



Noonan and Jackman top the poll in Limerick East

By DEARBHLA LOOBY

FINE Gael are now more confident than ever that they will take an extra seat in Limerick East in the next general election.

Finance spokesman, Michael Noonan, TD, and Senator Mary Jackman were selected to run on

the Fine Gael ticket at the largest selection convention in the constituency for many years.

Over 700 delegates gathered at the Greenhills Hotel to support the candidates they think will win back the seat that is up for grabs now that Des O'Malley will be stepping down.

Deputy Noonan headed the poll with 281 votes. Senator Mary Jackman

got the bulk of Deputy Noonan's surplus, which gave her a poll of 234 votes.

They defeated Alderman Pat Kennedy, city councillor, with 202 votes.

Deputy Noonan hopes that Fine Gael now have a good ticket to go on to win the extra seat. "The election campaign can't be too far away now and I'm very pleased that we have the chance to work hard

for two seats in Limerick East."

Senator Jackman on her selection said not only is she looking forward to celebrating two seats in the constituency after the next general election, but also to Fine Gael being back in government. "We will be out day and night on the road. The second seat has been earmarked by many people for me, so here we go,"

she said.

Nora Owen, deputy leader of Fine Gael who presided at the convention as chairperson was delighted with the "incredible" turnout. "I get a lift from seeing how everyone here gave their time to come today. None of us could become elected representatives without all of your work. Increasingly today more and more people are

proud to say they support Fine Gael."

As predicted in the Limerick Leader last week Cllr Mary Harty from Pallasgreen withdrew her nomination. She said that based on the anomaly of the 'one man one vote' system, she understood that she didn't stand a chance of being selected.

YOUTH SPENDS NIGHT IN CELL

A THIRTEEN-year-old boy who appeared before Limerick District Court had to spend a night in a cell in Henry Street Garda Station because there was nowhere else for him to go.

The young boy, who appeared before the court on two charges of larceny, burst in to tears when Judge Tom O'Donnell said that he would have to spend the night in the station.

Judge O'Donnell said that it was "an absolute disgrace" that this was the only place for him to go.

The judge said that he hated having to detain the boy in the station but he had no other option.

The young Limerick boy was remanded to Obertstown on May 30 of this year but was turned away as there was no place for him.

On June 29, the boy was remanded to St Michael's for assessment but was turned away again because there was no room.

The boy was put in Mount Kennet House, run by the Mid-Western Health Board, as a temporary measure.

Judge O'Donnell commented: "I've only been the District Court Judge

here for one year and this young lad has been in court nearly as much as I have. I am not going to allow him to roam the streets of Limerick doing what he has been doing. He's unruly and he should be in St Michael's."

Referring to the current High Court applications involving other youths, solicitor for the youth, Ted McCarthy, said: "He is one of a group of children before the High Court on similar applications. It seems that the State is not providing sufficient funds for providing for these children."

The boy was remanded overnight to Henry Street Garda station.

The judge expressed his frustration that the 13-year-old offender was on the streets of Limerick committing crime.

He said the youth had been under the Health Board's care but had absconded "despite the best efforts of the Health Board".

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Michael Noonan, happy after his victory last evening.

McCabe killer on temporary weekend release

By EUGENE PHELAN

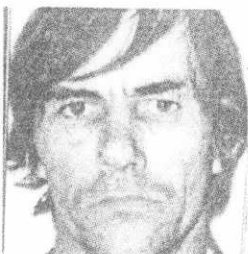
A DEPARTMENT of Justice spokesman strongly denied suggestions today that the killers of Garda Jerry McCabe would be released next year.

This follows confirmation that Michael O'Neill,

Lisheen Park, Patrickswell who is serving time for the manslaughter of the garda was allowed out for weekend leave.

"It is a feature of prison service all over the world to leave prisoners out on weekend leave on compassionate grounds for things like family funerals or illnesses," said the spokesman.

He would not say why O'Neill was released at the



Michael O'Neill allowed out on weekend leave

weekend but the Limerick Leader understands it was because of a family illness.

Unofficial Republican sources have told this paper that they expect those convicted of his manslaughter to be released next year.

But the Department of Justice spokesman said that there had been no change in the government's stance and those

convicted would not be released early under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement.

John Quinn, Faha, Patrickswell who is serving a six year sentence at Castlerea after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit a robbery in Adare during the time Garda McCabe was shot was released for a family funeral two weeks ago.

"The Department of

Justice are softening up the people for their release. The families expect them out next year," was how the Republican source put it.

There has been a huge political debate for the past six months on whether or not the four killers of Garda McCabe should qualify under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement.