

Limerick

In 1923 the entire county, including the city, formed a single constituency returning seven members. No change was made in the 1935 constituency revision but in 1947 it was divided into two constituencies: Limerick East, which included the city area, returning four members, and Limerick West,

returning three.

This arrangement has continued since then with boundary adjustments between the two constituencies in 1961 and 1969.

The Walsh Commission recommended the continuance of the two constituencies but with the transfer of

5,000 people from Limerick West to Limerick East with Limerick East becoming a five-seater and Limerick West remaining a three-seater.

(See pages 249 and 246 for the charts on Limerick East and Limerick West from 1948 respectively.)

LIMERICK

	FF	FG	Labour	Farmer	Nat.Lab.	C-P *	SF	Others
1923 (7)	26.4 (2)	41.5 (3)	17.4 (1)	11.7 (1)	—	—	—	2.9 (—)
1927 (June) (7)	30.4 (2)	26.8 (2)	13.9 (2)	7.7 (—)	—	—	—	21.3 (1)
1927 (Sept.) (7)	34.7 (3)	38.0 (3)	15.3 (1)	6.0 (—)	—	—	—	5.9 (—)
1932 (7)	46.5 (4)	32.3 (2)	7.4 (—)	7.9 (1)	—	—	—	5.9 (—)
1933 (7)	52.6 (4)	28.9 (2)	8.8 (1)	—	—	9.7 (—)	—	—
1937 (7)	45.7 (4)	35.4 (2)	16.8 (1)	—	—	—	—	2.1 (—)
1938 (7)	53.9 (4)	34.1 (2)	11.9 (1)	—	—	—	—	—
1943 (7)	46.9 (4)	28.3 (2)	17.5 (1)	7.4 (—)	—	—	—	—
1944 (7)	53.3 (4)	24.8 (2)	13.7 (1)	—	—	—	—	8.3 (—)



Des O'Malley (FF) speaking at Doon, Co. Limerick on June 7, 1981.

Elections

1923 (7 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
Dr. R. F. Hayes (C na nG)	10,498
J. Ledden (C na nG)	6,335
J. Carroll (Rep.)	5,946
† J. Colbert (FF)	4,842
J. Nolan (C na nG)	1,476
P. Clancy (Lab.)	3,305
P. K. Hogan (Far.)	1,537

Defeated:

W. J. Murphy (Lab.)	3,332
B. Laffan (Far.)	1,656
J. Quaide (Far.)	1,619
M. Keyes (Lab.)	1,549
J. A. Smyth (C na nG)	1,547
M. P. Colivet (Rep.)	1,519
P. Walsh (C na nG)	1,254
W. O'Brien (Far.)	1,143
Mrs. O'Callaghan (Rep.)	1,097
M. R. Clery (Ind.)	907
J. O'Brien (Lab.)	674
J. Larkin (Ind.)	466
A. Mackey (Ind.)	114

Republican	13,404 (26.4%)
Cumann na nGaedh.	21,110 (41.5%)
Labour	8,860 (17.4%)
Farmer	5,955 (11.7%)
Other	1,487 (2.9%)

Total Valid Poll: 50,816

Richard F. Hayes (C na nG). Born 1878 at Bruree, Co. Limerick. Boyhood friend of Eamon de Valera. Member of Irish Volunteers, took part in the Ashbourne engagement 1916 and sentenced to 20 years. Elected Sinn Fein TD for Limerick in 1918 and 1921. Supported the Treaty. Elected as pro-Treaty/Cumann na nGaedheal TD in 1922 and 1923. Didn't stand again in 1927. Scholar and writer especially on the "Wild Geese" and Irish emigration to the continent. Film censor 1940-54. Died 1958.

1927 June (7 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† J. Colbert (FF)	5,500
G. C. Bennett (C na nG)	5,120
T. Crowley (FF)	4,850
M. Keyes (Lab.)	4,362
R. O'Connell (C na nG)	4,190
G. Hewson (Ind.)	3,034
† P. Clancy (Lab.)	3,000

Defeated:

D. Bourke (FF)	3,767
C. O'Sullivan (Far.)	2,592
M. J. Murphy (Ind.)	2,578
† J. F. Nolan (C na nG)	2,432
M. Joyce (NL)	2,310

R. Ryan (FF)	2,000
M. J. Quillinan (Ind.)	1,832
M. Griffin (C na nG)	1,596
W. Condon (Far.)	1,500
J. A. Smith (Ind.)	1,127
J. F. O'Mahony (C na nG)	880
J. Coleman (NL)	424

Fianna Fail	16,117 (30.4%)
Cumann na nGaedh.	14,218 (26.8%)
Labour	7,362 (13.9%)
Farmers	4,092 (7.7%)
Others	11,305 (21.3%)

Total Valid Poll: 53,094

1927 September (7 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† G. C. Bennett (C na nG)	7,993
J. T. Nolan (C na nG)	5,390
† R. O'Connell (C na nG)	5,354
† P. Clancy (Lab.)	4,447
† J. Colbert (FF)	6,385
D. Bourke (FF)	5,711
† T. Crowley (FF)	4,652

Defeated:

† M. Keyes (Lab.)	4,290
C. O'Sullivan (Far.)	3,434
† G. Hewson (Ind.)	3,352
R. Ryan (FF)	3,049
M. Griffin (C na nG)	2,898

Fianna Fail	19,797 (34.7%)
Cumann na nGaedh.	21,635 (38.0%)
Labour	8,737 (15.3%)
Farmers	3,434 (6.0%)
Independents	3,352 (5.9%)

Total Valid Poll: 56,955

Fianna Fail and Cumann na nGaedheal each gain a seat from Labour and Independent.

Patrick Clancy (Lab.) Born Kilmallock, Co. Limerick 1882. A carpenter. Prominent in the Land and Labour Association from about 1900 and an active trade unionist. Member of the Irish Volunteers and IRA in East Limerick 1914-21. Elected in 1923 and both elections in 1927. Defeated in 1932 when he stood as Independent Labour. Lived at Grange, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.

1932 (7 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† D. Bourke (FF)	7,677
R. Ryan (FF)	6,645
† J. Colbert (FF)	6,100
† G. C. Bennett (C na nG)	5,919
J. Reidy (C na nG)	5,088
† T. Crowley (FF)	4,966
J. J. O'Shaughnessy (Far.)	4,887

Defeated:

R. O'Connell (C na nG)	3,573
D. O Briain (FF)	3,334
† J. T. Nolan (C na nG)	3,325
M. J. Keyes (Lab.)	3,101
† P. Clancy (Ind. Lab.)	2,105
D. J. Madden (C na nG)	2,045
G. Hewson (Ind.)	1,562
D. Clancy (Lab.)	1,486

Fianna Fail	28,722 (46.5%)
Cumann na nGaedh.	19,950 (32.3%)
Labour	4,587 (7.4%)
Independent Labour	2,105 (3.4%)
Farmers	4,887 (7.9%)
Independents	1,562 (2.5%)

Total Valid Poll: 61,813

Fianna Fail gains a seat. Farmers gain a seat, Cumann na nGaedheal and Labour lose a seat each.

James Colbert (Rep/FF.) Born Templeathea, Co. Limerick 1882. A farmer. Elected as Republican TD 1923, and as Fianna Fail TD in both elections in 1927 and in 1932. Defeated in 1933. Lived at Templeathea West, Athea, Co. Limerick.

1933 (7 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† D. Bourke (FF)	7,980
D. O Briain (FF)	7,383
† R. Ryan (FF)	6,956
† T. Crowley (FF)	6,536
M. J. Keyes (Lab.)	5,798
† G. C. Bennett (C na nG)	5,791
† J. Reidy (C na nG)	5,443

Defeated:

† J. Colbert (FF)	5,803
J. T. Nolan (C na nG)	4,265
R. O'Connell (C na nG)	3,560
† J. J. O'Shaughnessy (C-P)	3,388
J. N. Cauty (C-P)	3,010

Fianna Fail	34,658 (52.6%)
Cumann na nGaedh.	19,059 (28.9%)
Centre Party	6,398 (9.7%)
Labour	5,798 (8.8%)

Total Valid Poll: 65,913

Labour gains a seat from Farmers.

