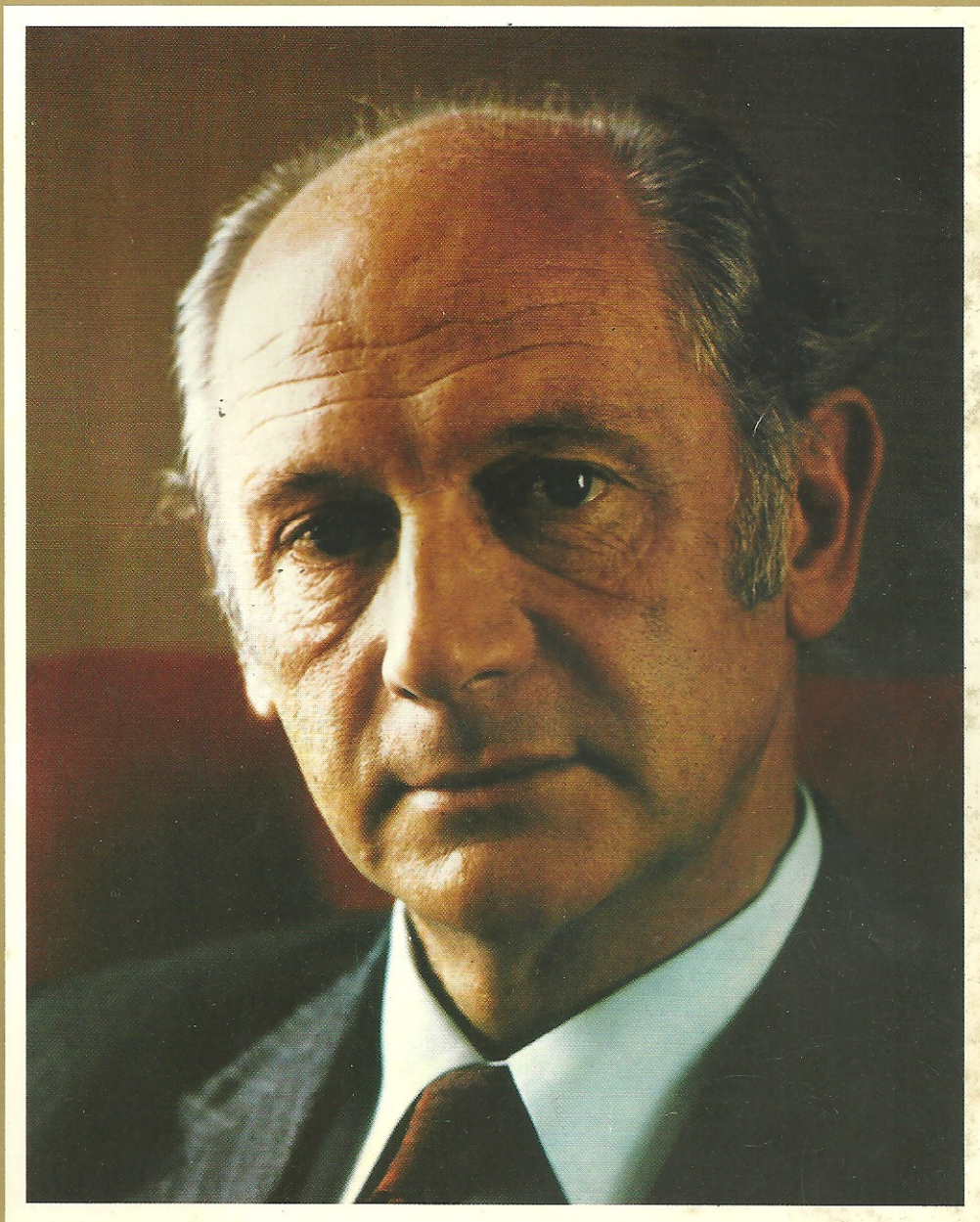


1926-76  
**Iubhaile Órga**  
**Fianna Fáil**  
*The Republican Party*



Seán O Loinsigh T.D.  
Uachtarán Fianna Fáil

CONCERT SOUVENIR PROGRAMME 50p

# AN CHEÁD ÁRD-CHÓMHAIRLE

1926

## *Uachtarán:*

Eamon de Valera, T.D.

## *Leas-Uachtaráin:*

P. J. Rutledge, T.D.

Seán T. O'Kelly, T.D.

## *Rúnaithe Oinigh:*

Seán F. Lemass, T.D.

Gearóid Ó Beoláin, T.D.

## *Cisteóirí Oinigh:*

Dr. Séamus Ó Riain, T.D.

Seán MacEntee, T.D.

## *Coiste an Chúigir Déag:*

Frank Aiken, T.D.

P. J. Little

Tomás Derrig

Mrs. Tom Clarke

Rev. E. Coyle, P.P.

Dr. Conn Murphy

M. Kilroy, T.D.

Prof. E. Mullen

Dan Breen, T.D.

Prof. P. Caffrey

Mrs. Margaret Pearse

Miss Dorothy McArdle

Madame Markievicz, T.D.

Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington

Miss Linda Kearns

## *Baill a có-togadh:*

Eamon Cooney

Seán O'Donovan

Robert Brennan

Eoin Ó Caoimh

Eamon Doonelly

Seán Moynihan

## *Teachtaí ós na Dáil-Cheanntair*

Carlow — Maurice Ryan

Leitrim — D. S. Drumm

Cavan — Patrick Smith, T.D.

Limerick — Doreen de Cnoc

Clare — T. V. Honan

Longford — J. J. Killane

Cork Boro — Thomas Daly

Louth — Kevin O'Reilly

Cork East — Martin J. Corry

Mayo — J. J. Honan

Cork North — Paud O'Donoghue

Meath — Matt O'Reilly

Cork West — Thomas L. Mullins

Monaghan — Dr. Con Ward

Donegal — Joseph Hannigan

Offaly — Patrick Boland

Dublin County — Thomas McGann

Roscommon — Rev. M. Keane, P.P.

