



The Cork Examiner

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TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 1, 1994

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 Tom Dooley (The Sunday Tribune)



■ Helping the disabled.

Director describes work of Clinic

■ THE new director of Cork Spastic Clinic describes how staff at the Ballintemple centre help the severely disabled. **PAGE 14**



■ Denise and Ralph Bulger.

Bulger family want son's killers held

■ THE parents of murdered toddler Jamie Bulger yesterday launched a campaign to keep their son's killers in jail for an indefinite period. **PAGE 11**



■ Liverpool's Roy Evans.

Liverpool select Evans as manager

■ LIVERPOOL soccer club went back to basics yesterday and picked a new manager, Roy Evans, who has been on the coaching staff since 1974. **PAGE 20**

Council go-ahead

By RALPH RIEGEL

CORK Corporation last night unanimously ratified an ambitious £32m plan aimed at revolutionising the city's historic heart.

The Historic Centre Action Plan, which will act as a model for the regeneration of Cork, aims to secure support funding from the Government and the EU.

The plan boasts four broad sections: traffic programming, streetscape projects, environmental programmes and implementation initiatives.

The sections aim to co-ordinate the handling of city traffic, the improvement of the visual aspect of the city's approaches and the launch of key environmental and historic projects.

These will include the establishment of a £700,000 Cork Visitor Centre, a £1m tourism promotion, £1.2m for cultural developments

and £1.7m for the historic city centre trust. A total of £32.2m is required between the four sections for development work, with the council optimistic that the bulk of their goals can be achieved.

Cork City manager, Tom Rice, stressed that the plan must be submitted to the European Commission before next March, with its programmes also being submitted to the Department of the Environment for consideration.

A key element in the plan is the provision of private sector funding to match public investment, with the high-profile promotion campaign expected to be critical in securing that cash injection.

The plan was warmly welcomed by councillors last night, with Cllr Noel O'Flynn (FF) describing it as "the vital blueprint" for Cork's future.

12% pay offer

Public sector four-year deal?

By DECLAN KELLY, Industrial Correspondent

A PROPOSAL to increase public sector pay by more than 12% over four years has been tabled by Government negotiators at talks on a replacement for the PESP.

However, it is understood that the Taoiseach and senior Ministers have expressed certain reservations with the overall proposals, and that the talks on public sector elements could break down later today.

It is also understood that the Government wants the agreement to last four years — which means that separate deals for the public and private sector are be-

coming increasingly likely.

The pay offer is believed to have been tabled by Department of Finance negotiators as part of a package which would also see an initial pay pause of at least three months.

The percentage would include payment of special claims outstanding from the PESP, amounting to more than 3% for workers in several sectors, including teachers,

nurses, and other parts of the health service.

However, some sources were suggesting last night that the proposed package may yet be revised because it could prove difficult for the Government to "sell" politically.

It is understood that reservations in this regard were expressed last night at a meeting of the Cabinet sub-committee which comprises the Taoiseach, Tanaiste, and Ministers Ruairi Quinn and Bertie Ahern.

If the original offer is revised the prospects of a breakdown on public sector pay becomes a distinct possibility.

Under such a scenario the private sector agreement of 8% over three years would be signed in isolation, and the public sector pay question would be resolved at a later date.

Some sources were suggesting last night that if there is not substantial progress at this morning's negotiations then a complete collapse would be almost certain to occur this evening.

Most of the private sector pay package has been agreed with only a handful of remaining issues, most notably the question of minimum wage increases, still to be hammered out.

There has been very little progress to date on the agricultural chapter in the proposed new document A Programme For Work. ICMSA leader Tom O'Dwyer said last night that he was "disgusted" with the lack of progress.

He said that there had been no discussions whatsoever to date on crucial farmers' issues, such as education grants, discriminatory taxes against the agricultural sector, and several other rural development issues.

The farmers will be back at Government Buildings at 5pm tomorrow, but it could be at least another week before the final details in the agricultural chapter are agreed.

O'Malley goes for Europe

By TONY PURCELL and CLODAGH FINN

HOPES that the PDs can retain their Euro seat in the Munster constituency received a major boost last night when former party leader Des O'Malley dramatically announced that he was going to stand for Europe.

The announcement to allow his name to go before the party convention came at the end of a two-and-a-half-hour meeting held behind closed doors in which Mr O'Malley met members of the Limerick East constituency executive and local councillors to "clear the air" in the wake of the bitter controversy over the decision of party leader Mary Harney to ask the outgoing MEP Pat Cox to withdraw from contesting the Munster constituency.

Mr O'Malley, who was accompanied by Senator John Dardis, the PD national chairman, declared that the meeting was "cordial" in which all aspects of the European Election were discussed.

"I certainly would very much enjoy the challenge to go for Europe if selected by the Convention and if elected in the four-seat Munster constituency," he said, speaking outside the PD headquarters in Cecil Street.

Mr O'Malley acknowledged the powerful impact that Pat Cox made in Europe. "I do not think I will be as successful as Pat Cox," he said.