Daniel Bourke (FF). Born Limerick 1886. A wagon-builder. Member of Limerick Corporation. Elected in the second election of 1927 and every subsequent election up to and including 1951 (East Limerick 1948 and 1951). Lived at 43 Roxboro Road, then 10 Dominick St., Limerick.



Election '81

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1937 (7 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† M. J. Keyes (Lab.)	11,011
† D. Bourke (FF)	8,106
M. Colbert (FF)	6,955
† G. Bennett (FG)	6,131
† D. O Briain (FF)	5,663
† R. Ryan (FF)	4,698
J. J. O'Shaughnessy (FG)	4,361

Defeated:	
† J. Reidy (FG)	5,834
† T. Crowley (FF)	4,544
T. O'Connell (FG)	3,537
L. Fraher (FG)	3,339
T. Lloyd (Ind.)	1,343

Fianna Fail	29,966 (45.7%)
Fine Gael	23,202 (35.4%)
Labour	11,011 (16.8%)
Independents	1,343 (2.1%)

Total Valid Poll: 65,522

No Change.

Robert Ryan (FF). Born Ballyadam, Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick 1882. A farmer on the borders of East Limerick and North Tipperary. Captain in the East Limerick Brigade IRA during the War of Independence. Married Kath-

leen Hayes and they had 3 sons and 2 daughters. Unsuccessful Fianna Fail candidate in both elections of 1927. Elected in 1932 and re-elected in every election until 1951 when he was defeated. In 1948 and 1951 he stood for East Limerick. Lived at Lough Gur, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.

1938 (7 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
J. Reidy (FG)	9,812
† D. Bourke (FF)	9,052
† D. O Briain (FF)	8,099
† T. Crowley (FF)	7,217
† G. C. Bennett (FG)	6,474
† R. Ryan (FF)	6,117
† M. J. Keyes (Lab.)	5,836

Defeated:	
† M. Colbert (FF)	5,742
† J. J. O'Shaughnessy (FG)	5,722
S. Quinn (Lab.)	2,179
M. C. Burke (I.G.)	924

Fianna Fail	36,232 (53.9%)
Fine Gael	22,936 (34.1%)
Labour	8,015 (11.9%)

Total Valid Poll: 67,183

No Change.

1943 (7 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† D. Bourke (FF)	9,324
† D. O Briain (FF)	8,131
† M. J. Keyes (Lab.)	7,578
† J. M. Reidy (FG)	6,234
† T. Crowley (FF)	5,072
† R. Ryan (FF)	4,701
† G. Bennett (FG)	4,529

Defeated:	
S. Hartney (FF)	3,116
T. O'Connell (FG)	2,675
P. Fitzsimons (Far.)	2,601
J. J. MacNamara (FG)	2,513
D. P. Quish (FG)	2,351
C. Ryan (Far.)	2,195
S. Hayes (Lab.)	2,110
P. Costello (Lab.)	1,645

Fianna Fail	30,344 (46.9%)
Fine Gael	18,302 (28.3%)
Labour	11,333 (17.5%)
Farmers	4,796 (7.4%)

Total Valid Poll: 64,775

No Change.

George Cecil Bennett (C na nG). Born 1877 in Co. Limerick. Farmer and pedigree and bloodstock breeder. He had studied farming in Saskatchewan, Canada. Member of Limerick Co. Council. He had been a supporter of Redmond and the Home Rule Party but then supported the theories of Arthur Griffith. Elected TD in both elections in 1927 and at all subsequent elections up to 1948 and 1951 when he was defeated in East Limerick. Associated with the Blueshirts and had his livestock seized in 1934 for non-

payment of rates in protest at Fianna Fail's agricultural policy. Lived at Rathanny, Hospital, Co. Limerick.

1944 (7 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† D. Bourke (FF)	8,415
† M.J. Keyes (Lab.)	8,159
† D. O Briain (FF)	7,481
† R. Ryan (FF)	5,865
† J. Reidy (FG)	5,762
† G. Bennett (FG)	5,291
M. Colbert (FF)	4,852

Defeated:

† T. Crowley (FF)	5,182
P. Fitzsimons (C na T)	4,950
D. J. Madden (FG)	3,754

Fianna Fail	31,795 (53.3%)
Fine Gael	14,807 (24.8%)
Labour	8,159 (13.7%)
Others	4,950 (8.3%)

Total Valid Poll: 59,711

No Change.

Limerick West

1948 (3 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
J. Collins (FF)	6,778
† D. O Briain (FF)	6,101
D. J. Madden (FG)	4,602

Defeated:

M. Dore (Ind.)	787
P. Fitzsimons (Ind.)	1,257
P. Langan (Lab.)	1,695
P. T. Liston (C-P)	836
J. Lynch (FF)	2,235
T. O'Connell (FG)	1,783
J. O'Connor (C-P)	1,402

Fianna Fail	15,114 (55.0%)
Fine Gael	6,385 (23.2%)
Labour	1,695 (6.2%)
Clann na Poblachta	2,238 (8.1%)
Independents	2,044 (7.4%)

Total Valid Poll: 27,476

1951 (3 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† D. Madden (FG)	7,901

† J. Collins (FF)	6,851
† D. O Briain (FF)	5,966

Defeated:

R. Bresnihan (FF)	3,541
W. O'Connor (FG)	2,827

Fianna Fail	16,358 (60.4%)
Fine Gael	10,728 (39.6%)

Total Valid Poll: 27,086

No Change.

Donnchadh O Briain (FF). Born 1897. Active in the Irish language movement. Creamery manager, Irish teacher and Gaelic League organiser. Secretary of Conradh na Gaedhilge. Honorary Secretary of Fianna Fail. Unsuccessful Fianna Fail candidate for Limerick 1932. Elected 1933 to 1944 inclusive. Elected for West Limerick 1948 to 1965 inclusive. Parliamentary Secretary to the Taoiseach and the Minis-

Donnchadh O Briain



LIMERICK WEST

	FF	FG	Labour	Farmer	Nat.Lab.	C-P *	SF	Others
1948 (3)	55.0 (2)	23.2 (1)	6.2 (-)	-	-	8.1 (-)	-	7.4 (-)
1951 (3)	60.4 (2)	39.6 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-
1954 (3)	54.1 (2)	34.1 (1)	11.8 (-)	-	-	-	-	-
1957 (3)	67.2 (2)	30.8 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	2.0 (-)
1961 (3)	59.1 (2)	40.9 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-
1965 (3)	54.5 (2)	36.4 (1)	9.1 (-)	-	-	-	-	-
1969 (3)	52.6 (2)	40.4 (1)	6.2 (-)	-	-	-	-	0.8 (-)
1973 (3)	52.9 (2)	47.1 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-
1977 (3)	59.4 (2)	36.3 (1)	4.3 (-)	-	-	-	-	-
1981 (3)	64.3 (2)	35.7 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-

By-Elections

1955 (1)	56.3 (1)	35.1 (-)	8.8 (-)	-	-	-	-	-
1967 (1)	53.9 (1)	38.4 (-)	7.7 (-)	-	-	-	-	-

* C-P = Centre Party 1932-1933. Clann na Poblachta 1948-1961.

Figures expressed in percentages. Figures in brackets refer to seats.

ter for Defence 1951-54 and 1957-61. Lived at Cluain Catha, Baile an Gharrdha, Co. Limerick.

1954 (3 seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† J. Collins (FF)	7,857
† D. O Briain (FF)	7,078
† D. Madden (FG)	5,614

Defeated:

L. Bennett (FG)	1,331
G. Hayes (Lab.)	3,249
W. O'Connor (FG)	2,471

Fianna Fail	14,935 (54.1%)
Fine Gael	9,416 (34.1%)
Labour	3,249 (11.8%)

Total Valid Poll: 27,600

No Change.