Dublin City N. — Matt Stafford

Sligo — Frank Carty, T.D.

Dublin City S. — Thomas Darcy

Tipperary — Patrick Flynn

Galway — Tomas Mac Giolla Poil

Waterford — William Doyle

Kerry — Sean Kearns

Wexford — John Cummins

Kildare — Thomas Harris

Westmeath — M. J. Kennedy

Kilkenny — J. J. Dunne

Wicklow — David L. Robinson

Laois — Patrick J. Gorry

Ard-Rúnaí: Liam Pedlar

## NA CÉAD TEACHTAÍ



PAIRTÍ FHIANNA FÁIL a togadh Meitheamh, 1927 — FIANNA FÁIL PARTY, elected June, 1927.

*An tsraith thiar:* T. Powell, T. Mac Ellistrim, S. Hayes, M. Kennedy, S. MacEntee, G. Boland, F. Carney, P. O'Dowd, W. O'Leary, M. Corry, S. French.  
*I lár:* D. Corkery, T. Derrig, M. Killilea, J. Colbert, S. Moore, A. Fogarty, J. Ryan, P. Boland, P. McCarvill, N. Blaney, P. Smyth, T. O'Reilly, P. Belton, M. Kilroy, T. Tynan, P. J. Rutledge, S. Lemass, F. Aiken, P. Houlihan.  
*An tsraith tosaigh:* S. Holt, M. O'Reilly, J. Victory, T. Mullins, Countess Markievicz, E. de Valera, Mrs. T. Clarke, D. Buckley, F. Carty, T. Crowley, J. Tubridy, P. J. Little. (S. T. O'Kelly, F. Fahy and E. Mullen were members, but do not appear in this picture).



3 very happy years  
Jubilee  
Samon dz' alba

# The Chief

All who have identified themselves with Fianna Fáil as workers, electors or subscribers are entitled to be jubilant as our Organisation attains its 50th Anniversary. They can look back with pride on their part in the great resurgence of the nation which gave us a succession of political, social and economic achievements that are unmatched in all our history.

And yet our pride is permeated with sadness; for Eamon de Valera is not with us tonight. It was he who inspired us all, he who founded our great Organisation and gave to it its significant name. Under him we became true soldiers of Destiny, leading the van in the nation's march to sovereignty and independence. And it was he whose intrepid statesmanship brought us safely through the hazards of World War II, with that independence and sovereignty not only intact, but enhanced and confirmed.

Because the man who founded Fianna Fáil was so closely identified with the fight of the Irish people for independence and sovereignty, the tendency has been to dilate and dwell on his stature as a soldier, or as a master of the art of politics, or as an international statesman. All of which, indeed, Eamonn de Valera was. But he was also, and this fact is less frequently adverted to than it ought to be, an earnest social reformer.

When, in 1932, de Valera first took over the Government of the twenty-six counties, the Irish Free State, which was then in existence had all the trappings of a British Monarchy. Thus, as a pre-condition for taking their seats in the Oireachtas, deputies and senators were required by its Constitution to take or subscribe to an Oath of Fidelity to H. M. King George V., his heirs and successors. The Constitution furthermore declared that the Executive Authority of the State was vested in the King, and, as a manifestation of this fact required the people to pay for and maintain here as His Majesty's Representative, a Governor-General. Yet, with all this pomp and show, the then Government made only the scantiest provision for those unfortunates, among our people, who were poor and hungry because of age, illness or unemployment. Poverty, dire poverty, even destitution was widespread; and to ease it there existed only the inadequate measures that had been inherited from the British regime, to wit, (i) a restricted pension scheme with a minimum pension equivalent, in present day monetary denominations, to 45 pence per week, and (ii) a system of medical and pecuniary relief based on the British Poor Law.

That was in 1932. Sixteen years later, when, as a result of the 1948 General Election, de Valera's Government was replaced by the first Coalition, the lot of the people had been signally improved. The marked deficiencies in our social code had been rectified by a succession of enactments which, if not initially specifically conceived and projected by 'Dev' himself, owed their ultimate realisation to the support, sympathy and drive which he put behind those of his Ministers to whom he had delegated responsibility for social reform. Under successive Fianna Fáil Governments which he headed, the pensions for the aged and for the blind were greatly improved, provision for the unemployed enlarged and extended, pensions for widows and orphans initiated and children's allowances introduced, the Departments of Health and Social Welfare, previously non-existent, were

established in 1947 and in the same year, with the late Dr. Jim Ryan as Minister for Health, the first Health Act was enacted. No political leader could have manifested a more active concern for the circumstances of the people than de Valera did when he was in control of their affairs.

When Eamon de Valera took over the Government in 1932 our lop-sided economy could hardly provide even frugal comfort for the mass of the people, probably no less than one-tenth of whom were indeed living on the verge of destitution. He quickly grasped the stark economic significance of this situation, to wit, that the primitive industries of the then existent Irish Free State could not support the cost of those public services which were requisite if the majority of its citizens were to be cushioned against dire hardships associated with illness, unemployment or other misfortune. Only a highly developed industrial economy, geared to meet, where possible, the demands of the home market and, as well, to produce an exportable surplus to pay for essential imports from abroad, could provide the substantial resources for this purpose.

And so there began, in 1932, the great industrial drive which gave us virtually all our great modern industries, like our cement industry, our air line and our shipping lines, together with those other similar industrial concerns, now to be found in every town in the Republic, which did not exist when Eamon de Valera came to power in that year. Nor should it be forgotten that also under him our bogs were developed and the investigation of our mineral resources began. It does not abate from the credit and honour due to the late Sean Lemass for conceiving and carrying through this enormous nation-building programme to recall that it was done under the aegis of the great man who founded and, in the critical days of our history, led Fianna Fáil.

