in view "Iris" is publishing in this issue the first two discussion documents—on Health and Women.

Further discussion documents will be circulated locally and published in "Iris" as they are released.

Ray Lannen is absolutely right when he says:

"It is the members at local level who must initiate and provide the policies as well as the services. It is the members at local level who must organise the structures of a vital party."

Among the 250 guests at the Cavan Comhairle Ceantair annual dinner: Front (from left): Miss Mary Smith, Cllr. May O'Reilly, Mrs. Seamus Dolan, Mrs. P. Conaty. Middle: Cllr. Patrick Conaty, Mr. Patrick Smith, T.D., Mrs. P. J. Lalor, Mr. P. J. Lalor, T.D., Mr. John Wilson, T.D. Back: Cllr. P. J. Masterson, M. Smith, Brian Rudden, Niall Smith, Brendan Keaney, Senator Seamus Dolan, Cllr. Sean Lee, John O'Reilly, Thomas Sheridan.



# Why we lost...

At first glance, the General Election results present somewhat of a paradox.

How could it happen, the casual observer might well ask, that Fianna Fáil with an increased share of the popular vote, should lose its over-all majority in Dáil Éireann.

The answer lies in the vagaries of Proportional Representation. Here's how it came about?

In 1969, Fianna Fáil's 45.7 per cent of the vote was enough to win 51.7 per cent of the 143 seats contested, but in 1973 its improved share of 46.2 per cent gained for the party only 47.6 per cent of the seats.

With the National Coalition partners, the opposite happened. For their 51.1 per cent of the vote in 1969, Fine Gael and Labour together won only 47.6 per cent of the seats contested, yet with the smaller share of 48.8 per cent of the vote in 1973, they obtained 50.7 per cent of the seats.

The National Coalition partners, therefore, won their over-all majority in the 1973 election (contested in the same constituencies as in 1969) because of an improvement in their ratio of seats-for-votes.

The main reason for this improvement was the significant increase in the transfer of votes between the parties, especially in a number of key marginal constituencies. This was no doubt a direct result of their pre-election coalition agreement.

The marginal constituencies where this phenomenon is most

Since the General Election, theories have abounded on why Fianna Fáil lost, despite increasing its over-all vote by nearly one per cent (from 45.7 per cent in 1969 to 46.2 per cent in 1973). National Coalition spokesmen talk as if there had been a groundswell of support for their candidates. But the facts show otherwise.

In an authoritative analysis\* of the February, 1973 election, TED NEALON, the R.T.E. political broadcaster, examines the results and draws some fascinating conclusions. We publish some of them in the accompanying report.

dramatically illustrated are Waterford, Kildare, Sligo-Leitrim, North Tipperary and Longford Westmeath.

In three of these constituencies, the destination of the vital last seat was decided by less than 600 votes and in all of them Fianna Fáil lost a deputy.

This, ultimately, resulted in Fianna Fáil narrowly losing the election.

In Waterford, the final count in both 1969 and 1973 involved a Fine Gael transfer (Collins's surplus and Deasy's package on each occasion) with only Fianna Fáil and Labour candidates remaining in the contest.

**Waterford: Final count, transfer of F.G. surplus:**

	To F.F.	To Lab.
1969	6.04%	53.44%
1973	5.21%	94.79%

With a similar transfer as in 1973, Labour would have won the last seat in Waterford in 1969 by about 700 votes instead of losing it to Fianna Fáil by 100 to 120 votes. It is true that Labour would still have won the seat here in 1973 even if they had not benefited from the increased percentage of Fine Gael transfers, but only by 461 votes instead of the comfortable majority of 1,408 which the party achieved.

**Kildare: Final F.G. transfer:**

	To F.F.	To Lab.
1969	14.61%	14.30%
Moore's votes		
Malone's surplus	4.66%	95.37%

Another example of the improvement in transfers between Fine Gael and Labour occurred in Kildare. Here also, in both elections, the final transfer of Fine Gael votes took place with only Fianna Fáil and Labour candidates remaining in the contest.

The last seat went to Fianna Fáil in 1969 and to Labour in 1973.

Although it is not possible to draw conclusions with the same degree of certainty as in the Waterford case (because the comparison is of a transfer a surplus), it is a reasonable assumption that the 1973 pattern of transfers would have been sufficient to have won the seat for Labour in 1969 at the expense of Fianna Fáil.

