

SINN FÉIN

ARD

FHEIS

1984

CLÁR
AGUS
RÚIN

SAMHAIN 3ú-4ú

CLÁR na hÁRD-FHEISE 1984

Dé SATHAIRN

9.00	Isteach	Check-in of Delegates
10.00	Cathaoirleach a thoghadh	Election of Chairperson
	Cuntasóirí a thoghadh	Election of Tellers
	Ordúithe Seasta	Standing Orders
10.30	AP/RN	AP/RN
11.00	Poiblíocht	Publicity
11.30	Óige agus Fianna Eireann	Youth and Fianna
12.00	Eagras	Organisation
1.00	LÓN	LUNCH
2.00	Isteach	Check-in of Delegates
2.15	Eagras ar lean	Organisation continued
2.45	Rialacha, Toghchán Rialtais	Rules, Local Government
	Áitiúil, Feachtais Politiúil.	Elections, Political Campaigns
3.45	Mná	Women
5.00	Oifigigh a thoghadh	Election of Officers
5.30	Idir-náisiúnta agus Gnóthaí	International and Foreign
	Eachtracha	Affairs
6.30	Polasaí Inmheánach	Internal Policy
7.00	DÚNADH	CLOSE

Dé DOMHNAIGH

9.30	Isteach	Check-in of Delegates
10.00	Soisialta agus Eacnamaíochta (A): Eachnamaíocht, Talmhaíocht, Tithíocht.	Social and Economic (A): Economy, Agriculture, Housing.
11.30	Cultúr	Culture
12.00	Óráid an Uachtaráin	Presidential Address
1.00	LÓN	LUNCH
2.00	Isteach	Check-in of Delegates
2.15	Polasaí Inmheánach ar lean (Cruinniú Priobháideach)	Internal Policy continued (Private Session)
2.45	Bunreacht, Polasaí Toghchána agus Straitéis	Constitution, Electoral Policy and Strategy
3.45	Soisialta agus Eacnamaíochta (B): Sláinte agus Leasa Shoisialaigh, Oideachas, Colscaradh, Drugaí, Taistealaí	Social and Economic (B): Health and Social Welfare, Education, Divorce, Drugs, Travellers
4.30	Príosúnaigh: Cumann Cabhrach agus Green Cross	Prisoners: Cumann Cabhrach and Green Cross
5.00	Tuairisc Ghothaí Eachtracha agus Cuairteoirí	Foreign Affairs Bureau Report and Guests
6.15	DÚNADH	CLOSE

Rules governing the procedure of An Ard-Fheis

ORDUITHE SEASTA — STANDING ORDERS

1. The proposer of a motion shall be allowed to speak for five minutes when proposing a motion. The proposer or seconder of a motion or an amendment shall be given three minutes to reply before the proposal has been put for a decision.
2. All other speakers to a motion or an amendment shall be allowed to speak for three minutes each.
3. The policy spokesperson introducing each section shall be allowed five minutes and three minutes to conclude the section.
4. On the motion being moved and seconded "that the question be now put", the Chair, after allowing those who have expressed their wish to speak to do so, shall have no option, but to put the motion to a vote of delegates. In the event of the motion being carried, the Chair, after allowing the proposer or seconder of the resolution (and amendment if any) under discussion, three minutes as provided for in (1) above, shall have no option but to put the resolution or amendment to a vote.
5. Visitors shall be admitted at the discretion of An Ard-Fheis. One visitor, representing an accredited organisation, shall be allowed to speak on behalf of the organisation for three minutes on any proposal or amendment under discussion, but shall not be allowed to vote. Sinn Féin Local Councillors shall be given the same facilities as accredited organisations.
6. Persons nominated for officership or membership of An Ard-Chomhairle shall not be eligible to act as tellers.
7. Delegates when speaking, must give their names and the names of the cumainn and area represented.
8. All amendments must be handed in, in writing.
9. Once adopted by this Ard-Fheis it shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates present to suspend Standing Orders.
10. The Clár shall be agreed at the commencement of An Ard-Fheis and shall be strictly adhered to.
11. Points of order will be allowed at the discretion of the Chairman and shall be limited to 30 seconds.
12. Delegates requiring information on matters under discussion must do so in writing.
13. Resolutions seeking suspension of Standing Orders must be submitted to the Chairman in writing giving reasons for same.
14. A Steering Committee will be approved by An Ard-Fheis.

An Phoblacht/Republican News

1. That AP/RN be congratulated on the high standard of work in terms of many good quality articles and general lay-out of the paper in the past year, with the hope that the same quality is maintained and indeed improved upon in the coming year.

**West Belfast Comhairle Ceantair
Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair
Beechmount/Iveagh Martyrs Cumann, Belfast.**

P L R

2. That the contents of AP/RN be improved as regards covering War News. Some members feel that some pages are being taken up with issues irrelevant to the war struggle.

Louth Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

3. That the front page of AP/RN should be mainly pictorial and reflect the war in the North and the harassment in the South from Free State forces.

Clarke/McVerry Cumann, Dun Laoghaire.

P L R

4. That Sinn Féin Head Office and AP/RN change their holidays from the 12th of July week.

Armagh/Newry Comhairle Ceantair

P L R

5. That more publicity be given to the prisoners in England and that their conditions be highlighted in AP/RN.

Clancy/O'Callaghan Cumann, Limerick.

P L R

6. That AP/RN devote more space to highlighting the plight of all republican P.O.Ws. We propose that a prisoner be profiled every week so that the forgotten prisoners be remembered.

Seamus Quirke Cumann, Galway.

P L R

7. Molaimid go ndéanfar iarracht dáiríre leathanach iomlán i nGaeilge a bheith san nuachtán An Phoblacht/Republican News gach seachtain.

**Cumann Mhic Ghabhann/Mhic Eochaidh/O hAirmheadaigh
Carcair Phortlaoise.**

P L R

8. That a greater amount of space in AP/RN be devoted to the Irish language. Go mbeadh níos mó spás in AP/RN don Ghaeilge.

Dublin North-East Sinn Féin

P L R

9. That cumann who sell AP/RN door-to-door receive 5p on every paper sold instead of the present 3p in view of the extra work that is involved.

James Connolly Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

10. That Sinn Féin set up a committee to guide and help the editor and staff of AP/RN on the content of the paper and that the committee act as a watchdog to make sure republican policy is at all times advocated by AP/RN. The committee to be made up of five people — one from each of the provinces and one appointed by the Árd Chomhairle — and that no member of the editorial staff of AP/RN be on the committee.

Clancy/O'Callaghan Cumann, Limerick.

P L R

11. That AP/RN improves the quality of ink used to print the paper.

Armagh/Newry Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

Publicity

12. That this Árd Fheis recognises that while there is plenty of republican journalism and plenty of republican souvenirs (thanks to Republican Publications) there is little or no hard republican propaganda. We therefore propose that the Publicity Department be re-organised and expanded; that a national staff of five to ten members, with at least one full-time, be appointed to compile the pamphlets, leaflets, posters and

the daily press statements that are needed.

Jeff McKenna Cumann, Dublin
Gaughan/Keenan Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

13. That a central speakers' list be drawn-up to which those most in demand to speak at public meetings etc. must give details of their itinerary on, for example, a month-to-month basis. It should then be just a simple matter for anyone requiring a speaker to phone and check who is or is not available on any given date.

McDaid/Gaughan Cumann, Buncrana.

P L R

14. That, where possible, where the term British is normally used in any documents or publicity material that the term English be substituted (e.g. English army, English government etc.) to stress to the Scottish and Welsh soldiers that they are fighting for a foreign army, and to show solidarity with these peoples in their own struggles against English rule.

Markievicz Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

15. That the Sinn Féin Publicity Department researches and highlights Britain's strategic interests in Ireland, North and South.

Comhairle Atha Cliath
Ernie O'Malley Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

16. That ITV be banned from the next three Árd Fheiseanna because of their underhand and devious methods in taping last year's closed session of the Árd Fheis.