For well-nigh fifty years Eamon de Valera's eminence in the active political life of his country was more commanding than that of any contemporary or predecessor, more commanding even than that of Daniel O'Connell in his heyday. And his aim was more ambitious; for like James Fintan Lalor, whom in his election speeches he often quoted, he sought 'not just to repeal the Union, but to undo the Conquest'. Hence his emphasis on the need to preserve our cultural inheritance and, especially our native language.

Magnetic as a leader, de Valera exercised a special influence and authority over public opinion. Whether he headed a Fianna Fáil Government or led Fianna Fáil in Opposition, his were the words that were listened to by the greatest number of voters, sometimes, indeed, by an overall majority of them, but never by less than the largest part of them. His brinkmanship, when keeping us out of World War II was unsurpassable. Flanked, as Ireland was, on the east by Great Britain and on the west by the United States, and withstanding simultaneous pressure from Churchill and Roosevelt, it sometimes seemed that the nation stood on the very edge of disaster. But de Valera's courage and resolution never failed him. In strong faith, and against all odds, he held his chosen ground. So that, when the crisis passed and the fighting ceased, Ireland was still at peace, her territory unravaged, her sovereignty unimpaired, and her prestige the higher for having refused to be bullied or blandished into a conflict that was not of her making.

The man who founded Fianna Fáil was remarkable for his physical courage, but not for this only. In moral courage and attributes, he was just as outstanding. In his public life, as in the privacy of his home, his devotion to truth and justice was steadfast and absolute. It was perhaps his salient characteristic. So those who negotiated with him soon came to know exactly where he stood and learned to take him for what he was, a man of his word. But, and it is to be noted, a man of his exact word, being always careful to express with precision and exactness, not blindly and bluntly as a tub-thumper might, but as a man who knew the weight and value of words and was careful in their use. His critics accused him of hair-splitting and subtleness, as though these were faults. If they were, they were faults that served his country well in the delicate diplomacy which characterised de Valera's conduct of the Republic's foreign policy before and throughout World War II.

Truly great men are not to be assessed in relation to each other by mathematical standards, awarded points, as it were, for this or that virtue or quality, and graded accordingly, 1, 2, or 3. But one may safely say of Eamon de Valera, without giving rise to invidiousness, that he ranked with the greatest. To have had him with us tonight a happy participant in our festivities, would have given abundance to our joy. Recalling how, in his prime, he had been first in the field and first in the forum, we should have been able to manifest to him that now, in the plenitude of his age, he was first in the hearts of all 'who stood with Fianna Fáil', and therefore, 'first in the hearts of his countrymen'.

Those who had the privilege of speaking with 'Dev' during the last months of his life know how he was looking forward to this month of May; how he hoped that he would be spared to share with his contemporaries, and share, even more avidly, with the younger generations, on whom his hopes for Ireland's future were set, the pride and satisfaction of celebrating Fianna Fáil's 50th Anniversary. But it was not to be. On 29th August, 1975, Eamon de Valera, who founded Fianna Fáil passed to his reward, a reward assured to him by the nobility and integrity of his life.

Throughout the World, where men could read or hear, Eamon de Valera's passing evoked warm tributes to him as a man and a patriot and in praise of his work for his country. Only here in Ireland were words spoken that were icy in their coldness. But those who spoke thus, spoke not for the people of Ireland, certainly not for the masses who passed in reverent tribute by his bier, giving a part of their lives to gaze on him who was indeed the chief of Ireland's men. Alive, de Valera was a truly noble man, but his nobility shone out with a special effulgence as he lay, garmented in white, within his coffin. Dead, he wore no spectacles; so one saw at the end of his lifetime that finely-chiselled nose and his wonderful head and face. At peace, as he was, the high and austere nobility of his countenance was breath-taking. Seldom has there been so majestic a figure. Tall, slender, serene, aristocratic, he looked like a medieval prince, who was at once a soldier, a statesman and a saint. As indeed our Chief was throughout his life. May we who seek to serve Ireland in Fianna Fáil be worthy of him.



*Mrs Margaret Pearse (mother of Padraigh and Willie Pearse)  
member of the first National Executive of Fianna Fáil*

### ***THE MOTHER***

I do not grudge them : Lord, I do not grudge  
My two strong sons that I have seen go out  
To break their strength and die, they and a few,  
In bloody protest for a glorious thing,  
They shall be spoken of among their people,  
The generations shall remember them  
And call them blessed;  
But I will speak their names to my own heart in  
the long night;  
The little names that were familiar once  
Round my dead hearth.

Lord, Thou art hard on mothers;  
We suffer in their coming and their going;  
And tho' I grudge them not, I weary of the long sorrow  
— and yet I have my joy;  
My sons were faithful and they fought.

P. H. PEARSE



## THE PROMISE

*Eamon de Valera speaking at the Inaugural Meeting of Fianna Fáil in La Scala (Capitol) Theatre, Dublin, 16th May, 1926.*

The duty of Republicans to my mind is clear. They must do their part to secure common action by getting into position along the most likely line of the nation's advance. If you want to know what the direction of that line of advance at this moment is, ask yourselves what line a young man would be likely to take — a young man, let us say, with strong national feelings, honest and courageous, but without set prejudices or any commitments of his past to hamper him — who aimed solely at serving the national cause and bringing it to a successful issue.

