No deal on British TV relayed here

BBC and ITV chiefs who met representatives of the Irish cable television companies in London yesterday failed to reach an agreement over how much should be paid for British television programmes being relayed to viewers in Ireland.

At the moment, the Irish television companies do not pay a penny for the programmes and a row has been going on between them and the British companies virtually since cable television was first introduced to Ireland.

Neither the BBC nor ITV will say what sort of money they are looking for, but it could run into millions of pounds and is bound to lead to higher fees for piped television subscribers in Ireland.

In addition to television companies at yesterday's meeting, which lasted three hours, bodies protecting entertainers and authors, were represented also.

Kevin Windle, managing director of Dublin Cablelink, and his lawyer, Eugene Murphy, were among those at the meeting from Ireland. Another meeting is planned for October.

Second new N-station plan adds to health fears

By ALAN O'KEEFFE

YET ANOTHER nuclear reactor is to be built on the west coast of Britain, heightening concern in Ireland on health and environmental risks.

A new pressurised water reactor will be built beside the aging nuclear reactor at Hinkley Point, near Bridgewater in Somerset, some 120 miles from the Irish coast.

More than 20 local authorities in Britain have pledged to fight the scheme, and the Irish authorities and environmental groups are expected to join the protests.

The announcement of plans for the seven-year construction project at Hinkley Point comes within a week of the news of a giant new pressurised water nuclear reactor to be built at Trawsfyndd in North Wales.

Energy Minister Ray Burke had earlier indicated he was "appalled" by the plans for the Trawsfyndd reactor.

An Energy Department spokeswoman said last-night the new Somerset reactor will now also be included in an all-embracing discussion on British nuclear energy police when Mr. Burke meets his British conterpart Cecil Parkinson next month.

Mr. Burke has spelled out clearly his views on the risks posed to Ireland by British nuclear stations. He has expressed h is "totral opposition" to new reactors being built in close proximity to Ireland, she said.

Mr. Burke was in the Isle of Man yesterday represnting the Government at the funeral of Irish businessman, Jefferson Smurfit, Jnr.

REJECTED

Ms. Mary O'D onnell, spokeswoman for the Irish environmental group Earthwatch, said lat night the Government must rigorously oppose the plans for both the Hinkley Point and Trawsfyndd projects.

Ms. O'Donnell said the pressurised nuclear reactor was an American design that was rejected by the Americans. A similar reactor was involved in the 1979 Tree Mile Island accient in the U.S. where recent findings show depleted immune systems among the local population. she said.

Some 98 orders for pressurised water reacfors have been cancelled sine the 1979 accident, she said.

She claimed the Sizewell inquiry in Britain which gave the go-ahead for Britain's first PWR station was incomplete as it did not investigate safety specifications fully.

Probe into courses by diet group

By WILLIAM DILLON

A MAJOR row on medical ethics erupted last night as doctors announced they are to investigate the activities and qualifications of a Dublin-based group offering diploma courses in nutrition and psychotherapy.

The ethics committee of the Irish Medical Organisation and the council of the Irish College of General Practitioners are to look at the courses advertised by the Irish Association of Holistic Medicine.

The association last night came under strong attack from one of the country's leading nutritionists, who alleged that its activities were "most definitely" a risk to the public.

Ms. Philomena Flood, chairperson of the Irish Nutrition and Dietetics Association, said they were very worried about people running courses who were unqualified and had no suitable scientific or medical background.

She was joined by IMO vice-president Dr. Tim Collins, who warned that there was a danger that patients attending people from such courses might have a physical ailment which could be missed.

However, Martin Forde, president of the Irish Association of Holistic Medicine last night denied the allegations, saying they were not "pretending to be doctors".

He said holistic medicine was a totally separate field and did not carry the dangers associated with drugs or surgery.

Plea to Govt. on Irish music

By NOEL SMITH

BENEATH a thin veneer of tolerance, there was still an empty condescending attitude lun some influential quarters to that which was notive and earthy, the Director General of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, Labras O Murchu, said yesterday.

Opening the All-Ireland Feadh Cheoil in Listowel, Mr. O Murchu declared: "I am noty apportioning blame for this position — these people are being honest insofar as tey are reflecting the values of their class.

