Déardaoin, 21 Deireadh Fómhair, 2004 Thursday, 21st October, 2004

10.30 a.m.

# RIAR NA hOIBRE Order Paper

oruer ruper

# GNÓ POIBLÍ Public Business

1. Go ndéanfar, de bhun Bhuan-Ordú Uimh. 83 de na Buan-Orduithe i dtaobh Gnó Phoiblí, an Seanadóir Ulic de Búrca a urscaoileadh ó chomhaltas an Choiste Roghnóireachta ar a iarratas féin agus an Seanadóir Muiris Ó Cuimín a cheapadh ina ionad.

That, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 83 of the Standing Orders relative to Public Business, Senator Ulick Burke be discharged from membership of the Committee of Selection at his own request and Senator Maurice Cummins be appointed in substitution for him.

Senator Mary O'Rourke.

**2.** Tuarascáil ón gCoiste Roghnóireachta Report of the Committee of Selection.

#### 3. "Go ndéanann Seanad Éireann:

- a imní thromaí atá uirthi agus ar mhuintir na hÉireann mar gheall ar fhuadach Margaret Hassan, Uasal, i mBagdad inné a chur in iúl;
- a thabhairt dá haire gur in Éirinn a rugadh Margaret Hassan, Uasal agus gur thug sí an tríocha bliain seo a d= imigh tharainn san Iaráic agus iomlán a dúthrachta á chaitheamh aici ar obair dhaoncharadais ar son mhuintir na hIaráice;
- a éileamh go ndéanfar í a shaoradh láithreach agus go ndéanfar na gialla go léir san Iaráic a shaoradh;
- an cleachtas gialla a thógáil ar aon chúis in aon chor a cháineadh; agus
- fáilte a chur roimh ghealltanas an Rialtais, a mbeidh tacaíocht iomlán an Tí seo leis, chun cuidiú in aon slí is

# That Seanad Éireann:

- expresses its serious concern, and that of the Irish people, at the abduction of Mrs Margaret Hassan in Baghdad yesterday;
- notes that Mrs Hassan was born in Ireland and has spent the last thirty years in Iraq devoting herself to humanitarian work on behalf of the Iraqi people;
- calls for her immediate release and the release of all hostages in Iraq;
- condemns the practice of taking hostages for whatever purpose or cause: and
- welcomes the Government's commitment, which will have the full support of this House, to contribute in any