By-election December 13, 1955

Elected	First Prefs.
M. Colbert	15,088 (56.3%)

Defeated:

D. Jones (FG)	9,406 (35.1%)
P. Ahern (Lab.)	2,349 (8.8%)

Total Valid Poll: 26,843

M. Colbert wins seat for Fianna Fail.

Michael Colbert (FF). Born 1900. A dairy farmer and horse-breeder. Had a flying column in the War of Independence, then became Vice-Commandant of the West Limerick Brigade IRA. Member Limerick Co. Council. Married Mairead McCurtain in 1937. Elected TD in 1937. Defeated 1938 but elected to the Senate. Re-elected TD in 1944. Didn't stand in 1948. Elected in by-election for West Limerick in 1955 but defeated in 1957. Lived at Sydney Parade Avenue, Sandymount, Dublin.

1957 (3 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
D. Jones (FG)	7,952
† J. Collins (FF)	7,910
† D O Briain (FF)	4,985

Defeated:

† M. Colbert (FF)	4,467
M. Ward (Jnr.) (Ind. Rep.)	514

Fianna Fail	17,362 (67.2%)
Fine Gael	7,952 (30.8%)
Independent Rep.	514 (2.0%)

Total Valid Poll: 25,828

No Change.

1961 (3 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† J. Collins (FF)	9,018
† D. Jones (FG)	7,037
† D O Briain (FF)	6,006

Defeated:

J. O'Donnell (FG)	3,346
Fianna Fail	15,024 (59.1%)
Fine Gael	10,383 (40.9%)
Total Valid Poll:	25,407

No Change.

James J. Collins (FF). Born Co. Limerick 1900. Adjutant West Limerick Brigade IRA during the War of Independence. Took republican side in Civil War and was jailed by the Free State authorities but escaped twice. Member of Limerick County Council and chairman 1947 to 1959. Elected for West Limerick 1948 and re-elected in every election until his death in 1967. His son Gerry Collins, won the by-election caused by his death. He lived at Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.



James J. Collins

1965 (3 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† J. Collins (FF)	8,476
† D. Jones (FG)	7,213
† D O Briain (FF)	5,343

Defeated:

B. Danaher (FG)	2,020
E. Dwyer (Lab.)	2,304

Fianna Fail	13,819 (54.5%)
Fine Gael	9,233 (36.4%)
Labour	2,304 (9.1%)

Total Valid Poll: 25,356

No Change.

By-election November 9, 1967

Elected	First Prefs.
G. Collins (FF)	14,384 (53.9%)

Defeated:

E. Dwyer (Lab.)	2,048 (7.7%)
W. Madden (FG)	10,237 (38.4%)
Total Valid Poll:	26,669

Gerard Collins wins seat for Fianna Fail.

1969 (3 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† G. Collins (FF)	10,557

Limerick

† D. Jones (FG)	6,165
M. Noonan (FF)	2,598

Defeated:

B. Danaher (FG)	2,366
E. Dwyer (Lab.)	1,254
R. Kiely (FF)	1,991
T. N. Lynch (Ind.)	231
M. Murphy (Lab.)	529
W. O'Brien (FG)	3,102

Fianna Fail	15,146 (52.6%)
Fine Gael	11,633 (40.4%)
Labour	1,783 (6.2%)
Other	231 (0.8%)

Total Valid Poll: 28,793

No Change.

1973 (3 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† G. Collins (FF)	9,679
† M. Noonan (FF)	5,398
† D. Jones (FG)	6,403

Defeated:

B. Danaher (FG)	2,792
W. O'Brien (FG)	4,253

Fianna Fail	15,077 (52.9%)
Fine Gael	13,448 (47.1%)

Total Valid Poll: 28,525

No Change.

Denis F. Jones (FG). Born Broadford, Co. Limerick 1907. Educated Rockwell College and St. Patrick's Training College. National Teacher. Married Anne O'Donnell and they had 4 daughters. Active in the GAA and Muintir na Tire. Unsuccessful Fine Gael candidate in West Limerick by-election 1955. Elected 1957 to 1977 when he retired. Fine Gael front bench spokesperson on various Departments 1957-67. Leas Ceann Comhairle of the Dail 1967-77. Lives at St. Kevin's Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

1977 (3 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† G. Collins (FF)	10,081
† M. Noonan (FF)	9,749
W. O'Brien (FG)	7,596

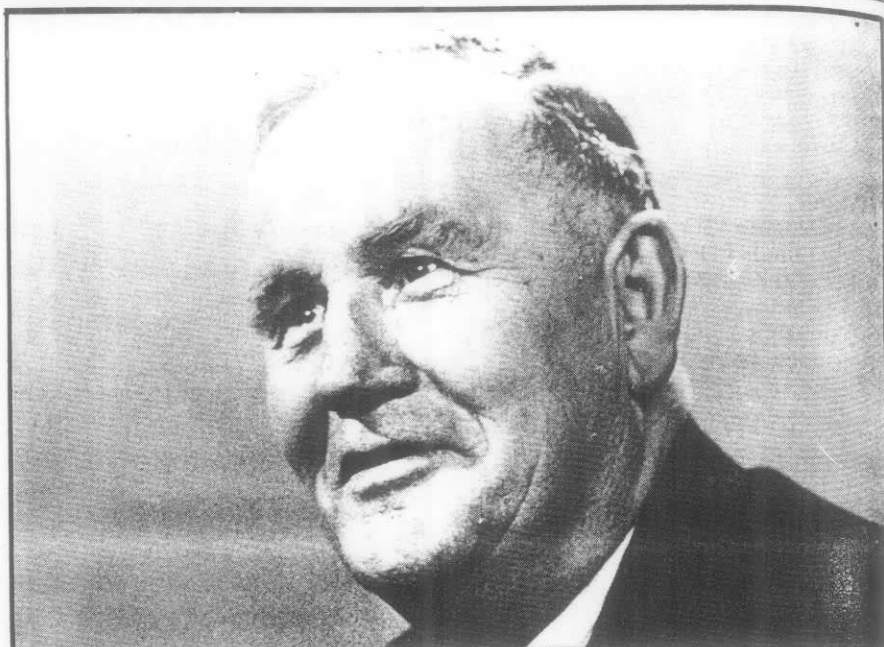
Defeated:

S. Broderick (FG)	1,379
E. Dwyer (Lab.)	1,444
Ms. A. Jones-Cassidy (FG)	3,165

Fianna Fail	19,830 (59.4%)
Fine Gael	12,140 (36.3%)
Labour	1,444 (4.3%)

Total Valid Poll: 33,414

No Change.



Denis Jones

Limerick East

1948 (4 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† D. Bourke (FF)	8,128
† R. Ryan (FF)	4,187
† J. Reidy (FG)	4,496
† M. Keyes (Lab.)	5,756

Defeated:

G. Bennett (FG)	3,326
S. Carroll (C na P)	1,533
T. Crowley (FF)	3,420
P. Donegan (C na T)	2,131
T. Malone (C na P)	1,125
G. E. Russell (C na P)	2,777

Fianna Fail	15,735 (42.6%)
Fine Gael	7,822 (21.2%)
Labour	5,756 (15.6%)
Clann na Poblachta	5,435 (14.7%)
Clann na Talmhan	2,131 (5.8%)

Total Valid Poll: 36,879

New Constituency.

James Reidy (FG). Born Limerick 1890. A coal merchant. Member of the Irish Volunteers and IRA 1914-21. Member of Limerick Corporation from 1925 and former Mayor. Elected as Cumann na nGaedheal candidate in 1932 and 1933. Defeated as Fine Gael candidate 1937. Elected 1938, 1943 and 1944. Elected for East Limerick 1948 and 1951. Defeated 1954. Lived at Island View, Corbally, Co. Limerick.

1951 (4 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† D. Bourke (FF)	7,268
T. Crowley (FF)	5,266
† M. Keyes (Lab.)	6,295
† J. Reidy (FG)	4,196

Defeated:

G. Bennett (FG)	4,079
G. E. Russell (C na P)	5,017
† R. Ryan (FF)	4,982

Fianna Fail	17,516 (47.2%)
Fine Gael	8,275 (22.3%)
Labour	6,295 (17.0%)
Clann na Poblachta	5,017 (13.5%)

Total Valid Poll: 37,103

No Change.