But any influence conferred on them by virtue of their job status should not be used to the detr8iment of those who held different cultuyral values and aspirations. The phenomenal turn-about for the fortunes of native Irish music must be recognised and reflected in State attitudfes.

Mr. O Murchu urged that provincial or regional Arts Councils to replace the existing Dublin-based body would be in a better position to reflect local and native arts activities.

A new Arts Council is to be appointed in the near future — anbd perha ps the Government could be persuaded to take the bold step of restructuring this statutory body and helkp it to truly reflect the folkl potential of the arts in Ireland.

Up to 100,000 people are expected this weekend in the Listowel area. The town is hosting the Fleadh for the tenth year and 2,000 quzifiers will be competing in events after emerging from over 20,000 competitors in many parts of the world.

TUI boycotts new £200 fee

The Teachers' Union of Ireland warned last night it will refuse to collect the new controversial £200 fee from pupils opting to repeat the Leaving Certificate.

In what he described as a "significant" development in it's fight against education cutbacks, the union's president, Mr. Michael Hanley, warned that it's 7,500 teachers would stick rigidly to existing work practice agreements and teacher-pupil ratios.

The smiles of success...

Newly-wed winners ... Eileen and Michael McCarthy with their £20,000 prize.

£20,000 lottery gift for lucky bride Eileen!

By ALAN O'KEEFFE

THE wedding day o a Co. Cork couple was transformed into a fairytake when bride Eileen Crowley received news of her selection for the National Lottery Grand Prize game.

And last night she hugged and kissed her husband Michael McCarthy as they went off to continue their honeymoon with a£20,000 prize cheque.

The two 30 year olds from Clonakilty were celebrating at their wedding reception wh en bride Eileen was called to the telephone. She returned to the festivities to share the good news with Michael and their guests.

"It certainly gabe the celebrations a shot in the arm. Everyone got a new lease of life," said Eileen.

"It was a fairytale we could hardly believe," said Michael as the couple were surrounded by well-wishers after the Grand Prize game at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, in Dublin last night.

The beaming couple flew back to Ireland in the middle of their Torquay honeymoon for the spin-the-wheel game and will fly back today to continue their honeymoon.

"GLORIOUS"

Eileen, a secretary with a local milling company, said Divine Prividence was lbessing her marriage.

"For two days before tht wedding it was miserable rainy weather, but on the morning of the wedding it was glorious. I thanked God — and now this!" she said.

"We had a bit of pull up there — we had three priest s at the wedding," quipped Michael, managing director of Carberry Plastics in Clonakilty.

Next week's Grand Prize participants drawn last night are: Gerard Bourke, Clondra, Co. Longford; Denis McKeogh, Ballycooney, Killaloe, Co. Clare; Mr. E. Connery, Garrymore, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary; Margaret Cunningham, Ashgrove, Cobh, Co. Cork, and Peggy O'Halloran, Chestnut Lane, Dangan Lower, Galway.

It was definitely a double-day for Clonakilty yesterday as another successful Grand Prize game ticket was bought in the town by Mrs. Ann Houlihan a short distance from the Centre Foodstore where Eileen bought her ticket.

She gave the ticket to her husband Patrick (29) who went on to win £10,000 in the spin-the-wheel game last night.

Bachelor farmer John Kearney (58) won £10,000 and looked forward to a decent night's sleep after the long week's wait to spin the wheel. John, who lives with his brother on a 28-acre farm at Kilkerley, Dundalk, was an avid lottery ticket buyers and attended bingo sessions "five or six nights a week."

Partner 'diverted bananas to rival'

A COMPANY importing bananas from the Nicaraguan government claimed in the High Court in Dublin yesterday that one of their own directors had diverted a shipment to a company he had set up in competition.

The Central Fruit Company, George's Hill, Dublin, also claimed that their director, Patrick Sheridan, of Clonee, Co. Meath, has also canvassed important British customers of theirs to buy bananas from his new company.

Mr. John Trainor, BL, for the importers, said that the Central Fruit Company was owned by Noel Hague and his wife Breda, Mr. Sheridan was employed as financial controller and was subsequently made a director.