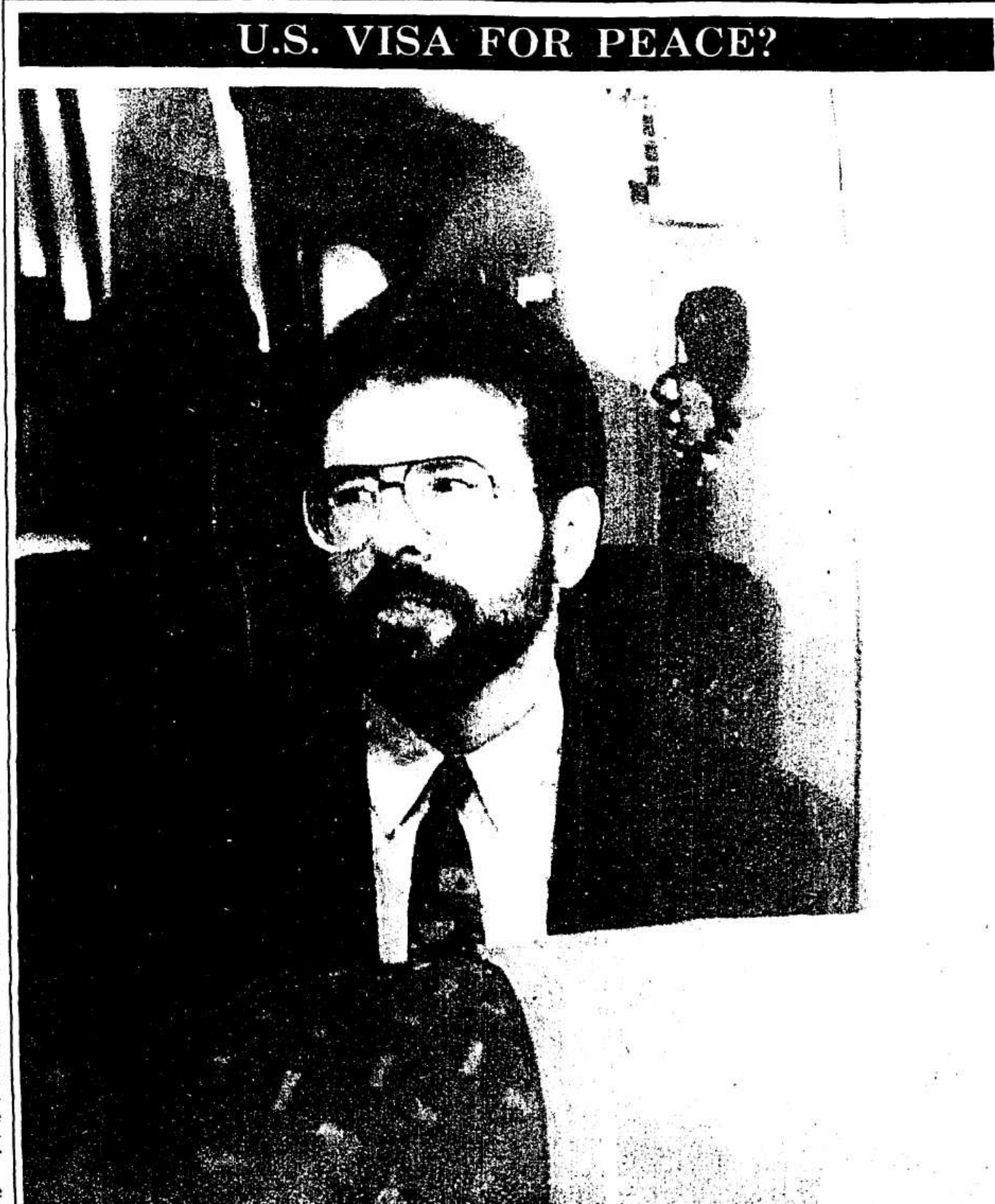
When asked why he had changed his mind and decided to go for

Europe when he had given a clear indication that he was not interested when he stepped down as party leader, Deputy O'Malley said that he had indicated four months ago that he would contest one further election and at that time his feeling was that this would be in the Limerick East constituency.

But because of the circumstances that had now arisen and the fact that Pat Cox had announced that he is not going some people felt he should go forward for Europe and that is why he had decided to allow his name to go before the convention.

Mr O'Malley believed that he could win the seat for the Progressive Democrats.

Professor Michael Hillery, Chairman of the Turn to Page Two, Col. 9



U.S. VISA FOR PEACE?

Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams on board the Aer Lingus flight to New York yesterday.

Hopes high as Adams arrives in New York

SINN FÉIN president Gerry Adams arrived in New York yesterday after winning a two-day visa from the US.

Irish-American political leaders hope the visit will be a turning point in the peace process in Northern Ireland — but British officials are angry about it.

There are hopes that Mr Adams will use his US forum today to signal what has to be done to end the 25 years of violence in Northern Ireland.

The forum will be hosted by the National

Committee on American Foreign Policy, whose honorary chairman is former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Mr Adams told a news conference after he arrived in New York: "This generation of young Republicans will see peace in Ireland, whether it will come in the short term or long term I can't say ... we have to produce a demilitarised nation."

Asked if the IRA supported a ceasefire, Mr Adams said: "I don't speak for the IRA. I speak for Sinn Féin."

But he added "the largest military presence in the north of Ireland is the British Army, followed by the allies of the loyalists and then the IRA. I want to see them all disarmed."

Asked if the British should leave Northern Ireland, Mr Adams said that was not necessary if they became part of the peace process.

"They have to become the persuaders. Once they become part of the peace process then we will be able to build a peaceful country."

"If John Major is willing to go the extra mile, I am too. Let's bridge the gap," he said.

Earlier, Taoiseach Albert Reynolds defended President Clinton's decision to grant a visa on the grounds that the visit might lead to a lasting peace.

The move by the Clinton administration raised a storm of criticism from Unionist politicians.

■ Editorial - Page 4; Reaction - Page 24.

O'Shea apologises for Hennessy remarks

By AILÍN QUINLAN



Kevin Hennessy

GOAL director John O'Shea has moved to defuse a simmering row over controversial remarks which sparked anger at a weekend function in Middleton.

He has issued a formal apology to Middleton's Junior Chamber of Commerce, the town's GAA Club and to Kevin Hennessy, the Cork and Middleton hurler, over a reference to Mr Hennessy's accent during an awards ceremony in

the town on Saturday. Mr O'Shea's comment that he found the sportsman's accent difficult to understand, and that he had never interviewed him because he would need an interpreter, infuriated the attendance at the Sports Stars Awards ceremony on Saturday night.

But the outspoken famine campaigner insisted yesterday the comments were part of a "lighthearted speech."

"In that speech I made jokes about lots of people, from Eamonn de Valera to Jimmy Bary Murphy. I was cracking a lot of jokes, and there was only one serious line in the story," he added.

Just one hour before boarding a plane to Ethiopia, where he is due to investigate the possibility of setting up feeding stations, he

issued a public apology for the remarks, which, he stressed, were never meant to insult.

"I am a great admirer of Mr Hennessy, and there was no implied criticism of his accent."

Mr O'Shea said that while people had initially clapped at his speech, some members of the audience had afterwards objected to the remarks about Mr Hennessy, who was not present at the function.

Mr O'Shea was

afterwards approached by the town's Junior Chamber of Commerce, which requested a formal apology.

The man at the centre of the controversy, Kevin Hennessy, was yesterday awaiting a copy of Mr O'Shea's apology from the Chamber of Commerce, and said he did not wish to comment.

Last night Robert Walsh, president of the Junior Chamber of

Turn to Page Two, Col. 6

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The Cork Examiner

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1994

A Cork investor with a British building society has queried their policy of employing 91% Protestants in their offices in Northern Ireland. LIAM HEYLIN reports:



■ Meredie O'Donoghue ... question of a building society defining its employment guidelines.

Adams' visit to the US

NOBODY would quibble with the granting of a US visa to Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams, if, as the Taoiseach suggested, it helps the peace process.

It comes into the same category as the other concessions made to Sinn Féin, including the lifting of Section 31.

Indeed, having removed the broadcasting ban on Sinn Féin/IRA, it would be illogical of the Government to oppose the 48-hour visit of Mr Adams to New York for a conference of political leaders from the North.

Ostensibly, this was a controversial decision made entirely by President Clinton, but one he would hardly have taken had there been opposition from Dublin.

No doubt he was also influenced by domestic considerations in acceding to requests for the visit from powerful Irish-Americans in the Senate and Congress, whose help he may now count on later.

In the process, he has offended some other Irish-American politicians, as well as the State Department, which is normally very supportive of a now disgruntled British Government.

The two sides of unionism have cried foul and refused to travel, alleging, with some justification, that Mr Adams' trip, however circumscribed, will prove a propaganda success for Sinn Féin and the IRA.

While Mr Adams insists that his visit is made in the context of Sinn Féin's contribution to the peace process, it affords him and his organisation greatly enhanced credibility.

Worldwide media interest in the event is best illustrated by the decision of President Clinton to make a personal TV statement clarifying his reasons for granting a limited rather than general visa.

The President said this was because in the last few days Mr Adams had made certain statements on the question of violence and the Joint Declaration. Mr Adams insists he has not renounced violence, which was supposed to be a condition of the visit. But he will work for peace.

However brief, this is a very high profile visit in which the absence of the unionists will go unnoticed. Positively speaking, Mr Adams, if he is so inclined, may convince a lunatic fringe of IRA-funding, Irish-American politicians and citizens that the North has moved a little way down the road from 1916.

It may be naive to think that Mr Adams himself may learn that most Irish-Americans in power now have a more sophisticated understanding of what is happening in Northern Ireland.

Whatever the outcome, he will emerge as a celebrity. This may not be a bad thing if it enables him to convince more militant elements in the IRA of the universal desire for a ceasefire.

That, of course, presupposes Mr Adams is really interested in promoting the peace process. The rapid exorcism of the once demonic Sinn Féin leader will all be justified if he can deliver a cessation of violence.

Property tax is iniquitous

AT least two Fianna Fáil politicians have now publicly distanced themselves from Finance Minister Bertie Ahern's extended property tax.

Niall Andrews, the party's MEP in Dublin, has shifted blame for the Budget tax to the Labour Party, declaring quite comprehensively that it was never intended or proposed by Fianna Fáil and was never in its philosophy.

Environment Minister Michael Smith has called for a halt to plans by some other members of the Cabinet for a comprehensive property tax.

Mr Andrews, who will be contesting the European Parliament elections, was no doubt influenced by a threat from the Association of Combined Residents' Associations (ACRA) to boycott Fianna Fáil candidates in all elections. He will ask Mr Ahern to re-consider the proposal.

The property tax is, of course, entirely iniquitous in that it makes no allowance for the householders' ability to pay.

It may well penalise the kind of large and struggling, young, home-owning family unit, so jealousy protected by the constitution, and exempt the rich single taxpayer renting an expensive apartment.

There are other obvious arguments against a tax which punishes the self-reliant and puts an even greater strain on local authority housing.

