



Weekend in his quest for the Democratic nomination, two of his rivals are hoping to revive their campaigns tomorrow with primary wins in Virginia and Tennessee: **page 9**

## Arts

**Gerhard Richter:** The German painter's long-time embrace of photography has resulted in an exhibition that shows how bleak a snapshot can be: **page 10**

**LOTTO:** There was one winner of Saturday's Lotto jackpot of €2,629,930 when the numbers drawn were 2, 8, 15, 21, 28, 29, (5). Lotto Plus 1: 5, 9, 10, 15, 21, 24, (11). Lotto Plus 2: 12, 19, 20, 27, 28, 31, (25).

## Weather

It will be cloudy today, with some rain later. Winds will be moderate southwesterly. Temperatures will reach highs of 9 degrees Celsius. Risk of rain highest in north: **page 20**

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tion leaders will demand a statement from the Taoiseach and Ms Cooper Flynn following the emergence of more details of sensational allegations of political corruption from property developer Mr Tom Gilmartin.

The planning tribunal is expected to begin hearing evidence within a month on Mr Gilmartin's failed attempt to build a massive retail development at Quarryvale, west Dublin, in the late 1980s, and what he says were demands for massive bribes from politicians and others. Mr Gilmartin is expected to say he met the Taoiseach on a number of occasions concerning his plans, but he has made no specific allegation of wrongdoing against Mr Ahern.

allow the Taoiseach and Ms Cooper Flynn make statements concerning these latest allegations.

According to Mr Gilmartin, he was thwarted at every turn by politicians and others seeking money; he gave £50,000 (€63,487) to Mr Flynn intended for Fianna Fáil but this was kept by Mr Flynn; he faced a demand for £5 million (€6.35 million) outside a meeting he had with the then Taoiseach, Mr Charles Haughey, and other ministers, including the current Taoiseach, Mr Ahern; and he faced another demand for £100,000 (€127,000) from former deputy Mr Liam Lawlor.

The outline of these claims has been in the public domain for nearly four years. However, after

pension or next week's Dail business. Fine Gael leader Mr Enda Kenny said this was "to allow time for the Taoiseach and Deputy Cooper Flynn to make statements regarding the extremely grave allegations made against them in the media this weekend".

Labour Party leader Mr Pat Rabbitte said in now appeared that the 1987/89 Fianna Fáil government "was riddled with corruption and dishonesty".

Green Party leader, Mr Trevor Sargent, said Mr Ahern must be prepared to resign as Taoiseach if allegations that he obstructed the planning tribunal are verified.

*Ahern to wait for tribunal to answer allegations: page 5*

# Minister to study claims that museum has looted Nazi art

**ARTHUR BEESLEY,**  
POLITICAL REPORTER

The Minister for Arts, Mr O'Donoghue, is to examine claims by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre that parts of the Hunt Museum collection in Limerick may have been looted by the Nazis.

Mr O'Donoghue said last night that he had not seen the letter to the President, Mrs McAleese, in which the centre called for an independent inquiry into the collection amassed by the late John Hunt and his late wife, Gertrude.

"We'll look at the situation with an open mind. We'll comment then," he said.

A 1998 report in the form of an essay commissioned by the museum board suggested that Mr John Hunt once acquired a rare 14th-century miniature gold triptych "which had been looted from a bank vault in the second World War" in

exchange for a suite of 18th-century furniture. The report by Ms Judith Hill, a Limerick-based art historian, was never published. There was no further investigation.

The museum board is to meet this week to discuss the Wiesenthal Centre's allegation that the Hunts had "intimate business relationships with notorious dealers in art looted by the Nazis".

The directors are expected to discuss hiring a professional archivist to carry out a detailed study of the museum archive. The question of developing a deeper understanding of the collection's provenance is expected to arise.

The museum chairman, Mr George Stacpoole, who rejects the claims by the Wiesenthal Centre, said the board would make a statement after the meeting, which is likely to take place in the first half of the week.

Mr Stacpoole refused to com-

ment on Ms Hill's report, which said that John and Gertrude Hunt "fitted seamlessly" into the post-second World War art market which was coloured by "wide-scale Nazi thefts".

Ms Hill said yesterday that the collection should be fully investigated. "However, until anything is proved against specific items in the collection, I think it is important that the museum is given full support."

The museum at Limerick's Custom House receives €250,000 per year from Mr O'Donoghue's Department and part of the €3.81 million restoration fee for the building was paid by the State.

The Government granted €761,000 in tax relief in 1999 for a donation to the museum from the Hunts' adoptive children, Mr John Hunt jnr and Ms Trudi Hunt, who have rejected the Wiesenthal Centre allegations.

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