

schemes, Deputy Michael Noonan told the Dáil.

Therefore, the reference to pensions was to define the category to which the pay cut applies, he said.

"It is not a pension levy

to all income, including overtime. This proves again that it has nothing to do with pensions because overtime is not reckonable for pension purposes."

Speaking on Bill, he said

with those on higher income paying more. When tax relief was allowed some persons on higher income, on the higher rate of tax, would

A NATIONAL strike, the first in many years, is now looking certain, Deputy Kieran O'Donnell told the Dáil. Speaking on the same Bill, he said national strikes

while someone on £100,000 will pay 4.64 per cent net? This is not a question of the public sector versus the private sector. It is about people paying their fair

point, this should be brought forward as an emergency measure to bring the public finances under control."

is going. Accordingly, because the situation is so fluid and is changing daily, the reactions must be also on a daily basis."

Cathaoirleach accepts portrait of writer Jerry O'Neill on behalf 'of all of Limerick'

Aine Fitzgerald

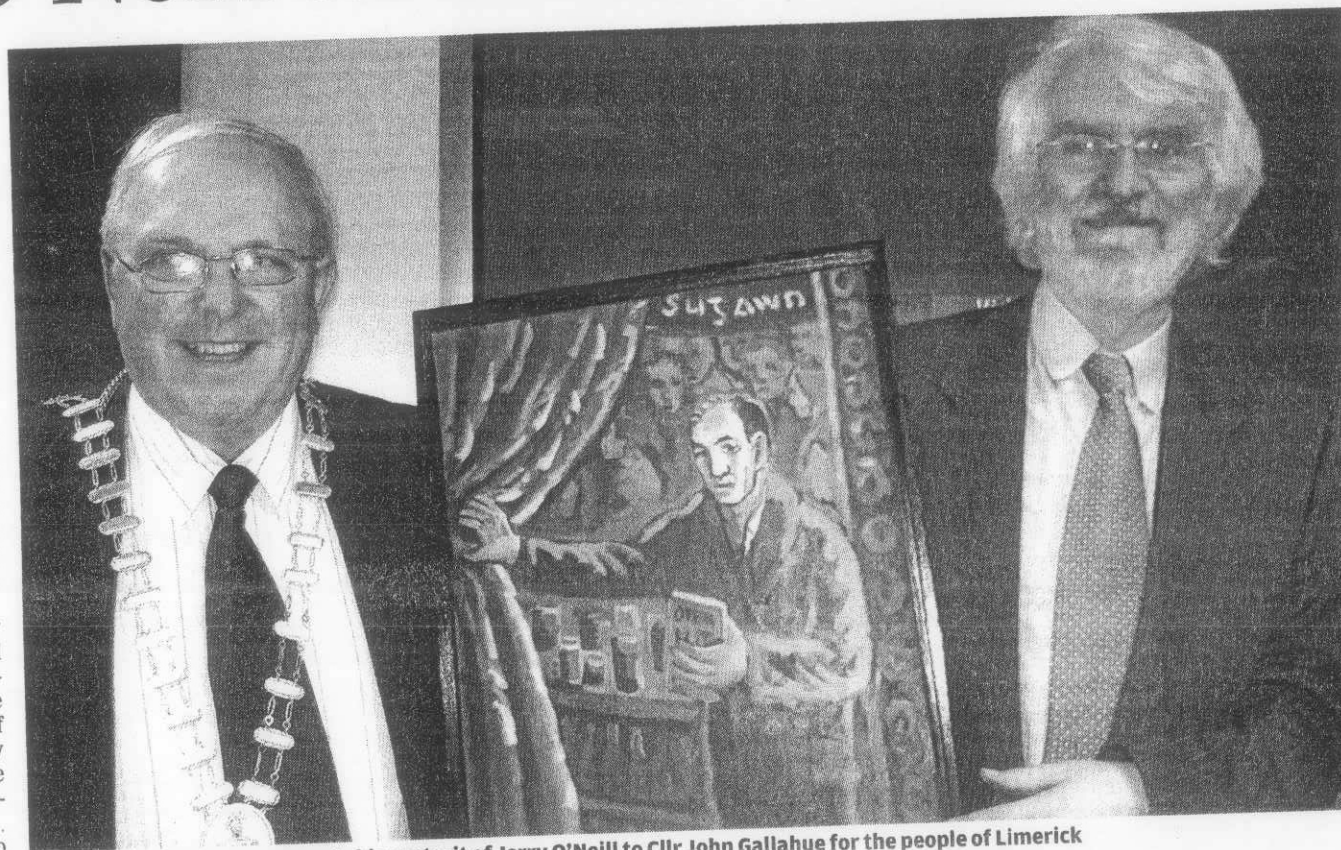
A PORTRAIT of an award winning Limerick-born novelist who established the first Irish pub theatre in London was presented to Cllr John Gallahue, Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council, at a ceremony in the Irish Cultural Centre in London.

Cllr Gallahue said he accepted the portrait of the late Jerry O'Neill on behalf of all the people of Limerick.

"As a member of the Governing Body of the University of Limerick, it is my intention to have the portrait placed in the National Collection there because the Jerry O'Neill papers are already in the university archive," he said.

The portrait was painted by London-based Irish Post award winning artist Bernard Canavan, who was a regular at the Sugaw Theatre and a friend of the Limerick writer. A film crew making a documentary on the painter for the Galway Film Festival covered the event.

The ceremony was also attended by officials from the Irish embassy, by the Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham, Andrew Johnston, who welcomed the guests to Hammersmith, representatives of the Islington and Hackney councils and by officers from the Irish



Artist Bernard Canavan presents his portrait of Jerry O'Neill to Cllr John Gallahue for the people of Limerick

Cultural Centre in Hammersmith and the Sugaw Memorial Committee

Doris Daly, chairwoman of the Sugaw Theatre Memorial Committee, said that people

from Limerick city and county were visitors and many still held fond memories of the plays and music events staged in the Islington venue.

"Jerry brought our tradi-

tional music and drama to all of the cosmopolitan mix in the unlikely location of a disused whelk stall in a backwater on the cusp of Hackney and Islington," said Ms Daly.

This ushered in an era of communication, mutual respect and understanding in a time of suspicion and distrust when the Irish were getting a bad press.

May marks the 10th anniver-

sary of Jerry's death in Kilkee, and the London Sugaw Memorial Committee commissioned the portrait to mark his contribution to Irish literature.

Actor John Quinn and lecturer John O'Donovan recalled the early days of the Sugaw.

Throughout the 1960s, Mr O'Neill was chronicling the London Irish as pub landlord, playwright and novelist. He captured the twilight world of the aimless Irish - the building workers, the foremen, the minor bosses and the figures who controlled their often dreary lives.

His books brought to light a strange dark world of the Irish in London and novels like *Duffy is Dead* and *Open Cut* set new literary standards for Irish writers.

Cllr Gallahue said that Mr O'Neill had produced well-received novels and plays and his memory would endure in Limerick.

"In May, to mark the anniversary of his death, we hope to see the portrait formally unveiled in the University of Limerick. Working with Limerick City Council, we are also planning to have a commemorative plaque erected at his boyhood home in Cecil Street to recognise his contribution to theatre and literature," he said.

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