Such a young man, examining the situation, would see to begin with, the country partitioned — North separated from South . . . Here in the Twenty-Six Counties he would see an assembly of elected representatives in control of the actual powers of Government and claiming to rule by the authority and with the sanction of the majority of the people. Yet he would know that nearly one-half of the electorate was shut out from having an effective voice in determining its rulers, and that fully two-thirds was opposed in spirit to the existing regime. He would have no difficulty in tracing the anomaly to its source, the Oath of Allegiance to a foreign power, acquiesced in by the majority under duress of an external threat of war . . . He would see that by isolating the Oath for attack, the whole situation, and England's ultimate control, would be exposed. He could scarcely doubt that, the real feeling of the people, being what it is, the Oath would fall before a determined assault, and he would set out to attack it as being the most vital, and at the same time, the part most easily destroyed, of the entire entrenchments of the foreign enemy. He could see ahead, once the Oath was destroyed, promising lines for a further advance, with the nation moving as a whole, cutting the bonds of foreign interference, one by one, until the full internal sovereignty of the Twenty-Six Counties was established beyond question. Finally, with a united sovereign Twenty-Six Counties, the position would be reached in which the solution of the problem of successfully bringing in the North could be confidently undertaken.

## *Sean F. Lemass*



*"The historical task of this generation is to consolidate the economic foundations of our political independence."*

*Sean F. Lemass, June, 1960.*

A founder member of Fianna Fáil, he worked as Honorary Secretary and Director of Elections until 1932, when the party swept to victory at the General Election. In the first Fianna Fáil Government, Sean Lemass was appointed Minister for Industry and Commerce at the age of thirty-three, the youngest Cabinet Minister in Europe. He held this post in successive Fianna Fáil Governments until September 1939, when, at the outbreak of the World War, he moved to the newly established Ministry of Supplies. Sean McEntee was appointed Minister for Industry and Commerce, and served in that capacity until August, 1945, when the two departments were merged under Sean Lemass.

Appointed Tanaiste in 1945, in 1959 he was unanimously elected leader of Fianna Fáil, and nominated by the Dáil as Taoiseach. He retired as Taoiseach in 1966, and as a Deputy in 1969.

## ONE NATION

...“The confused thinking so noticeable in Belfast is in some part due to an assumption that, in resisting all efforts to widen internal Irish contacts, British interests are in some way being served. It would be for the good of the peoples of both islands if the British Government were to make it clear that this assumption is not true”.

“Indeed, it would be difficult to overstress the magnitude of the improvement which would take place in the whole situation in Ireland, if the British Government would now reiterate, in 1959, the hope which was expressed by King George V, in 1921, and indicate that they would welcome the advent of the day when the Irish people North and South, would work together in common love of Ireland upon a foundation of mutual justice and respect”.

“At the beginning of my remarks I restated our basic position as being that Ireland is, by every test, one nation. It is on that essential unity that we found our case for political re-integration. As I have tried briefly to show, this would involve not loss, but gain to British interests. It is my conviction that, apart from any specific advantage which it would confer, the removal of the last remaining cause of contention, in the long history of Irish-British relations — the last obstacle to unreserved friendship between the two peoples — would be welcomed by British public opinion and would enhance Britain’s status throughout the world”.

*An Taoiseach Sean Lemass, T.D.  
Speaking at the Oxford Union Society  
October 15, 1959.*

*ÓRAID*

*SEAN Ó LOINSIGH T.D.*  
*Uachtarán Fianna Fáil*

CATHAOIRLEACH

Seán Mac an tSaoí

Presentations by Uachtarán Fianna Fáil to:—

Seán Mac an tSaoí

Prionsias Mac Aogain

Patrick Smith T.D.

Thomas L. Mullins

Martin Corry

Patrick Brennan

Liam O'Doherty

and to the winners of the National Speaking Contest

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S O S

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*Ceóilchoirm*

CHRIS CURRAN : Cheann Shíamsa

# LE ÓRGA

1976

## CLÁR

- VIVIENNE COLGAN with Harp ..... The Croppy Boy  
SÍLE DE VALERA ..... The Mother (Pádraig Mac Piarais)  
ST. JAMES'S BRASS & REED BAND ..... Kevin Barry  
Ballyneety Walls  
A Nation Once Again  
LIAM DEVALLY ..... Roddy McCorley  
The Coolin  
Twenty Men from Dublin Town  
Accompanist: Thelma Ramsey  
RINNCEÓIRÍ INIS EALGA ..... Trip to the Cottage  
The Three Sea Captains  
Hornpipe  
MARY SHERIDAN ..... An Druimín Donn Dílis  
The Last Rose of Summer  
Ireland Mother Ireland  
Accompanist: Thelma Ramsey  
VIVIENNE COLGAN with Harp ..... Fil Fil a Rún Ó  
Four Green Fields  
THE FOYLE SINGERS FROM DERRY ..... Boulavogue  
Meeting of the Waters  
The West's Awake  
FRANK PATTERSON ..... Moira My Girl  
Sliabh na mBan  
I Hear You Calling Me  
Accompanist. Eily O'Grady  
CEOILTÓIRÍ UÍ CEARÚILL ..... Selection Irish Jigs,  
Carrol Group of Musicians Reels, Marches  
Fidil, Feadóg, Bodhrán agus Píbeanna Uileann  
FOYLE SINGERS FROM DERRY ..... A Nation Once Again  
CHRIS CURRAN WITH ENTIRE CAST ..... The Soldiers of the Legion  
of the Rearguard

AMHRÁN NA BHFIANN

PRODUCER . Fred O'Donovan

## VISION OF NOBLER ENDING

Certain newspapers have been very persistent in looking for my answer to Mr. Churchill's recent broadcast. I know the kind of answer I am expected to make. I know the answer that first springs to the lips of every man of Irish blood who heard or read that speech, no matter in what circumstances or in what part of the world he found himself.

I know the reply I would have given a quarter of a century ago. But I have deliberately decided that that is not the reply I shall make tonight. I shall strive not to be guilty of adding any fuel to the flames of hatred and passion which if continued to be fed, promise to burn up whatever is left by the war of decent human feeling in Europe.