Kildare also provides one of the most extreme examples of the change in fortunes, in the two elections.

One independent candidate contested Kildare in 1969. On his elimination, 67.7 per cent of



his 1,496 votes went to Fine Gael and Labour, thus further accentuating the reversal in the ratio for seats-for-votes.

The improved Fine Gael/Labour transfers had the most significant impact, as far as directly influencing the winning of seats in the 1973 election, in the marginal constituencies of Sligo-Leitrim and Tipperary North.

In Sligo-Leitrim, the final Labour transfer in both 1969 and 1973 was of Higgins's votes, with only Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael candidates remaining in the count.

**Sligo-Leitrim: Final Labour transfer:**

	To F.F.	To F.G.
1969	30.96%	36.70%
1973	10.03%	85.46%

After making allowances for the vagaries of the system, it is safe to assume that with a similar level of transference of votes as in 1969, Fianna Fáil would have held on to the final seats in these two constituencies, instead of losing Sligo-Leitrim to Fine Gael and Tipperary North to Labour.

The last marginal seat in Longford-Westmeath constituency probably would have been retained by Fianna Fáil but for the improvement in transfers from Labour to Fine Gael. Here, however direct comparisons are not possible because of the presence of an Independent candidate in the final counts in the 1973 election.

**Tipperary N.: Final F.G. transfer:**

	To F.F.	To F.G.
1969	17.7%	35.03%
Whythe's votes		
1973		
Dunne's surplus	5.42%	94.58%

The results in these five key marginal constituencies demonstrate how important was the level of Fine Gael/Labour transferring in the outcome of the 1969 and 1973 general elections.

In three of the constituencies — Kildare, Sligo-Leitrim and Tipperary North — Fianna Fáil gained more than 50 per cent of the first preferences in 1973, but won only one of the three seats in each constituency.

## Our National Organiser

By Tomás O Maoláin

When Sean Lemass became Director of Organisation, following the defeat of the Fianna Fáil Government in 1954, he masterminded the country-wide drive which brought the party back to power with its greatest ever electoral victory in 1957.

One of the key-men in his carefully picked committee was Joe O'Neill whom he invited to join headquarters staff, and to whom he gave special responsibility for the re-organisation of the Dublin area.

Joe O'Neill grew up with Fianna Fáil, being a founder member of the Timothy Coughlan Cumann in 1927.

He was Honorary Secretary of the Comhairle Dáilceantair of Dublin City South (now South Central), Constituency Director of Elections and delegate to the National Executive for several years.



He has an unrivalled knowledge of every part of Dublin and this proved invaluable in the realignment of the cumainn which he undertook following the latest revision of constituencies made by the Coalition.

Joe O'Neill knows, and is known by every active member of the Organisation in Dublin.

This should be a great asset when, he begins an in-depth examination of the present state of the cumainn in Dublin, together with George Colley T.D. and Seamus Brennan, General Secretary.

\*A Parliamentary Directory, by Ted Nealon — Institute of Public Administration.

# Drink, drugs and our children

MAURA SCULLY, the author of this article, is the first woman ever elected to Thurles Urban District Council and the mother of four children.

Among her many activities she is chairman of the Sinead de Valera cumann in Thurles, vice-chairman of the Thurles branch of the Women's Political Association, and vice-chairman of the Tipperary branch of the Association of Secondary Teachers.

Mrs. Scully teaches at the Ursuline Convent, Thurles, where she herself began her education. She holds a B.A. and H. Dip. in Ed. from U.C.D.

We expect many things from our education system. We look to it to provide solutions to the problems of society and demand that it fulfill many and diverse functions such as producing good citizens and supplying the needs of technology.

I attended recently, a seminar to mark the inauguration of International Women's Year. I had a particular interest in one of the themes of that seminar. It was called "Education for Living."

Minister for Education, Richard Burke gave an eloquent and polished speech which outlined for the delegates his ideas of how post primary school children should be educated for living. These ideas centred around a free year at the end of the junior cycle which would be devoted mainly to the study of psychology, logic and ethics.

To my surprise, he failed to mention what must surely be the most valuable contributory factor in developing a balanced attitude towards living—a programme of health education.

Children function as whole human beings, so a programme of this kind must cover the three aspects of health—physical, mental and social.

There is an urgent and ever-growing need to instruct teenagers in the nature, use and abuse of those substances which carry a danger to health—alcohol, drugs and tobacco.

## Teenagers

Teenage drinking is on the increase. Have you faced this fact? Do you close your eyes to the unpleasant truth simply because the use of alcohol is part of your own life style?

Do you present your children with a double standard, warning them against the evils of drink while you yourself frequent the lounge bar society. No wonder our young people are confused when we, their parents, have failed to provide them with clear cut guidelines.

Did you know that nine out of ten boys and eight out of ten girls are drinking at the age of 21 and that most of them

see it as the natural thing to do and as a normal part of adult life?

Did you know that a majority of young people have their first drink with their parents and do so between the ages of 14 and 15?

Did you know that the vast majority of our young people experience alcohol long before they are legally entitled to buy it?

We live in an affluent society in which adolescence comes early and in which the economic and social status of our young people has changed greatly. They have more money and more freedom than ever before and they are subject to intense social, commercial, and educational pressures.

## Truancy

The effects on our teenagers of excessive drinking are only too well known—poor school achievement, truancy, aggressive anti-social behaviour, violence and sometimes crime are the result.

In later life, the development of the disease is marked by financial problems, poor job performance, physical debilitation and the disruption of family life.

An alcohol education programme consisting of lectures and films and conducted by suitably qualified people must be incorporated into the school curriculum and should be directed at parents, teachers and children, to give the necessary instruction and to change attitudes.

The myth that drink is a passport to maturity and a symbol of virility must be exploded and the contemptuous attitude towards the non-drinker must change.

Nicotine is predictably dangerous to the health of most people who use it. Its connection with lung cancer and heart disease has been medically established. A programme of health education can prevent the formation of this dangerous habit.

*"The myth that drink is a passport to maturity and a symbol of virility must be exploded and the contemptuous attitude toward the non-drinker must change."*



In our society, alcohol and tobacco are socially acceptable and legalised drugs, but there are others which are not.

We must, however, accept that the new drugs are a fact of life and are dangerous and that everyone must know about them. If we do not provide the information in the schools our young people will obtain it from the mass media or from their friends.

## Jargon

We are all familiar with such terms as "kicks", "highs", "good trips" and we dismiss them as freakish jargon used by other people's children. We forget that our sophisticated society is producing many inadequate young people, people who are frustrated, who lack goals, who are intolerant of stress and who turn to drugs to escape from themselves and from life.

The affluent society can afford drugs and drugs are all too easy to obtain. We ourselves have contributed to the false notion that pills will solve all problems.

There have already been casualties. The injection of crushed-up tablets into the veins has caused gangrene and death. Mixing barbiturates with alcohol has caused savage violence.

Drug dependence produces physical debilitation, susceptibility to infection, brain cell damage, moral deterioration, delusions and occasionally death.

Prevention is better than cure and the cure rate is low. A programme of health education could instruct young people in the nature of drugs, the problems associated with them and the dangers involved in their misuse and abuse.

## Leonard is spokesman on tourism

MONAGHAN Deputy Jim Leonard has been appointed to the newly-created spokesmanship on Tourism.

Announcing the appointment an official statement from Headquarters said:

"Responsibility for tourism has normally been associated with the Transport and Power brief, but in view of the growing complexities of Transport and Power and the current difficulties of the tourist trade, it is felt that this move is particularly desirable at this time."

Jim is a new deputy—elected for the first time in 1973.

He is 48 years old, a native of Smithborough and is married with four children.

Last year, Jim was elected to the Monaghan County Council and up to now has been concentrating in the Dáil on questions about the problems of small farmers.

# BUILDING... barometer of the economy

The main problem of the industry is to achieve public understanding of its size and its consequent importance for the economy.

Most people think of the industry in terms of housing, because of the social impact which housing has. However, housing is only 35% of the output — factories, schools, community buildings of various kinds, roads, bridges, offices and maintenance work account for the remaining 65%.

With the exception of roads, most of the work is carried out by private contract. Here are a few facts on the industry.

It is the second largest in the country coming after agriculture in size.

It employs (normally) 55,000 people in 3,000 firms. In addition, 30,000 are employed (again normally) in industries manufacturing materials for building.

## Imports

Employment in the industry is now at its lowest level since 1970, the year in which official figures of employment in the industry were first started. Since this time last year again according to the official figures, the number of unemployed has increased by 5,800 as of mid-February. This does not include people unemployed or on short time in building.