If the property tax is intended as an initial reform to reduce income tax, Mr Ahern faces something of a historical credibility gap.

Public perception of such new taxes is that, although intended in good times to replace income tax, they tended to stay even when bad times brought an increase in personal taxation.

This has been the experience after the abolition of rates by the Fianna Fáil Government.

In announcing a review of the whole area of local authority charges and residential property tax, Mr Ahern may well be acknowledging that his levy on homeowners is not worth the return in political or financial terms.

Meredie queries firm's policies

A CORK woman has stood up to the might of a building society in Northern Ireland and asked them to answer allegations of religious discrimination in their Belfast office.

Mrs Meredie O'Donoghue from Boreenmanna Road in Cork has been an investor in the Leeds Building Society for many years. When she heard that they employed 91% Protestants to 9% Catholics in their Belfast office, she felt that they had a case to answer.

Mrs O'Donoghue wrote to "The Leeds" and stated, "I voted for your directors according to their business acumen. I did not ask their ethnic backgrounds."

She also put it to the building society that Catholics made up 45% of the population in the North. Mrs O'Donoghue added, "11 million people resident in Britain hold Irish passports, 45 million people in America are of Irish ancestry. Quite a large section for financial investment in any part of the business world!"

The Leeds Building Society have responded by saying "the Society actively pursues a non-discriminatory employment policy in Northern Ireland."

"We have a clear policy of affording equal opportunities to all prospective and existing staff in recruitment, transfer, promotion, grading and all other employment matters, regardless of a person's sex, marital status or race. In addition, in compliance with the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) legislation, the Society is equally dedicated to ensuring that less favourable treatment does not take place on the grounds of religious belief or political opinion," they said.

One aspect of the response from the Leeds which struck Mrs O'Donoghue as odd was the line, "All applicants for jobs in Northern Ireland are asked to declare their religion, in the strictest confidence, on the Employment Application form."

Asked to comment yesterday on the matter, the Fair Employment Commission in Northern Ireland told the Examiner that the Leeds had not been investigated for their employment policies in the North and that they had not been the subject of complaint.

Regarding the points made by Mrs O'Donoghue, the Fair Employment Commission spokesman that "on a minor technicality, strictly speaking, the monitoring questionnaire (asking about

religion) should be kept separate from the Employment Application form," but that they were required to ask the question.

The spokesman also said that the total number of staff in the Belfast office of the Leeds Building Society was 33, adding "I would get worried about percentages when you are talking about small numbers."

He said that firms were obliged to monitor the staff and applicants in terms of employment, and these statistics then had to be given to the commission.

The building society said: "Turnover of staff is very low and the proportion of Catholics to other religions cannot be expected to change quickly."

The Fair Employment Commission said yesterday they would soon be in a position to take a closer look at employment practices in the Leeds as all firms were required to provide a detailed report on employment matters every three years.

The Commission accepted that striking a balance and ensuring "fair participation" was a complicated area. "It goes back a long way and shadows are cast forward. Our concern is with what comes next," the Commission spokesman said.

JOHN MURPHY looks at the decline in vocations for the Christian Brothers and the subsequent closing of their schools throughout the country:

Schools feel the pinch as the olde Order changeth

ALTHOUGH the Christian Brothers remain one of the largest, if not the largest, religious Order in Ireland, a spate of withdrawals from towns and cities throughout the country in recent years must inevitably put a sizeable question mark alongside their long term future.

The most recent confirmation has been the Brothers' impending withdrawal later this year from Mitchelstown in North Cork. However that will be just one of FIVE towns from which the Order will be taking its departure in 1994.

The other four are Cashel, Tipperary, Cahirciveen and Athy. The Order is divided into two provinces - Southern and Northern. These are divided by a line drawn from the river Liffey in Dublin across to Galway, with the northern province above that line and the southern one below it.

In recent years, the Brothers have withdrawn from more than 20 centres in the southern province alone. In that same timespan there have been very few novices entering the Order, and the present average age of the Brothers serving in the southern province is 62.

In addition to the Order's departure from so many towns and cities, there have also been school amalgamations involving the CBS. And the appointment of lay principals in a number of CBS primary and secondary schools is another indicator of the serious difficulties that currently beset the Order.

Withdrawals from venues in the northern province have not been

as numerous. Nevertheless, the Brothers have left Ballinrobe, Tuam, Monaghan town, Dundalk and Derry in the comparatively recent past. In addition, one of the two houses in Drogheda has been closed.

The Brothers continue to have commitments overseas however, with Foreign Missions in Zambia, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

The dramatic fall in vocations, together with deaths, and Brothers opting to work in other related educational fields, have put enormous pressure on the Order of late.

WITHDRAWALS The following is the complete list of places in Munster the Brothers will have withdrawn

from by the next August: Cork: Fermoy and Mitchelstown (later this year). Waterford: Tramore, Dungarvan and Waterpark Monastery. Clare: Kilrush. Kerry: Cahirciveen (later this year). Tipperary: Templemore, Roscrea, Cashel and Tipperary Town (later this year), and Clonmel, where the Order had two houses at one time. St. Mary's and St. Peter and Paul. Limerick alone has escaped the "withdrawal symptom" to-date.

Elsewhere, within the southern province, the Brothers have pulled out of New Ross and Enniscorthy in Co. Wexford, Greystones and Arklow in Wicklow, Kilmock, Monasterevin and

Athy (to come) in Kildare, in addition to Carlow town, and Lucan and St. Helen's (Boosterstown) in County Dublin.