Tadhg Crowley (FF). Born Ballylanders, Co. Limerick 1890. Educated at Rockwell College. A merchant. He and his two brothers Jack and Peter were all active in the IRA during the War of Independence. Their father's premises in Ballylanders were burnt by Crown Forces in 1920. Jack and Peter Crowley were on hunger strike for 94 days in Cork jail at the same time as Terence McSwiney. Tadhg Crowley commanded an Active Service Unit of the East Limerick Brigade IRA and was sentenced to 15 years in 1920. He opposed the Treaty and was jailed again in 1922-33. Elected as Fianna Fail TD in both elections in 1927, in 1932 and 1933. Defeated 1937. Elected 1938 and 1943. Defeated 1944 but elected to the Senate. Defeated as candidate for East Limerick in 1948 but elected in 1951 and 1954. Lived at Ballylanders.

LIMERICK EAST

	FF	FG	Labour	Farmer	Nat.Lab.	C-P *	SF	Others
1948 (4)	42.6 (2)	21.2 (1)	15.6 (1)	5.8 (-)	-	14.7 (-)	-	-
1951 (4)	47.2 (2)	22.3 (1)	17.0 (1)	-	-	13.5 (-)	-	-
1954 (4)	42.8 (2)	29.0 (1)	13.3 (1)	-	-	15.0 (-)	-	-
1957 (4)	44.6 (2)	16.3 (1)	5.8 (-)	-	-	9.4 (-)	8.5 (-)	15.5 (1)
1961 (4)	45.0 (2)	23.1 (1)	21.1 (1)	-	-	-	-	10.7 (-)
1965 (4)	53.5 (2)	30.5 (1)	15.9 (1)	-	-	-	-	-
1969 (4)	38.4 (2)	24.6 (1)	27.7 (1)	-	-	-	-	9.4 (-)
1973 (4)	41.9 (2)	34.5 (1)	23.6 (1)	-	-	-	-	-
1977 (4)	45.8 (2)	24.3 (1)	7.9 (-)	-	-	-	-	22.1 (1)
1981 (5)	42.3 (2)	33.8 (2)	11.8 (-)	-	-	-	-	12.1 (1)
By-Elections								
1952 (1)	41.7 (-)	34.3 (1)	7.3 (-)	-	-	16.9 (-)	-	-
1968 (1)	43.8 (1)	26.4 (-)	26.7 (-)	-	-	-	-	3.2 (-)

* C-P = Centre Party 1932-1933.
Clann na Poblachta 1948-1961.

Figures expressed in percentages. Figures in brackets refer to seats.

By-election	June 26, 1952
Elected	First Prefs.
J. Carew (FG)	13,130 (34.3%)
Defeated:	
T. Clarke (FF)	15,964 (41.7%)
J. Hayes (Lab.)	2,785 (7.3%)
G. E. Russell (C na P)	6,465 (16.9%)
Total Valid Poll:	38,344

John Carew elected for Fine Gael.

1954 (4 Seats)	
Elected	First Prefs.
† J. Carew (FG)	5,362
D. O'Malley (FF)	6,860
† T. Crowley (FF)	4,857
† M. Keyes (Lab.)	5,035
Defeated:	
P. Clohessy (FF)	4,458
S. Coughlan (C na P)	5,652
D. Quish (FG)	2,402
† J. Reidy (FG)	3,196

Fianna Fail	16,175 (42.8%)
Fine Gael	10,960 (29.0%)
Labour	5,035 (13.3%)
Clann na Poblachta	5,652 (15.0%)
Total Valid Poll:	37,822

No Change.

Michael J. Keyes (Lab.) Born Limerick 1886. Educated at CBS. A railway worker and trade unionist. Married Julia Clancy in 1916 and they had 5 sons. Member of Limerick Corporation from 1925 and several times Mayor. Unsuccessful Labour candidate for Limerick 1923. Elected in the first election of 1927, defeated in the second election. Elected 1932 and at all subsequent elections until his death in 1957. Narrowly Catholic in his outlook he supported the pro-Franco



Michael J. Keyes

Christian Front during the Spanish Civil War and urged acceptance of the Catholic hierarchy's views on the Mother and Child scheme in 1951. Minister for Local Government 1949-51 when he promoted increased house building and slum clearance. Minister for Posts and Telegraphs 1954-57. Died in 1957. Lived at Market Field Terrace, Limerick.

1957 (4 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† D. O'Malley (FF)	7,501
P. Clohessy (FF)	5,178
G. E. Russell (Ind.)	5,623
† J. Carew (FG)	4,193
Defeated:	
S. Coughlan (C na P)	3,395
P. Donegan (FG)	1,690

C. Keyes (Lab.)	2,098
P. Maguire (FF)	3,455
P. O Maolcathaigh (SF)	3,085

Fianna Fail	16,134 (44.6%)
Fine Gael	5,883 (16.3%)
Labour	2,098 (5.8%)
Clann na Poblachta	3,395 (9.4%)
Sinn Fein	3,085 (8.5%)
Independent	5,623 (15.5%)

Total Valid Poll 36,218

Labour lose a seat. Independent gains a seat.

George Edward Russell (Ind./FG). Born Limerick 1912. Educated at Crescent College, Limerick and Stoneyhurst College, England. Proprietor of bakery company and director of other businesses. Member of Limerick Corporation from 1942 and Mayor 1954-57 and 1967-68. Unsuccessful Clann na Poblachta candidate for Limerick East in 1948, 1951 and by-election in 1952. Elected 1957 as an Independent and defeated 1961. Joined Fine Gael and unsuccessful candidate in 1965, 1973 and 1977. Fine Gael Senator 1973-77. Lives at Derravoher, North Circular Road, Limerick.

1961 (4 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† D. O'Malley (FF)	8,622
S. Coughlan (Lab.)	6,964
† P. Clohessy (FF)	4,827
T. O'Donnell (FG)	3,367

Defeated:	
† J. Carew (FG)	3,288
C. J. Kirby (FG)	958
† G.E. Russell (Ind.)	3,547
W. Slattery (FF)	1,388

Fianna Fail 14,837 (45.0%)

Limerick

Fine Gael	7,613 (23.1%)
Labour	6,964 (21.1%)
Independent	3,547 (10.7%)

Total Valid Poll: 32,961

Labour gains seat from Independent.

1965 (4 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† D. O'Malley (FF)	10,285
† T. O'Donnell (FG)	6,253
† S. Coughlan (Lab.)	5,623
† P. Clohessy (FF)	4,812

Defeated:	
M. Herbert (FF)	3,804
J. Hickey (FG)	500
G. E. Russell (FG)	4,025

Fianna Fail	18,901 (53.5%)
Fine Gael	10,778 (30.5%)
Labour	5,623 (15.9%)

Total Valid Poll: 35,302

No Change.

Donough O'Malley (FF). Born Limerick 1921. Educated Crescent College, Limerick and University College, Galway. An engineer. Elected Fianna Fail TD for East Limerick in 1961 and thereafter until his death in 1968. One of a number of young TDs who were encouraged and promoted by Sean Lemass when he was Taoiseach.

Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Finance 1961-65, Minister for Health 1965-66. Minister for Education 1966-68. An energetic and dynamic figure. He brought in a scheme for free post-primary education and proposed a merger of UCD and Trin-



Donough O'Malley

250

ity. He was also involved with the establishment of Taca to raise funds for the party from business circles and was associated with the abrasively capitalist image which Fianna Fail developed in the 1960s. He died suddenly in 1968. The resulting by-election was won by his nephew Desmond O'Malley. There was considerable bitterness that his widow Hilda O'Malley did not get the nomination for the by-election and she stood unsuccessfully as an Independent in the 1969 election.

By-election May 22, 1968

Elected	First Prefs.
D. O'Malley (FF)	16,638 (43.8%)

Defeated:	
M. Lipper (Ind.)	10,151 (26.7%)
J. O'Higgins (FG)	10,039 (26.4%)
M. Crowe (Ind.)	1,209 (3.2%)

Total Valid Poll: 38,037

Desmond O'Malley won the seat for Fianna Fail by 927 votes on the third count from Michael Lipper of Labour.