The industry imports less than 25% of the material it needs, a level which is much lower than most of the industries. Consequently, it contributes much more than other industries, except agriculture, to employment, because of its size and its large reliance on Irish materials and labour.

Presently, the industry is in a very difficult position. We appreciate that in a time of economic difficulties, building must suffer in common with the rest of the community (even though the economic difficulties could have been lessened by more effective Government).

## Decline

However, it is no coincidence that when a Coalition Government again came into power the building industry again went into decline and the indications are that we are headed for another 1950's disaster. This has serious implications — not alone for the industry — we lost 10,000 workers permanently in the 1950's — but also for the community as a whole.

When, with a change of Government, the industry gets back to normal, we will find that many workers have left.



The Officer board of the new Shercock Cumann in Cavan: From left: P. Duffy, J. J. McDermott, Mrs. McDermott, Mrs. B. Parker, (Secretary), Mrs. Deirdre Birdy and Michael Birdy.

**TOM MACKEN** is Dun Laoghaire Constituency Delegate on the National Executive. Here he examines the disastrous state the building industry has fallen into since the Coalition took office and puts forward some imaginative ideas on how — even now — to reduce some of the gloom.

Many firms have gone out of business and that vital factor for a risky business — confidence — will be absent.

## Factories

Thanks to the work of the Industrial Development Authority set up by Fianna Fáil, a large number of factories are being built at present. Were it not for this, the position would be much worse. I have some suggestions to make on future policy.

The party has planning groups for various sections. Why not a Construction Group for the second largest industry we have?

The stoppage of private house building should be fully investigated.

In 1974, the net inflow to building societies declined by £8m, even before inflation in building costs is taken into account. The Local Authority loans at £4,500 have not been increased by one penny since May, 1973.

Most houses are privately purchased, building societies

normally account for two-thirds of the loans given and Local Authority loans for one third.

We should keep on demanding that the Local Authority loans be increased substantially, that investors in Building Societies be given tax concessions and that insurance companies and pension funds be required by statute to give housing loans.

## Interest

Bank interest rates to Irish-owned companies should be at the normal overdraft rate of their permitted overdraft and not at the exorbitant term loan rates, this would have an immediate effect on the economy of the country.

The percentage of 55% to which the employer gets back on redundancy should be raised to 75%, first of all to reward the good employer who kept his staff in difficult times and is now being victimised and secondly to encourage employers to hold on to them until conditions improve.

## Crinniu i Chonamara

Ag an gcrinniu cinnbhliana de Chomhairle Ceanntair Chonamara Theas de pháirtí Fhianna Fáil a bhí ar siúl i Ros a Mhicil le deanaí togadh na h-oifigí seo leanas:

Cathaoirleach: Nioclás Ó Conchubhair;  
Leas-Cathaoirleach: Miceal Ó Domhnaill;  
Rúnaí: Seosamh Ó Loideáin  
Cisteoirí: Pádraic Mac Donnchadha; Pádraic Ó Fatharta;  
Toscairí Dáil Ceanntair Cathaorlach: Rúnaí agus Tadhg Ó Sé, Sémaus Ó Cearra agus Máirtín Ó Mártan.

Bhí an Teachta Máire Geoghegan-Quinn — An Co. Condae Miceal Ó Flatharta i láthair. Glacadh leithscéal ar Teachta R. Ó Maoileadha nár fhéad sé a bheadh i láthair.

Shocraigh an Comhairle Ceanntair Cumann speisialta a bhunú le h-aghaidh daoine faoi 23 bliain.

Chuir an Comhairle Ceanntair in iúl a mbeochoas do Thadhg Ó Sé, Tomás Ó Cléirigh, Miceal Ó Domhnaill ar son gach a rinne siad don pháirtí le blianta fada.

Tháinig an Raiteas seo isteach ó Seosamh Ó Loideáin, rúnaí nua Chomhairle Ceanntair Chonamara Theas.



# Spotlight on Monaghan

Left: Organisers Catherine and Paddy Harkin

More than 300 Fianna Fáil activists from all parts of the Monaghan-Cavan constituency enjoyed a marvellous night out since our last issue.

They thronged to the Riverside Hotel in Ballybay for a supper dance hosted by the Bawn Cumann.

Busy T.D.'s, Senators and Councillors took time out to join hard-working party workers for a great evening of fun.

