

LIMERICK LEADER

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Limerick snub by PDs is slammed

By MAIRE CARMODY

THERE was anger in Limerick today at the PDs snub to the local

media when the announcement was made yesterday that Des O'Malley was standing down as party leader.

The party headquar-

ters ignored Limerick journalists when organising the press conference announcing his resignation. And although it was widely known yesterday morning, the party headquarters in Dublin refused to discuss the matter when contacted by Limerick journalists, either on or off the record.

Arthur Quinlan, Chairman of the South West Branch of the NUJ, said that most politicians would have thought of informing their local press in such a situation.

"It is rather unfortunate that the Limerick press wasn't invited to Dublin, in spite of the attitude adopted by the press, he was always very well looked after by the Limerick press," said Mr Quinlan.

He added that he would put it down to an oversight. However, when the Limerick Leader contacted a PD official at 11.50am on Tuesday regarding speculation of his resignation they refused to discuss the matter with the Limerick Leader. However, journalists in Dublin and Cork were able to tell the Limerick Leader that the press conference had been called.

"I would put it down to an oversight, the press conference was held in Dublin not in Limerick, let's be charitable, but it is disappointing that he didn't think about it," said Mr Quinlan.

He added: "It is not so much O'Malley but his advisers that they didn't think of extending the invitation."

"Mr O'Malley always

had an individual way of doing business, he was never one to go running to the press with news, good or bad. He can be grumpy. I was there the day he appeared in Limerick District court as a young solicitor that was his man-

Still first

YESTERDAY'S *Limerick Chronicle* was the first Irish newspaper to carry news of Des O'Malley's resignation decision.

ner then, the press wasn't his priority," said Mr Quinlan.

According to informed sources the leadership battle is now between Limerick born Pat Cox and Mary Harney.

Paying tribute to Des O'Malley the SIGNAL workers lobby at Shannon issued the following statement: "The SIGNAL workers lobby at Shannon and its allies in campaign for Shannon's status will be eternally indebted to Desmond O'Malley for the strength of purpose, motivating power and heavy-weight influence at the Cabinet table which Mr O'Malley provided for Shannon."

Wishing him well in his retirement SIGNAL said that Mr O'Malley would be able to his energies onto the issue of Shannon Airport and its vital importance to a future for the West of Ireland.



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Service to public is warmly praised

By **DYMPHNA BRACKEN**

THE Mayor paid tribute to Mr O'Malley's contribution to public life over a number of years, particularly to Limerick in various ministeries and as public representative.

"We will all be sorry to see him go from the point of view of the Limerick area," she added.

Cllr Tim O'Malley, who was one of the people Mr O'Malley met in Limerick last evening, said everybody was shocked to hear his announcement.

"A number of people did try to change his mind, but he told us that he had been thinking about his decision for a while and was definite about it," said Cllr O'Malley.

Now 55 years of age, Mr O'Malley told the meeting of constituency friends and colleagues that, having been at the coal face of public life for 25 years, he now wished to hand over to a younger man.

"I think that people of all political parties would pay tribute to Mr O'Malley.

"He was only out of cabinet a few months when the biggest ever blow was struck against Shannon airport," he added.

By **MAIREAD NALLY**

THERE was mixed reaction on the streets of Limerick to yesterday's announcement by Desmond O'Malley of his decision to resign as leader of the Progressive Democrats.

A lot of the young people asked did not know about the resignation, were not interested in politics or did not comment.

The majority of those who expressed disappointment were in the 40-60 age group.

Mr. O'Dea, Drombanna, undertaker: "I have no time for him. He upset every government. He was the cause

Limerick stunned

Widespread regret at O'Malley decision



Deputy O'Malley

of the beef tribunal."

Batt Harnett, Upper Mallow Street, retired: "I

like him, glad he's not gone from us. He has just stepped down. Limerick owes him and his family a lot. There is enough talent left in the party".

Breda McGrath, Corbally, housewife: "I am very surprised but not disappointed personally. I am not a PD person but he was always good for the city".

Billy Quinn, Caherdavin, retired from Tan oil company: "I am very shocked, very disappointed."

Fergus Maxwell, Sixmilebridge, retired Aer Lingus employee: "I am sorry to see him go, I am not a PD follower but he was good for the country".

Brendan Markham, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, music student: "I am curious. There was no forewarning. I am surprised as he was founder of the party. Is something on the way? I am not really disappointed. I have no faith in any of them".

Vandals attack O'Grady's shrine

By **MAIREAD NALLY**

ONE of Limerick city's most prominent features was defaced this week.

The monument to world champion weight thrower John O'Grady at Mulgrave Street was vandalised when part of the memorial weight

It had been a feature of Mulgrave Street since approximately 1943.

John O'Grady from Ballybricken created three world records and won seven national championships. He became a very prominent figure in international sports circles.

The monument was

1943. It disfigures the whole monument. It was a lovely monument to a great man".

According to local historian Kevin Hannan, Mr. O'Grady was a very popular man, so popular that at one stage on hearing of his intention to emigrate to

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