James Connolly Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

17. That the Árd Chomhlairle, Coiste Seasta and all departments of Sinn Féin place the campaign against censorship in general and Section 31 in particular as their overall priority in the coming year.

O'Hanrahan/Lillis Cumann, Carlow.

P L R

18. That Sinn Féin takes a stronger stand vis-a-vis Section 31.
Dublin North-East Sinn Féin

P L R

19. That Sinn Féin vigorously protests to RTE about coverage given to joy-riders and drug-pushers while democratically elected representatives are denied access to the media under Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act.

Cork Comhairle Ceantair

P L R

20. That a full-time publicity team be set up to work on activities such as organising phone-ins to RTE, writing letters to papers and helping to produce local news sheets.

McCabe/Quigley Cumann, Ballymun.

P L R

21. That Sinn Féin explore other channels of communication to propagate their beliefs, particularly the medium of radio.

Dublin North-East Sinn Féin.

P L R

22. That all Sinn Féin publicity material in Gaeltacht areas be in Irish.

McCabe/Quigley Cumann, Ballymun.

P L R

23. That Sinn Féin, through its various publications, highlights the hypocrisy of Fianna Fáil, the so-called "republican party", over the jailing and repression of republicans.

Dublin North-East Sinn Féin.

P L R

24. That the incoming Árd Chomhlairle looks into the possibility of having a publicity officer in each of the major capitals of Europe to co-ordinate with support groups and disseminate republican propaganda.

McDaid/Gaughan Cumann, Buncrana.

P L R

Youth

25. That a committee representative of youth, not a department, be set up within the organisation to act in the interests of youth.

Árd Chomhairle.

P L R

26. That a national committee be formed within Sinn Féin to deal with youth affairs and that youth be allowed to meet separately from the rest of the organisation.

Dublin North-East Sinn Féin.

P L R

27. That young members of Sinn Féin should be fully integrated in cumann work and should be represented at all levels of the organisation.

Árd Chomhairle.

P L R

28. That young members from every cumann retain the right to meet separately and bring back to cumann ideas and issues to be tackled by the whole organisation.

**Árd Chomhairle
West Belfast Comhairle Ceantair
Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair
Cumann Bhaile Dhuin Finn, Belfast.**

P L R

29. That there must be a commitment from the incoming Árd Chomhairle to encourage the setting up of a strong Youth Department with constructive policies drawn up by young people in Sinn Féin. There should be a co-option reserved on the Árd Chomhairle for the head of the Youth Department.

Clarke/McVerry Cumann, Dun Laoghaire.

P L R

30. That a separate education programme be made available to youth prior to joining the organisation.

**Árd Chomhairle
West Belfast Comhairle Ceantair
Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair
Cumann Bhaile Dhuin Finn, Belfast
Dublin North-East Sinn Féin.**

P L R

31. That one of the main thrusts of Sinn Féin youth policy should be to reawaken in young people their feelings of national identity through activities to promote the national language, games and culture, and that republican sympathisers be encouraged to get involved in organising such activities.

**West Belfast Comhairle Ceantair
Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair
Cumann Bhaile Dhuin Finn, Belfast.**

P L R

32. That the 1% levy on workers in the 26 Counties for youth employment be accounted for and made public.

Cork Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

Organisation

33. That Comhairle Limistear Reps to the Árd Chomhairle meet every two months on the eve of Árd Chomhairle meetings. All such meetings are obligatory.

Árd Chomhairle

P L R

34. That all Comhairli Limistear meet within one week after each Árd Chomhairle meeting (see Rule 28(c)).

Árd Chomhairle.

P L R

35. That each Comhairle Ceantair organiser attend Comhairle Limistear meetings with voting rights (see Rule 28 (b)).

Árd Chomhairle.

P L R

36. That the Árd Chomhairle monitor the activities of Comhairli Ceantair organisers, especially in areas where the organisation has stagnated or dwindled over the past ten years.

**Mac Gabhann/Mac Eochaidh/O hAirmheadaigh
Cumann Carcair, Phortlaoise.**

P L R

37. That Comhairle Limistear Reps to the Árd Chomhairle must submit written reports every month to Head Office.

Árd Chomhairle.

P L R

38. That the Comhairle Limistear structure be retained and that the person appointed as organiser/Rep be in a position to devote considerable time to that position.

South-East Ulster Comhairle Limistear.

P L R

39. That the incoming Árd Chomhairle examine why many cumainn are not working effectively, and establish a working party to suggest alternatives and that the Árd Chomhairle be empowered to conduct limited experimentation in identified Comhairle Ceantair areas and a written report be prepared for next year's Árd Fheis.

Derry Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

40. That the incoming Árd Chomhairle implement the decision of the 1983 Árd Fheis to set up a study group to examine the setting up of alternatives to the present systems, North and South, and to define the most suitable ways of implementing our policies.

Wolfe Tone Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

41. That we stop the fragmentation within Sinn Féin and encourage all members (i.e. youth, women and men) to participate in all aspects of Sinn Féin work.

Upper Bann Comhairle Ceantair, Armagh.

P L R

42. That Sinn Féin cumainn in all areas carry out a massive campaign on recruitment. Details of this to be sent to Head Office. This should start at once and be in plenty of time to be of benefit to the local elections.

Cork Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

43. That the leadership of Sinn Féin endeavour to conduct a nationwide tour of all constituencies and cumainn at regular intervals with a view to familiarisation with rank-and-file opinion of local organisational strengths and deficiencies.

Michael O'Hanrahan Cumann, Wexford.

P L R

44. That a more physical presence of national officers of Sinn Féin be seen at grass-roots level throughout the country.

Clancy/O'Callaghan Cumann, Limerick.

P L R

45. That Sinn Féin Árd Oifig be adequately staffed by full-time staff.

Markievicz Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

46. That there be greater communication between Head Office departments and their counterparts in the provinces.

Clancy/O'Callaghan Cumann, Limerick.

P L R

47. That the Regional Structure be amended as follows:-
- South Tipperary to become part of the North Munster Region (North Tipperary, Clare, Limerick);
 - Waterford to become part of the South Munster Region (Cork, Kerry);
 - Wicklow to become part of the South Leinster Region (Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford);
 - West Ulster Region to be divided to form two Regions:- (i) Donegal and Foyle, (ii) Mid-Ulster and Fermanagh/South Tyrone.

Árd Chomhairle.

P L R

48. That we propose the abandonment of the regional executive for Clare, Limerick and Tipperary as it is unworkable and we propose the return of Comhairle Chuige na Mumhan.

Traolach Mac Suibhne Cumann, Shannon.

P L R

49. That Sinn Féin establish working departments to cover all aspects of the social and economic programme under housing, social welfare, trade unions, etc.

**Comhairle Atha Cliath
Tommy Tolan Cumann, Dublin.**

P L R

50. That an attempt be made to revitalise the Sinn Féin Trade Union Department and that a conference of republican trade unionists be held in the coming year for the purpose of planning and co-ordinating their work.

Clancy/O'Callaghan Cumann, Limerick.

P L R

51. That the Trade Union Department be reactivated by the incoming Árd Chomhairle as a matter of urgency.

Wolfe Tone Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

52. That as a matter of urgency the national Trade Union Department should be reactivated and a national head of the department found.

**Comhairle Atha Cliath
Lynch/Doherty Cumann, Dublin.**

P L R

53. That all co-options to the Árd Chomhairle be filled only after the Regional Executive Reps have been elected. That all Árd Chomhairle co-options be dealt with at the meeting immediately following this.

Clancy/O'Callaghan Cumann, Limerick.

P L R

54. That it become Sinn Féin policy to direct all cumainn to set up Sinn Féin advice centres where possible in order to:-

- Maintain daily contact with our people.
- Assist the socially oppressed to resist that oppression.
- Attack and undermine the State (North/South individualising institutions).
- Raise the overall political consciousness of our people.

Ballymurphy Cumann, Belfast.

P L R

55. That Sinn Féin cumainn throughout all areas of the 32 counties endeavour as a priority to set up citizen advice centres — not for supposed political gain but because the vast majority of the people whom we would claim to represent are in need of such a service.