Hard-working because there is a big effort on in the redrawn area to capture three out of five seats in the new constituency, which now includes both Cavan and Monaghan.

Pictured at the supper dance: Back row (left to right): Frank McConnon (Nat. Exec.), Joe McElroy, Michael Duffy, Sean Morris, P. J. Grennan, Felix McKenna, Paddy Duffy and Frank O'Duffy.

Front (left to right): Pete Duffy, Paddy Harkin, Catherine Harkin, James Leonard, T.D., Pakie Finlay and Tommy Darcy.

Report and picture submitted by Des Smith, (Nat. Exec.)



## Health (contd.) . . .

prehensive range of geriatric services in all areas. We believe that any long-term solution must be found within the local community in which the elderly must be encouraged and enabled to play a full part. General hospital facilities should not be used in providing expensive custodial care for old people who can, through adequate community services, — nursing, social work, home help, income maintenance, be maintained in comfort and independence in their own homes. The primary purpose of our geriatric services therefore, will be the provision of shelter, food warmth, companionship and medical care for old people in the familiar surroundings of a person's own home where possible with hospital services organised to provide treatment and rehabilitation where necessary.

### Child Health

The excellent work undertaken by the Public Health Services, the General Medical Services, the General and Maternity Hospital Services and the various voluntary organisations presently lack co-ordination. We feel that if these services are to be utilised most effectively, they must be brought under the control of a central co-ordinating authority.

### Mental Health

In general our policy calls for the implementation of the

recommendations of the 1966 Commission of Enquiry on Mental Health and a shift of emphasis from institutional to community care.

In accordance with current medical teaching, our aims will be to avoid any arbitrary division between mental and physical illness. Outpatient and specialist psychiatric care will be provided as an integral part of the community care programme and where inpatient treatment is required our goal will be that this is provided by psychiatric units in each general hospital.

### Dental Services

In this area also it must be recognised that if available resources are to be used to the best advantage, a shift in emphasis from reparative to corrective dentistry should be encouraged. With this end in view, we recognise the need for re-negotiation of the contract of participating dental surgeons. We are determined that eligible persons will have access to the same materials and skills within the service as those that can be found elsewhere and this will only be achieved by greater expenditure and better working conditions for the personnel involved.

### Ophthalmic Service

Patients with chronic non-acute eye conditions must have access to consultant care within

a reasonable time. The very lengthy waiting list existing in some centres at the moment will only be reduced if the load of accident emergency work is borne more evenly throughout the country. The areas for accident emergency work must be sharply defined and the need for the appointment of more Ophthalmic Consultants recognised.

### Consultants

At present 90% of the population are eligible to receive free specialist care either within hospitals or in outpatient departments. The remaining 10% represents a relatively more privileged section of the community and we feel extensions of eligibility in this area should not be considered until a much larger section of the community has been brought into the general medical service. We accept that some of those at present excluded from the Consultant Hospital Services may suffer financial hardship in providing such services for themselves and accordingly we propose that they be given adequate tax free allowances for Voluntary Health Insurance contributions both for inpatient and outpatient cover and in respect of other outlays.

### Handicapped

The report of the working party on training and employing the handicapped is at present under examination. However, it is clear to us even at this stage that there are aspects of that report which are of doubtful

validity. We believe there is an over-emphasis on a centralised bureaucratic approach and that not enough attention has been paid to the vital role and the status of the voluntary organisations.

### Administration

We favour the implementing of the McKinsey Report and the giving of full budgetary powers to Health Boards and the institution of training schemes for Regional Managers.

### Special Areas

Our policy will pay increasing attention to preventive and rehabilitation measures in the case of alcoholism, smoking, drug addiction and venereal disease. It will involve the establishment of treatment and rehabilitation units. Our Policy will also include legislation controlled advertising in these areas and of patent medicines.

### Research

The increased cost and complexity of the health service make it mandatory that not only must the entire area of their financing be reviewed, but a radical approach be undertaken to determine how to make the best use of the money available. In such a review, medical, social and economic considerations must be awarded priority. We propose the establishment of a research body with the single task of reviewing the cost of the health service and the making of the best possible use of the available resources.

# Sean Moore promoted

## Takes over Board of Works post

SEAN MOORE, recently described in a national newspaper as "the most quietly and effectively active T.D. in Leinster House", is our new spokesman on Public Works.

He succeeds Deputy Tom Fitzpatrick, who steps up to Posts and Telegraphs.

