

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8, 1997

Union claims RTC strike 'only part of the malaise'

THE official one-day strike at Limerick RTC this Wednesday is just a symptom of general discontent and problems at the education facility, according to Aidan Feeney, chairman of the Teachers Union of Ireland.

Mr Feeney and other lecturers picketed the college as part of their

action over the non-renewal of a contract to a lecturer who has been with the college for 18 years.

The lecturer from Corbally joined his colleagues on the picket. There were no classes, but a college spokesman said that students had use of the computer room, library and other facilities.

"We are very concerned by the disruption to pupils and staff," said the spokesman.

He said that he hoped that, when classes resumed, the TUI would respond to their requests for talks.

He stressed that it was a delicate industrial relations matter and they did not want to comment any further on the general problem.

The spokesman said that the last meeting they had to discuss the matter was in December.

However, Mr Feeney said that they had made themselves available for a meeting on Tuesday.

However the college director was not available and management personnel who could attend were not able to stand over its outcome.

He said that at meetings held to date they had been promised hours for the lecturer, but this had not materialised to a meaningful extent.

Mr Feeney claimed that the lecturer has spent half his working life with the

college, and now, for no reason, the college would not renew his contract.

He stressed that there was no complaints with the lecturer's performance from pupils or college.

"There is plenty of work; the college is expanding and there are a total of 800 part time hours available in total," said Mr Feeney.

The TUI chairman said that there are major problems in the school, and this was just one of them. Another is the Academic Council.

He claimed that this council was dictated by management, who with a majority, made all decisions before the council even met, taking no heed to TUI contributions.

The TUI rejected a management open letter to staff claiming there are no suitable part time hours for the lecture.

Mr Feeney said that they hope the matter can be sorted out, and that they are available for discussion.

Management said that the dispute arose because a part-time teacher who was replacing a permanent staff member on leave of absence lost out when the permanent staff member returned.

They say that a college proposal to offer alternative part-time hours to the teacher was rejected by the union, who they claim, have not responded to management invitations to meet



Protest: TUI members on picket duty outside Limerick RTC this Wednesday

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Positive parenting

CIAN O Tighearnaigh, chief executive of the ISPCC will speak on Valuing Childhood Through Positive Parenting, in the Art Gallery, Pery Square, next Tuesday at 8pm.

Mr O'Tighearnaigh is an international children's rights campaigner and an advocate of child centred child care and child protection practice.

He is responsible for the setting up Childline and the expansion and regionalisation of direct access ISPCC services.

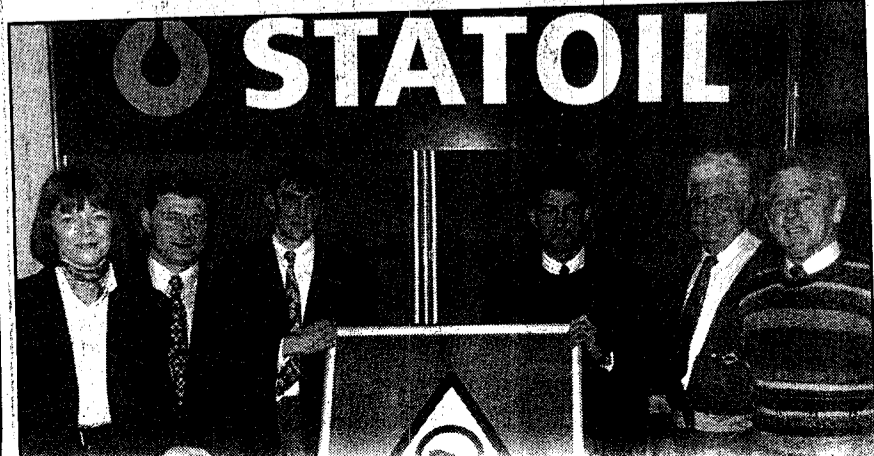
Admission to the meeting, which is being hosted by St Nicholas Montessori Society, is £3.

Mulkear River Certified Dr

A representative of the Office of Public Valuation will speak on Valuing Childhood Through Positive Parenting, in the Art Gallery, Pery Square, next Tuesday at 8pm.

	Offices of Limerick County Council, 79/84 O'Connell Street, Limerick
11th February	
12th February	
13th February	2.30 - 4.30 pm
20th February	
21st February	

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