

Dé Céadaoin, 3 Samhain, 2004
Wednesday, 3rd November, 2004

10.30 a.m.

ORD GNÓ
ORDER OF BUSINESS

3. An Bille um Ghníomhaireacht Forbartha Ghráinseach Ghormáin 2004 — Ordú don Dara Céim.
Grangegorman Development Agency Bill 2004 — Order for Second Stage.
4. An Bille um Thrácht ar Bhóithre 2004 — Ordú don Dara Céim.
Road Traffic Bill 2004 — Order for Second Stage.

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

32. Tairiscint *maidir le* Cúram Leanáí (*atógáil*).
Motion *re* Childcare (*resumed*).

I dTOSACH GNÓ PHOIBLÍ
AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Billí a thionscnamh : Initiation of Bills

Tíolactha:
Presented:

3. An Bille um Ghníomhaireacht Forbartha Ghráinseach Ghormáin 2004 — Ordú don Dara Céim.

Grangegorman Development Agency Bill 2004 — Order for Second Stage.

Bille dá ngairtear Acht do dhéanamh socrú maidir le limistéar i nGráinseach Ghormáin, Baile Átha Cliath a fhorbairt mar shuíomh le haghaidh saoráidí oideachais, sláinte agus eile, agus chun na críche sin do dhéanamh socrú maidir le comhlacht a bhunú ar a dtabharfar Gníomhaireacht Forbartha Ghráinseach Ghormáin, do mhíniú a fheidhmeanna, do leasú an Achta um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000 agus an Achta um Ghníomhaireacht Airgeadais d'Fhorbairt Náisiúnta 2002 agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

Bill entitled an Act to make provision for the development of an area in Grangegorman, Dublin as a location for education, health and other facilities, and for that purpose to provide for the establishment of a body to be known as the Grangegorman Development Agency, to define its functions, to amend the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the National Development Finance Agency Act 2002 and to provide for related matters.

— *An tAire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta.*

4. An Bille um Thrácht ar Bhóithre 2004 — Ordú don Dara Céim.

Road Traffic Bill 2004 — Order for Second Stage.

Bille dá ngairtear Acht do leasú agus do leathnú na nAchtanna um Thrácht ar Bhóithre 1961 go 2003 agus do leasú an Achta um Údaráis Áitiúla (Maoir Thrácht) 1975 agus an Achta um Rialáil Tacsaithe 2003.

Bill entitled an Act to amend and extend the Road Traffic Acts 1961 to 2003 and to amend the Local Authorities (Traffic Wardens) Act 1975 and the Taxi Regulation Act 2003.

— *An tAire Iompair.*

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Tairiscint (atógáil) (1 ur. 30 n fágtha):

Motion (resumed) (1 hr. 30 m remaining):

32. “That Dáil Éireann,

— noting that:

- over five years since the publication of the National Childcare Strategy, childcare provision is still, in the words of the Strategy, ‘uncoordinated, variable in quality and in short supply’;
- the Government’s failure to ensure comprehensive childcare provision, has negative consequences for children, women, families, society and the economy;
- the complete lack of adequate childcare, including pre-school, after-school and out-of-school childcare, continues to restrict the participation of parents of young children, particularly women, in the workforce, education and training, as confirmed by the OECD Thematic Review of Early Childhood Education and Care Policy in Ireland;