Seamus McCusker Cumann, Belfast.

P L R

56. That An Árd Chomhairle recommends to this Árd Fheis that the organisation styled "Sinn Féin (Britain)" be disbanded.

Árd Chomhairle.

P L R

Rules

57. That to Rule 11 be added Rule 11(c), which should read:- "That Standing Orders be formally adopted on the opening of each Árd Fheis by a two-thirds majority and that Standing Orders can only be suspended by a two-thirds majority".

James Connolly Cumann, Belfast.

P L R

58. That this cumann believes that the way in which the clár is compiled and the way in which debates are conducted at Árd Fheiseanna needs to be examined and overhauled in order to ensure that motions at future Árd Fheiseanna are properly

composed where necessary, streamlining of the numbers of motions appearing on the clár and ensuring that the bulk of the motions which do appear can be properly debated. We propose that the Árd Chomhairle appoints a working committee to examine ways in which this could be done and to make recommendations on changes to the Árd Chomhairle. We further believe that motions to the Árd Fheis which are non controversial or re-state existing policy should be put to the body of the floor without unnecessary debate. (See Rule 11).

Clonard/Colin Cumann, Belfast.

P L R

59. That the Steering Committee ensures that all motions relating to important issues such as the constitution, policy, strategy, etc. be given priority and be dealt with by the Árd Fheis, and not referred to the incoming Árd Chomhairle, and that the Árd Fheis concentrates on dealing with motions on the clár. Any other business to be dealt with when the clár is finished.

Wolfe Tone Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

60. That the outgoing Árd Chomhairle should not have a reserved vote at future Árd Fheiseanna. (See Rules 9(a) and 14).

McCabe/Quigley Cumann, Ballymun.

P L R

61. That the delegates present at the Árd Fheis at the times of the elections of the officer board and the Árd Chomhairle be counted and only that number of voting papers be handed out and these to be counted on return.

Wolfe Tone Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

62. That the list of candidates for the Árd Chomhairle should be available to members at least four weeks prior to the Árd Fheis. (See Rules 13(a) and 16(b)).

Joe McDonnell Cumann, Sligo.

P L R

63. a. That Rule 21 be changed to read:-

"When An Árd Fheis is not in session, control of the organisation shall be vested in An Árd Chomhairle comprised of the officers, Uachtaran, Leas-Uachtaran amhain (deputy-leader), beirt Runai Oinigh, beirt Chisteoir Oinigh, Oifigeach Poibliochta, Cathaoirleach Pairti (responsible for party discipline), eight other members and one representative from each of the comhairli limistear. The officers and eight members shall be elected by the votes of the entire delegate representation at An Árd Fheis.

An Árd Chomhairle shall have the power to co-opt five members for specific posts, one of which must be National Organiser and the power for additional co-options to ensure that no less than one-quarter of Árd Chomhairle positions shall be held by women. A quorum shall consist of one-third of the membership plus one.

b. That the position of Cathaoirleach Pairti be filled from An Árd Chomhairle by the incoming Árd Chomhairle. That at subsequent Árd Fheisheanna, an Cathaoirleach Pairti be elected from the floor.

Árd Chomhairle

P L R

64. Due to cumainn and members refusing to abide by Árd Fheis decisions, specifically the recent participation in the EEC elections, we propose the Árd Chomhairle strictly enforce Rule 24, Section 1 under "Powers" in future elections.

**Comhairle Atha Cliath
Kevin Barry Cumann, Dublin.**

P L R

65. That all Sinn Féin members accept and actively work towards the achievement of all proposals at Árd Fheis level and that any Sinn Féin members who fail to adapt to this line should be severely disciplined by the governing comhairle ceantair.

**Comhairle Atha Cliath
Tommy Tolan Cumann, Dublin
Markievicz Cumann, Dublin.**

P L R

66. That Rule 31(b) be changed to read:-

"Any member of Sinn Féin within the comhairle ceantair area who has been a member for at least 12 months should be eligible for election to the comhairle ceantair officer board".

Kieran Doherty Cumann, Donegal.

P L R

67. That the following clause be added to Rule 39:-
"Every Sinn Féin candidate and representative, with the exception of prisoners, must be a full member of a cumann in the area which that candidate is to represent and must regularly attend meetings".

Frank Stagg Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

68. That the words "annual elections" in Rule 43 (pages 12/13) be changed to read "six-monthly elections".

**Comhairle Atha Cliath
Tommy Tolan Cumann, Dublin.**

P L R

69. That any Sinn Féin members who release press statements contrary to existing Sinn Féin policy should be severely disciplined.

**Comhairle Atha Cliath
Tommy Tolan Cumann, Dublin.**

P L R

70. That nobody attends Árd Chomhairle meetings on a continuing basis other than: (i) those elected to the Árd Chomhairle, and (ii) those who can be invited to attend by the Árd Chomhairle as per the Constitution.

Tomas McDonagh Cumann, Nenagh.

P L R

71. That Rule 52 (page 13) be amended to read as follows:-
"The affiliation fee for each financial year shall be £5 in the case of a new cumann and £15 in each subsequent year.

Árd Chomhairle.

P L R

72. That due to the high unemployment which exists both North and South and the effect this has on Sinn Féin members, we propose the following changes in fee structure:-

- (i) Membership fee for waged to be £5 per year, unwaged £1 per year.

- (ii) Cumann affiliation fee to be £15 per year.

Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

73. That the following paragraph be inserted as Rule 59 under "Powers and Duties" of cumann and all subsequent paragraphs be re-numbered accordingly:-

"All cumann are responsible, as part of their duties, for the sale, distribution and promotion of An Phoblacht/Republican News in their area. To this end, co-operation with the staff of AP/RN is essential".

Jeff McKenna Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

Local Government

74. That Sinn Féin should contest the 1985 local elections in the Six Counties with the intention that we contest as many nationalist seats as are available.

McCabe/Quigley Cumann, Ballymun.

P L R

75. That in the forthcoming local elections in the 26 Counties and Six Counties, Sinn Féin states clearly its support for the armed struggle and highlights the situation of the prisoners, North and South and in English jails in all its election literature and in all candidates' speeches.

Russell/McDonnell Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

76. Derry Sinn Féin proposes that the Árd Chomhairle elaborates and updates a coherent social and economic strategy which will form part of the platform on which Sinn Féin will contest the 1985 local government elections and which Sinn Féin elected councillors will seek to implement both within and without the councils.

Derry Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

77. That this Árd Fheis recommends to the incoming Árd Chomhairle to prepare a clear and defined policy on how each tier of local government is to be financed and have a document circulated before the forthcoming local elections to be held in June 1985.

Seamus Quirke Cumann, Galway.

P L R

78. That the responsibility for a working relationship between Sinn Féin and councillors and members on local authority committees rests with comhairli ceantair.

Cathal Hughes Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

79. That party candidates for local government elections shall be held accountable to their comhairle ceantair before and after election for their party and/or public service activities, and may be required by their comhairle ceantair to surrender public office having shown valid cause and subject to the right of appeal to an Árd Chomhairle.

Michael O'Hanrahan Cumann, Wexford.

P L R

80. That Sinn Féin organises a campaign of resistance in the 26 Counties against the payment of water rates and supports those who have already refused to pay same.

McDaid/Gaughan Cumann, Buncrana.

P L R

81. That water and refuse charges be totally abolished.

Cork Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

82. That an equal points system be implemented on all local authorities.

Cork Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

Political Campaigns

83. That the leadership of Sinn Féin should and must play a more serious and effective role in the campaign against extradition.
Louth Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

84. That we call on the incoming Árd Chomhairle to institute a nationwide campaign against the policy of extradition by the Free State government and its continuing collaboration with the British occupation forces.

Joe McDonnell Cumann, Donegal.

P L R

85. That this Árd Fheis condemns the introduction of extradition by the Free State and immediately takes steps to initiate a campaign against it in the 26 Counties bearing in mind that this was passed at last year's Árd Fheis and was not implemented and that a number of other extradition cases are pending at the present time.