1969 (4 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† T. O'Donnell (FG)	6,438
† S. Coughlan (Lab.)	6,362
† D. O'Malley (FF)	5,960
M. Herbert (FF)	4,985

Defeated:	
P. Clancy (FG)	560
L. Hickey (FF)	2,838
P. Kennedy (FG)	1,821
M. Lipper (Lab.)	3,222
Ms. H. O'Malley (Ind.)	3,361
T. Pratschke (Lab.)	366

Fianna Fail	13,783 (38.4%)
Fine Gael	8,819 (24.6%)
Labour	9,950 (27.7%)
Others	3,361 (9.4%)

Total Valid Poll: 35,913

No Change.

Stephen Coughlan (Lab.) Born Limerick 1910. Educated St. Munchin College, Limerick and Blackrock College, Co. Dublin. Married Peggy Hanley and they had 2 sons and a daughter. A bookmaker. Member Limerick Corporation 1950 and Mayor of Limerick 1951-52 and 1970-71. Originally a member of Clann na Poblachta and unsuccessful candidate for them in East Limerick in the 1954 and 1957 elections. Joined the Labour Party in the 1960s and caused a crisis in the party by a series of statements in 1969-70. In December 1969 he attacked the anti-apartheid movement and defended the visit of a South African rugby team to Limerick. He made a number of inflammatory statements about the opening of a MacDonagh bookshop in Cork and when the bookshop was attacked he appeared to condone the attack. In April 1970 he made a speech apparently approving an attack which had been made on the Jewish community in Limerick in 1904. There were calls for his expulsion from the Labour Party which were opposed by Brendan Corish and Michael O'Leary. The party's failure to take effective action against him led to the resignation of some left wing members, including Jim Kemmy, former director of elections in Limerick, and to a deep division in the party in Limerick. In the 1977 election Cou-



Stephen Coughlan

(38.4%)
(24.6%)
(27.7%)
(9.4%)

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lan's supporters vetoed the nomination of a second Labour candidate in East Limerick. It was widely believed they were trying to block Alderman Mick Lipper, a locomotive engineer driver and Mayor of Limerick 1973-74 who had polled well in a by-election in 1968 and in the general elections of 1969 and 1973, so that Coughlan could eventually be succeeded by his son Thady, a member of Limerick Corporation.

Lipper stood as Independent Labour and was elected, replacing Coughlan senior. Within a few months Lipper was accepted into the Parliamentary Labour Party. He lost his seat in turn to Jim Kemmy in the 1981 election. Stephen Coughlan lives at 2 Wellington Terrace, O'Connell Avenue, Limerick.

1973 (4 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† D. O'Malley (FF)	7,806
† T. O'Donnell (FG)	6,841
† M. Herbert (FF)	4,532
† S. Coughlan (Lab.)	5,495

Defeated:

P. Clohessy (FF)	3,242
P. Kennedy (FG)	2,456
M. Lipper (Lab.)	3,292
G. E. Russell (FG)	3,523

Fianna Fail	15,580 (41.9%)
Fine Gael	12,820 (34.5%)
Labour	8,787 (23.6%)

Total Valid Poll: 37,187

No Change.

1977 (4 Seats)

Elected	First Prefs.
† D. O'Malley (FF)	8,762
† T. O'Donnell (FG)	6,571
M. Lipper (Ind. Lab.)	5,224
† M. Herbert (FF)	6,293

Defeated:

P. Clohessy (FF)	5,488
S. Coughlan (Lab.)	3,553
M. Crowe (Ind.)	1,325
J. Harrington (Ind.)	122
Ms. W. Harrington (Ind.)	646
J. Kemmy (Ind.)	2,333
P. Kennedy (FG)	1,302
F. Reynolds (SFWP)	262
T. Russell (FG)	3,022

Fianna Fail	20,543 (45.8%)
Fine Gael	10,895 (24.3%)
Labour	3,553 (7.9%)
Others	9,912 (22.1%)

Total Valid Poll: 44,903

Labour lose a seat to Independent.



Frank Cluskey and Garret FitzGerald talking in a corridor at RTE in June 1981 during the recording of a current affairs programme in which they were both interviewed.

Dorak Spence/Remont

Limerick East (5 Seats)

ELECTED: Tom O'Donnell (FG), Des O'Malley (FF), Michael Noonan (FG), Jim Kemmy (Ind), Peadar Clohessy (FF)

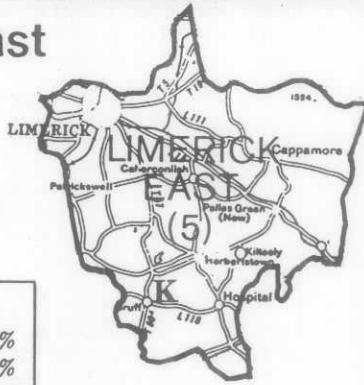
Counts:	1st	2nd O'Donnell's Surplus (1,816)	3rd O'Malley's Surplus (1,247)	4th Harrington's Votes (862)	5th Frawley's Votes (1,038)	6th Cregan's Votes (2,072)	7th Hourigan's Votes (2,744)	8th Prendergast's Votes (3,460)
O'Donnell* T. (FG)	9,915							
O'Malley* D. (FF)	9,346							
Clohessy P. (FF)	5,256	+39 5,295	+429 5,724	+64 5,788	+59 5,847	+1,017 6,864	+112 6,976	+216 7,192
Noonan M. (FG)	4,311	+921 5,232	+36 5,268	+44 5,312	+110 5,422	+172 5,594	+2,059 7,653	+838 8,491
O'Dea W. (FF)	4,297	+67 4,364	+349 4,713	+78 4,791	+33 4,824	+551 5,375	+155 5,530	+220 5,750
Kemmy J. (Ind)	4,190	+103 4,293	+45 4,338	+144 4,482	+260 4,742	+89 4,831	+90 4,921	+723 5,644
Lipper* M. (Lab)	2,905	+91 2,996	+26 3,022	+148 3,170	+167 3,337	+58 3,395	+107 3,502	+1,255 4,757†
Prendergast F. (Lab)	2,840	+130 2,970	+56 3,026	+74 3,100	+151 3,251	+100 3,351	+109 3,460†	(NT) 208
Hourigan R. (FG)	2,184	+407 2,591	+14 2,605	+18 2,623	+62 2,685	+59 2,744†	(NT) 112	
Cregan E. (FF)	1,636	+21 1,657	+273 1,930	+64 1,994	+78 2,072†	(NT) 26		
Frawley J. (Ind)	866	+25 891	+13 904	+134 1,038†	(NT) 118			
Harrington J. (Ind)	844	+12 856	+6 862†	(NT) 94				

With the increase in the size of this constituency from three to five seats, Fianna Fail was hopeful that it could win three of the five seats. In the 1977 election the party won 52.7% of the votes, on a Last Effective Count calculation, well over the quota for three seats out of five.

The party's front runner, Desmond O'Malley, had earned a high reputation for himself in Industry and Commerce.

Limerick East

Population: 98,204
 Electorate: 63,737
 Total Poll: 48,931
 Turnout: 76.8%
 Spoiled Votes: 341
 Valid Votes: 48,590
 Quota: 8,099



First Pref. Votes	
FF	20,535 42.3%
FG	16,410 33.8%
Lab.	5,745 11.8%
Others	5,900 12.1%

Last Effective Count	
FF	46.8% FG 35.9%
Lab.	- Oth. 17.3%

9th
 Lipper's
 Votes
 (4,757)

+319

7,511

+235

5,985

+2,332

7,976

(NT)
 1,871

in the previous four years and could therefore be expected to pick up additional votes for the party. The other Fianna Fail outgoing TD, Michael Herbert, was retiring but a tried campaigner, Peadar Clohessy, was taking over. In addition to that a young law lecturer in NIHE, William O'Dea, got through the convention at the expense of the chairman of the VEC, Michael Carroll.

There was talk that the party ticket would be boosted by the addition of the Limerick hurler, Pat Hartigan, who is widely popular in the area. Hartigan was unavailable but another county hurler, Eamon Cregan, was added on.