- delivery of childcare places and improved infrastructure under the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme has been subject to long delays due to the protracted review of funding by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform;
 - there is an urgent need to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for childcare provision up to and beyond the completion of the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme in 2006; and
 - the development of quality childcare is self-financing through increased tax returns from women's work and less dependency on social security.
- affirms that the State shall have the following goals, which the Government shall work to achieve within a definite timeframe to:
- enable all parents to reconcile their childcare needs with participation in the labour force, education and training;
 - enable all parents to exercise their choice to care for their children full time up to one year of age;
 - enable all parents to access affordable childcare for their children;
 - establish universal State provision of pre-school for all children from the age of three to five years; and
 - establish universal provision of early childhood care and education based on the Swedish system.
- and calls on the Government, in the interim, to:
- harmonise maternity leave on an all-Ireland basis by increasing maternity leave to 26 weeks paid and 26 weeks unpaid;
 - increase maternity benefit to 80% of earnings immediately;
 - harmonise paternity leave on an all-Ireland basis by introducing paid paternity entitlements of two weeks per child;
 - increase adoptive leave to 24 weeks paid and 26 weeks unpaid;
 - introduce paid parental leave and legislate without further delay to implement the terms agreed in respect of parental leave under the Sustaining Progress Agreement;
 - assist parents with the cost of childcare by increasing child benefit to €150 per month for the first and second child and to €185.50 for third and subsequent children and by increasing child dependent allowance to a single weekly figure of €26 for all recipients;
 - introduce a childcare supplement to be paid as a top-up for child benefit for under fives;
 - increase revenue for the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme, including capital, staffing and operational funding and immediately expedite all outstanding applications which have been delayed due to the review of the Programme;
 - re-instate the creche supplement and the VTOS childcare supports, the cutting of which have caused severe hardship to parents and children in disadvantaged communities;
 - raise awareness of and increase funding for the childminders' grant scheme;

- review the ‘Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities’ to assess effectiveness of the guidelines and investigate the possibility of introducing legislation in line with Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to require developers to construct childcare facilities in housing developments and to transfer these to the ownership of the local authority upon completion; and
- bring forward legislation to effectively address the need for employers to share responsibility for provision of childcare for their employees.” — *Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, Seán Crowe, Martin Ferris, Arthur Morgan, Aengus Ó Snodaigh.*

[2 November, 2004]

Leasú (atógáil):

Amendment (resumed):

1. To delete all words after “Dáil Éireann” and substitute the following:

“notes:

- the considerable progress which has been achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the National Childcare Strategy over the past five years, through the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme and other Government initiatives;
- that each county of Ireland has already benefited considerably from an increase in the provision of childcare places through the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme 2000 - 2006 and that the Programme is already ahead of target in this regard;
- the increased provision in capital funding following the mid-term review of the EOCP for the community based not for profit childcare sector to develop new childcare facilities;
- the positive impact that the availability of these new places is having on the parents of Ireland and their children;
- the many positive comments of the OECD in relation to childcare in Ireland, the development of which has been made a priority by this Government;
- that increased female participation is being encouraged through a range of measures including family friendly working arrangements, childcare provision and changes to the tax and benefit systems.

commends the Government for the:

- complete implementation by way of the Maternity Protection (Amendment) Act 2004 of improvements to maternity leave entitlements recommended by the Maternity Review Group;
- immediate implementation in March 2001 of increased periods of maternity leave as recommended by the Maternity Review Group and the application of the same increases to adoptive leave.

endorses the:

- Government’s policy in relation to the development of childcare which offers parents in employment, education and training a range of choices with regard to the availability of quality childcare at local level;

- Government's policy in relation to the provision of appropriate pre-school education in areas of social deprivation and for those with special needs in order to help combat disadvantage and promote education.

and continues to deliver that policy in relation to:

- making further provision to enhance adoptive leave entitlements in the Adoptive Leave Bill 2004 currently before Dáil Éireann;
- implementing improvements to parental leave in accordance with the commitment made in the Sustaining Progress Partnership Agreement by way of a Bill to be published during the current Dáil session;
- supporting the early start scheme which funds centres that aim to expose children from disadvantaged areas, aged three to four years, to a positive pre-school environment to improve their overall development and long-term educational experience and performance;
- establishing the Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education (CECDE) by the Department of Education and Science in October 2002 to develop, within a three year period, a quality framework for early childhood education and to develop, through active research with existing programmes, targeted interventions for children who have special needs or who are disadvantaged;
- the provision of funding to Vocational Educational Committees to assist towards the childcare expenses of participants in Vocational Training Opportunities Schemes, Youthreach and Senior traveller training centres to facilitate the attendance on certain further education programmes of people for who they were designed but who are precluded from availing themselves due to their childcare responsibilities;
- the Government's commitment to restoring maternity benefit to 80 per cent of reckonable earnings from its current level of 70 per cent as recently agreed at the mid-term review of Part Two of Sustaining Progress and the commitment to implement the measure over the lifetime of the Agreement;
- the Government's continued use of child benefit as the main instrument through which support is provided to parents;
- the commitment of the Government to the child benefit scheme is reflected in the significant resources invested in the child benefit scheme since 2001 where the combined child benefit/child dependant allowance payment has increased by more than double the rate of inflation;
- the Government's commitment to taxation measures which favour the supply of childcare places;
- the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme including the need to increase capital funding to the Programme to sustain the dynamic which has developed at local level through which community groups and private providers are prepared to establish and manage childcare facilities; and

the Government affirms that the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Childcare Facilities that were issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in June 2001 are delivering on the provision of childcare facilities." — *An tAire Dlí agus Cirt, Comhionannais agus Athchóirithe Dlí.*

**TEACHTAIREACHTAÍ ÓN RIALTAS
MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNMENT**

An Bille um Cheartas Coiriúil (Cionta Sceimhlitheoireachta) 2002.
Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Bill 2002.

For the purpose of Article 17.2 of the Constitution, the Government recommend that it is expedient to authorise such charges on and payments out of the Central Fund or the growing produce thereof and such payments out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas as are necessary to give effect to any Act of the present session to enable the State to meet commitments undertaken as part of the international community, to amend the Offences against the State Acts 1939 to 1998 and to make provision for related matters.

Given on this 2nd day of November, 2004

(Signed) Bertie Ahern,
Taoiseach.

MEMORANDA

*Dé Céadaoin, 3 Samhain, 2004
Wednesday, 3rd November, 2004*

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Shláinte agus Leanaí i Seomra Coiste 2, LH2000,
ar 9.30 a.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on Health and Children in Committee Room 2, LH2000,
at 9.30 a.m.

**An Bille um Cheartas Coiriúil (Cionta Sceimhlitheoireachta) 2002:
Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Bill 2002:**

Cruinniú den Roghchoiste um Dhlí agus Ceart, Comhionannas, Cosaint agus Cearta na
mBan i Seomra Coiste 1, LH2000, ar 9.30 a.m.
Meeting of the Select Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence and Women's Rights in
Committee Room 1, LH2000, at 9.30 a.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Fhiontraíocht agus Mionghnóthaí i Seomra Coiste 1,
LH2000, ar 12.30 p.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on Enterprise and Small Business in Committee Room 1,
LH2000, at 12.30 p.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Chumarsáid, Muir agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha i Seomra
Coiste 3, LH2000, ar 2.30 p.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on Communications, Marine and Natural Resources in
Committee Room 3, LH2000, at 2.30 p.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Eorpacha i Seomra Coiste 2, LH2000,
ar 2.30 p.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on European Affairs in Committee Room 2, LH2000,
at 2.30 p.m.

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Thalmhaíocht agus Bia i Seomra Coiste 4, LH2000,
ar 3 p.m.
Meeting of the Joint Committee on Agriculture and Food in Committee Room 4, LH2000,
at 3 p.m.

**An Bille um Cheartas Coiriúil (Cionta Sceimhlitheoireachta) 2002:
Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Bill 2002:**

Cruinniú den Roghchoiste um Dhlí agus Ceart, Comhionannas, Cosaint agus Cearta na mBan i Seomra Coiste 2, LH2000, ar 5.15 p.m.

Meeting of the Select Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence and Women's Rights in Committee Room 2, LH2000, at 5.15 p.m.

**SCRÍBHINNÍ A LEAGADH FAOI BHRÁID NA DÁLA
DOCUMENTS LAID BEFORE THE DÁIL**

Reachtúil:

1) Comhsheasamh 2004/661/CFSP an 24 Meán Fómhair, 2004 ón gComhairle maidir le bearta sriantacha in aghaidh oifigeach áirithe de chuid na Bealarúise mar aon le nóta faisnéise míniúcháin.