Wolfe Tone Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

86. That this Árd Fheis commits Sinn Féin to a more serious opposition to the extradition of republicans from the Free State.

**MacGabhann/MacEochaidh/O hAirmheadaigh
Carcair Phortlaoise.**

P L R

87. That all Sinn Féin members must play an active role in fighting extradition.

McCabe/Quigley Cumann, Ballymun.

4P L R

88. That Sinn Féin remains totally opposed to EEC membership, associate or otherwise.

**Comhairle Atha Cliath
Ernie O'Malley Cumann, Dublin.**

P L R

89. That direction be given to Sinn Féin councillors not to withdraw from delegations to meet Free State ministers.
Seamus Quirke Cumann, Galway.

P L R

90. That we advocate that in the wake of the recent decision to give aliens resident in the 26 Counties a vote, that our fellow Irishmen and women in the Six counties should also be allowed to vote in this puppet state.
Seamus Quirke Cumann, Galway.

P L R

91. That Sinn Féin campaign for a reduction of the voting age to 16.

McCabe/Quigley Cumann, Ballymun.

P L R

92. That Sinn Féin launches a campaign against the attack of the 26 County state on the Irish people, and particularly its poorest sections, who have been portrayed by all Free State parties and Britain. This campaign to include local meetings and demonstrations, as well as a national demonstration to Leinster House on the day the Budget is to be announced. Sinn Féin should seek the co-operation of trades councils, trade unions, tenants, farmers and socialist organisations. Failing this, Sinn Féin should hold such a demonstration alone.

Cathal Brugha Cumann, Waterford.

P L R

Women

93. That the re-draft of the 1979 women's policy document be accepted by this Árd Fheis.

Árd Chomhairle

P L R

94. That the prevention of violence against women must be the responsibility of the whole community, with the main emphasis at local and district level. Facilities for the victims of abuse, whether physical, mental or sexual, must be provided as a priority.

Clonard/Colin Cumann, Belfast.

P L R

95. That the following be added to the section on "Violence Against Women":-

"We recognise that domestic violence, including incest, occurs on a wide scale. Sinn Féin should instigate, as a priority, the education of its members to ensure such violence is not seen solely as the concern of the people involved but as the responsibility of the whole community".

**Belfast Comhairle Limistear
West Belfast Comhairle Ceantair
Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair
James Connolly Cumann, Belfast
Clonard/Colin Cumann, Belfast**

P L R

96. That rape must be recognised as an act of violence, hatred and domination. Present attitudes to rape, including the narrow legal definition of rape as the penetration of the vagina by the penis, lead to a degree of acceptance of other horrific forms of sexual assault. We denounce the myth that rape is the result solely of uncontrollable male sexual urges which are encouraged by the dress or behaviour of the victim.

Clonard/Colin Cumann, Belfast.

P L R

97. That the following be added to the section on "Violence Against Women":-

"We denounce the myth that rape is a result of uncontrollable male sexual urges encouraged by the dress and behaviour of the victim. Rape must be recognised as an act of hatred, violence and domination. Present attitudes to rape, including its narrow legal definition (penetration of the vagina by the penis) lead to a degree of acceptance of other horrific forms of sexual assaults. Sinn Féin will endeavour to educate its members and supporters in order to achieve a change in those attitudes".

James Connolly Cumann, Belfast.

P L R

98. That the republican movement abhors domestic violence. Any members of that movement who indulge in physically abusing their partners, within marriage or personal relationships, should be dismissed from and ostracised by that movement. We believe there is no place in a disciplined movement with revolutionary aims for such people.

North-South-East Belfast Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

99. That the present policy document be amended so that the first paragraph on "Contraception" be deleted and replaced by the following:-

"Contraception should be free, safe and readily available to all through GPs and family planning clinics".

**Belfast Comhairle Limistear
Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair
James Connolly Cumann, Belfast.**

P L R

100. That the first paragraph in the section on contraception in the present women's document be replaced by the sentence:-
"Contraception should be free, safe and readily available to all".

West Belfast Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

101. That in the section on "Abortion", the word "impel" be replaced by "compel" and the second sentence be replaced by:-

"While we are opposed to abortion as a means of birth control, we accept its necessity under certain medical circumstances".

**Belfast Comhairle Limistear
West Belfast Comhairle Ceantair
Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair
James Connolly Cumann, Belfast.**

P L R

102. In the section dealing with abortion, delete the word "impel" and insert "compel". At the end of the paragraph add "but accepts it's necessary under certain medical circumstances".

Comhairle Atha Cliath.

P L R

103. That "We are opposed to abortion" be deleted from the women's policy document.

McCabe/Quigley Cumann, Ballymun.

P L R

104. That Sinn Féin demands the abolition of the stigma of illegitimacy for all unmarried mothers, deserted wives, widows, should be abolished and one category that of single parent be substituted, applied equally to male and female.

Worthington/Watters Cumann, Dundalk.

P L R

105. In the women's policy document, delete:-

"In keeping with our demand that the power of church and state be separated, we accept in principle the introduction of divorce for those who wish to avail of it. In this context we recognise the importance of making available pre-marriage classes and advice for young people and marriage guidance for couples contemplating divorce".

Insert in its place:-

"The introduction of divorce in the 26 Counties is an essential step that is long overdue. Marriage breakdown is a fact of life that cannot be ignored and must be legislated for. In the secular state we aim to create, it is important that family law does not conform to the teaching of any one particular church but rather seeks to promote the welfare of the individual within the context of a caring society".

Comhairle Atha Cliath.

P L R

106. That in relation to entitlement to social welfare that the designations of unmarried mothers, deserted wives, widows, should be abolished and one category that of single parent be substituted applied equally to male and female.

Worthington/Watters Cumann, Dundalk.

P L R

107. That the following be added to the section on "Marriage Laws":-

"In the Six Counties, there should be protection of the family home so that it cannot be sold, mortgaged or otherwise disposed of without the consent of both partners".

**Belfast Comhairle Limistear
Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair
James Connolly Cumann, Belfast.**

P L R

108. That the following be added to the sixth paragraph of the section on "Childcare":-
"In the North, the present trend of running down the number and role of midwives should be reversed".

**Belfast Comhairle Limistear
Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair
James Connolly Cumann, Belfast.**

P L R

109. Comhairle Ceantair Liathdroma supports the view that women should take an active role in Sinn Féin at all levels. We suggest, however, that the motion passed reserving eight places on the Árd Chomhairle for women is discriminatory and works against the very principle we attempt to uphold. We propose that the motion passed at the 1983 Árd Fheis be rescinded.

Comhairle Ceantair Laithdroma.

P L R

110. That Sinn Féin congratulates the courageous stand taken by women across Dublin in initiating the Concerned Parents Against Drugs campaign.

Frank Stagg Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

111. That Sinn Féin salutes the many women on active service fighting for the freedom of our country and calls on all women and men in Sinn Féin to involve their cumann in the campaign to stop the strip-searches in Armagh.

Frank Stagg Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

International and Foreign Affairs

112. That this Árd Fheis commits itself to active opposition to any attempt to draw Ireland into a Western military alliance or any other attempt to undermine Irish neutrality.

Clonard/Colin Cumann, Belfast.

P L R

113. That Sinn Féin opposes, with every means at its disposal, any effort to join NATO.

Cork Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

114. That Sinn Féin highlights the obstacles placed by major Western powers against the war of national liberation in Ireland, in relation to the fact that such powers see Ireland in the context of NATO strategy and would therefore be totally opposed to any change in the status quo here.

Wolfe Tone Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

115. That this Árd Fheis recognises that the anti-socialist aggression of Western capitalism is the root cause of the nuclear arms race. We totally condemn the insane production and build-up of weapons which, when used, will terminate all life on earth. This Árd Fheis commits Sinn Féin to active support for the international Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Clonard/Colin Cumann, Belfast.