Incidentally, the Brothers sold the provincialiate in Co. Dublin for a substantial six figure sum.

The Order continues to have a presence in all of the counties of Munster where its houses total 15.

The following is the breakdown: Cork: City, Middleton and Youghal. Tipperary: Thurles, Nenagh, and Carrick-on-Suir. Limerick: City, Adare, Doon.

Waterford: Mount Sion (the first set by the founder Edmond Inatius Rice), and Lismore. Kerry: Tralee and

Dingle. Clare: Ennis and Ennistymon. The other venues within the southern province where the brothers retain a presence are Wexford, Gorey, Bray, Kilkenny, Callan, Portlaoise, Portlannington, Naas, Dublin City and Dun Laoghaire.

In the northern province, the Brothers retain their presence in Swords, Trim, Kells, Drogheda, Tullamore, Mullingar, Westport, Salthill, and Roscommon town. They are also based in four centres in the Six Counties, Newry, Belfast, Armagh and Omagh.

The Provincial of the Southern Province (St. Helen's) is Bro. McDonnell, and his Northern Provincial (St. Mary's) counterpart is Bro. Heneghan.

Jim Cummins: an appreciation

MR Jim Cummins passed away on Sunday, January 30, 1994. He had suffered a stroke in December and had not recovered.

Jim was a founder member of the National Association of Regional Game Councils and served for many years as Hon. Secretary and Chairman. Under his stewardship, the Association grew into the largest conservation body in Ireland with a membership of 22,000.

Until his death, he was Secretary of the Cork Federation of Gun Clubs, which has the largest membership of any county in Ireland. Once again, this was due to Jim's leadership and dedication. He served as Irish Director of F.A.C.E. from 1971. F.A.C.E. is the Federation of Hunting Organisations in Europe with over seven million members (except when he rotated for three years with the late Geoffrey Coyle of the Irish Master Beagles Association).

To mark his outstanding contribution to European Conservation and Fieldsports, he was awarded the European Gold Medal for Conservation in 1990. In 1972 he published his N.A.R.G.C. Booklet on Research into Woodcock, probably the first Irish research into a game bird. All fieldsportsmen in Ireland owe Jim a great debt for all his years of work, travel and communication on our behalf.

One particular instance stands out. In November 1990 he lobbied our Irish MEPs to stay over for a meeting of the Environment Group in Brussels to vote against the first draft of the Habitats Flora and Fauna Directive. The result is we now have a proper Habitat's Directive to protect the environment.

Jim was a man of common sense with a great gift of listening. When in the chair he would allow a proposer of weak resolution to talk him/herself full circle - the outward patience and tolerance hid the guillotine which fell at the appropriate moment.

He had great time for people, he was a true friend and was the first to call when one of "his" members had a problem. As a sportsman he enjoyed most of all a day in the countryside with his beloved "Blue Belton" setters and the social get-together afterwards. His humorous story-telling was looked forward to for his wit and turn of phrase.

To his dear wife Phil and to his children and relatives, we extend our deepest sympathy. He will also be missed for his sound advice, guidance and warmth by his many friends and admirers in this and other European countries.

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National Association of Regional Game Councils, 6 Sandford Road, Ranelagh, DUBLIN 6.

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Late Dr. Victor Dillon

DR. VICTOR DILLON recently died peacefully in the Bon Secours Hospital, Cork.

After qualifying in medicine, he gained valuable experience as a hospital intern in both England and Ireland. Later, following further studies, he obtained the degree of M.D., N.U.I. and a Fellowship of the College of Physicians of Ireland.

In 1943, he was appointed Consultant Physician to the North Infirmary, Cork and to the Consultant Staff of the Bon Secours Hospital, Cork. He was also a Clinical Lecturer and Examiner in Medicine in both the Medical and Dental Faculties of University College, Cork, until his retirement in 1984.

During his long career in hospital medicine he was renowned for his gentleness, kindness,

tact and total personal interest in all of his patients. The news of his death will have saddened medical and dental graduates of University College, Cork, many of whom will remember with gratitude his expert and wise teaching.

Victor was a keen gardener, who also loved reading and classical music. He was also a founder member of CBC FPU and was elected president of the union for two years.

To his wife Kitty and his two sons and three daughters, we tender our most profound sympathy on their irreparable loss of a fond and loving husband and father.

It can be said most truly of him, that we shall not see his kind again.

T.P. O'C.

College lecturers strike on promotion prospects

By AILÍN QUINLAN

CLASSES attended by 10,000 college students in Cork will be seriously disrupted today as lecturers take to the picket line over poor promotion prospects.

An estimated 360 lecturers are to strike in a move predicted to paralyse three of the city's best known third-level institutions — the Cork Regional Technical College, the School of Music and the College of Art and Design.

Colleges in Dublin, Galway and Donegal will also be affected by the stoppage, which will involve 800 staff.

While ordinary class timetables in Cork are expected to be thrown into chaos by the move, hundreds of night students, who attend classes from 7-10pm at Cork RTC, will also be affected, bringing the number of students involved on all three campuses to about 10,000.

Warning that some night students

travelled to the RTC from as far away as Kerry or Skibbereen, a college spokesman said night classes were not expected to take place this evening.

If the strike — part of a series of three one-day stoppages throughout the country today, February 17 and March 1 — is not resolved quickly, it is understood the union is prepared to consider a "complete shutdown" of all RTCs.