Allowances can be made for Mr. Churchill's statement, however unworthy, in the first flush of his victory. No such excuses could be found for me in this quieter atmosphere. There are, however, some things which it is my duty to say, some things which it is essential to say, I shall try to say them as dispassionately as I can.

### *Our Neutrality*

Mr. Churchill makes it clear that, in certain circumstances, he would have violated our neutrality and that he would justify his action by Britain's necessity. It seems strange to me that Mr. Churchill does not see that this, if accepted, would mean that Britain's necessity would become a moral code and that when this necessity became sufficiently great, other people's rights were not to count.

It is quite true that other Powers believe in this same code — in their own regard — and have behaved in accordance with it. That is precisely why we have the disastrous succession of wars — world war no. 1 and world war no. 2 — and shall it be world war no. 3?

Surely Mr. Churchill must see that if his contention be admitted in our regard, a like justification can be framed for similar acts of aggression elsewhere and no small nation adjoining a great Power could ever hope to be permitted to go its own way in peace.

It is, indeed, fortunate that Britain's necessity did not reach the point when Mr. Churchill would have acted. All credit to him that he successfully resisted the temptation which I have no doubt, many times assailed him in his difficulties and to which I freely admit many leaders might have easily succumbed. It is, indeed, hard for the strong to just to the weak but acting justly always has its rewards.

By resisting his temptation in this instance, Mr. Churchill, instead of adding another horrid chapter to the already bloodstained record of the relations between England and this country, has advanced the cause of international morality an important step — one of the most important, indeed, that can be taken on the road to the establishment of any sure basis for peace. . . .

### *Lone, Long Stand*

Mr. Churchill is proud of Britain's stand alone, after France had fallen and before America entered the war.

Could he not find in his heart the generosity to acknowledge that there is a small nation that stood alone not for one year or two, but for several hundred years against aggression; that endured spoils, famines, massacres in endless succession; that was clubbed many times into insensibility, but that each time on returning consciousness took up the fight anew; a small nation that could never be got to accept defeat and has never surrendered her soul?

Mr. Churchill is justly proud of his nation's perseverance against heavy odds. But we in this island are still prouder of our people's perseverance for freedom through all the centuries. We of our time have played our part in that perseverance, and we have pledged ourselves to the dead generations who have preserved intact for us this glorious heritage, that we too will strive to be faithful to the end, and pass on this tradition unblemished.

Many a time in the past there appeared little hope except that hope to which Mr. Churchill referred, that by standing fast a time would come when, to quote his own words, "the tyrant would make some ghastly mistake which would alter the whole balance of the struggle".

#### *Our ultimate Unity*

I sincerely trust, however, that it is not thus our ultimate unity and freedom will be achieved, though as a younger man I confess I prayed even for that, and indeed at times saw no other.

In latter years, I have had a vision of a nobler and better ending, better for both our people and for the future of mankind. For that I have now been long working. I regret that it is not to this nobler purpose that Mr. Churchill is lending his hand rather than, by the abuse of a people who have done him no wrong, trying to find in a crisis like the present excuse for continuing the injustice of the mutilation of our country.

I sincerely hope that Mr. Churchill has not deliberately chosen the latter course but, if he has, however regretfully we may say it, we can only say, be it so.

Meanwhile, even as a partitioned small nation, we shall go on and strive to play our part in the world, continuing unswervingly to work for the cause of true freedom and for peace and understanding between all nations.

As a community which has been mercifully spared from all the major sufferings as well as from the blinding hates and rancours engendered by the present war, we shall endeavour to render thanks to God by playing a Christian part in helping, so far as a small nation can, to bind up some of the gaping wounds of suffering humanity.

Agus anois, caithfidh mé slán a fhágáil agaibh. Nuair a bhíos ag caint libh i dtús an chogaidh, chuireas an tír agus a muintir faoi choimirce Dé agus a Mháthar Muire, agus isé mo ghuide anocht: Go raibh an choimirí chumhachtach chéanna oraibh san aimsir atá romhainn!

*Extract from the Taoiseach Eamon de Valera's broadcast to nation, 17th May, 1945, in reply to broadcast of British Premier Mr. Winston Churchill on 13th May, 1945, at conclusion of European war.*

## Some of the Achievements

- 1932 : Formation of First Fianna Fáil Government.  
Retention of Land Annuities and stand against British Economic Sanctions.  
Commencement of Industrial Drive, and of new Agricultural Policy.
- 1933 : Removal of Oath of Allegiance.  
Abolition of Governor-General's veto on legislation, and of right of appeal to British Privy Council.
- 1935 : Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act; creation of Irish citizenship for international purposes.
- 1936 : Abolition of Office of Governor-General, removal of British King from Free State Constitution.  
Aer Lingus established.
- 1937 : Bunreacht na hEireann enacted by Plebiscite (July 1)  
Bunreacht na hEireann came into operation (Dec. 29)
- 1938 : Agreement for return of Ports, cancellation of war-time facilities Articles of "Treaty" and successful termination of Economic War, and of Annuities dispute.  
Election of first president of Ireland, Dr. Douglas Hyde.  
Eamon de Valera elected President of League of Nations Assembly.
- 1939/45 : Declaration, and maintenance of neutrality.
- 1941 : Irish Shipping Ltd., established.
- 1946 : Industrial Relations Act — Labour Court established.
- 1947 : Depts. of Health and Social Welfare set up.
- 1951 : Fianna Fáil returned to Government.  
Coras Trachtala (Irish Export Board) established.
- 1952 : Foyle Fisheries Commission established.
- 1953 : New Health Act introducing many reforms in Health Services.
- 1957 : Treaty of Rome, establishing European Economic Community, signed.
- 1958 : First Programme for Economic Expansion published.
- 1959 : Dept. of Transport and Power set up. Shannon Free Airport Development Co. established.
- 1960 : Irish Troops leave for service with United Nations in the Congo.
- 1961 : Bord Bainne established.  
Application to join EEC submitted.  
Telefís Eireann inaugurated.
- 1963 : Second Programme for Economic Expansion.
- 1965 : Sean Lemass visits Terence O'Neill at Stormont — visit returned.  
Anglo/Irish Free Trade Agreement signed in London.  
Succession Act passed introducing statutory right of spouse to share in estate of deceased.
- 1966 : Dept. of Labour established.  
Free education scheme announced.
- 1969 : Third Programme for Economic Expansion published.
- 1970 : Negotiations on EEC entry open.
- 1972 : Treaty of Accession to EEC signed.  
Referendum on entry to EEC, results in large majority in favour.
- 1973 : Ireland joins EEC.