They had begun importing substantial quantities of bananas for Britain and Ireland, through Zeebrugge, from a company owned by the Nicaraguan government, last November.

To help with this contract they had appointed a Tom Tobin. then a director of one of the largest firms of banana producers in Nicaragua, as a consultant.

In an affidavit. Mr. Hague said that, last Monday, he had been told by a representative of Mr. Tobin, a Matt Ryan, that a shipment of bananas, due on Wednesday, was no longer consigned to his firm. This would cause him considerable loss, as he had already sold the entire consignment to wholesalers, including five major British wholesalers.

He had learned from business contacts that the new company was Funica Ltd., which was 75 p.c. owned by Tom Tobin; 10 p.c. by Patrick Sheridan; 10 p.c. by Matt Ryan, and five p.c. by Mr. Leonard of the accountancy firm, Lombard and Cantrell, Upper O'Connell St., Dublin.

Mr. Hague said that he had spent a considerable time and about £40,000 in developing outlets for the bananas. with British wholesalers.

He belived Mr. Sheridan had used confidential information, gained while he was a director and employee of the Central Fruit Co., to divert the shipment due this week, and that he would continue to use that information to the detriment of the firm.

For some time past, Mr. Hague said, he had had difficulties with Mr. Sheridan, who had withheld company documents and files from him and had locked away company files, from other members of the company.

Following a long dispute, severance terms were discussed with Mr. Sheridan, and a letter offering terms was sent out on August 20, 1987. Mr. Sheridan's solicitors said, on August 24, that these terms were being accepted.

It was on the same day that Mr. Matt Ryan informed the company, behalf of Mr. Tobin, that the shipment of bananas was no longer consigned to them and that they should cancel the trucks that were due to pick them up.

Mr. Justice Egan granted an injunction. restraining Mr. Sheridan from entering into or implementing any agreement to sell bananas to any of five named British customers of the Central Fruit Company. He was also restrained from the wrongful use of confidential information, gained while he worked for the Central Fruit Company. The case will come before the High Court again on Wednesday next.

Fianna Fail challenged to election over cuts

LABOUR PARTY leader Dick Spring last night challenged the Taoiseach, Mr. Charles Haughey, to call a general election after he publishes the estimates for 1987.

The estimates would face the public with unimagined severity as the Government pursued "ruthless butchery" of services. Mr. Sporing said.

In a tough statement, Mr. Spring accused Mr. Haughey of implementing cuts without any mandate from the people.

"I call on the Taoiseach, if he is convinced of the correctness of his approach, to place his October Estimates before the people in a general election," the Labour leader declared.

"NO MANDATE"

"He was elected in the first place without a mandate for the vicious elimination of essential services that Fianna Fail have implemented.

"He should seek a mandate now, before destroying what is left of the fabric of a caring society," Mr. Spring said.

Mr. Spring added that the decision of the Minister for Health to approve the building of a private hospital in the grounds of Beaumont Hospital was proof of the cynicism of the Government.

And it exposed the determination of Fianna Fail to introduce one system of hospital for those with money to pay and a poor law system for those on low incomes.

Party sources claimed that they had information copnfirming that Dr. O'Hanlon had already written to the consultants favouring the building of a private hospital at Beaumont.

HEALTH CUTS

And they also claimed that further cuts in health and other sreas would be of enormous severity and had been agreed by the Government already.

Though not yet revealed, they could cause a public outcry, leading to further demands from political l leaders for Mr. Haughey to go to the people with his estimates.

The release of data about the Governmenbt spending cuts, which will have a real impact on services, will be seen when the estiumates are published.

Mr. Haughey has said that he inbtends to publish them in October, when the Dail resumes, and if they are as severe as indicated, it will lead to heavy pressure on the minority administration.

However, there were no suggestions in Leinster House last night that the major parties are likely to come together on a motion of no confidence to bring down the Government.

USI condemns 'artificial' failure rate

By DAVID METCALFE

FAILURE rates among third level students are kept artifically high to suit college autuorities, the Union of Students in Ireland has alleged.

