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 continued 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 248 and 246 for the charts on Limerick East and Limerick West from 1948 respectively.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>FF</th>
<th>FG</th>
<th>Labour</th>
<th>Farmer</th>
<th>Nat. Lab.</th>
<th>C-P *</th>
<th>SF</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>41.5</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>2.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>7.7</td>
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<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>52.6</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

#### 1923 (7 Seats)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elected</th>
<th>First Prefs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. R. F. Hayes (C na nG)</td>
<td>10,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Ledden (C na nG)</td>
<td>6,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Carroll (Rep.)</td>
<td>5,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† J. Colbert (FF)</td>
<td>4,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Nolan (C na nG)</td>
<td>1,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Clancy (Lab.)</td>
<td>3,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. K. Hogan (Far.)</td>
<td>1,377</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Defeated:**
- W. J. Murphy (Lab.) | 3,332  
- B. Laffan (Far.) | 1,656  
- J. Quaid (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

#### 1927 September (7 Seats)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elected</th>
<th>First Prefs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>† G. C. Bennett (C’na nG)</td>
<td>7,993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. T. Nolan (C na nG)</td>
<td>5,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† R. O’Connell (C na nG)</td>
<td>5,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† P. Clancy (Lab.)</td>
<td>4,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† J. Colbert (FF)</td>
<td>6,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Bourke (FF)</td>
<td>5,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† T. Crowley (FF)</td>
<td>4,652</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Defeated:**
- † M. Keyes (Lab.) | 4,290  
- C. O’Sullivan (Far.) | 3,434  
- † G. H. Hewson (Ind.) | 3,352  
- R. Ryan (FF) | 3,049  
- M. Griffin (C na nG) | 2,898  

| Fianna Fail | 19,797 (34.7%)  
| Cumann na nGaedheal | 21,635 (38.0%)  
| Labour | 8,737 (15.3%)  
| Farmers | 3,352 (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.**

---

#### 1932 (7 Seats)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elected</th>
<th>First Prefs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>† D. Bourke (FF)</td>
<td>7,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Ryan (FF)</td>
<td>6,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† J. Colbert (FF)</td>
<td>6,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† G. C. Bennett (C na nG)</td>
<td>5,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Reidy (C na nG)</td>
<td>5,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† T. Crowley (FF)</td>
<td>4,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. J. O’Shaughnessy (Far.)</td>
<td>4,887</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

#### 1933 (7 Seats)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elected</th>
<th>First Prefs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>† D. Bourke (FF)</td>
<td>7,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. O Briain (FF)</td>
<td>7,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† R. Ryan (FF)</td>
<td>6,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† T. Crowley (FF)</td>
<td>6,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. J. Kelly (Lab.)</td>
<td>5,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† G. C. Bennett (C na nG)</td>
<td>5,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† J. Reidy (C na nG)</td>
<td>5,443</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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. Canty (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.**

---


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**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

#### 1937 (7 Seats)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elected</th>
<th>First Pref.</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>† M. J. Keyes (Lab.)</td>
<td>11,011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† D. Bourke (FF)</td>
<td>8,106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Colbert (FF)</td>
<td>6,955</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† G. Bennett (FG)</td>
<td>6,131</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† D. O Briain (FF)</td>
<td>5,663</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† R. Ryan (FF)</td>
<td>4,698</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. J. O'Shaughnessy (FG)</td>
<td>4,361</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Defeated:

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>† J. Reidy (FG)</td>
<td>5,834</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† T. Crowley (FF)</td>
<td>4,544</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. O'Connell (FG)</td>
<td>3,537</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Fraher (FG)</td>
<td>3,339</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Lloyd (Ind.)</td>
<td>1,343</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fianna Fáil | 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.**


### 1938 (7 Seats)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elected</th>
<th>First Pref.</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. Reidy (FG)</td>
<td>9,816</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† D. Bourke (FF)</td>
<td>9,035</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† D. O Briain (FF)</td>
<td>8,009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† T. Crowley (FF)</td>
<td>7,217</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† G. Bennett (FG)</td>
<td>6,479</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† R. Ryan (FF)</td>
<td>6,114</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† M. J. Keyes (Lab.)</td>
<td>5,827</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Defeated:**

† M. Colbert (FF) | 5,827 |
† J. J. O'Shaughnessy (FG) | 5,726 |
S. Quinn (Lab.) | 2,179 |
M. C. Burke (Ind.) | 921 |

