

(Second Supplementary Order Paper)

21

DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Máirt, 12 Aibreán, 2011
Tuesday, 12th April, 2011

2.30 p.m.

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Fógra i dtaobh leasuithe ar Thairiscint : Notice of Amendments to Motion

19. “That Dáil Éireann:

notes that over the last number of years there has been a significant increase in resources allocated to education and training including:

- the increase of primary teacher numbers from 21,000 to over 37,000 with a reduction in the pupil/teacher ratio from 22:1 to 16:1;
- the introduction of a wide range of new special education schemes underpinned by the expansion of the number of special needs assistants from 250 to over 10,000;
- the expansion in third-level participation from 100,000 students to almost 160,000; and
- the creation of research programmes which have brought Ireland to a world-leading position in key areas and are currently underpinning the majority of job-creating investments in Ireland;

further acknowledges that in spite of these and other improvements there remain significant issues within the education and training system which require to be addressed;

believes that education and training will be a central part in economic recovery and job creation in the months and years ahead; and

therefore states its belief that education and training should be protected as a priority area for funding in future budgets.” — *Micheál Martin, John Browne, Dara Calleary, Niall Collins, Barry Cowen, Timmy Dooley, Seán Fleming, Billy Kelleher, Seamus Kirk, Michael P. Kitt, Brian Lenihan, Charlie McConalogue, Michael McGrath, John McGuinness, Michael Moynihan, Éamon Ó Cuív, Seán Ó Fearghail, Willie O’Dea, Brendan Smith, Robert Troy.*

Leasuithe:

Amendments:

1. In the first subparagraph, to delete “37,000” and substitute “31,700”.

— *An tAire Oideachas agus Scileanna.*

P.T.O.

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

“notes that:

- Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that education is a basic and fundamental human right; and
- education should be free and universally available as of right and should assist everyone without exception to develop her or his full potential;

further notes that:

- instead of guaranteeing everyone equal access to the highest standard of education, previous Government policy has entrenched educational inequalities and a two tier system;
- current Government policy will perpetuate this same system of educational inequality and disadvantage;
- investment in education in this State has never been at the appropriate level, even during times of economic growth and that the previous Government’s agenda of cuts has eroded the education sector;
- the areas of primary education, special educational needs and third level have been particularly hard hit with cuts and charges; and
- the lack of investment in education has a huge impact on low and middle income families;

calls on the Government to:

- reverse the cuts to education and ensure that at least 6% of GDP is ring-fenced for education;
- lift the cap on special needs assistants;
- reject the introduction of third level fees in any guise;
- reverse the recent changes to the qualifying criteria for the non-adjacent rates of the maintenance grants; and
- make education a central tool of economic recovery.” — *Seán Crowe, Brian Stanley, Michael Colreavy, Gerry Adams, Pearse Doherty, Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Martin Ferris, Peadar Tóibín, Mary Lou McDonald, Sandra McLellan, Dessie Ellis, Pádraig Mac Lochlainn, Jonathan O'Brien.*