

Union seeks top deal for Krups

By EUGENE PHELAN

A UNION leader today said Krups workers "deserved a very good redundancy package" as negotiations began on lump sums to be paid to the 500 workers.

Said John McDonnell, general secretary of SIPTU: "The workers have been very positive, despite this devastating blow, and they deserve a very good redundancy package."

He said that today's talks with Tanaiste Mary Harney at the plant would concentrate on the urgency of getting a replacement industry into the Krups facility.

The Tanaiste met workers of the doomed factory this morning. She promised that major efforts would be made to bring in an alternative industry.

Her party colleague, Desmond O'Malley, TD, said he was confident that many Krups workers will find alternative jobs without "too great a delay".

With the IDA already working on trying to get a replacement plant for Krups, the managing director of the doomed city

plant has promised a "comprehensive package" for the 500 workforce that are to lose their jobs.

"We have very, very clearly stated that we will put a comprehensive package forward. We are not in a position to put that on the table until after November 6," Liam McElligott, MD of Krups told the Limerick Leader.

Beyond the word "comprehensive" Mr McElligott said he could not comment.

The big problem regarding Krups is the knock on effect to local companies with SIPTU branch secretary Michael Long warning that another 700 jobs are also at risk.

Bishops of Limerick, Dr Donal Murray and Right Rev Edward Darling issued a joint statement yesterday warning that the job closure was particularly distressing coming as it did in the run up to Christmas.

Deputy Des O'Malley has welcomed the decision of Mary Harney to visit Limerick today.

"Fortunately there is a strong demand in Limerick at present for industrial workers and I am confident that a substantial proportion of those who will become redundant in Krups will find satisfactory alternative employment without too great a delay," he stated.

Deputy Jan O'Sullivan said she was calling a special city council meeting to discuss the Krups closure.



Happier days at Krups during Taobiseach Bertie Ahern's visit last March

(LL)



Mary Dennehy, Ballykeeffe, who officially opened the new Tesco store at the Crescent Shopping Centre this morning, with staff members Catherine Costigan, Pennywell, and Sandra Kearney, Gouldavoher. □ See story: P2 (LL)