Fianna Fáil | 36,232 (53.8%) |
Fine Gael | 22,936 (34.4%) |
Labour | 8,015 (11.9%) |

**Total Valid Poll:** 67,183

**No Change.**

### 1943 (7 Seats)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elected</th>
<th>First Pref.</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>† D. Bourke (FF)</td>
<td>9,324</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† D. O Briain (FF)</td>
<td>8,131</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† M. J. Keyes (Lab.)</td>
<td>7,578</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† T. Crowley (FF)</td>
<td>6,234</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† R. Ryan (FF)</td>
<td>4,701</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† G. Bennett (FG)</td>
<td>4,529</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Defeated:**

S. Hartney (FF) | 3,116 |
T. O'Connell (FF) | 2,675 |
P. Fitzsimons (Far.) | 2,601 |
J. J. MacNamara (FG) | 2,513 |
D. P. Quish (FG) | 2,351 |
C. Ryan (FF) | 2,195 |
S. Hayes (Lab.) | 2,110 |
P. Costello (Lab.) | 1,643 |

Fianna Fáil | 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.**
Limerick West

1948 (3 Seats)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elected</th>
<th>First Prefs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. Collins (FF)</td>
<td>6,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>† D. O Briain (FF)</td>
<td>6,101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. J. Madden (FG)</td>
<td>4,602</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Defeated:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M. Dore (Ind.)</td>
<td>787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Fitzsimons (Ind.)</td>
<td>1,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Langan (Lab.)</td>
<td>1,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. T. Liston (C-P)</td>
<td>836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Lynch (FF)</td>
<td>2,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. O'Connell (FG)</td>
<td>1,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. O'Connell (C-P)</td>
<td>1,402</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elected</th>
<th>First Prefs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>† D. Madden (FG)</td>
<td>7,901</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Donnachadh O Briain (FF). Born 1897, Active in the Irish language movement, Creamery manager, Irish teacher and Gaelic League organiser. Secretary of Comradh 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...
1954 (3 seats)

Elected First_PREFS.
† J. Collins (FF) 7,857
† D. O'Brien (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.


1965 (3 Seats)

Elected First PREFS.
† J. Collins (FF) 8,476
† D. Jones (FG) 7,213
† D. O'Brien (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

† J. Collins (FF) 9,018
† D. Jones (FG) 7,037
† D. O'Brien (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.
† D. Jones (FG) 6,165
M. Noonan (FF) 2,598

Defeated:
B. Danaher (FG) 2,366
E. Dwyer (Lab.) 1,254
R. Keyd (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.


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. Reedy (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 Poblacht 5,435 (14.7%)
Clann na Talimhan 2,131 (5.8%)

Total Valid Poll: 36,879

New Constituency.


1951 (4 Seats)

Elected First Prefs.
† D. Bourke (FF) 7,268
T. Crowley (FF) 5,666
† M. Keyes (Lab.) 6,295
† J. Reedy (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 Poblacht 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>FF</th>
<th>FG</th>
<th>Labour</th>
<th>Farmer</th>
<th>Nat. Lab.</th>
<th>C-P *</th>
<th>SF</th>
<th>Others</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1948 (4)</td>
<td>42.6 (2)</td>
<td>21.2 (1)</td>
<td>15.6 (1)</td>
<td>5.8 (—)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>14.7 (—)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951 (4)</td>
<td>47.2 (2)</td>
<td>22.3 (1)</td>
<td>17.0 (1)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>13.5 (—)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954 (4)</td>
<td>42.8 (2)</td>
<td>29.0 (1)</td>
<td>13.3 (1)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>15.0 (—)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957 (4)</td>
<td>46.6 (2)</td>
<td>16.3 (1)</td>
<td>5.8 (—)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>9.4 (—)</td>
<td>8.5 (—)</td>
<td>15.5 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961 (4)</td>
<td>45.0 (2)</td>
<td>23.1 (1)</td>
<td>21.1 (1)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>10.7 (—)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965 (4)</td>
<td>53.5 (2)</td>
<td>30.5 (1)</td>
<td>15.9 (1)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>9.4 (—)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969 (4)</td>
<td>38.4 (2)</td>
<td>24.6 (1)</td>
<td>27.7 (1)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>22.1 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973 (4)</td>
<td>41.9 (2)</td>
<td>34.5 (1)</td>
<td>23.6 (1)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>12.1 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977 (4)</td>
<td>45.8 (2)</td>
<td>24.3 (1)</td>
<td>7.9 (—)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>3.2 (—)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981 (5)</td>
<td>42.3 (2)</td>
<td>33.8 (2)</td>
<td>11.8 (—)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By-Elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>FF</th>
<th>FG</th>
<th>Labour</th>
<th>Farmer</th>
<th>Nat. Lab.</th>
<th>C-P *</th>
<th>SF</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1952 (1)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>41.7 (—)</td>
<td>34.3 (1)</td>
<td>7.3 (—)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>16.9 (—)</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968 (1)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>43.8 (1)</td>
<td>26.4 (—)</td>
<td>26.7 (—)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>3.2 (—)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* C-P = Centre Party 1932—1933.

