Kemmy’s Euro selection

By DYMHPHNA BRACKEN

DEPUTY Jim Kemmy was selected as the sole Labour candidate to contest next June’s European elections for the Munster constituency, at the party’s convention, last evening.

He was proposed by Mayor Jan O’Sullivan who described him as strong and powerful public representative who always stood by the rights of ordinary people.

Deputy Kemmy told the delegates that he had not made the decision to contest these elections lightly and he did intend to do all in his power to win a seat next June no matter how strong the opposition against him will be.

The other parties have not yet held their conventions.

A defiant Deputy Kemmy told convention that it is vital for the party to consolidate their gains in last year’s general election. For the first time in its long history, he said, the party has become a real and major force in Irish politics.

“Let us not squander this position. Let us not waste this opportunity,” he warned.

“We must not allow ourselves to be pushed back into the traditional see-saw role that has been the pattern of our 81 years history.”

In a reference to Shannon, Deputy Kemmy said he did not believe in ducking difficult issues.

“The reality is, he said, that when the crunch came this year, the majority of deputies in all the political parties in Dail Eireann favoured a change in Shannon’s status.

“It is not easy for those of us who live in the Mid-West to accept this situation but such is the reality we had to face,” he said.

As a party, he said, the Labour party must ensure that Shannon will survive and that it will continue to generate jobs in transport, tourism and industry in the years ahead.

Treasurer and party leader, Dick Spring, in his address to the convention warned of a temptation in some quarters in Europe to deal with the problem of unemployment by progressively rolling back the rights that working people have won over many years.

The Labour party, he assured the delegates will not support that kind of approach.

“In fact” he said “we believe strongly that if the European Union is to be a success it must mean something to all its citizens - those at work as well as those who are unemployed, and those who are old, infirm or handicapped.”

A full time public representative, Deputy Kemmy who un成功fully contested the 1977 Dail election was elected in 1981 and February 1982.

Defeated in the November 1982 general election he was re-elected to the Dail in 1987 and has been elected at every election every since.

If elected to the European parliament, Deputy Kemmy intends to exercise a dual mandate in both parliaments until the next general election when he will not be a candidate.

If the matter of the two salaries arises, he will only accept one income and will donate his Dail salary to the Labour party at national and local level.

Deputy Teddy O’Sullivan, Cork will be the party’s first substitute candidate.

Senator Mary Kelly was selected as the party second substitute.

The other substitutes are Jack Walsh, Waterford; Jo Walsh, Clare and Cllr Frank Prendergast.