



SEANAD SEAT FOR WHITAKER



FOUR NEW SENATORS — FROM LEFT: MR. NOEL MULCAHY, LADY VALERIE GOULDING, MISS MARY HARNEY AND DR. T. K. WHITAKER.

Lynch picks 3 women

By GERRY FLANAGAN

THE TAOISEACH yesterday announced his 11 nominations for Seanad seats—and of the team only seven are known to be Fianna Fail members. Three of the 11 are women, and there are four Protestants among those named, one of them being Mr. Michael Yeats, a Fianna Fail representative in the European Parliament and one of the early 'casualties' in last week's Seanad elections.

News at a glance

Injuries scare in Cork camp



Mick Malone

Mick O'Dwyer

By PADRAIG PURSEAL

A TRIAL game between the Cork senior hurlers and the county's Under-21 squad at Pairc Uí Chaoimh last night nearly ended disastrously for Cork's senior All Ireland hopes.

Early on Mick Malone received a gash on his head that will need several stitches. Seanie O'Leary received a stud gash on an ankle while Gerald McCarthy was temporarily sidelined from a severe blow of the ball on the nose.

But team doctor, Con Murphy, held afterwards that all the injuries were minor, and he had no worries whatsoever about their fitness for the final against Wexford on Sunday week.

On a brighter note, Blackrock's Pat Moylan gave himself a testing tryout and performed well enough to suggest that he may yet be in the reckoning for a place in the final line-up. He was Cork's brightest star against Wexford in last year's final.

Another leading figure in the Munster GAA world, Mick O'Dwyer, the Kerry football trainer, has quashed rumours that he would be retiring as Kerry trainer following the team's defeat by Dublin in the All Ireland semi-final.

He said yesterday that he would continue to be the team trainer while needed, and last night he travelled to Tralee where he is training the under-21 football team for the All Ireland semi-final.

Barley crop beats the downturn

Despite the recent heavy rain, the year's barley crop is expected to be good, according to reports from the Department of Agriculture.

Big hunt for bank raiders

Troops joined Garda in a massive manhunt in Co. Donegal last night for five men who raided a bank manager's home, held his 12-year-old son hostage for 15 minutes and later opened fire as they drove through a roadblock.

Prize cash

A quantity of limited priced...

Nominations along strictly party lines would have given the Government an overall majority of one in the Upper House — assuming a Fianna Fail Cathaoirleach is elected.

A surprise choice by Mr. Lynch was Lady Valerie Goulding, of Enniskerry, daughter of a former Conservative Minister in the British Government, Sir Walter Moncton, later Lord Moncton. She was one of the three women appointed to the Upper House by Mr. Lynch, who was honouring a pre-election promise made to the Cork branch of the Widows' Association when he said it was his intention, if elected, to nominate more women to the Seanad.

The others are a Ballymore-Eustace housewife, Mrs. Eileen Cassidy, mother of seven and wife of Mr. John Cassidy, S.C., who has been an active Fianna Fail member; and Mary Harney, a defeated Fianna Fail candidate in Dublin South East in the general election.

In her early twenties, Miss Harney is possibly the youngest ever member of the Seanad and was auditor of the TCD Philosophical Society.

Support

Another surprise appointment by Mr. Lynch is that of Sen. Valentine Jago, a former Lord Mayor of Cork and a founder member of the Cork Civic Party, now defunct. He is not a member of Fianna Fail, but was chairman of the Constituents' Council, an associate organisation established by Fianna Fail in Cork to entice people not committed to the present Government party to become members of it.

Mr. Jago is likely to support Fianna Fail on major issues in the Seanad. Another appointee is Mr. Gordon Lambert, managing director of Jacobs, who is not a member of the party. He has close associations with Northern Ireland and is well known in art circles.

Mr. Seamus Brennan, the youthful Galwayman who took over the general secretaryship of the party and made his mark particularly in his initiative to organise the party's youth conferences, has also been appointed a senator.

Mr. Bernard McGlinchey narrowly defeated in the Seanad election, failing to gain a nomination in the Donegal North East by-election 15 months ago and unsuccessful as a Fianna Fail candidate in the general election, is also among the Taoiseach's nominees.