P L R

116. That this Árd Fheis commits Sinn Féin to an active role in campaigning for nuclear disarmament.

Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

117. That this Árd Fheis believes that nuclear weapons are a permanent threat to the existence of the human race. There can be no such thing as control, nor should we support talk of limiting their existence. Sinn Féin is totally opposed to nuclear weapons and urges all those nations who have nuclear weapons to immediately set about the task of dismantling and destroying them.

Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

118. That Sinn Féin is opposed to the use of nuclear power stations for the provision of energy and urges the development of alternative forms of energy, such as wave action and solar power.

Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

119. That this Árd Fheis condemns and rejects any attempt to reform the apartheid of the white South African state and we fully support the black liberation struggle both in South Africa and in Namibia.

Clonard/Colin Cumann, Belfast.

P L R

120. That this Árd Fheis calls for the banning of all imports and exports to and from South Africa.

Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

121. That this Árd Fheis sends solidarity greetings to the National Union of Mineworkers of South Africa in their continued struggle for trade union recognition and in their fight for basic human rights denied to all black people under the apartheid regime of the South African state.

Coyle/Comerford Cumann, Derry.

P L R

122. That Sinn Féin calls on all its international support groups to join with Sinn Féin in reaffirming its total opposition to racism.

Ernie O'Malley Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

123. That Sinn Féin unambiguously supports the armed struggle of the peoples of South Africa, Namibia, El Salvador, Euskadi, and Palestine.

McCabe/Quigley Cumann, Ballymun.

P L R

124. That this Árd Fheis totally condemns the recent extradition of Basque activists by the French government to Spain. We

reiterate our support for the Basque liberation movement.

Clonard/Colin Cumann, Belfast.

P L R

125. That this Árd Fheis totally opposes US imperialist aggression, particularly in Central America, and we fully support the popular Sandinista government in Nicaragua and the peoples of El Salvador and Grenada in their struggle for national liberation and socialism.

Clonard/Colin Cumann, Belfast.

P L R

126. That Sinn Féin deplores American foreign policy in Central and Southern America and pledges support for all those fighting for their national rights and freedom.

Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

127. That this Árd Fheis recognises that the display of the United States flag at republican rallies and commemorations is an insult to the oppressed peoples of Central America and indeed throughout the world to whom we have pledged our support.

Colm Keenan Cumann, Tyrone.

P L R

Internal Policy

128. That Sinn Féin stops using, and deletes, the phrase "in the New Ireland" in its policy documents, as Sinn Féin's ability and will to bring about a new, independent and socialist Ireland is better shown by its involvement now than by expressing pious wishes.

James Connolly Cumann, Belfast.

P L R

129. That the Árd Chomhairle submit policy documents and papers containing background information to the membership prior to the Árd Fheis rather than relying exclusively on the short motions that appear in the clár.

Comhairle Atha Cliath

Lynch/Doherty Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

130. That any policy changes made at this Árd fheis be published and sent to all cumainn within six months of the Árd Fheis.

Cathal Brugha Cumann, Waterford.

P L R

131. That following on from this Árd Fheis the incoming Árd Chomhairle produce (within three to six months) up-to-date policy documents on all aspects of Sinn Féin policy, incorporating all motions passed at recent Árd Fheiseanna.

Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

132. That efforts be taken to ensure that all resolutions passed by Árd Fheiseanna be implemented.

Michael O'Hanrahan Cumann, Wexford.

P L R

133. That at future Árd Fheiseanna, when a motion or motions are put to the floor for discussion, the debate not be interrupted until the vote is taken.

Wolfe Tone Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

134. That the Árd Fheis clár be arranged so that the more popular items (e.g. President's speech) which are guaranteed to draw a crowd at any time be left to normally less-well attended times, and that section such as Culture, Women, Youth, Prisoners, etc., be given prominence on the clár, thus ensuring full discussions of these subjects.

Markievicz Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

135. That foreign delegates be introduced before the beginning of the Árd Fheis.

Worthington/Watters Cumann, Dundalk.

P L R

136. That Sinn Féin places greater emphasis on organising weekend education seminars for its members at both national and local level.

**West Belfast Comhairle Ceantair
Lenadoon Martyrs Cumann, Belfast.**

P L R

137. a. We propose that the incoming Árd Chomhairle organise a two-day seminar to discuss the role of Advice Centres, how they are organised, their function, etc. The seminar should also discuss specific issues and Sinn Féin's attitude to them, e.g. housing, supplementary benefits, etc.

b. That there is a need to ensure that there is continuity and consistency in Sinn Féin attitudes and policies.

Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

138. That Sinn Féin immediately initiate a comprehensive education programme for all Sinn Féin members regarding the role of Sinn Féin advice centres within the overall struggle for a 32 county Socialist Republic.

Ballymurphy Cumann, Belfast.

P L R

139. That a security lecture be given to all existing Sinn Féin members and that the education course for new members include a security lecture.

**West Belfast Comhairle Ceantair
Lenadoon Martyrs Cumann, Belfast.**

P L R

140. That Political and cultural education should be compulsory at all levels in Sinn Féin.

Donegal Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

141. That this Árd Fheis reaffirms our support for the armed struggle being waged against the British forces of occupation in the Six Countries and expresses our solidarity and appreciation to the men and women engaged in the war.

Wolfe Tone Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

142. That members of Sinn Féin should refrain from making antagonistic statements aimed at other revolutionary groups.

Seamus Steel Cumann, Armagh.

P L R

Social and Economic (A)

ECONOMY

143. Given that the economic and social policies being pursued by the present Dublin and London governments represent an attack on workers' living standards, Sinn Féin must fight alongside trade unions and other groups to resist these policies and put forward demands which could conceivably be met in the short-term. This Árd Fheis also recognises that to prevent such demands becoming a slide into reformism, Sinn Féin's economic and social policies must be consolidated and updated so that these campaigns and criticisms can be viewed in context.

Árd Chomhairle.

P L R

144. That Sinn Féin condemns the economic policies currently being implemented both North and South. Such policies are incapable of producing effective job-creation programmes. This failure is rooted in their reliance on a belief in the efficiency of free-market forces and the need for a minimal role for government.

Sinn Féin believes that the only way to create more employment is through state spending and investment. This course of action would fill the dual role of promoting economic development and providing real jobs.

The basic elements of such a programme would be:-

a. Setting up state-run companies to make maximum use of natural resources and raw materials (food processing is an area of obvious potential).

b. In view of the key role played by the construction and building industry, the major housing crisis in the 26 Counties and the need for infrastructural development, Sinn Féin advocates the setting up of a state construction company. This would be both a vehicle for productive investment and job creation and a means to ensure reasonable conditions of employment in an industry which has been noted in the past for insecure employment and bad working conditions.

c. State takeover of key productive enterprises that are threatened with closure.

d. Sinn Féin will immediately resist moves to reduce state services where they are needed and resist any moves to increase privatisation of the state and semi-state sector, especially in growth areas such as telecommunications.

Árd Chomhairle

Lynch/Doherty Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

145. That Sinn Féin condemns successive 26 County governments' slavish adherence to monetarist economic policy of savage cuts in social welfare and services accompanied by slavish capital grants and tax concessions to corporation and multinational concerns.

These policies have created hardship and social deprivation and placed the economy in increasing dependancy upon foreign capitalist and financial interests. This inevitably hastens the destruction of home-based industries, heightens the inequality in distribution of wealth and weakens indigenous control of economic development and the means of production. Further, Sinn Féin considers that costs of servicing the debt-service payments are well surpassed by the costs of maintaining the border, the profits repatriated by multinational corporations and the investment of Irish-owned capital abroad.

Árd Chomhairle.

P L R

146. Recognising the present level of inflation, Sinn Féin condemns the 3% norm imposed by the Coalition government on wage increases as a thinly disguised method of forcing employed workers into accepting a cut in real wages.

Sinn Féin also condemns the cuts in subsidies on milk, bread and butter prices which constitute a further step in placing the burden of inflation most heavily upon the poorest people. Sinn Féin recognises food subsidies as a useful weapon for redistribution of income towards the less well-off which can be used to keep down food prices whilst transitionally cushioning farm incomes.

Árd Chomhairle.

