Postal worker's death sparked Limerick Soviet



Tributes: Pictured in Mount Saint Lawrence following the commemoration were historian and former mayor, Frank Prendergast, Jeffrey Hoare and Mike McNamara, of the Limerick Council of Trade Unions, Brian O'Grady, Plasterers' Union, Clir Maurice Quinlivan, Joe Kiely builders' union, and John Cantillon SIPTU

Byrne marked

NICK RABBITTS

News Reporter

THE life and times of socialist revolutionary Robert Byrne has been celebrated at a special event organised by the Limerick Council of Trade Un-

Some 35 people attended a commemoration on Monday of the man whose tragic death sparked the famous Limerick Soviet of 1919.

Post office worker and IRA prisoner Robert Byrne was shot dead after being rescued from St Camillus' Hospital after he was taken prisoner there by the British army.

His funeral was attended by tens of thousands of mourners. In an attempt to restore calm, British forces tried to prevent any movement in or out of the city, placing military barricades.

It was this which prompted the Limerick Soviet, a two week struggle, where workers effectively ran the city, circulating their own money.

As part of Monday's event, Mike McNamara, president of the Council of Trade Unions, led a parade into Mount Saint Lawrence, where a wreath was laid at the grave of Robert Byrne.

Following the commemoration, a special ceremony was held in the Mechanic's Institute in Hartstonge Street, where a collection of articles and memorabilia from the time of the Soviet was donated by Mr McNamara, and others to Seamus Quinn, vice president of the builders' trade union.

Former Labour TD and noted historian Frank Prendergast gave a lecture on the Limerick Soviet, and also highlighted other workers struggles.

Speaking at Mr Byrne's graveside, Sinn Fein councillor Maurice Quinlivan - whose great granduncle Dominic Kennedy was involved in his aborted rescue drew comparisons with the struggle back then, and that of now, citing the striking Irish Cement workers, and staff who have staged sit in protests

at GAME. "The story of Robert Byrne and the Soviet is one in which working people in Limerick should take immense pride. That the story continues to be told today is due in huge part to a small band of writers and activists," said Cllr Quinlivan.



Cllr Maurice Quinlivan, Mike McNamara of the Limerick Council of Trade Unions, and former mayor Frank Prendergast.

will holds its AGM on Friday 25th May

in the Maldron Hotel from 7pm - 9:30pm

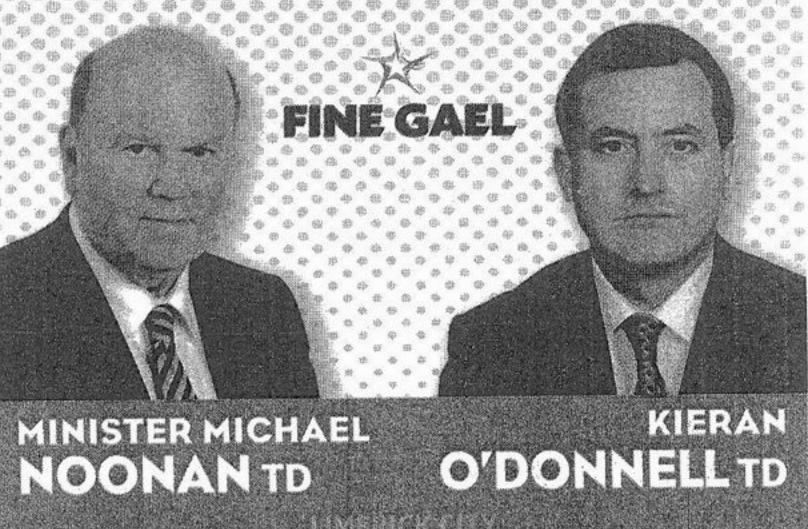
Any nominations or motions have to be with the Secretary no later than 12pm on Friday 18th May

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