In the event Fianna Fail fared very badly. O'Malley's numerical vote went up from 8,762 in 1977 to 9,346 but his percentage of the total vote declined from 19.5% to 19.2%. Cregan failed to attract anything like the support that was anticipated and O'Dea didn't quite make the breakthrough that was expected of him, although he did fare well on his first electoral outing.

While the party's overall showing in first preference votes terms declined only from 45.8% in 1977 to 42.3%, on a Last Effective Count reckoning the vote dropped from 52.7% to 46.8%.

The Fine Gael vote shot up from 24.3% of first preferences in 1977 to 33.8% in 1981 and from 24.2% in 1977 to 35.9% in 1981 in LEC terms.

On the Labour side there was division and bitterness stemming from the defeat of Steve Coughlan in 1977 by the Independent Labour candidate, Mick Lipper, who was later admitted to the Labour Parliamentary Party - a court action involving assault had transpired between them in the meantime. Lipper was a weak candidate but it was expected that his running mate Frank Prendergast, the city's leading trade unionist, would poll well.

Jim Kemmy had been contesting the constituency since 1973 but his radical politics were thought unlikely to win him a Dail seat. But Kemmy was to prevail in the end. Lipper remained ahead of Prendergast by just 42 votes before the latter was eliminated on the 8th count. Kemmy was 887 votes ahead of Lipper before the latter was eliminated on the last count. Kemmy got 723 transfers from Prendergast (20.9%). Kemmy took the last seat by a margin of nearly 2,000 votes over O'Dea. It was a close shave all along the way for Kemmy and his seat must be considered vulnerable to a Fianna Fail revival in the next election.

Peadar Clohessy (FF)

Address: Fanningstown, Crecora, Co. Limerick.

Telephone: (061) 95190 (h).

Date of Birth: December 19, 1933.

Birthplace: Fedamore, Co. Limerick.

Spouse: Jean McMahon.

No. of children: 3 sons, 3 daughters.

Education: CBS Limerick.

Occupation: Farmer.

Financial interests: 60 acre farm.

Estimated annual income: £20,000.

He has been a member of the Limerick County Council since 1964. He contested the 1973 and 1977 general elections but was unsuccessful and was elected for the first time in 1981 following the retirement of the outgoing TD for the rural part of Limerick, Michael Herbert.

His father was in the IRA during the War of Independence and his mother was in Cumann na mBan. A great grandfather was involved in the 1867 Fenian rising. An uncle, Paddy Clohessy, was TD for Limerick East from 1957 to 1969.



Jim Kemmy (Ind)

Address: 33 Greenhill Road, Garryowen, Limerick.

Telephone: (061) 42966 (h)

Date of Birth: September 9, 1936.

Birthplace: Limerick.

Spouse: None.

No. of children: None.

Education: Primary School in Limerick.

Occupation: Full time public representative.

Financial interests: None.

Estimated annual income: £13,802.

His family is one of the oldest in the Garryowen area of Limerick city. He was the eldest of a family of five. His father, Michael, died when he was 5. He left school at the age of 15 and worked as an apprentice stone mason in Limerick. He was unemployed for long periods in the early fifties and he emigrated to London in 1957, where he worked for three years.

His interest in socialism was stimulated on his return to Limerick in 1960 when he was working on the construction of a new factory at the Shannon Industrial estate. One of his fellow-workers was Charlie O'Flynn, chairman of the local branch of the Brick and Stone Layers Union and a well known rugby player at the time with the Shannon club. Kemmy was co-opted shortly afterwards onto the branch committee and he started to read voraciously on politics and related subjects.



He joined the Labour Party in 1963 and became active in the party in the local area. He was elected to the Administrative Council of the party in 1968 and served on it for three years. He was an ardent supporter of the "New Republic" line in the party before the 1969 election. He opposed the move towards coalition after that election and got embroiled in local controversy in Limerick with the then TD Stephen Coughlan who made anti-democratic statements about the Maoists in Limerick and followed this up with anti-semitic remarks in reference to the Jewish pogrom in Limerick in 1904. There was further controversy over the visit of the South African rugby team to Limerick in 1970.

Kemmy resigned from the Labour Party in January 1972 and established his own socialist organisation in Limerick city. He founded and edited a small newspaper, *The Limerick Socialist* and he also became editor of *The Old Limerick Journal*.

He was elected to Limerick Corporation in 1974 and again in 1979 and topped the poll in his area on the latter occasion. He contested the 1973 and 1977 general elections but without success. His chance came in 1981, for he had succeeded in building up a solid base for himself in the city and the Labour Party was deeply divided by personal feuds between the outgoing TD, Michael Lipper, and his predecessor, Stephen Coughlan.

During the seventies he became an advocate of the "Two Nations" theory advocated by the British and Irish Communist Organisation. This holds that the Protestants in Northern Ireland form a distinct nation with the right to self-determination. The movement is staunchly anti-republican and even supported the quasi-fascist loyalist workers strike in Northern Ireland in 1974. Kemmy's socialism has also come into question through his voting behaviour since entering Dail Eireann. He voted for the regressive July 1981 Coalition budget. He also supported the raising of the school entry age to four and a half and he voted with the Coalition in opposing the moving of the writ for the Cavan-Monaghan by-election. His seat is a marginal one, requiring a 3.2% swing to Fianna Fail for that party to take it. Kemmy's personal standing in Limerick city should be sufficient to withstand this, however, unless he alienates his long-standing socialist supporters by his voting behaviour in the Dail.

Michael Noonan (FG)

Address: 18 Gouldavoher Estate, Fr. Russell Road, Limerick.

Telephone: (061) 29200 (h)

Date of Birth: May 22, 1923.

Birthplace: Mt. Trenchard, Foynes, Co. Limerick.

Spouse: Florence Knightley.

No. of children: 4

Education: Secondary School, Glin, Co. Limerick; St. Patrick's Teacher Training College, Drumcondra, Dublin; UCD.

Occupation: Full time public representative.

Financial interests: None.

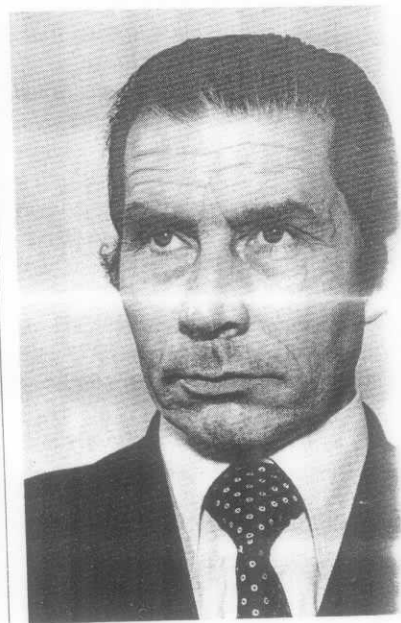
Estimated annual income: £13,802.

He joined Fine Gael while in Dublin

in the early sixties and was elected to the Limerick County Council in 1974 and 1979. The 1981 general election was the first Dail election he contested. He is formerly a National School Teacher.



Tom O'Donnell (FG)



Address: Ballinlee House, Kilmall Co. Limerick.

Telephone: Bruree 33 (h) (061) 41 (o).

Date of Birth: August 30, 1926.

Birthplace: Limerick.

Spouse: None.

No. of children: None.

Education: National School Co. more, Co. Limerick; CBS Rathl Co. Cork; Crescent College, Lime

St. Patrick's College, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

Occupation: Member of European Parliament and TD.

Financial interests: None.

Estimated annual income: £35,000.

His uncle, Richard O'Connell, was O/C of the Mid-Limerick flying column of the IRA during the War of Independence and was later a Cumann na nGaedheal TD for Limerick from 1924 to 1932.

He taught for a while in various secondary schools in Dublin and worked with Canon Hayes on the national executive of Muintir na Tire. He edited *Landmark*, the journal of Muintir na Tire, for three years.

He entered the Dail in 1961, having been elected for the seat formerly held by John Carew. He supported the Declan Costello Just Society initiative in 1964 and was brought on to the Fine Gael front bench in 1969 as spokesperson on Transport and Power. He was appointed Minister for the Gaeltacht in 1973 and was one of the few members of the 1973-77 Coalition Government to emerge with distinction.