# FIANNA FÁIL

*The Republican Party*

Membership of the Organisation is open to all persons of Irish birth, parentage, or residence, who accept the Constitution and Rules of Fianna Fáil.

The inestimable heritage of a great tradition has been handed on to us, but we, ourselves, must give it life by our own service, and by our devotion.

We are held by a bond of allegiance to our nation — everything that concerns our nation concerns us. We want to see that the characteristics of that nation are preserved, that the well-being of our people is properly served, and that the ideals of the past which distinguished our Nation continue to be respected.

*“All the strength and manhood of the island — all the courage, energies and ambition — all the passion, heroism and chivalry — all the strong men and strong minds throng the larger and loftier undertaking and flock round the banner that flies nearest the sky. There go the young, the gallant, the gifted, the daring; and there, too, go the wise.” —*

*FINTAN LALOR*

## A nDEARNADH

Ba mhór go léir an t-ugach dóchais a tugadh dóibh siúd a bhí gafa le hathbheochan na Gaeilge nuair a bhunaigh Eamon de Valera Fianna Fáil agus nuair a cinneadh go mbeadh “an Gheailge a thabhairt ar ais mar theanga labhartha ag an bpobal” ar cheann de phríomhaidhmeanna an Pháirtí. Níor mhór ar fad, ámh, ba chumas don Pháirtí nua seo do shlánú na haidhme sin sna blianta tosaigh dá ré ach a ndearnadar lena ndeashampla féin. Dev féin a bhíodh chun tosaigh ar an réim sin, ach bhí páirtithe maithe aige. Bhítí ag súil le Ghaeilge a chloisteáil uathu, go háirithe uaidh féin, agus ba iad nár loic.

Ansin ar theacht i gcumhacht Rialtais d’Fhianna Fáil sa bhliain 1932 chuir siad lena bhfocal. Mar thús, abair, rinneadh ábhar riachtanach den Ghaeilge do scrúdú na hArdteistiméireachta (1933-34). Méadaíodh go mór ar na deontais do Mheánscoileanna a dhéanfadh a gcuid teagaisc trí Ghaeilge, agus mhéadaigh go suntasach dá dhroim sin ar líon na scoileanna a rinne amhlaidh. Chomh maith leis sin, cuireadh deontais speisialta ar fáil do Mheánscoileanna a mbeadh labhairt na Gaeilge go maith ag a ndaltaí iontu. Fairis sin, tionscnaíodh scéim scoláireachtaí Ollscoile do mhic léinn a mbeadh deachumas labharta Gaeilge acu agus arbh áil leo gabháil le cúrsaí Ollscoile i nGaeilge.

Fianna Fáil, freisin, a thionscain an scéim deontais do thuismitheoirí Gaeltachta i leith leanaí dá gcuid arb í an Ghaeilge gnáth-theanga a dteaghlaigh agus an scéim chun coilíneachtaí ó phobal na Gaeltachta a aistriú go Co. na Midhe. Ba iad, chomh maith, a bhunaigh Gaeltarra Éireann ina chomhlacht státurraithe a bhfuil mórleas eacnamaíochta is fostaíochta déanta aige do na ceantair Ghaeltachta. Bunú Radió na Gaeltachta sa bhliain 1972, ámh, an beart ba mór ar fad tábhacht is tionchar — don Ghaeltacht go sonrach agus ar mhaithe leis an nGaeilge i gcoitinne. Is geall anois dá dhroim le haon phobal comhaontaithe amháin comhphobail uile na Gaeltachta, agus is é is lóchrann eolais is meanman do theanga, do shaíocht is do cheol an fhíordhúchais sinseartha don tír uile, chomh maith leis leis an Ghaeltacht féin, ó chéad lá a chraolta.

Eamon de Valera féin, ina Thaoiseach dó, a d’fhéach chuige go mbunófaí Institiúid an Ardléinn agus Scoil an Léinn Cheiltigh ina comhchuid den Institiúid sin. D’éagmais, freisin, a shuime pearsanta féin iontu, ní móide ach oiread go mbunófaí an Coimisiún Logainmneacha ná an Coimisiún Béaloideas ná go gcuirfí ar fáil an Caighdeán Oifigiúil do Ghramadach agus do Litríú na Gaeilge. Agus ná dearmadtar gurbh Airí Airgeadais de chuid Fianna Fáil a chéad-sholáthraigh deontas do bhunú Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge agus deontais d’fhoilsitheoirí na dtréimhseachán Gaeilge.

Níl san áireamh sin ach beagán dá ndearnadh, ach dá thoradh uile go léir le chéile is éachtach mar a méadaíodh ar an líon daoine sa Ghalltacht a bhfuil déanamh a ngnó de Ghaeilge acu. Tháinig freisin dá bharr fás suntasach faoi shaothrú na scríbhneoireachta Gaeilge, agus rinneadh mórfhorbairt ar na nGaeilge féin chun teanga fhoirfe nua-aoiseach a dhéanamh di.