In his early fifties, Sean has been a member of Fianna Fáil all his life and a strong trade unionist. He is a Workers Union of Ireland representative on the Dublin Port and Docks Board.

Deputy Moore entered political life at local government level when he was first elected to Dublin City Council in 1950. He has been a councillor ever since, and as an alderman in 1963 was elected Lord Mayor.

On the very day he entered the Mansion House in June, 1963, he was at Dublin Airport to greet President Kennedy on his state visit to Ireland.

The President paused for a chat with Sean and congratulated him on his election. Later at City Hall, Lord Mayor



Lord Mayor Moore receiving President Kennedy at Dublin Airport in June 1963.

Moore conferred the Freedom of the City on J.F.K.

Sean began his education at Ringsend Primary and Vocational School and later earned a Diploma in Social and Economic Studies at U.C.D. He studied at night and worked during the day.

He entered Dáil Éireann for the Dublin South-East constituency after the general election of 1965 and has twice been re-elected there.

Dublin charities have long occupied a generous portion of

Sean's time. He is on the board of governors of the Royal Hospital, Donnybrook and Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital and is in constant demand as a fund raiser for charities all over the city.

His particular interests as a legislator have been housing and roads. He organised the School Warden Service in Dublin, that has since been extended nationally.

Sean is married and lives in the Donnybrook area of his constituency.

## Dublin S.c. has debate on Health document

Dublin South-Central Comhairle Ceanntair held a lively meeting at the Burlington Hotel recently to debate the Discussion Document on Health.

The Document was examined line by line and the Secretary, Mr. Sean O'Brien was instructed to submit a detailed report to headquarters.

Prominent among those making submissions and suggestions on the Document were Cllr. Pat Cummins, Mr. Andreas O Caoimh, Michael Hanna, Mr. Des Smith and Mrs. Margaret Ryan.

The chairman of the Comhairle, Mr. Louis Brennan (pictured above) presided.

*Dublin S.C. has shown initiative and good example in holding this debate — example that might usefully be followed in every other constituency.*

## National scandal (contd.)

But so inept and hamfisted was Ryan's timing that he now finds himself in the position of having to go back cap in hand to the trade unions and ask them to "re-negotiate" the National Wage Agreement.

Working people up and down the country, first having been promised pay increases on the order of 25 per cent this year (in line with increases in the cost of living) are now expected to pay for Ryan's incompetence by accepting a lower standard of living for themselves and their families — lower because any income increases they can hope to get are certain to be more than eroded by inflation for some time to come.

Incompetence, bad as it is, might be forgiven by a patient people given the lack of experience of this Coalition team. But coupled with whinging dishonesty, it becomes intolerable.

What a nauseating, humiliating spectacle it was to find the Taoiseach in Brussels this month blaming the crisis in his country on the Common Market.

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Whether or not you are interested or involved in Fianna Fáil we urge you not to miss your copy of "Iris Fianna Fáil."

During the Referendum campaign in late 1972, Liam Cosgrave, as leader of the Opposition, rightly committed his party to the European crusade.

Picture then the dismay, nay disgust, that must have attended this statement by the Taoiseach when he addressed his fellow Prime Ministers at the Summit of July 17:

"Our task of cutting inflation and retaining jobs has been made more difficult by the surrender to the Market, in the interest of common policy and rules, the power to take individual action."

"It is a blunt fact that the reduced capacity of individual governments to protect jobs and living standards has not been counter-balanced by a growing capacity on the part of the Community to make up that deficiency."

Now the Taoiseach and his principal European Minister, Dr. Garret Fitzgerald must know perfectly well that this is rank dishonesty of the first order.

It is well known that less than a year ago the Italians took sweeping measures — notably unilateral import control — to correct a dangerously high level of inflation and unemployment.

The Market has been more than understanding in their attitude to members experiencing severe economic problems — witness again British re-negotiation.

No, this attempt to link our economic trouble with membership of the Community is a disgraceful way to slink out of responsibility — and all the more reprehensible as it is certain to bring the country into disrepute in Europe.

Mr. Cosgrave has since told the Dáil that we must now face the "grim reality of economic decline and the threat of worse ahead."

After 30 months in office, this Taoiseach has finally told the people at least part of the truth. What he left out, of course, was that the "economic decline" began on that very day in 1973 when he was admonished by Jack Lynch to keep his economic house in order.