He became spokesperson on Transport and Communications in October 1977 but was dropped from the front-bench when he was elected to the European Parliament in June 1979 for the Munster constituency. He was restored to the front bench, along with his fellow MEP, Richie Ryan, in January 1981 following grassroots dissatisfaction with the front bench performance of Fine Gael.

He was disappointed not to be re-appointed to the Government in July 1981 on the formation of the new Coalition. There was a lot of outspoken criticism in East Limerick of Garret FitzGerald's failure to appoint O'Donnell to the Government.

He has traditionally been on the right wing of the party but more because of a sense of alienation from the liberal, middle-class Dublin set than because of ideological conviction.

Des O'Malley (FF) P.O.

Address: 37 Abbey Avenue, Corbally, Limerick.

Telephone: (061) 45301 (h).

Date of Birth: February 1939.

Birthplace: Limerick.

Spouse: Patricia McAleer.

No. of children: 2 sons, 3 daughters.

Education: Crescent College, Limerick; UCD; the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland.

Occupation: Consultant.

Financial interests: Involvement in

solicitor's practice.

Estimated annual income: £22,000.

A nephew of Donough O'Malley, TD for East Limerick from 1954 to 1968, he joined Fianna Fail while at UCD, where he studied law. He was radical in those days — he read *The New Statesman* each week and he was well-acquainted with contemporary British socialist literature. He was auditor of the debating society at the Jesuit university residence in Hatch St., Dublin, and defied a ban on an invitation to Owen Sheehy Skeffington to speak at a major meeting by ostentatiously leaving a vacant chair on the platform. He also had a run-in as a student with Brian Farrell, then a minor administrative official at UCD, over the issuing of a copy of the college's rule book — Farrell was of the opinion that students did not have a right to inspect the college rule book.

After college he returned to Limerick to join his father's solicitors' practice. Then, when his uncle died suddenly in 1968, he was approached to



stand in the ensuing by-election. He did so and was elected, but not without an unseemly row involving the late Donough's widow, Hilda O'Malley. He has been re-elected at each general election since then.

He was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Taoiseach in July 1969, following the general election of that year. It was then that he began his close association with Jack Lynch. When Michael O Morain was relieved of his duties as Minister for Justice in May 1970, O'Malley was appointed Minister for Justice.

His reputation has since rested to a large extent on his record in that Ministry. It was he who introduced the Offences Against The State (Amendment) Bill in December 1972, whereby Chief Superintendents were permitted to give their opinion in court as to whether or not an accused person was a member of an illegal organi-

sation. Several hundreds of people were subsequently jailed on the basis of such evidence alone.

It was he who also introduced the Special Criminal Court, which sits without a jury and in which justices do not have the fixity of tenure normally associated with the notion of judicial independence.

He threatened to introduce internment in late 1970, allegedly because of a plot to kidnap several prominent people in public life. However, the then secretary of the Department of Justice, Peter Berry, has revealed in his papers, published in the June 1980 issue of *Magill*, that the main motivation behind this proposed introduction of internment was the imminence of a by-election in Donegal, where, it was thought, a tough law and order line would be popular.

He was Minister for Justice when the allegations of organised Garda brutality began to emerge. He resolutely opposed the establishment of an independent complaints procedure for the Gardai.

But the issue which hangs most seriously over O'Malley's head from that time concerns a secret meeting he held with Charles Haughey on September 9, 1970, two weeks before the arms trial was about to open with Mr. Haughey as a chief defendant. Jack Lynch stated in the course of the Dail debate on the *Magill* arms crisis articles in November 1980, that he had never been informed of this meeting either at the time or since. Thus Mr. O'Malley, as Minister for Justice, was partaking in a private meeting with the chief defendant in perhaps the most serious criminal case the State had known in several years — and he did not inform his Taoiseach about the meeting either then or since.

In his papers, Peter Berry alleged that when Mr. O'Malley returned from that meeting with Mr. Haughey he (O'Malley) informed him (Berry) that Mr. Haughey had enquired if Berry could be induced, instructed or intimidated into withdrawing his evidence against him (Haughey) in the arms trial — the book of evidence had become available a few days previously. Mr. Berry was left with the clear impression that O'Malley was passing on this query from Mr. Haughey. He reported being "nauseated" by O'Malley's behaviour.

While O'Malley went to some pains to set down "bench marks for future historians" in a statement he issued to the press following the publication of the final article in the *Magill* series on the arms crisis, he entirely ignored this issue and failed to respond to more detailed reports on the incident in the December 1980 issue of *Magill*.

Mr. O'Malley has not so far been questioned in public about this issue.

When Fianna Fail went into opposition in 1973, O'Malley assumed the portfolio of Industry and Commerce and emerged as a spokesperson of a very considerable calibre. He devastated Justin Keating in the protracted Dail debates on the Bula affair and he was also very forceful in the debates on the emergency legislation introduced by the Coalition Government in September 1976.

He was appointed Minister for Industry, Commerce and Energy when Fianna Fail returned to power in July 1977 - during the course of that general election campaign Jack Lynch said, only half-jokingly, that if Fianna

Fail won three seats out of four in East Limerick he would hand over the leadership to O'Malley.

He was one of the most capable Ministers of Industry and Commerce the State has known, with the exception of Sean Lemass. He had a total command of his brief. He was highly impressive on foreign trips on behalf of the IDA and CTT.

When Jack Lynch announced his retirement in December 1979, there was pressure on O'Malley to stand for the leadership but he deferred to George Colley whom he supported vigorously. He partook in private meetings during the week-end of December 10, 1979 at which it was discussed whether Charles Haughey

would be supported in the Dail on the election for Taoiseach. He went along with the majority wishes of his party and sullenly accepted a pared-down Department; Energy was given to George Colley.

He took a more vigorous part in the 1981 general election campaign than did Colley but he was not at all as prominent as he had been in 1977.

He defied his leader's line in accepting the need for a supplementary budget in July 1981.

He is a close ally of Seamus Brennan and Martin O'Donoghue. Between them they are likely to prove a headache for Charles Haughey if Fianna Fail remain in opposition for long.



Election '81. Tom O'Donnell

Limerick West (3 Seats)

ELECTED: Gerry Collins (FF), William O'Brien (FG), Michael Noonan (FF)

Counts: 1st 2nd
Collin's
Surplus
(6,478)

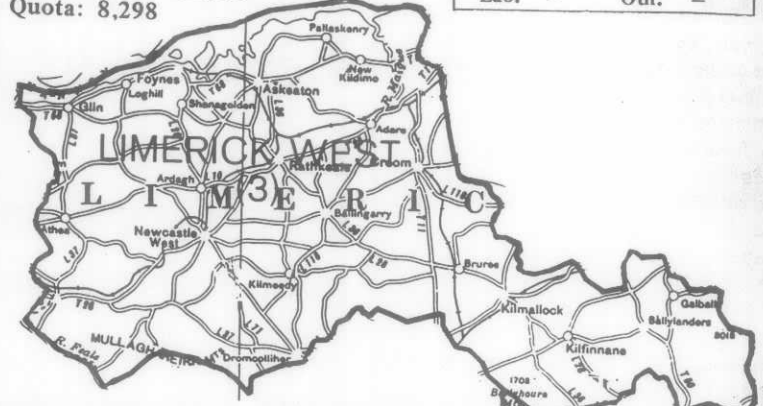
Collins* G. (FF)	14,776	
O'Brien* W. (FG)	8,676	
Noonan* M. (FF)	6,579	+6,152 12,731
Sheehan D. (FG)	3,158	+326 3,484

Limerick West

Population: 59,203
Electorate: 41,097
Total Poll: 33,576
Turnout: 81.7%
Spoiled Votes: 387
Valid Votes: 33,189
Quota: 8,298