Colleges at Kevin Street and Cathal Bruzha Street in Dublin, Galway

RTC and Donegal RTC will also be hit today.

Waterford, Limerick and Dundalk RTCs, along with colleges at Bolton Street and Dun Laoghaire in Dublin will also be hit by strike action on Thursday, February 17, while one-day stoppages will also take place at RTCs at Tralee, Tallaght, Athlone, Carlow and Sligo, the College of Commerce at Rathmines, Dublin and the College of Marketing and Design at Mountjoy Square, Dublin, on Tuesday, March 1.

According to the Teachers' Union of Ireland, the RTC and DIT systems do not have fair and continuing promotion prospects. They also complained that no governing body has yet been appointed at Cork RTC.

TUI has been seeking an improved promotion structure, as well as an increased number of higher grade posts to reflect the developments in the colleges since 1982.

There have been only minor variations in these numbers since then, says the union, which made a de-

tailed submission to the Department of Education in November 1992.

Shortly afterwards a working party was established comprising the Department of Education, representatives of the college managements and TUI, and the union was promised a document setting out the considered views of the Department and the college managements.

However, no such document has yet been received by the union.

Woman found dead

A Donegal woman Winifred McAteer (87), was found dead in her smoke-filled prefab home at Ballow in the Fanad Peninsula yesterday.

The discovery was made by neighbours and gardai, attracted to the scene when smoke was seen pouring from the chimney.

It is understood she was partially blind. The body was removed to Letterkenny Hospital where a post-mortem will take place today.

Gardai are satisfied the fire was accidental.

Prison fire inquiry

AN internal investigation was last night continuing into the circumstances in which a Dublin publican doused his head and body with deodorant and set himself on fire in a toilet in Arbour Hill prison at the weekend.

Francis McCann (33), of Butterfield Avenue, Rathfarnham, is in the middle of his trial for the murder of his wife Esther (36) and a baby girl, Jessica, whom the couple were planning to adopt.

The woman and child died at a fire in their home in September 1992.

Woman on drug charge

A WOMAN with an address in Liverpool was charged in Dublin's District Court yesterday in connection with the seizure of a kilo of heroin on Sunday night.

The haul was seized by drugs squad detectives who arrested a man and woman. After questioning, the man was released without charge, but the woman, Deanna Bird, was charged under Section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act 1984 with possession for the purpose of supply and importation and remanded in custody for a week.

Incendiary bomb found

ANOTHER incendiary device was found yesterday at a post office sorting office in Nangor Road, Clondalkin, Dublin.

Coursing protest

THE Irish Council against Blood Sports will mount a peaceful protest against live hare coursing at the final day of the national finals of coursing at Powerscourt Park, Clonmel, Co Tipperary.

A statement from the organisation said the demonstration would begin at noon tomorrow.

Meanwhile, last night the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals called on the Minister for Agriculture to ban live hare coursing from the end of the season.

Muzzling of hounds has not worked, a spokesman said, adding that 39 hares have already been killed by muzzled dogs this season.



■ Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams is escorted by police after his arrival at John F. Kennedy Airport, New York yesterday.

Alliance salvo at Unionists

ALLIANCE PARTY general secretary David Ford has rounded on the "hysterical" reaction of Unionists to the decision to grant Gerry Adams a 48-hour visa to attend a conference in New York later today.

Mr Ford hit out as he accompanied party leader Dr John Alderdice to the peace conference, organised by the National Committee on American Foreign Policy.

"His (Dr Alderdice) will be the only voice that does not merely represent the Hume-

Adams dialogue. Unionist politicians are now complaining very loudly at home — but they have refused the opportunity to put their case to a group of influential Americans."

That view was echoed by conference organiser Bill Flynn, who admitted he was "disappointed" that both the Ulster Unionist and DUP had adopted a boycott stance.

"Frankly I think it does themselves and their parties a major disservice if they are not prepared to come and

put across their point of view."

But the anger from Unionists towards US President Bill Clinton for granting Mr Adams his first visa in 20 years showed no sign of abating.

They are incensed that the President ignored the views of his own State Department. Ulster Unionist John Taylor said President Clinton had given into "the Irish-American mafia" and condemned Senator Edward Kennedy as one of its main members.

"The decision to give

in to pressure from the Irish lobby in Washington comes as no surprise but it is despicable," said the Strangford MP. DUP deputy leader Peter Robinson claimed it was yet another concession to the IRA. "The Downing Street declaration gave them considerable concessions, the Irish government lifted its broadcasting ban and now the Americans are rolling out the red carpet."

Both the North's main Unionist leaders, Jim Molyneux and the Ian Paisley, had refused to

attend before the Adams visa row erupted.

DUP leader Dr Paisley warned that President Clinton's decision would "put any chance of peace back by 20 years."

Dr Paisley said, however, he believed Mr Adams might announce a ceasefire. "This is a propaganda exercise. It is a telling blow against the British government because the British government is losing every round of the battle," he said.

Ulster Unionist MP Ken Maginnis said he too suspected Mr Adams may announce a temporary IRA ceasefire or some other significant gesture aimed at winning support for his position.

"I think that could be why he has been given a visa — because the US government has been told his speech will be significant."

Declaration 'no good for IRA' — Molyneux

THE IRA will not accept the "tortuous, muddled" Downing Street declaration, because it is "no good for them", the Official Unionist leader, James Molyneux, declared yesterday, writes Mark Hennessy.