USI's research officer, Mr. Allister Rutherdale, yesteday claimed that first year failures in some courses were running at about one third of those students taking college examinations.

Thousands of students are due to re-sit in the next few weeks the exams which they failed in their first attempt last term.

Mr. Rutherdale said that the number of first year students being passed by some Regional Technical Colleges appeared to bear more relation to the number of seats available in lecture halls than to student ability.

USI maintains that it is tougher to secure a college place in the Republic than in Britain or Northern Ireland and then failure rates are higher here.

In a statement issued yesterday, the union claimed that the situation in UCD is specially bad, with 511 students not continuing into second year. The union has called for places to be made available to all those who are capable of doing courses.

Higher Education Authority figures show that there were 9,114 first year full time undergraduates in the universities and NIHEs in 1986/87.

The number of second year undergraduates was 7,019 a fall of 23 p.c. made up of students dropping out of courses and those failing exams.

Yesterday, student union leader released black balloons outside the Department o Education in Marlborough St. to symbolise s"the inadequate number of places" available for those wishing to pursue th ird level education.

Vaccine ready to fight killer hepatitis

A NEW vaccine described as a major breakthrough in the fight against the deadly hepatitis B virus, was made available yesterday to all British hospitals and docotors.

It has proved 100 p.c. successful after years of exhaustive tets aong high risk groups, sdch as homosexuals and drug addicts. say the makers Smith Kline and French.

Enerix B is also the first anti-cancer vaccine, as the Hepatitis B virus attacks the liver and progresses to cause cancer of the liver. Second to cigarette smoking, Hepatitis B is th ought to be the most common causes of cancer worldwide. It causes two million deaths worldwide each year.

But the manufacturers stressed that the vaccine will not help those already carrying Heptatitis B. Like the AIDS virus, there is no known cure.

There has been concern in the U.K. over the significant number of people who get Heptatitis B because of the kind of work they do. About 1,300 cases occur here each year causing about 350 deaths.

Resedarch has shown that doctors, nurses, dentists, ambulancemen, police and those who work with the mentally handicapped are at risk.

BRIEFLY

O'Malley in US for treatment

THE LEADER of the Progressive Democrats, Desmond O'Malley, is undergoing extensive dental work in hospital in the US. He is not expected back for three weeks.

The nature of Mr. O'Malley's dental complaint was not revealed, but is thought to have been the result of an old injury playing rugby and worsened in his recent car crash. The treatment required is not available in Ireland.

A spokesman for the party last night said that Mr. O'Malley (48), is expected back in Dublin at around September 15 — three weeks before the party's second conference.

Irish poetry protest

Conradh na Gaeilge, the Irish language group, last night hit out at the exclusion of poetry in Irish from a competition being sponsored by the European Commission.

The "European Prize for Translation of Poetry" is to be awarded by the European Commission in November — but Irish poets who have written their poems "as Gaeilge" or have translated other works into the Irish language will not be eligible for entry.

Primary school budget 'pitiful'

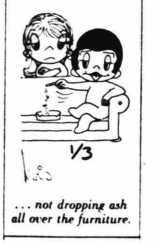
THE fact that the primary school sector is "pitifully under-financed" is reflected in the inadequate pupil-teacher ratio and the high numbers of pupils per class, the National Parents Council claimed last night.

The Council said the Department of Education had prepared a budget for the primary school sector without prior consultation with all the interested parties.

Fact file

TAKEN FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS

love is...



... not dropping ash all over the furniture.

Chess

BLACK'S double rook-bishop act should normally be the match of white's queen and two knights, but not this time. Why?

GHEORGIU—KEENE
Reykjavik, 1972

QUESTION TIME

1. Who is the author of the best-selling Irish novel, "Echoes"?
2. Who is the new leader of Britain's Social Democratic Party?
3. Who is the Minister of State for Trade and Marketing?
4. Where is Honolulu?

ANSWER TIME

1. Oph Kef and Rook Tr-
2. Nbr Rook Pawn Sq
3. Qxe ch Kef.
4. Xef mate.

Smiles

"Miss Healy, compare and contrast Shakespeare's King Lear and Othello and have it on my desk by five-thirty."

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