

*Dé Céadaoin, 29 Deireadh Fómhair, 2008
Wednesday, 29th October, 2008*

2.30 p.m.

**GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

Fógra i dtaobh leasú ar Thairscint : Notice of Amendment to Motion

45. “That Dáil Éireann deplores the series of educational cuts announced in the budget and subsequently by the Minister for Education and Science; expresses its serious concern at the damage these cuts will cause to the education system and to the future prospects of our children; and calls on the Government, in particular, to reverse the decision to increase class sizes at first and second level.” — *Ruairí Quinn, Eamon Gilmore, Joan Burton, Emmet Stagg, Thomas P. Broughan, Joe Costello, Michael D. Higgins, Brendan Howlin, Kathleen Lynch, Ciarán Lynch, Liz McManus, Brian O'Shea, Jan O'Sullivan, Willie Penrose, Pat Rabbitte, Seán Sherlock, Róisín Shortall, Joanna Tuffy, Mary Upton, Jack Wall.*

Leasú:

Amendment:

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

- “ — recognises, given the difficult economic circumstances, the necessity to stabilise the public finances and that taking difficult expenditure decisions and choices at this time is essential in order to ensure that public services, including education, can be sustained and improved in the long run;
- notes that the expenditure control measures in the education sector must be considered in the context of the Government's significant investment in education which has increased spending by over 300% since 1997, which has provided for significant improvements in resources and infrastructure across the sector including:
- 15,000 extra teachers working in our primary and post-primary schools;
 - the targeting of additional supports and resources for children with special education needs with over 19,000 teachers and special needs assistants now working with these children in our schools;
 - the targeting of additional supports and funding to schools in the most disadvantaged areas under the Department's DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) Action Plan;
 - the significant capital expenditure of over €586 million this year alone for the school building programme compared to just €92 million in 1997;

- notes the longstanding role of partnership in education and the Government commitment to continuing to work constructively with the partners to build on past achievements and improve educational outcomes for all our students;
- acknowledges that the education budget for 2009 shows a 3.2% increase on 2008, despite serious pressures on public finances and major challenges to our economic and social well being; and
- recognises that these expenditure control measures, while necessary in the current circumstances, will be considered further by Government, in the context of prevailing economic circumstances, at the earliest possible opportunity.” — *An tAire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta*.