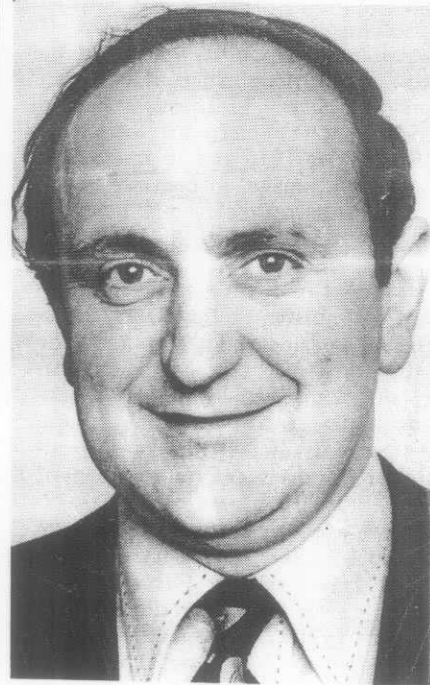
First Pref. Votes	
FF	21,355 64.3%
FG	11,834 35.7%

Last Effective Count	
FF	63.4% FG 36.6%
Lab.	— Oth. —



Gerry Collins (FF)

Address: The Hill, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
Telephone: (h) (068) 31126.
Date of Birth: October 1938.
Birthplace: Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
Name of Spouse: Hillary Taltan.
No. of Children: None.
Education: St. Ita's College, Abbeyfeale; Patrician College, Ballyfin; UCD.
Occupation: Full-time public representative.
Financial Interests: None.
Estimated Annual Income: £17,000.



an "anti-machine" member of the party.

He was a vocational teacher for a while on leaving UCD and then became Assistant General Secretary of Fianna Fail in 1965. He was elected to the Dail in 1967 on the death of his father, James Collins, who had been

LIMERICK WEST

It had become the safest constituency in the country for Fianna Fail. It would have taken a political earthquake to threaten a Fianna Fail seat here and the only interest in the outcome was in whether Gerry Collins would again head the poll, for in 1977 his colleague, Michael Noonan, had come close to threatening him for that distinction. Another item of interest was whether farmer leader, Donnie Sheehan, would manage to dislodge the sitting Fine Gael TD, Willie O'Brien, who was indisposed for most of the campaign.

The result was very much of "as you were" with Fianna Fail recording its highest first percentage vote in the country.

He founded a student political organisation while at UCD, known as "the machine". It was anti-intellectual, manipulative, and well known for its self-serving prowess. It contested elections to the students representative council for several years and controlled the council on many occasions. He was President of the Council for a year and a half. He was at UCD in all for over 7 years and was a member of several faculties during that time.

He also founded the Kevin Barry Cumann of Fianna Fail while at UCD. He was its first chairman and also its third — he was ousted for a while by

TD from 1958 to 1967. During that by-election campaign, which was masterminded by Neil Blaney, an effigy of his father was burned. The incident aroused sympathy for the late TD's son's candidature.

He was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry and Commerce and for the Gaeltacht in 1969. When the arms crisis broke in May 1970 he was undecided initially which side to support. He was promoted to the cabinet as Minister for Posts and Telegraphs as a result of the dismissals and resignations of May 1970.

It was he who fired the RTE Authority in December 1972 for its alleged breach of a ministerial directive on the banning of spokespersons for the IRA. He was the first Minister for Posts and Telegraphs who started to get to grips with the overhaul of the telecommunications system and he fought hard within the cabinet for adequate funding for infrastructural development.

He caused his party embarrassment in the 1973 general election when he published an advertisement in *The Limerick Leader* castigating the coalition parties' commitment to partly abolish rates, just as his own party was committing itself to a total abolition of rates.

He was Opposition spokesperson on Agriculture from 1973 to 1975 but was no match for his opposite number, Mark Clinton. He was appointed spokesperson on Justice in 1975. It was an unlikely appointment but he blossomed in the position. He was particularly effective in his opposition to the Coalition's emergency legislation in September 1976 and he presented a sympathetic image, in contrast to the hardline visage of the then Minister for Justice, Paddy Cooney.

He was quickly "absorbed" by the Department of Justice on his appointment as Minister in July 1977. However, he considerably "softened" the Cooney line, without making any significant changes of policy. He defended his predecessor's handling of the fingerprint scandal. While he had called for inquiries into allegations of Garda brutality before coming to office he failed to hold them when he became Minister. Indeed he even promoted many of the Garda officers whose names had been linked prominently to the allegations.

He opened a children's prison at Loughan House in Co. Cavan, against a storm of liberal protest. But he also instigated a process of penal reform which was quietly effective. He also skillfully defused the explosive tensions in Portlaoise prison.

He supported George Colley in the 1979 Fianna Fail leadership election and was almost dropped from the cabi-

net by Charles Haughey — he was saved by the intervention of George Colley who made it a condition of his own participation in Haughey's Government that he (Colley) be satisfied with the appointments to Justice and Defence.

He has headed the poll in West Limerick since being elected in 1967. That distinction was threatened in the 1977 election by his running mate, Michael Noonan. This led to one of the bitterest internal feuds even Fianna Fail has known. His supremacy was well and truly established in the 1981 election.

He was a member of the Limerick County Council from 1974 to 1977.

He is unpopular within the Fianna Fail Parliamentary Party but he has grown very much in ministerial office and has developed into a politician of considerable ability. His capacities as a party in-fighter have not been tested since the early 'sixties but there is little reason to believe that they are not still formidable.

Michael Noonan (FF)

Address: Crean, Bruff, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.

Telephone: (h) (061) 89718.

Date of Birth: September 4, 1935.

Birthplace: Bruff, Co. Limerick.

Name of Spouse: Helen Sheahan.

No. of Children: 2 sons, 4 daughters.

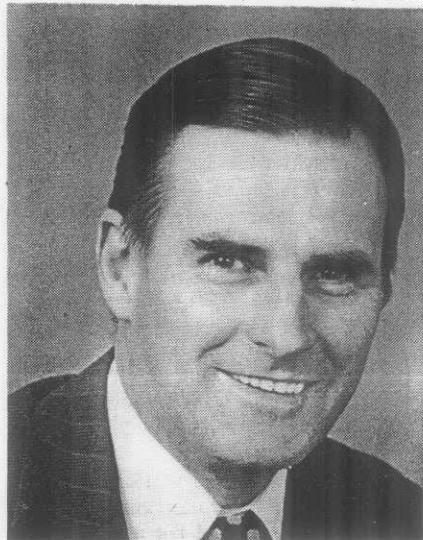
Education: National School, Meanus, Co. Limerick; Salesian College, Pallas-henry, Co. Limerick; UCC (extra mural course).

Occupation: Farmer.

Financial Interests: 80 acre farm.

Estimated Annual Income: £22,000.

He was National President of Macra na Feirme from 1963 to 1965. He was a member of the RTE Authority from



1965 to 1969.

He was encouraged by Sean Lemass to get involved in politics in the early 'sixties. He was elected to the Limerick County Council in 1967 and to the Dail in 1969 for the seat formerly held by Donnacha O'Briain.

He has been at odds with his constituency colleague, Gerry Collins, for several years. He supported Charles Haughey in 1979 for the Fianna Fail leadership, Collins supported Colley. Charles Haughey opened a milking parlour at his farm in May 1980. All the local dignitaries were invited to the event — all except the other Fianna Fail TD for Limerick West.

There was fierce competition between him and Collins in the 1981 election. Collins undertook a massive constituency service over the previous four years, extending far into that part of the constituency in the Kilmallock area which had previously been regarded as Noonan's territory.

William O'Brien (FG)

Address: Barnakyle, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.

Telephone: (h) (061) 89718

Date of Birth: March 6, 1922.

Birthplace: Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.

Name of Spouse: Philomena McDonagh

No. of Children: 3 daughters.

Education: National School, Lurriga, Co. Limerick.

Occupation: Full-time public representative.

Financial Interests: None.

Estimated Annual Income: £13,802



He has been a member of the Limerick County Council since 1960.

He first contested a general election in 1969 and did so again in 1973, both times as a running mate of Denis Jones, the former Leas Ceann Comhairle. He was a member of the Senate from 1969 to 1977. He was elected to the Dail in 1977 on the retirement of Denis Jones.

Before going into politics he worked with CIE in Limerick and was a