In a frank interview, the OUP Leader claimed credit for wringing concession after concession from the British premier John Major.

The original 30-paragraph proposal put forward by Dublin had been whittled down, he told *The Scotsman*, during twice-a-week meetings with Mr Major.

The final declaration was "a muddled, tortuous one", and "while one didn't like the wording, it didn't pose any threat to the union".

He believed the IRA would not accept the

declaration because it 'was no good for them'.

Mr Molyneux indicated his satisfaction that he forced the scrapping of a Dublin plan for a joint Irish-British convention that would have exercised power over an Northern assembly.

Meanwhile, Taoiseach Albert Reynolds sought to deal with the anger in Northern nationalist quarters caused by the

belief that they have been side-lined.

Addressing a Fianna Fáil Euro delegate convention, the Taoiseach said the declaration recognises that progress can only be made with consent: "But consent is a two-way street."

"If a United Ireland requires majority consent of the people of the North, any structures for its government also require cross-community support."

"It is because there is both a unionist and nationalist veto, that agreement between all the people of Ireland on how they share this island is needed."

However, he made clear that Sinn Féin attempts to tie up the declaration in a maze will not be accepted: "demilitarisation" can follow a full cessation of IRA violence.

"There can be no half-measures. Without a commitment to permanent peace, does anyone believe that there will be a process of demilitarisation? The benefits of participation in all-round negotiations, to shape a new Ireland, will also be lost."

Hope springs eternal

BELFAST native and former Beirut hostage Brian Keenan last night spoke of his firm belief that the Northern peace process would succeed.

After surviving on hope for more than four years during his time as a hostage in the suburbs of Beirut, he said he was not about to give in to pessimism now.

"I don't give up. It is not in my psychological make-up to give up. There is always a way if people choose to believe there is," he said.

And, he added, it was patently obvious that people believed in the possibility of peace now.

The same sense of optimism permeated his words as he spoke before giving a reading at UCC following an

invitation from the English Literature and Historical Societies.

He said he welcomed the opportunity to speak of his time in Beirut because he was always impressed by the response it provoked.

"The questions that people ask me make a comment on the vitality of this island," he said.

This is his first time to speak in Cork, but he says he considered living in the county when he first came home.

"I spent a lot of time here when I first came home. I have a friend in Youghal and I seriously looked at Cork as a possible place to live. That is one of the reasons I accepted the invitation to come and speak to-night," he said.

Plug pulled on pop channel

THE pop music television station MTV went off air for 100,000 Irish viewers last night following a breakdown in negotiations over a price hike.

Thousands of Munster cable and MDS viewers are affected by the axing of the station, which took effect from midnight.

The non-stop music channel is hugely popular among teenagers and pre-teens, using a slick format of pop videos and magazine programmes.

"The suspension of the service arises from a demand by MTV in London for a price increase which was considered excessive," said a spokesman for Princes Holding, the service companies' holding group.

The group stated last night it was in

negotiation with MTV London over the past year and a half with a view to setting reasonable rates for the service, and received a final demand last Wednesday.

"The rates demanded were considered unacceptable by PHL and unaffordable to its customers," said the spokesman. He was unable to reveal how much MTV sought, but said the price increase demanded was "substantial."

No spokesperson for the London-based 24-hour pop music station was available for comment last night.

Princes Holdings' spokesman said they hope to have an alternative music channel available within two weeks, but was unable to say what this might be.

He also conceded negotiations with MTV might be re-opened sometime in the future.

A spokesman for Cork Multi Channel said that until a new music channel was secured a "family channel" would replace MTV. Any further information would be made public as it became available, he said.

Govt move on home tax fears

By MARK HENNESSY, Political Correspondent

THE Government last night moved to counter fears that property tax would hit thousands of middle-class homes, insisting that 97% of homeowners would not be affected by the new limits.

Last night, there was the first sign of a rift in the Government ranks after Fianna Fáil European Parliament candidate and sitting MEP Niall Andrews called on Finance Minister Bertie Ahern to reconsider the tax.

Under the Minister's plan, those earning more than £25,000 a year and with a property worth over £75,000 will pay a 1% tax on the value in excess of £75,000, and 2% on the excess over £100,000.

In a major speech last night, Taoiseach Albert Reynolds used part of his time to address the concerns of a growing number of people, particularly those living in Dublin, and parts of other urban areas.

"Practically all of those who will be affected by the Residential Property Tax will still gain substantially overall from the tax changes in the Budget, and the future promise of tax reform," he said.

Addressing Fianna Fáil delegates at the Leinster Euro selection convention, the Taoiseach said: "For a long time, the rest of the country complained that Dublin was specially favoured because they did not have to pay local service charges."

"Now, there are complaints that Dubliners, or rather the higher earners with the more valuable properties, are being discriminated against, because they will have to pay in most cases a very small amount of RPT."

Attempting to move the focus away from the property tax, Mr Reynolds told delegates the Government would like to both improve the financial position of local authorities and create a more uniform scheme.

"But however we do

this, I can assure you that Fianna Fáil have no plans to bring back rates, which were found unconstitutional and inequitable, taking no account of people's ability to pay," he said.

However, Government figures are keenly aware that the RPT has come as a godsend to the Opposition as all sides gear up for the forthcoming Euro campaign.

An indication of the seriousness with which it is being viewed was evidenced by the fact that MEP Niall Andrews

spoke out against the charge, in advance of being selected at last night's convention.