## A bhFUIL LE DÉANAMH

A ndearnadh agus ar baineadh amach don Ghaeilge sna blianta a raibh Fianna Fáil i gcumhacht Rialtais, idir 1932 agus 1973, bhí ann an dúshraith ba ghá a leagan le go bhféadfaí athbheochan na teanga mar ghnáthmheán cumarsáide an phobail a thabhairt i gcrích go cinnte. Tosach na hoibre a bhí ann, ach ba thús é nach raibh gan a thoradh; dá chomartha sin, agus gan dul thairis, féach a mhéid teachtaí nár den Ghaeltacht iad a léirigh a gcumas labhartha Ghaeilge, agus a bhfonn chun a labhartha, ag an Ard-Fheis seo is déanaí a bhí againn.

Is baolach, ámh, go bhfuil laghdaithe go mór ar an bhfuadar chun na hathbheochana le trí bliana anuas. Tá íslithe ar ghradam na Gaeilge mar ábhar scoile agus ní gá a thuilleadh an Ghaeilge a bheith ag Státseirbhísigh.

Ar Fhianna Fáil anois atá brath an phobail chun na rothaí a chur sa tsiúl in athuair, chun a dheimhniú go mbeidh againn arís agus feasta múinteoirí a mbeidh an Ghaeilge ar a dtoil acu agus go múinfear an teanga go héifeachtach cóir sna scoileanna, chun go mbeadh fáil ar leorchothrom téacsleabhar Gaeilge don uile ábhar le haghaidh na scoileanna arbh áil leo a gcuid teagaisc a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge, agus chun fhéachaint chuige go leathnófar go céimnithe comhordaithe ar úsáid na teanga i measc an phobail sa saol iarscoile.

Chuige sin, ní leor ann féin bá don Ghaeilge. D'éagmais rún daingean go sábháilfear an teanga agus leor-chúnamh airgid chuige sin a chur ar fáil, agus d'éagmais gach gné den bheartas oifigiúil athbheochana a bheith go leanúnach agus sách iomlán ann féin, agus iad uile a bheith i gcomhord le chéile, ní éireoidh leis an iarracht.

Bíodh nach d'aontoisc a tharla sé, bhí de laige leis na beartais oifigiúla Stáit ar son na Gaeilge go n-uige seo nár bhain siad riamh ach le beagán aicmí den phobal — le múinteoirí agus le mic léinn, le cuid de na hoifigigh phoiblí, agus, a bheag nó a mhór, le muintir na Gaeltachta. Feasta ní foláir oiread is ab fhéidir den ghnáthphobal a mhealladh le bheith i dteagmháil le cibé beartais athbheochana a thionscnófar, leanúint leis na beartais sin go ceann aidhme a dtionscnaithe, agus an pobal i gcoitinne a ghríosú agus a threorú chun a mbeidh den Ghaeilge acu a úsáid i ngnathchúrsaí an tsaoil — oifigiúil is eile.

Níor chóir gur ró-dheacair ná gur dho-dhéanta é sin, mar tá ann cheanna féin líon nach beag daoine a bhfuil an Ghaeilge go maith ar a dtoll acu agus arbh fhonn leo í a labhairt is a scríobh ach caoi gan doic a bheith acu chuige sin. Uime sin, freisin, níor mhiste arís go n-iarrafaí go hoifigiúil ar lucht na Státseirbhíse ach go háirithe, dála mar a rinne Eamon de Valera sa bhliain 1940, comhoibriú leis an nGaeilge a chur chun cinn ina ngnóthaí féin agus i saol na tíre — iarratas is deimhin a gheobhadh cuid mhaith freagartha.

Rud éigin dá shórt sin, ní foláir, a bhí i gceist ag Seán Ó Loinsigh, T.D., Uachtarán Fianna Fáil, sa bhliain 1974, nuair a dúirt: “Le linn dúinn barr suime a chur i bhfadhbanna eacnamaíochta na tíre, ná dearmadaimis an dúshlán polaitiúil agus cultúrtha a gcaithfear agaidh a thabhairt air”. Go sonrach, ní foláir cur go dáiríre in athuair chun athbheochan na Gaeilge nó is in ísle bhrí a rachaidh, agus teipfidh air. Ar ndóigh, ní hé sin ab áil linn.

# ÁRD CHOMHAIRLE 1976-1977

## *Uachtarán:*

Seán Ó Loinsigh, T.D.

## *Leas-Uachtarán:*

Patrick Smith, T.D.

Seán MacEntee  
Joseph Brennan, T.D.

Joseph Groome  
Thomas L. Mullins

## *Rúnaithe Oinigh*

Charles J. Haughey, T.D.

Senator Brian Lenihan

## *Cisteóirí Oinigh*

George Colley, T.D.

Anthony J. Hederman, S.C.

## *Coiste an Chúigir Déag*

Niall Andrews  
Gerard Brady  
Cathal Brugha  
Sean Doherty, MCC  
Michael Donnelly

Martin Fogarty  
Eamonn Foley  
Tony Herbert  
Jack Lawlor  
Liam Lawlor

Fergus Muldoon  
Farrell McElgunn  
Mrs. Ria O'Brien  
Patrick Russell  
Dr. Patrick Tubridy

## *Oireachtas*

Front Bench  
Sylvester Barrett, T.D.

Gerard Collins, T.D.

Joseph Dowling, T.D.

Dáil agus an Seanad  
Seamus Dolan  
Senator William Ryan

Joseph Farrell, T.D.