2) Gníomhaíocht Chomhpháirteach 2004/569/CFSP an 12 Iúil, 2004 ón gComhairle maidir le sainordú Ionadaí Speisialta an Aontais Eorpaigh sa Bhosnia agus sa Heirseagaivéin agus lena n-aisghairtear Gníomhaíocht Chomhpháirteach 2002/211/CFSP ón gComhairle mar aon le nóta faisnéise míniúcháin.

3) Togra le haghaidh Cinnidh ón gComhairle lena leasaítear Cinneadh 2002/883/CE ón gComhairle lenar cuireadh cúnamh macra-airgeadais breise ar fáil don Bhosnia agus don Heirseagaivéin mar aon le nóta faisnéise míniúcháin. COM (2004) 604.

4) Togra le haghaidh Cinnidh ón gComhairle maidir le cúnamh macra-airgeadais don tSeirbia agus do Mhontainéagró agus lena leasaítear Cinneadh 2002/882/CE lenar cuireadh cúnamh macra-airgeadais breise ar fáil do Phoblacht Chónaidhme na hIúgslaive mar aon le nóta faisnéise míniúcháin. COM (2004) 605.

5) Comhsheasamh 2004/694/CFSP an 11 Deireadh Fómhair 2004 ón gComhairle ar bhearta breise chun tacú le cur i ngníomh éifeachtach shainordú an Bhinse Choiriúil Idirnáisiúnta don iar-Iúgslaiv (ICTY) [agus] Rialachán (CE) Uimh. 1763/2004 an 11 Deireadh Fómhair 2004 ón gComhairle lena bhforchuirtear bearta sriantacha áirithe chun tacú le cur i ngníomh éifeachtach shainordú an Bhinse Choiriúil Idirnáisiúnta don iar-Iúgslaiv (ICTY) mar aon le nóta faisnéise míniúcháin.

6) Na Rialacháin Leasa Shóisialaigh (Forálacha Íocaíochtaí Comhdhlúite) (Leasú) (Uimh. 4) (Sochar Máithreachais) 2004 (I.R. Uimh. 660 de 2004).

Statutory:

1) Council Common Position 2004/661/CFSP of 24 September, 2004 concerning restrictive measures against certain officials of Belarus together with explanatory information note.

2) Council Joint Action 2004/569/CFSP of 12 July, 2004 on the mandate of the European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina and repealing Council Joint Action 2002/211/CFSP together with explanatory information note.

3) Proposal for a Council Decision amending Council Decision 2002/883/EC providing further macro-financial assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina together with explanatory information note. COM (2004) 604.

4) Proposal for a Council Decision on macro-financial assistance to Serbia and Montenegro and amending Decision 2002/882/EC providing further macro-financial assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia together with explanatory information note. COM (2004) 605.

5) Council Common Position 2004/694/CFSP of 11 October 2004 on further measures in support of the effective implementation of the mandate of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) [and] Council Regulation (EC) No. 1763/2004 of 11 October 2004 imposing certain restrictive measures in support of effective implementation of the mandate of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) together with explanatory information note.

6) Social Welfare (Consolidated Payments Provisions) (Amendment) (No. 4) (Maternity Benefit) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 660 of 2004).

7) An tOrdú um an Acht Leasa Shóisialaigh (Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha) 2002 (Alt 16) (Uimh. 9) (Tosach Feidhme) 2004 (I.R. Uimh. 657 de 2004).

8) An tOrdú um an Acht Leasa Shóisialaigh (Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha) 2004 (Alt 8) (Tosach Feidhme) 2004 (I.R. Uimh. 658 de 2004).

9) An tOrdú um Chomhairleoirí Speisialta (An Taoiseach agus an tAire Stáit ag Roinn an Taoisigh) a Cheapadh 2004.

7) Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2002 (Section 16) (No. 9) (Commencement) Order 2004 (S.I. No. 657 of 2004).

8) Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 (Section 8) (Commencement) Order 2004 (S.I. No. 658 of 2004).

9) Appointment of Special Advisers (Taoiseach and Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach) Order 2004.

Neamhreachtúil:

An Garda Síochána. Tuarascáil Bhliantúil, 2003.

Non-Statutory:

Garda Síochána. Annual Report, 2003.