Popular

Another new senator is Mr. Noel Mulcahy, who filled in his Dad's seat in Dublin North Central on the Fianna Fail ticket in the general election. He is a member of the Irish Management Insti-

tute and a former Cathaoirleach of Cinnhairle na Gael.

A popular choice in the West is Mr. Seamus de Brun, a vocational teacher of Castlereagh, Co. Roscommon, who has twice been unsuccessful in Seanad elections and has been chairman of Comhaltas Ceoiltoiri Eireann.

One of Mr. Lynch's most

To page 4

Aer Lingus flies on ...

...amid holiday chaos

IT'S A BLEAK outlook for holidaymakers this weekend. Not only has the strike of London's air traffic control assistants disrupted flights abroad; bookings have also been affected by the telex dispute, and there is a possibility of industrial action by workers in French and Spanish airports.

Aer Lingus said yesterday that they nonetheless expect to accommodate all intending passengers over the weekend—including those booked for London and the 6,000 people travelling to Mediterranean resorts. Transatlantic flights are not affected and will operate normally.

Their statement said that some of the London flights might have to be diverted to Bristol or Birmingham where an express coach service will be laid on. Other flights would operate normally, but there might be some delays. Yesterday there were delays of up to four hours on the Dublin-London service and the return journeys, and five flights were diverted to Bristol.

But despite all the problems, Aer Lingus has advised intending passengers to check in at the normal time. Information about all charter flights is available from tour operators involved.

An Aer Lingus spokesman said: "We may still be able to accommodate more passengers this weekend on our scheduled services, so anyone wishing to travel should contact the normal reservations of public booking offices."

There is little doubt that the London strike has come at the worst possible time for Aer

Lingus, since the British bank holiday is a peak period for people returning to Ireland for their holidays.

The stoppage has meant that the Dublin-Liverpool and Cork-Swansea car ferries are very heavily booked, although a B. and I. statement yesterday said limited space is available on most departures. Altogether, nearly 4,500 cars and 20,000 passengers will travel on the ferries this weekend.

Children's flight

British Airways have secured agreement from the Irish and Spanish Governments for the direct flight from Dublin to Valencia to get 350 school children home, starting on Irish holiday.

To page 4

An overdose of despair

DRUG overdoses among young people, particularly women, has reached epidemic proportions, according to the annual report of the Medico-Social Research Board. In another study, sponsored by the E.E.C., the board found that Dublin schoolchildren were more prone to coughs, colds and other respiratory illness than their counterparts in Cork or Galway.

Self-poisoning among the young now accounts for 15 per cent of all admissions to many hospitals, they found. The report says that while the reported suicide rate has remained relatively static, the number of admissions to hospital due to overdose or toxic reaction to drugs has been increasing steadily in Ireland as elsewhere. And most of the admissions have been women in the 15 to 24 age group.

The new phenomenon, variously labelled pseudo-suicide, para-suicide or gesture poisoning, was described yesterday by Dr. Geoffrey Dean, director of the board, as a "cry for

help" from young women who find they cannot cope with their emotional problems—so they take an overdose to "get attention".

The board's report says that this "worsening situation" has developed in parallel with an increase in the prescription of psychotropic medicines, such as tranquillisers, even though overt drug abuse and addiction appear to be declining. And because of the increasing tendency to prescribe tranquillisers, deaths from overdoses are rising steadily.

The report also notes that the suicide rate among Irish emigrants living in Britain is much higher than for the indigenous population. A survey showed that the number of deaths by suicide among emigrants of both sexes was 40 per cent higher than what might otherwise have been expected.

The EEC-sponsored study was concerned with the relationship between air pollution, standards of living and respiratory disease among children, and almost 4,500 children between the

ages of six and 11 were examined. Dublin children were smaller than those of the same age in Cork and Galway. This was most marked in older boys, who also weighed less than their provincial counterparts.