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

By-election June 26, 1952

Elected
J. Carew (FG) 13,130 (34.3%)
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

Rejected:
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
† J. Carew (FG) 5,362
D. O’Malley (FF) 6,860
† T. Crowley (FF) 4,857
† M. Keyes (Lab.) 5,035

Rejected:
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 Pobalcha 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

1957 (4 Seats)

Elected
† D. O’Malley (FF) 7,501
P. Clohessy (FF) 5,178
G. E. Russell (Ind.) 5,623
† J. Carew (FF) 4,193

Rejected:
S. Coughlan (C na P) 3,395
P. Donegan (FG) 1,690

C. Keyes (Lab.) 2,098
P. Maguire (FF) 3,455
P. O. Maolcaithigh (SF) 3,085
Fianna Fail 16,134 (44.6%)
Fine Gael 5,883 (16.3%)
Labour 2,098 (5.8%)
Clann na Pobalcha 3,395 (9.4%)
Sinn Fein 2,085 (5.85%)
Independent 5,623 (15.5%)
Total Valid Poll: 36,218

Labour lose a seat. Independent gains a seat.


1961 (4 Seats)

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

Rejected:
† J. Carew (FG) 3,288
C. J. Kirby (FG) 2,958
G. E. Russell (Ind.) 3,547
W. Slattery (FF) 1,388

Fianna Fail 14,837 (45.0%)
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-
Limerick’s supporters vetoed the nomination of the second Labour candidate in Limerick East. It was widely believed they were trying to block Alderman Mick Lipper, a locomotive engineer driver and Mayor of Limerick 1973-74 who had pulled 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elector</th>
<th>First Prefs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D. O’Malley (FF)</td>
<td>7,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. O’Donnell (FG)</td>
<td>6,841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Herbert (FF)</td>
<td>4,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Coughlan (Lab.)</td>
<td>5,495</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Defeated:
- P. Clohessey (FF) 3,242
- M. Lipper (FG) 2,456
- 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elector</th>
<th>First Prefs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D. O’Malley (FF)</td>
<td>8,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. O’Donnell (FG)</td>
<td>6,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Herbert (FF)</td>
<td>5,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Herbert (FF)</td>
<td>6,293</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Defeated:
- P. Clohessey (FF) 5,498
- M. Coughlan (Lab.) 3,553
- M. Crowe (Ind.) 1,325
- J. Harrington (Ind.) 1,522
- Ms. W. Harrington (Ind.) 646
- M. Kennedy (FF) 2,333
- J. Kemmy (Ind.) 1,302
- F. Reynolds (SF WP) 262
- J. Rule (FF) 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.
Limerick East (5 Seats)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counts:</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd O'Donnell’s Surplus (1,816)</th>
<th>3rd O’Malley’s Surplus (1,247)</th>
<th>4th Harrington’s Votes (862)</th>
<th>5th Frawley’s Votes (1,038)</th>
<th>6th Cregan’s Votes (2,072)</th>
<th>7th Hourigan’s Votes (2,744)</th>
<th>8th Prendergast Votes (3,460)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O'Donnell T. (FG)</td>
<td>9,915</td>
<td>+39</td>
<td>+429</td>
<td>+64</td>
<td>+59</td>
<td>+1,017</td>
<td>+112</td>
<td>+216</td>
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<tr>
<td>O'Malley D. (FF)</td>
<td>9,346</td>
<td>+921</td>
<td>+36</td>
<td>+44</td>
<td>+110</td>
<td>+172</td>
<td>+2,059</td>
<td>+838</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clohessy P. (FF)</td>
<td>5,256</td>
<td>5,295</td>
<td>5,724</td>
<td>5,788</td>
<td>5,847</td>
<td>6,864</td>
<td>6,976</td>
<td>7,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noonan M. (FG)</td>
<td>4,311</td>
<td>+67</td>
<td>+349</td>
<td>+78</td>
<td>+33</td>
<td>+551</td>
<td>+155</td>
<td>+220</td>
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<tr>
<td>O’Dea W. (FF)</td>
<td>4,297</td>
<td>4,364</td>
<td>4,713</td>
<td>4,791</td>
<td>4,824</td>
<td>5,375</td>
<td>5,530</td>
<td>5,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kemmy J. (Ind)</td>
<td>4,190</td>
<td>+103</td>
<td>+45</td>
<td>+144</td>
<td>+260</td>
<td>+89</td>
<td>+90</td>
<td>+723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipper M. (Ind)</td>
<td>2,905</td>
<td>+91</td>
<td>+26</td>
<td>+148</td>
<td>+167</td>
<td>+58</td>
<td>+107</td>
<td>+1,255</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prendergast F. (Lab)</td>
<td>2,840</td>
<td>+130</td>
<td>+56</td>
<td>+74</td>
<td>+151</td>
<td>+100</td>
<td>+109</td>
<td>+4,757†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hourigan R. (FG)</td>
<td>2,184</td>
<td>+407</td>
<td>+14</td>
<td>+18</td>
<td>+62</td>
<td>+59</td>
<td>(NT) 208</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cregan E. (FF)</td>
<td>1,636</td>
<td>+21</td>
<td>+273</td>
<td>+64</td>
<td>+78</td>
<td>(NT)</td>
<td>112</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frawley J. (Ind)</td>
<td>866</td>
<td>+25</td>
<td>+13</td>
<td>+134</td>
<td>(NT)</td>
<td>118</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrington J. (Ind)</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>+12</td>
<td>+6</td>
<td>(NT)</td>
<td>94</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

