THE entry of William O'Dea into the political limelight was the first step in the realisation of a dream that was born fourteen years ago when the Kilteely man first joined Fianna Fáil.

But it's not surprising that the 28-year-old County Limerickman should have emerged after something of a cliff-hanger between himself and Martin Carroll, County Limerick VEC chief—as the "third man"—nominated as a candidate in East Limerick at the recent convention.

O'Dea is a man with a passion for hard work. His academic credentials prove it.

The eldest son of a family of six (three sons and three daughters), the new candidate showed his prowess in the academic field when he qualified in law at U.C.D. in 1973.

Success

The significance of that success was marked by the young academic brought honour and distinction to his area by achieving top place among firstclass honours students at U.C.D.

His scholastic brilliance was further indicated a year later when he achieved first place in his final bar examinations.

And adding to his already distinguished academic career was his qualifying in 1975 in the field of accounting.

O'Dea's achievements in the educational sphere were not necessarily carved out of some natural or incredible genius. It was, in fact, his passion for learning and hard work that drove him forward with such immense dedication and determination to get ahead.

As a result of his hard work, today, the dynamic County Limerickman, who works at least 16 hours a day, lives on the average of eight and a half hours a day, lectures in European Studies in NIHE, and lectures in financial accounting one day a week at UCD.

Welfare

In addition, he finds time to write articles for Business and Finance and Solicitors' Gazette as well as operating a weekly advice service on tax and welfare problems—on the farming section of the Limerick Leader.

Aiming out of this he is more often than not inundated with calls for advice. He always has a Kilteely-all seeking advice to the expert assistance of his man—usually does—over people.

It wasn't until 1973 that O'Dea's involvement in the Labour movement became more active. And it was only natural that he should seek to fly the Fianna Fáil banner as he originated from a traditionally "Worship of the Father" family in the heart of the Golden Vale.

The fact is, this is the fact that his late father, Thomas O'Dea was, for many years, chairman of the Kilteely Fianna Fáil Cumann.

"I am not in any way in any way wishing to be a Fianna Fáil candidate, but I think the Fianna Fáil tax proposals are nothing less than a massive con-job," Garrett FitzGerald says he is going to give tax incentives to busy bodies by reducing the standard income tax rate to 25%.

"But where is the money going to come from—£295 million according to the Fine Gael leader. He says he is not trying to buy his way into government but, as far as I'm concerned that is exactly what he is doing." Analysing the Budget 69, he described it as a significant step forward in the fight for fairness in the distribution of resources.

Now a member of the Fianna Fáil's National Executive—membership of which is going into its fourth year—the energetic County Limerickman, who is a barrister-at-law, has built up a reputation for expertise in the area of taxation.

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Victory

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