P L R

147. Sinn Féin recognises that whilst the economic system remains in capitalist hands with accompanying inevitable inequality in the distribution of wealth and income, redistribution of income in favour of the less well-off must be a priority of fiscal policy. Sinn Féin condemns the gross inequalities of the present tax system which rests almost the entire burden of tax upon the PAYE sector and regressive indirect taxes with negligible taxation of capital and corporate profits. Sinn Féin supports the call for more equitable taxation.

Árd Chomhairle.

P L R

148. In furtherance of our stated commitment to the principles of Socialism and Republicanism outlined by Pearse and Connolly. In the introduction to the Social Dimension section of the Social and Economic Programme, we propose that the following changes be made to the section "basic Principles".
- a. That the word "key" be deleted from number 4.
 - b. That in 7(b) the first sentence should read "we are opposed to the personal ownership of productive property".
 - c. That the word "key" be deleted from number 9.
 - d. That the last sentence in the first paragraph of number 9 be deleted given that the previous proposals make it redundant.

Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

149. That Sinn Féin makes a serious attempt to activate a campaign to highlight the effects of unemployment nationwide and of the removal of food subsidies in the 26 Counties.

**Mac Gabhann/Mac Eochaidh/O hAirmheadaigh,
Carcair Phortlaoise.**

P L R

150. That this Árd Fheis supports the demand of the Irish trade union movement for a 35-hour week, without cuts in the take-home pay, thus giving workers more freedom to chose the number of hours they want to work. As Irish workers clock-up the longest labour hours in Europe, this will help create tens of thousands of jobs overnight. A 35-hour week

will also benefit the many part-time small farmers who will be better able to have incomes and living conditions comparable to urban workers.

**Comhairle Atha Cliath
Lynch/Doherty Cumann, Dublin.**

P L R

151. That the incoming Árd Chomhairle be instructed to implement the following:-
- a. That Sinn Féin activists take Sinn Féin politics into the workplace.
 - b. That Sinn Féin activists assert radical Sinn Féin trade union politics in the workplace.
 - c. That Sinn Féin activists be able to develop trade union activities beyond the struggle for wages and conditions.
 - d. That Sinn Féin trade union activists can politicise workers as to the nature of their exploitation and work towards the setting up of industrial co-operatives.

**Belfast Comhairle Limistear
Ballymurphy Martyrs Cumann, Belfast.**

P L R

152. That members of Sinn Féin never pass a trade union picket on pain of expulsion from Sinn Féin.

Tony Aherne Cumann, Clones.

P L R

153. That the Trade Union Department be directed to draw up a discussion document on the workings of, and Sinn Féin's attitude to, YTP/AnCO schemes, and that this be completed within the next three years.

**West Belfast Comhairle Ceantair
Lenadoon Martyrs Cumann, Belfast.**

P L R

154. That this Árd Fheis extends solidarity greetings to workers everywhere but particularly to:-
- a. The young workers on strike at Dunnes Stores, Henry St., Dublin for their historic and courageous stand against apartheid by refusing to handle goods produced by the racist South African regime.

b. The striking miners of England, Scotland and Wales who are fighting in defence of jobs.

Comerford/Price Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

Agriculture

155. That Sinn Féin condemns the present strategy for economic growth of reliance on foreign corporation investment in Ireland in high-technology production for export. Sinn Féin recognises that development of agriculture and fisheries are of prime importance in the economic development of Ireland and that this economic strategy cannot be successfully pursued within the EEC.

Seamus Wrynn Cumann, Leitrim.

P L R

156. That Sinn Féin notes the high levels of imported foodstuffs in domestic consumption, most of which can be produced in Ireland. We recognise that whilst our economy, under the EEC, remains dominated by foreign capitalist interests, and whilst we continue policies based on the free play of market forces, this trend will continue to the eventual eradication of indigenous food industries which supply the home market. Sinn Féin calls for:-

a. Marketing boards to plan production and control sales, marketing, quality and standards, and to fix maintained prices.

b. Imports of all products which can be produced indigenously to be subject to quotas.

c. Immediate measures to foster growth and development of food-processing industries.

d. Introduction of legislative means to control sources of purchase of food products by wholesalers and retail outlets.

Aine Ni Neill Cumann, Monaghan.

P L R

157. a. That the incoming Árd Chomhairle fully recognises and takes action on the current problems facing the agricultural community today and that a committee be set up to analyse these problems and work out an effective role for Sinn Féin.

b. That a spokesperson be appointed for the different agricultural regions.

South-East Ulster Comhairle Limistear.

P L R

158. That Sinn Féin gives total support to the plight of the small and medium farmers, who are in difficulty because of EEC measures, by exposing and highlighting their plight more vigorously.

**Mac Gabhann/Mac Eochaidh/O hAirmheadaigh
Carcair Phortlaoise**

Hughes/Doherty Cumann, Buncrana.

P L R

159. That this Árd Fheis resolves that land held by absentee landlords and land held for speculative gain should be expropriated and redistributed under a land commission to farmers who are short of land.

Aine Ni Neill Cumann, Monaghan.

P L R

160. That Sinn Féin recognises that all post-primary education in rural areas should include courses in farm management and agricultural science and a two-year course in modern farming techniques should be freely available to all present and future farm populations.

Seamus Wrynn Cumann, Leitrim.

P L R

161. That this Árd Fheis calls for the abolition of the Foyle Fisheries Commission on the grounds that the collaboration of the British and Free State authorities in this commission is depriving local fishermen of their rights and livelihood.

Joe McDonnell Cumann, Donegal.

P L R

162. That Sinn Féin policy recommend that all rivers and lakes be subject to community control.

Hughes/Doherty Cumann, Buncrana.

P L R

163. That Sinn Féin cumainn throughout the 32 Counties adopt a

more positive role by encouraging people within their communities to establish small community co-operatives, and that a committee be organised within the incoming Árd Chomhairle to ensure that cumainn in all areas are provided with the relevant information and guidelines pertaining to co-operatives, i.e. how to start co-operatives and how to make one work successfully.

McDaid/Gaughan Cumann, Buncrana
Hughes/Doherty Cumann, Buncrana.

P L R

Housing

164. That Sinn Féin condemns the Free State constitutional position which gives unrestricted rights of private property above the rights of a person to decent accommodation at an affordable rent. In particular, Sinn Féin condemns the current legislation which allows eviction or exploitation of tenants in privately rented dwellings. While tenants on very low incomes can, if aware of their rights, claim a rent subsidy — and this has diminished its worst effects — the fact that a system which refuses to properly house people in dire need is in the business of paying millions of pounds a year to private landlords in rent subsidies makes the situation even more reprehensible. Only a planned policy of publicly-provided housing, which will halt land speculation and private landlord profiteering, can satisfy the right of people for housing and not just shelter. At a time of unemployment as well as social deprivation, the need of a major programme of house building is self-evident.

Árd Chomhairle.

P L R

165. That adequate housing must be provided as a right to all citizens in need of housing, and people should not be ghettoised in sub-standard housing because of their personal situations, i.e. unmarried mothers, single, homeless, old people. This would negate the present situation where private landlords can exploit homeless people. Sinn Féin should commit themselves to a campaign for the provision of such housing and for a fair system of allocation.

Clarke/McVerry Cumann, Dun Laoghaire.

P L R

166. That Sinn Féin opposes present Housing Executive policy of selling off public property in the Six Counties. Such a short sighted policy will inevitably lead to the Executive being little more than a slum landlord, and will leave fewer homes under Executive control for allocation to those in need.

Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

167. That Sinn Féin condemns present Housing Executive policy of discriminating against tenants who owe arrears, from transferring to more suitable accommodation.

Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

168. That given the tremendous need for housing in nationalist areas of West Belfast, Sinn Féin demands not only the implementation but the expansion of the original Poleglass Housing Scheme.

Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

169. That Sinn Féin condemns the Housing Executive "sanctions list" and should actively work for its removal.

Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

Culture

170. Ag Aithint tábhacht athbheochan na Gaeilge iarrann an Árd Fheis seo:-

a. Ar gach cumann sna Sé Chontae feachtas a thoiseacht le ainmeacha Gallda na mbailte agus na sráideanna ina gceantar féin a ghaelú. b. Go gcuirfidh cumainn sna 26 Chontae in aghaidh freamanna a chuireann suas comharthaí sráide agus bailte i mBéarla amháin.

Recognising the importance of the Irish language revival, this Árd Fheis calls:-

a. On all cumainn in the Six Counties to organise a gaelicisation of Anglo-Saxon street and town names in their areas.

b. On all cumainn in the Free State to oppose the erection of street and town names in English only.

West Belfast Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

171. That Sinn Féin supports the continued use of the historic townland names in postal addresses, advocates their re-introduction in places where their use has lapsed, and encourages all members to actively promote this by always using these traditional names in rural addresses.

Maire Drumm Cumann, Magherafelt.

P L R

172. That all Sinn Féin members make a genuine commitment to learn Irish if they don't already have a command of the language and that this be particularly stressed for those who will be making public appearances, i.e. elected representatives or those standing for election.

**West Belfast Comhairle Ceantair
Cumann Bhaile Dhuin Finn, Belfast.**

P L R

173. While recognising the present obligation on all Sinn Féin members to participate in the learning of Gaeilge, we further propose that public representatives and prospective candidates, who are not fluent speakers, should be required to participate in learning Gaeilge as a condition of their candidature; the objective being to promote by example.

Maire Drumm Cumann, Magherafelt.

P L R

174. That all spokespersons, councillors, MPs, TDs etc. should give their strongest commitment to learn and use our own language, thus getting away from rallies and parades, etc. being addressed "A chairde" and carried on in English.

Clonard/Colin Cumman, Belfast.

P L R

175. That Sinn Féin makes better use of the opportunities presented by our increased political participation and

popular support to promote the Irish language and our policy on culture.

Maire Drumm Cumann, Magherafelt.

P L R

176. That we feel it is wrong to be publishing literature and posters etc in English only. They should be in Irish also. If this is passed it should be strictly enforced by the Árd Chomhairle.

Clonard/Colin Cumman, Belfast.

P L R

177. That due to only lip-service being paid by Sinn Féin generally to the Irish language, and due to the irrelevance of the language in the day-to-day running of the organisation, that we cease being hypocritical and change our name to "Ourselves Alone" and cease using the name Sinn Féin.

Markievicz Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

Constitution, Electoral Policy and Strategy

178. That the objectives of Sinn Féin are:-
"The complete overthrow of British Rule in Ireland, and the establishment of a **Decentralised** Democratic Socialist Republic based on the Proclamation of 1916.

Donegal Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

179. a. That section (c) of the "Objects of Sinn Féin" be amended as follows:-

"... and to institute a system of government suited to the particular needs of the working class and small farmers".

b. That section (a) of the "Means" be amended as follows:-

"Through Sinn Féin organising the Irish working class and small farmers into a united and disciplined movement for the restoration of the Republic and the achievement of the above ideals".

O'Hanrahan/Lillis Cumann, Carlow.

180. That landlords, speculators and their respective agents be barred from Sinn Féin (see Rule 1, Membership).
McCabe/Quigley Cumann, Ballymun.

P L R

181. That Sinn Féin register as a political party in the 26 Counties.
Ernie O'Malley Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

182. That this Árd Fheis reaffirms its commitment to articles 1(b) and 6(a) of the Sinn Féin Constitution and that the incoming Árd Chomhairle be instructed to draw up an education document giving our constitutional reasons for abstentionism, which should be circulated to all members and be made available to the general public.

Wolfe Tone Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

183. That Rule 6 of the Constitution be strictly upheld both in the letter and the spirit.

Joe McDonnell Cumann, Donegal.

P L R

184. We propose that Sinn Féin does not participate in any elections related to Leinster House on an abstentionist policy or otherwise.

Kevin Barry Cumann, DUBLIN.

P L R

185. That before any future election strategy be formulated, the total state of organisation be assessed from cumainn to Árd Chomhairle, as to Sinn Féin's capabilities to contest or not to contest an election. This would give a better indication of grassroot feelings in regard to elections.

Traolach Mac Suibhne Cumann, Shannon.

P L R

186. That the building of a revolutionary socialist Sinn Féin and the winning of people over to our policies should take precedence over short-term electoral gains.

McCabe/Quigley Cumann, Ballymun.

P L R

187. That all election manifestos and canvass leaflets in all

elections, including local government elections, must affirm:-

- Sinn Féin's unequivocal support for the armed struggle.
- Sinn Féin's unequivocal opposition to the economic system which Britain has imposed upon Ireland — namely the capitalist system which robs the mass of the Irish people of control of the means of production.
- Sinn Féin's unequivocal opposition to the political system which is claimed to be democratic but which is based upon sectarianism, clout, patronage, favours and a carefully fostered apathy.

**Comhairle Atha Cliath
Frank Stagg Cumann, Dublin.**

P L R

188. That a state which rules at the behest of a foreign power which imposes an economic system which impoverishes the majority of the people cannot be legitimate. Sinn Féin's strategy in the 26 Counties must therefore be to expose the illegitimacy of the state through education/agitation/organisation and to strengthen opposition to it. Election campaigns are but a part of this strategy and reflect the extent to which this strategy is being successfully implemented.

**Comhairle Atha Cliath
Frank Stagg Cumann, Dublin.**

P L R

189. That all members adhere to motions passed by the Árd Fheis within the principles of the Constitution of Sinn Féin.

Dublin North-East Sinn Féin.

P L R

190. That this Árd Fheis reiterates and reaffirms the intention of Sinn Féin to:-

- Convene the elected representatives of all Ireland in the national assembly of the sovereign Irish people.
- Proceed to legislate for all Ireland.
- Use every means in our power to overcome opposition to the Republic.
- To repudiate all treaties, pacts and laws which in any way curtail the nation's independence.

Roscommon Comhairle Ceantair

P L R

191. That as an addendum to Section 3 of the Constitution, the following be passed:-
 "no member is allowed to hold the position of President of Sinn Féin for more than three years consecutively".

O'Hanlon/McMahon Cumann, Monaghan

P L R

Social and Economic (B)

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

192. That the whole nature of the social welfare system is underpinned by a structure which ensures that only the "bread-line" allowances is paid as of right. All other payments are discretionary, i.e. at the whim of the officer involved in the case. This aspect of the system should be exposed and fought vigorously by advice workers with up-to-date accurate knowledge of the whole welfare system.

Árd Chomhairle.

P L R

193. That the 26 County Department of Social Welfare be decentralised because of the extreme hardships caused by delays in provincial areas.

**Cork Chomhairle Ceantair
 Traolach Mac Suibhne Cumann, Shannon.**

P L R

194. That social welfare recipients get equal benefits.

**Cork Chomhairle Ceantair
 Traolach Mac Suibhne Cumann, Shannon.**

P L R

195. That Sinn Féin actively support the campaign against 26 County Department of Health cuts which have resulted in the

loss of the clothing grant and reduction of other discretionary payments made by the health board.

Lynch/Doherty Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

196. That a body be set up to detail the list of grants available to the ordinary working person, how to obtain these grants and in what areas they are more beneficial to the claimant.

Bennett/Boyle/Cleary Cumann, Armagh.

P L R

197. That information be made available on the breakdown of Social Security benefits and how they are paid.

Bennett/Boyle/Cleary Cumann, Armagh.

P L R

Education

198. Recognising that education is a right and not a privilege, Sinn Féin condemns the continued cut-backs in public spending on education and the class bias in the education system which begins at pre-primary level and extends to third level. Sinn Féin recognises that this class bias is deeply embedded in the very nature of the school curriculum and can only be overcome by a redirection in that curriculum along with a major financial expansion in the education sector.

Árd Chomhairle.

P L R

199. That Sinn Féin condemns the distorted version of Irish history being taught in schools which has re-written the national struggle for freedom and seeks to justify the continued British presence in Ireland.

Árd Chomhairle.

P L R

200. That the Research Department be directed to develop policy on pre-primary, primary, second level and third level education.

McCabe/Quigley Cumann, Ballymun

P L R

DIVORCE

201. That Sinn Féin actively supports any referendum to introduce divorce in the 26 Counties.

Comhairle Atha Cliath
Ernie O'Malley Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

202. That Sinn Féin actively support the campaign for a "yes" vote in any future Free State referendum on divorce.

James Connolly Cumann, Dublin

P L R

203. In anticipation of a referendum on divorce in the 26 Counties and whilst reiterating our non-recognition of the Free State constitution, that Sinn Féin affirms the individual's right to divorce and re-marriage in cases of irretrievable marital breakdown.

Seamus Quirke Cumann, Galway

P L R

204. That this Árd Fheis supports the right to divorce of those whose marriage has irretrievably broken down and that any future republican government will enact legislation to this effect.

Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

DRUGS

205. That Sinn Féin fully supports the aims and objectives of the Concerned Parents Against Drugs movement in their fight against the drug problem in Ireland.

Comhairle Atha Cliath
Tommy Tolan Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

TRAVELLERS

206. That Sinn Féin condemns the evictions of travellers that take

place throughout the country as acts of violence against an oppressed minority group.

We condemn also the frequent application to this community of racist and sectarian categories. Sinn Féin therefore resolves to defend the right of the travellers wherever these are threatened, especially their right to live in stable and hygienic conditions.

We also believe that the rights of the travellers can best be defended by travellers themselves.

In any area, therefore, where there is a stable population of travellers, Sinn Féin will encourage and give positive support to these travellers to set up their own committees and elect their own spokespersons.

Belfast Comhairle Limistear.

P L R

207. That Sinn Féin resolves to take positive action, including the lobbying of local and county councils, to support the right of travelling people to live in the settled accommodation of their choice — whether it be in houses, permanent serviced sites, or temporary sites.

Sinn Féin furthermore resolves to stand by the principled position of support for the travellers even if it involves the opposition of the settled population. We believe that the just grievances of the settled population against travellers cannot and should not be resolved by the eviction of travellers.

Belfast Comhairle Limistear.

P L R

208. That Sinn Féin commits itself to raising the issue of travellers' rights, wherever practical, and to demand that councils provide the necessary permanent sites needed to secure the travellers way of life, and also to prevent disruption to the settled community.

Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

PRISONERS

209. That this Árd Fheis acknowledges the work which has begun in some areas, especially within the 26 Counties, to develop a national campaign against the use of strip-searching in

Armagh. This should be extended to all areas and, where there are not functioning Women's Departments, the local Comhairle Ceantair should assume the responsibility for initiating local campaigns.

Coyle/Comerford Cumann, Derry.

P L R

210. That the responsibility to build a national campaign to end the strip-searching lies with all republicans, though at all times this should be co-ordinated through the POW Department.

Coyle/Comerford Cumann, Derry.

P L R

211. That an active co-ordinating executive be formed to spearhead the campaign against the strip-searches in Armagh Jail and that this campaign should be fully mobilised on a 32 county basis.

McCreesh/McCabe Cumann, Sth. Armagh.

P L R

212. That this Árd Fheis condemns the inhuman and degrading use of strip-searching being carried out in Armagh Jail as a blatant attempt by the British prison authorities to attack the resistance of republican women POWs within the prison.

Coyle/Comerford Cumann, Derry.

P L R

213. This Comhairle Ceantair calls on the membership of Sinn Féin both North and South to generate support against the inhuman and degrading strip-searching of women prisoners in Armagh Jail. We call on Sinn Féin members to mobilise this support towards organising for a mass picket of the Jail on November 11th the 2nd anniversary of the introduction of strip-searching.

Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

214. That the use of strip-searches is a specific attack on republican POWs, because of the long remand terms which

they face, and a direct attack on the cultural upbringing of Irish women as well as being a form of sexual attack on all women.

Coyle/Comerford Cumann, Derry.

P L R

215. That this Árd Fheis calls on all Comhairli Ceantair throughout the country to highlight the plight of prisoners in Portlaoise and Armagh, e.g. strip-searching; beatings; perspex screens between visitor and prisoner in Portlaoise, etc.

Louth Comhairle Ceantair.

P L R

216. That this Árd Fheis welcomes the formation of the Portlaoise Prisoners Relatives Action Group and calls on all Sinn Féin cumainn members to actively support them in their local areas where they exist and help to form action groups where they do not.

Russell/McDonnell Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

217. That this Árd Fheis establishes an effective committee to detail and bring to the public awareness the inhuman conditions with particular reference to the no physical contact visiting arrangements that at present exist in Portlaoise.

Keenan/McGillen Cumann, Derry.

P L R

218. That Sinn Féin in the 26 Counties should make a more determined effort to highlight the plight of prisoners in Portlaoise Jail, similar to the campaign which was waged on behalf of the H-Block prisoners.

Dublin North-East Sinn Féin.

P L R

219. That this cumann thanks Sinn Féin for highlighting conditions in this Jail and we hope they continue this work in the future.

Mac Gabhann/Mac Eochaidh/O hAirmheadaigh Cumann, Carcair Phortlaoise

P L R

220. That this Árd Fheis adopts a more positive attitude towards the prisoners' plight than was in evidence last year.

Keenan/Doherty Cumann, Monaghan.

P L R

221. That Sinn Féin cumainn, both in Ireland and Britain, actively support the campaigns being presently fought in support of prisoners in Portlaoise, Armagh and English Jails.

Wolfe Tone Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

222. That Sinn Féin should initiate a campaign for the repatriation of Irish republican POWs incarcerated in foreign prisons.

Traolach Mac Suibhne Cumann, Shannon.

P L R

223. That Sinn Féin intensifies its campaign for the repatriation of Irish political prisoners held in English Jails. To facilitate this, a cumann in each Comhairle Ceantair area should take special responsibility for this task.

**Comhairle Atha Cliath
Tommy Tolan Cumann, Dublin.**

P L R

224. That Sinn Féin works for the repatriation of all republican prisoners in English jails to jails of their choice in Ireland, North or South.

**Gaughan/Keenan Cumann, UCD
Jeff McKenna Cumann, Dublin.**

P L R

225. That the week prior to Christmas be designated as "Republican Prisoners Week" during which Sinn Féin cumainn should engage in public activities to highlight their plight.

Clancy/O'Callaghan Cumann, Limerick.

P L R

226. That this Árd Fheis endorses the equality of all republican POWs and calls for this to be demonstrated by equal welfare payments being made to their dependants across the country and points out that the present situation where different areas pay different rates undermines the morale of both POWs and their families.

Jim McGinn Cumann, Strabane.

P L R

227. That this Árd Fheis gives financial support to the transport section of Prisoners Welfare.

Clonard/Colin Cumann, Belfast.

P L R

228. We propose that each cumann reassesses its financial contributions to all sections of the Movement, with particular reference to Cumann Cabhrach and suggests that Comhairle Ceantair levies be £3 per week from each cumann.

Kevin Barry Cumann, Dublin.

P L R

229. That cumainn throughout the 32 Counties make an annual donation of £25 to a central fund at Árd Chomhairle level and that this money be forwarded to the relevant group to be used to provide our prisoners in English Jails with clothes, books etc. The money donated by cumainn should be in by December 1st each year to allow for the purchase of goods which would then be distributed around Christmas time.

McDaid/Gaughan Cumann, Buncrana.

P L R

MISCELLANEOUS

230. That this Árd Fheis recommends to the National Commemoration Committee to revert back to the 1926 Easter Lily design by Sheila Humphreys, niece of The O'Rahilly, the 1916 leader shot outside the GPO, Dublin.

McDaid/Gaughan Cumann, Bundoran.

P L R

231. That Easter Monday become a national day of commemoration.

Dublin North/east Sinn Féin.

P L R

232. That a date be set by the Árd Chomhairle for an annual hunger-strike commemoration march.

**West Belfast Comhairle Ceantair
Lenadoon Martyrs Cumann, Belfast.**

P L R