Clearly shifting the responsibility for the property tax onto the Labour Party, Mr Andrews said such a tax was never part of "Fianna Fáil's philosophy."

However, he reminded voters Fianna Fáil was in partnership with the Labour Party, though he accepted they would have to take responsibility for its imposition.

Sewage decision deferred

By RALPH RIEGEL

CORK Corporation have again deferred a decision on the proposed £80m sewage treatment plant for Little Island.

Despite the pleadings of Lord Mayor Cllr John Murray the council voted by 25 to six last night to defer the final decision for another two weeks.

Cllr Tim Brosnan (FF) proposed the deferral arguing that time was needed for a final examination of alternatives to the Carrigrennan site.

As the meeting began over 100 Little Island residents protested outside City Hall to underline their bitter opposition to the project.

Spokesperson Anne Kelly expressed optimism that the council will eventually reject the proposal but warned that a decision to go-ahead only spells the beginning of their fight.

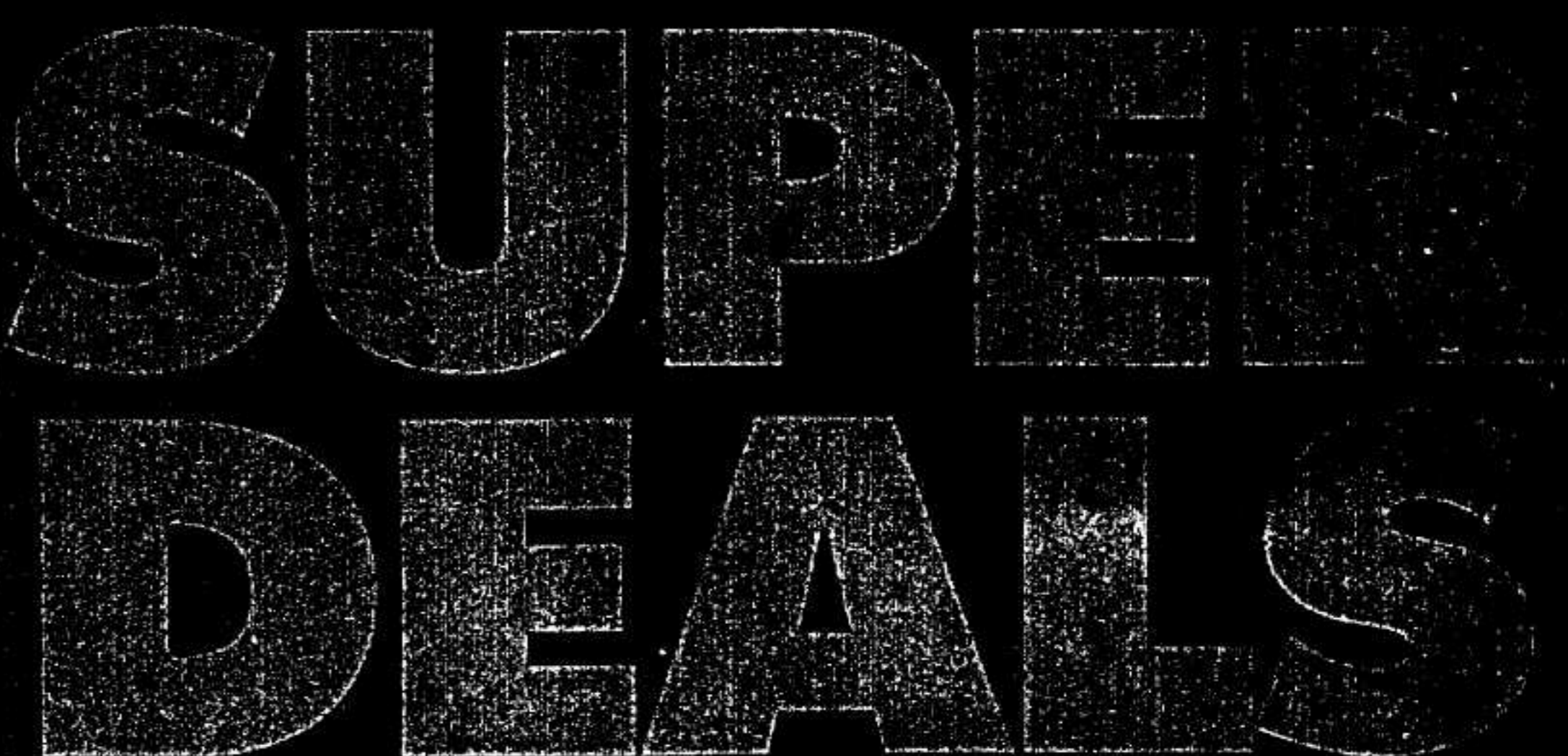
"We haven't begun to fight yet, and we will not allow our area to be ruined. We are battling for the survival of our community," she added.

However, city manager Tom Rice stressed that a vote in favour of the project does not represent the final go-ahead. Critics can still object either at the planning stage or through An Bord Pleanála.

"I am satisfied beyond doubt that this proposal does not represent a threat to the people of Little Island and their quality of life," he stressed.

Cork Co. Council, who will be the planning authority for the sewage plant if it gets the go-ahead, are expected to have their Southern Committee vote on the project shortly.

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday



Super prices this Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday in Cork, Bandon & Mallow. Here are a selection of some extra special offers... Dont miss it..

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