Ray McSharry, T.D.  
Senator Eoin Ryan

## *Co-options*

Michael Champion

Michael Conroy

Des Smith

## *Constituency Delegates*

Carlow — A. Kennedy MCC  
Cavan — D. J. McDonald MCC  
Clare — D. P. Honan  
Cork Mid. — D. Fitzpatrick  
Cork City — Thomas Ahern  
Cork N.E. — Jerh Sheedy  
Cork S.W. — P. Callanan  
Donegal — Thomas Brennan  
Dublin-Artane — F. V. McDonnell P.C.  
Dublin-Ballyfermot — M. Birrane  
Dublin-Cabra — F. Keely  
Dublin-Finglas — R. Walsh  
Dublin-Clontarf — Ed Brennan, T.C.  
Dublin-Rathmines — Miss N. Slattery  
Dublin N. Central — L. Ward  
Dublin S. Central — Mrs. V. Kinsella

Dublin S. East — Ml. de Buitléir  
Dublin M. Co. — J. Hilliard  
Dublin N. Co. — C. A. Leonard  
Dublin S. Co. — E. Davis  
Dublin W. Co. — T. Boland  
Dun Laoghaire — T. F. Macken  
Galway E. — Ed. Haverty MCC  
Galway W. — M. J. Glynn  
Kerry N. — D. Foley, P.C.  
Kerry S. — P. J. Cronin  
Kildare — T. Gillece  
Kilkenny — P. Smithwick, T.C.  
Laois — L. Hyland MCC  
Leitrim — Wm. Farrell  
Limerick E. — M. Carroll  
Limerick W. — M. Kennelly

Longford — A. Reynolds MCC  
Louth — T. Bellew  
Mayo E. — J. J. Bolingbroke  
Mayo W. — P. J. Muldoon MCC  
Meath — R. Healy  
Monaghan — F. McConnon  
Offaly — J. W. Houlihan  
Roscommon — S. de Brún  
Sligo — Wm. Farrell  
Tipperary N. — M. Smith MCC  
Tipperary S. — J. Kennedy  
Waterford — P. Wall  
Westmeath — J. O'Brien  
Wexford — D. Byrne  
Wicklow — T. Herr

## *Ard Rúnaí*

Seamus Brennan

## *Leas Ard Rúnaí*

Capt. John O'Carroll

## *National Organiser*

Joseph O'Neill

## THE POLICY OF FIANNA FÁIL

The political and social principles of Fianna Fáil are those enshrined in the Constitution. We believe in the right of the people to choose their Government, and in final resort to determine all questions of national policy. We believe in preserving for the individual the fullest freedom consistent with the rights of his fellow citizens and the general welfare. We respect the dignity of the human person and the indefeasible place of the family as the fundamental unit group of society. We regard the State as being ordained for the individual, not the individual for the State. We believe in the right to private property and in its widest practicable diffusion. We believe in private initiative and private enterprise, supplemented where necessary by the efforts of the State, as best conducing to the well-being of the community as a whole and, with the necessary safeguards, as being best calculated to promote the common good.

The political, social, economic, and cultural programmes for the national development formulated by Fianna Fáil are in accord with these principles.

EAMON de VALERA  
*(Election Address, 1948)*

## *Soldiers of the Legion of the Rearguard*

1

Lurid the morning with flame and shot and shell  
Now rally Ireland the sons who love you well.  
Pledge they'll defend you through death or prison cell  
Proud march the Soldiers of the Rearguard,  
"Up the Republic" shall be their battle cry  
Pearse, Clarke, McDermott will pray for them on high  
Eager and ready for love of you to die  
True Gaels the Soldiers of the Rearguard.

Chorus

Legion of the Rearguard answering Ireland's call,  
Hark, their martial tramp is heard from Cork to Donegal  
Tone and Emmet guide you tho' your task be hard  
De Valera leads you Soldiers of the Legion of the Rearguard.

2.

Street, hillside, valley they send their sons along,  
The plough, office workshop, a score of thousands strong.  
Spirit of Brian they come with martial song,  
Wait for the Soldiers of the Rearguard.  
Cork, Kerry, Wexford, Tipperary, Clare,  
Galway to Dublin, Tirconnail to Kildare,  
None shall be missing, all Ireland will be there  
Steadfast the Soldiers of the Rearguard.

Chorus

3.

Crimson on the roadside, the prison wall, the cave,  
Proof of their valour, go sleep in peace ye brave,  
Comrades tread lightly, you're near a hero's grave,  
For there lies a Soldier of the Rearguard.  
Shell-shattered fortress, and shot-scarred barricade,  
Trumpet the story of the gallant fight they made,  
Weary, out-numbered, undaunted, undismayed,  
God bless the Soldiers of the Rearguard.

(By Jack O'Sheehan, Hare Park Prison Camp, Kildare)

# BUÍOCAS

Tá an Coiste Stiúrtha buíoc ó chroidhe do gach duine a chabhruigh có fial san leo an gcomóradh seo do chur ar siúl, agus goháirithe le stiúrthóirí an R.D.S. le Fred O'Donovan, agus le na ceoltóirí go léir. Go gcuitítear a bhféile leo.

A word of warm appreciation and thanks is due to all our good friends who have so generously contributed to the success of this historic occasion. The Organising Committee especially wish to express their gratitude to the artists who are helping by their distinguished and accomplished performances and to Fred O'Donovan for his very generous assistance in organising and producing the concert.

We also wish to thank the R.D.S. and staff for their helpfulness and co-operation.

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## AN COISTE LÚBHAILE ÓRGA

*Chairman*

Joseph Groome

*Vice-President*

Sean McEntee

*Vice-President*

Thomas L. Mullins

*Vice-President*

Frank V. McDonnell, P.C.

*Vice Chairman*

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Des Smith

Liam Lalor

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Eoin Kenny

Thomas Herr

Michael Campion

Miss. Margaret O'Neill

Seamus Brennan

*Ard-Rúnaí*

Capt. John O'Carroll

*Leas Ard-Rúnaí*

Joseph O'Neill

*National Organiser*