

# Teachers seek more liaison officers for city schools

THE Government has been urged to provide more home/school liaison officers in Limerick.

The call came after Irish National Teacher Organisation president, Brendan Gilmore, visited 14 disadvantaged schools in the city.

There are just three liaison officers in Limerick at present, with a need for many more, according to the INTO.

"They have proved their worth in liaising between the teachers, school and parents in disadvantaged schools," explained Mr Gilmore, who visited dis-

vantaged schools on Wednesday with Tom O'Sullivan, INTO executive member from Limerick.

The schools are mostly in high unemployment areas, where the INTO say that children are at a big disadvantage.

Problems in the home can lead to psychological problems for children going to school. Remedial and psychological help is needed. And then there are the basic financial problems like raising money for computers so that the children for poorer areas can have the same facilities as those from the more affluent parts of Limerick, he said.

"They way we do it, is try and buy one computer a year, but it is hard to raise money with the high unemployment," explained principal of the 250-pupil Ballynanty Girls' School, Paddy Flynn.

However, what they might lacking in funds in Ballynanty, there are certainly not in drive an initiative as shown by the fact that the school is one only of only six in Ireland networked to the worldwide Campus 2,000 scheme.

Through a computer link, the pupils in Ballynanty correspond with students in England, Australia and Japan.

The girls schools in Bal-

pupils work under enormous stresses and pressures. These are areas of critical social need which are found mainly in the inner cities and in certain peripheral suburban estates," said Mr Gilmore.

What the INTO wants is access to both a remedial teacher of English and mathematics for all designated schools and concessionary staffing for those schools.

Mr Gilmore also warned that, from next September, there will be a change in the free book grant scheme. Up to now financial allocations were made through school principals on the criteria of need, as shown by the school.

However, from September parents will have to produce evidence that they are

in receipt of clothing and footwear allowance before they can avail of the book grant.

Mr Gilmore predicted that this will cause much problems. He said that some parents do not avail of the clothing and footwear grant through ignorance, while others do not, out of pride.

"Then you have cases where the mother hands down one school uniform from one child to the other, so they don't look for the clothing grant and would not there be entitled to the book grant," he explained.

The INTO have made a detailed submission to the Government on the need to respond to the needs of the socio-economically disadvantaged children in national schools.

sends a message on ... by INTO president, Tom O'Sullivan, and

## ... facilities ... bled praised

... is mild, travels in his wheelchair every day to ... oylish where he is studying applied computing.

He says that he first became interested in computers as a child, and that when he finishes his two-year national certificate course, he wants to work in computer environment.

A son of Frances and William Mulcahy, Kevin ... es to go to discos and the

tion, Kevin was incorrectly described as a double amputee.

### Cushnahan

EWE premiums should be increased, according to Munster MEP John Cushnahan.

Speaking in the European Parliament he said that falling sheep prices in Ire-



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