With the increase in the size of this constituency from 5 to 5 seats, Fianna Fáil was hopeful that it could take 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 a high reputation for himself in Industry and Com...
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 NUIE, 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 19.3% 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 Dáil 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.
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.

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 Dáil Éireann. 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 bye-election. His seat is a marginal one, requiring a 3.2% swing to Fianna Fáil 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 Dáil.

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Michael Noonan (FG)

Address: 18 Gaudavohre Estate, Fr. Russell Road, Limerick.  
Telephone: (061) 9290 (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 he was 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 Dáil election he contested. He is formerly a National School Teacher.

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Tom O'Donnell (FG)

Address: Ballinlee House, Kilmally, Co. Limerick.  
Telephone: Bruree 33 (h) (061) 4-60.  
Date of Birth: August 30, 1926.  
Birthplace: Limerick.  
Spouse: None.  
No. of children: None.  
Education: National School Carrmore, Co. Limerick; CBS Rath; Co. Cork; Crescent College, Limerick.
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 Muinit na Tire. He edited Landmark, the journal of Muinit 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 reappointed 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)

Address: 37 Abbey Avenue, Corbally, Limerick.

Telephone: (061) 45301 (h).

Date of Birth: February 1939.

Birthplace: Limerick.

Spouse: Patricia McAteer.

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

When Fianna Fáil 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 Dáil 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 Fáil returned to power in July 1977 – during the course of that general election campaign Jack Lynch said, only half-jokingly, that if Fianna Fáil 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 Dáil 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 Fáil remain in opposition for long.
Limerick West (3 Seats)

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

Counts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collins* G. (FF)</td>
<td>14,776</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Brien* W. (FG)</td>
<td>8,676</td>
<td>+6,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noonan* M. (FF)</td>
<td>6,579</td>
<td>12,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheehan D. (FG)</td>
<td>3,158</td>
<td>+326</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Collins’s Surplus: (6,478)

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%

Labor - Other -

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.

Gerry Collins (FF)

Address: The Hill, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
Telephone: (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.

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 process. 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 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
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 the 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 spokesman on Agriculture from 1973 to 1975 but was no match for his opposite number, Mark Clinton. He was appointed spokesman 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 Portaloise prison.

He supported George Colley in the 1979 Fianna Fail leadership election and was almost dropped from the cabinet 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 ever in the Fianna Fail party. 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 Sheehan.
No. of Children: 2 sons, 4 daughters.
Education: National School, Meanus, Co. Limerick; Salesian College, Pallaskenry, 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'Brien.

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 miking 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
(FF)

Address: Barnakule, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.
Telephone: (h) (061) 89718.
Date of Birth: March 6, 1922.
Birthplace: Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.
Name of Spouse: Phelimena 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 T.P.D., 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 CIFE in Limerick and later as a...