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here 60% to £250,000. There must therefore be a significant increase in the overall allocation of funds to welfare, information and counselling services in London and elsewhere in Britain and the United States. The Limerick Centre for the Unemployed is to be warmly congratulated for the initiative it has taken when producing a series of fact sheets to inform people on the problems they are likely to encounter in London. It is high time that the Government follow their lead and provided information to all young people on all aspects of emigration to Britain, Europe and the USA.

This information should be made available, with Government backing, through every second level school, youth club or youth centre. London is a city where more than 400,000 people are

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## Early drinks

At Limerick court this Thursday, Limerick city vintners were granted a special exemption to open at 11 a.m. for this Sunday's Munster Final between Cork and Tipperary. The application was moved by Mr. Gearoid McGann, solr. ● Big match special: p 10 and sports pages.

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quota that no new schemes will begin or existing ones continue until the numbers come down."

He said that at the moment it was simply a question of over-spending and they had to cut back.

Schemes which look certain to suffer include the redevelopment of the open space in Kennedy Park.

"This is a terrible shock to all concerned and what really is annoying is that financially there is no real saving to the state," said Deputy O'Dea.

## Freedom of the city for the Six?

By LEADER REPORTER

LIMERICK Council of Trade Unions this Thursday night called on Limerick City Council to make the Birmingham Six freemen of Limerick.

The motion was proposed by Ms Mary Guilfoyle on behalf of MSF (ASTMS) and was endorsed by the executive committee of the Trades Council. It was passed by a vote of 13 votes to 2 with 2 abstentions.

Mr Finbar Dorgan, NEETU, explained that while his union's two delegates were voting against the motion they believed that the Birmingham Six were innocent. He added that they believed it to be inappropriate that they be made freemen of Limerick.

Ms Guilfoyle said that the relatives of the Birmingham Six were very disappointed with the Irish Government's actions since the failure of the court action to secure the release of the six. She added that the passing of the resolution would be a morale booster to the families and the six prisoners.

Cllr Joe Harrington, ITGWU, said that it was most appropriate to make this gesture at a time when Dublin City Council were considering giving the freedom of the city to Nelson Mandela.

## Gardai hunt armed pair

Detectives at Henry Street this Friday appealed for witnesses to an armed robbery of £7,000 from the Allied Irish Banks, Castletroy, at 11.00 a.m. on Monday last.

In the meantime, the Gardai are continuing their search for the two masked men, one carrying a hatchet, and the other a revolver, who entered the bank, ordered the four members of the staff to lie on the ground and demanded money. No shots were fired, and the two men made their getaway, on a black Honda motor cycle, later found abandoned at Plassey.

The swans and their ten cygnets living in peace just 100 yards from the Shannon Bridge.

□ Picture: OWEN SOUTH.

## John shoots from the dole to fame

A 28-year-old Limerick man who a few months back was making up the unemployment statistics is now taking the local theatrical scene by storm. And John Murphy from Greystones who made his first appearance on stage in February is being hailed as having one of the brightest acting futures in the country.



John Murphy.

The amazing success story of John began last October when he took a 10 week drama class organised through the Unemployed Centre. Now he is a professional actor with the local Island Theatre Group who have built up quite a reputation since their formation at the start of the year.

## Courage

"He has shown great courage, talent, and commitment. He takes what he does seriously and works hard at it...yes he has great potential" said the delighted artistic director with Island, Terry Devlin, who has worked with Cork Theatre Company, Druid Theatre and Acorn among others. Co-incidentally it was Terry who was running the class and when he invited members for auditions for the company. John says: "I said I would go for this so I wouldn't turn around in five years and say I should have tried this".

Rehearsing five days a week with the company he is reluctant to talk of his rave reviews for "The Year of the Hiker" in which he plays the Hiker. He stressed the team effort.

"I would like to end up with the knowledge—I know it sounds corny—that in myself I have reached a certain standard. I have a long way to go and a lot to learn," he told me

He was never on stage before and made his debut in "Candida" in Nenagh in February. "I was absolutely terrified going on stage to almost the point of throwing up," he admits.

## The heart

Like so many unemployed, he spent many mornings in bed but believes that many should be able to get out of the rut by taking part in the "excellent and varied" courses run by the Unemployed Centre.

Son of George and Olga Murphy, the new name in local theatre says surprisingly that learning the lines is one of the easiest parts of his new job. "Getting to the heart and emotion of the character is the hardest thing," he says.

## WEATHER

Widespread persistent rain was forecast to spread over the Limerick region this Friday night by the Met. Office at Shannon this Friday. There will be a clearance on Saturday to scattered showers, with some sunny spells. Sunday and Monday are forecast to be mainly dry, with sunny spells, but another band of rain is forecast to cross the country on Tuesday. Winds will be light to moderate south-westerly, and temperatures will range between 16 and 19 degrees.

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