Respiratory symptoms and disease was, in almost every case, about twice as prevalent among those in Dublin than in Galway, a city where there is very little air pollution. This was true for such categories as morning cough, day and night cough, shortness of breath, wheezy chest and chest colds.

The survey also found that bronchitis and pneumonia were more prevalent in Cork, as were asthma, hay fever and eczema. However, this analysis is only preliminary and further research is needed to relate the findings to the experience of air pollution in the three centres concerned.

Another study, carried out last year, showed that there was a high prevalence of multiple sclerosis among Irish emigrants in the West Midlands of England. The same was true of im-

migrants from other European countries, except Malta, and of those from the "Old Commonwealth" countries of Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Interestingly, there was a low prevalence of the disease among immigrants from India. These findings confirm the results of an earlier survey in the Greater London area.

A study of the prevalence and distribution of the disease in Ireland is currently under way. Some 2,000 people have been diagnosed as having multiple sclerosis, which is the most common disease of the nervous system and it usually affects otherwise healthy men and women in the prime of life.

Although the cause of the disease has not been determined, studies have shown that it results from a combination of inherited and environmental factors. Its prevalence varies and is very low in Sicily and Malta, for example.

The EEC has asked Dr. Geoffrey Dean to organise a study of the disease in these two areas. How our lifestyle is killing us: page 7)



Three Rose of Tralee contestants at Dublin Airport, yesterday, prior to a reception attended by the Minister for the Gaeltacht, Mr. Gallagher (from left) ... Orla Burke (Waterford), Maureen Kennelly (Tralee) and Paula Byrne (Cork).

Devlin quits, but no split

SDLP policy row

By MICHAEL KEANE

THE DECISION of Mr. Paddy Devlin of the SDLP to resign yesterday as chairman of his Party's public representative council in protest over current policy proposals, is not considered likely to cause a major split in the party ranks, but will certainly intensify debate on future strategy.

That debate will come to a head on Wednesday at a joint meeting of the constituency representatives and the executive to discuss the policy document which places greater emphasis on the Irish dimension and recognises that the possibility of power-sharing within the context of a Northern Ireland administration has faded very badly.

Clearly, Mr. Devlin does not share his colleagues' view that an accommodation between the SDLP and the moderate Unionists is well nigh impossible at this stage. However, it would also appear that Mr. Devlin's is the minority viewpoint.

Mr. Devlin made it clear in a lengthy statement that he is staying on in the party, but his decision to resign from such an important internal post must be seen as a further set-back to the party's fortunes, which have been in decline since the fall of the power-sharing Executive in 1974.

Throughout his political career, Mr. Devlin has been an individualist, and his frequent clashes, both public and private, with other leading party members, particularly those who have been convicted, have been well known. Mr. Devlin is very highly regarded within the party. His commitment to the underprivileged has earned him huge respect in both the Loyalist and Catholic communities.

Mr. Devlin's resignation was a statement as "a piece of truth" which was released to the public by the party's press officer, Mr. Gerry O'Connell, yesterday.

It is not necessary to overstate the importance of the resignation, among other things, as it is a personal decision and does not reflect the views of the party as a whole. However, it does indicate a deepening of the ideological divide within the party, and it is likely to lead to a more open and honest debate on the party's future strategy.

Irish link 'cherished'

The former chief whip of the SDLP, Mr. Paddy O'Hanlon, said last night that the present future about the party's policy appeared to have arisen as a result of a series of misconceptions.

He said that misconceptions about the SDLP policy were cultivated by a hostile media, but he wanted to emphasise that the Irish dimension remained an integral part of policy and was cherished in the same manner as Unionists cherished the link with Britain.

MR. GLENN Barr, deputy leader of Vanguard, called on public representatives who privately agreed with Mr. Devlin's sentiments to say so in public. The UPNI leader, Mrs. Ann Dixon, said that Mr. Devlin had taken a courageous stand against the Government's policy within his party, while the Official Unionist, Mr. John Taylor, said Mr. Devlin's resignation underlined the alarm within SDLP ranks at the hard-line attitude being taken by some members.

In addition to explaining his position and stating for other reasons, as well as those concerned with the party's future strategy.

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To page 4