

# at Cheltenham

From JIMMY WOULFE, at Cheltenham.

THERE was big disappointment here, this morning, with the news that the main Irish hope for today's champion hurdle, Fortune and Fame, had been withdrawn from the big race.

Dermot Weld decided, early today, that the horse is not fit enough and has pulled him out of the race.

Hundreds of Irish punters, of course, backed him over the past couple

of months, and his withdrawal is a big blow to their pockets at the start of the big festival.

I have never seen as many Limerick people at the festival, though many arrived here, exhausted.

Following yesterday's flight from Shannon to London, there were no delays at the airport, but in all places, the train station.

The trip by train to Cheltenham normally takes 90 minutes, but because of a fire near the station, there were major delays, and it took the train five hours to get to its destination.

**STYLE FOR MEN**

... three had to be cut from the wreckage. The woman was discharged from Limerick Regional Hospital after treatment; the children were uninjured.

# MAYOR SHOCKED AT CIVIC MASS

By DYMPHNA BRACKEN

A SHOCKED Mayor Jan O'Sullivan is writing to Bishop Jeremiah Newman, today, seeking an explanation for his refusal to allow her read the lesson at last Sunday's Mass, at St John's Cathedral, to open Civic Week.

"I was shocked at the decision," she said.

She believes the decision was taken because she is a member of the Church of Ireland.

Mayor O'Sullivan told the Limerick Chronicle that she had discussed the matter in private with the party leaders on the City Council, last evening, and that she had their fullest support.

"If Bishop Newman's explanation is not satisfactory, it is the considered view that the nature of mayoral participation in future Civic Masses will be considered," she told the Chronicle.

"If there is a role for the mayor, then there should be a role for all mayors," she added.

A spokesperson for Bishop Newman told the Chronicle that, according to the church's directory on ecumenism, a member of another church cannot take an integral part in the Mass.

Explaining the incident, Mayor O'Sullivan said she was in the sacristy of the Cathedral, on Sunday morn-

ing, when she was informed by a priest that she would not be reading the lesson.

She had already been given copies of the readings two or three days previously.

City manager Jack

Higgins, who was to have read the second lesson at the Mass, withdrew, following the last minute change in arrangements and claimed that the decision

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## Trial resumes

THE trial of two Limerick women charged with the murder of 17-year old Tracey Butler, of Creagh Avenue, Kileely, on the night of July 12/13, was due

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## Civic Mass

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was unfair to the Mayor. Mayor O'Sullivan, whose only conversation with Bishop Newman on the morning in question was "Good morning", did read the prayers of the faithful.

She explained that, only a few months ago, she had read a lesson at a Mass in the Redemptorist Church, in conjunction with the ONE celebrations.

"I'm very disappointed over this incident, because the City Council has always tried to foster a ecumenical spirit," she said.

"This is the first time that anything like this has happened to me," she added.

Bishop Jeremiah Newman was called on, today, by Barbara Dillon chairwoman of Limerick Federation of Women's Organisations to make a full statement clarifying his refusal to allow the Mayor read the lesson.

"I do not agree it was because Mayor O'Sullivan was Church of Ireland," stated Mrs Dillon, who added that she herself had read a lesson at the Redemptorists', some years ago, during a Girl Guides' Mass at which Bishop Newman was the chief celebrant.

On the same day, John Pomeroy, area commissioner of the Scouting Association of Ireland and a Protestant, read the second reading that day.

"Bishop Newman did not make any comment on this at the time," she added.

"We need an answer this time — he cannot avoid the issue any longer," she stated.

A statement from Bishop Jeremiah Newman, issued at noon today, stated:

"The following is the relevant extract from the Directory on Ecumenism in Ireland, issued by the Irish Episcopal Conference and currently in use:

"Participation in the Eucharist raises special problems, because of the unique place of the Eucharist in the Church's faith and worship.

"Should Christians of other denominations assist at Mass, it is very appropriate, if they so wish, that they would join with the congregation in the prayers. They may act as leader in prayer (e.g., prayers of the faithful or bidding prayers).

"Since, however, the liturgy of the word is an integral part of the total eucharistic liturgy, they may not act as scripture reader or preacher at Mass. For reasons which flow from the meaning of the Eucharist itself as the supreme expression and the sacramental realisation of the unity of Christ's body, the Church, Christians of other denominations may not be admitted to Holy Communion.

"The Eucharist is the great sacrament of unity, manifesting and presupposing that gift of unity which Christ won for his Church by His death on the Cross.

"As such, it implies that those who gather to celebrate it are already one in faith and worship. In the absence of such unity, the practice of intercommunion would conflict with the deepest meaning of the sacrament. It would assert an untruth, namely that divided churches are already one.

"So far from giving impetus to work for unity, it would lessen this impetus, by dimming awareness of the fact and the sadness of being divided."

# Ang ove

By AIDAN COR

GOVERNMENT po was blamed for the c tinuance of overtime within the Public S vice, by the president the Irish Council Trade Unions at L evening's meeting of Limerick Trades Cou cil.

Addressing the membe Phil Flynn said that t question of overtime was very tricky issue, not eas resolved".

He said: "Within t trade union movement, v regard it as a threat to pe ple's health and it such young employees into false standard of living.

"While it is our aim t encourage governments t create jobs, not overtime, is often government polic in the Public Service, fo instance, that continue overtime situations instea of increasing employment because of restricted num ber directives."

The forthcoming May Day holiday also came in for criticism from delegates at the meeting, who asked what another public holiday would mean to the thousands of unemployed local ly who already had 365 days off each year.

"Don't lose the joy of May Day," relied the ICTU president, "let's celebrate this acknowledgement of labour's contribution to the development of our coun-

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