

# McCABE ACCUSED SWITCH PLEA TO MANSLAUGHTER

By Marie Hobbins  
AN eleventh-hour sudden twist at the trial in the Special Criminal Court, Dublin, on Wednesday, of four men accused of the capital murder of Det. Garda Jerry McCabe in Adare on June 7, 1996, came about when the murder charge was put to them and they changed their plea to "guilty of manslaughter."

The four accused - Pearse McCauley, Strabane, Tyrone, with no fixed address, Jeremiah Sheehy of Abbey Park, Rathkeale; Michael O'Neill, Lisheen Park, Patrickswell and Kevin Walsh, also of Lisheen Park, Patrickswell - just before noon on Wednesday, pleaded guilty to the new charge of unlawfully and maliciously wounding Det. Garda

Ben O'Sullivan in Adare on the same date.

A fifth man, John Quinn, was re-arraigned and pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery,

A spokesperson for Chief Superintendent Michael Fitzgerald's office at Henry Street, who is heading a strong representation of Limerick gardai at the court, confirmed that following a re-sit-

ting later on Wednesday afternoon, sentence would not be handed down until Thursday.

There has been mixed reaction to the outcome of the trial. Pat Kearney, brother in law of the late detective said the family were happy that the case has been brought to a successful conclusion. However, Deputies Des O'Malley and Michael Noonan

have criticised the change of plea. Deputy O'Malley said the case had been marked by widespread intimidation and Deputy Noonan said he believed a deal had been done.

On Friday the court will deal with the case in which 53-year-old Patrick Harty was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for contempt when he refused to give evidence.

## Road access vital