dir leis chun a áirithi Irgaret Hassan, Uasal. –	ú go s	aorfar	way it can to secure the release of Mrs Hassan."			
_			—Senator Mary O'Rourke.			
. ( <i>I</i> ) An Bille Ombudsman (Óglaigh na hÉireann) 2002 [ <i>Dáil</i> ] — An Tuarascáil. ( <i>a</i> ) Ombudsman (Defence Forces) Bill 2002 [ <i>Dáil</i> ] — Report Stage.						
Ráitis maidir leis an Tuarascáil ar Athleasú an tSeanaid ( <i>atógáil</i> ). Statements on the Report on Seanad Reform ( <i>resumed</i> ).						
<ul> <li>An Tuarascáil.</li> </ul>			Ç			
7. (1) An Bille um Shábháilteacht Mhuirí 2004 — An Coiste. (a) Maritime Safety Bill 2004 — Committee.						
(a) Criminal Law (Insanity) Bill 2002 — Report Stage.						
<ul><li>— An Coiste.</li><li>Nationality and Citiz</li></ul>	enship					
	ombudsman (Defence  s maidir leis an Tuara ments on the Report of  lille um Dhumpáil ar l  — An Tuarascáil. ping at Sea (Amendm Stage.  In Bille um Shábháilte faritime Safety Bill 20  In Bille um an Dlí Coi Criminal Law (Insanity  Náisiúntachta agus Sa  — An Coiste.  Nationality and Citiz 2003 — Committe  lille an Gharda Síochá farda Síochána Bill 20  In Bille Léiriúcháin 20  Interpretation Bill 2000  In Bille um Chuntais I Dormant Accounts (Accede of Crime (Amende  a:  d:  Bille um Shaoráil Faisr  Bille um Shaoráil Faisr  Bille um Shaoráil Faisr	Sille um Dhumpáil ar Farraig — An Tuarascáil. ping at Sea (Amendment) B Stage.  An Bille um Shábháilteacht Maritime Safety Bill 2004 — Can Bille um an Dlí Coiriúil (Criminal Law (Insanity) Bill  Náisiúntachta agus Saorána — An Coiste. Nationality and Citizenship 2003 — Committee.  Ille an Gharda Síochána 2006 Farda Síochána Bill 2004 — Can Bille Léiriúcháin 2000 — Can Bille um Chuntais Dhíom Dormant Accounts (Amendment)  Bille um Fháltais ó Choireach ceds of Crime (Amendment)  a:  a:  a:  a:  a:  a:  a:  a:  a:  a	Smaidir leis an Tuarascáil ar Athleasú an ments on the Report on Seanad Reform  Sille um Dhumpáil ar Farraige (Leasú) 200 — An Tuarascáil. ping at Sea (Amendment) Bill 2000 [Sean Stage.  An Bille um Shábháilteacht Mhuirí 2004 — Maritime Safety Bill 2004 — Committee.  An Bille um an Dlí Coiriúil (Gealtacht) 200 Criminal Law (Insanity) Bill 2002 — Report Náisiúntachta agus Saoránachta Éireann — An Coiste.  Nationality and Citizenship and Minister 2003 — Committee.  Sille an Gharda Síochána 2004 — Ordú do Garda Síochána Bill 2004 — Order for Committee.  An Bille Léiriúcháin 2000 — An Coiste. Interpretation Bill 2000 — Committee.  Sille um Chuntais Dhíomhaoine (Leas Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Bill 200  Bille um Fháltais ó Choireacht (Leasú), 19 Bille um Fháltais ó Choireacht (Leasú)			

Bille dá ngairtear Acht do leasú an Achta um Shaoráil Faisnéise 1997 agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

Bill entitled an Act to amend the Freedom of Information Act 1997 and to provide for related matters.

-Senator Brendan Ryan.

15. Ráitis maidir leis an gCéad Tuarascáil faoi Dhul Chun Cinn ón gCoiste Comhairleach Náisiúnta um Dhrugaí (atógáil).

Statements on the First Progress Report of the National Advisory Committee on Drugs (resumed).

**16.** Ráitis maidir leis an gcor reatha sa Mheán-Oirthear (atógáil). Statements on the current situation in the Middle East (*resumed*).

**17.** Ráitis maidir le pleanáil agus saincheisteanna gaolmhara (*atógáil*). Statements on planning and related issues (*resumed*).

**18.** Tairiscint (atógáil): Motion (resumed):

"Go ndéanann Seanad Éireann, de bhun Bhuan-Ordú Uimh. 60A.

- 1. À thabhairt dá aire an fhaisnéis seo a leanas ón Aire Dlí agus Cirt, Comhionannais agus Athchóirithe Dlí:
  - (a) go ndearna an Garda Síochána, i mí Lúnasa 2001, ar fhaisnéis a fháil ó Interpol ar faisnéis í a fuair The United States Postal Inspection Service le linn cuardaigh ar áitreabh in Fort Worth, Texas, a bhain le mionsonraí custaiméirí líomhnaithe cuideachta a raibh rochtain á tairiscint aici ar shuímh idirlín pornagrafaíochta leanaí, tús a chur le hoibríocht i ndáil le daoine ón dlínse seo a líomhnaíodh a bheith aitheanta amhlaidh,
  - raibh (b) go áireamh san sna mionsonraí sin ainmneacha. pasfhocail agus mionsonraí cárta creidmheasa agus cárta muirir daoine áirithe,
  - (c) go raibh duine darb ainm Brian Curtin, 35 Ashe Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry, ar dhuine de na daoine ón dlínse seo a ainmníodh amhlaidh agus gur léirigh fiosrúcháin dá éis sin gurbh é Brian Curtin, Breitheamh den Chúirt Chuarda, agus seoladh tí cónaithe 24 Ard na Lí, Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí aige, an duine sin,
  - (d) go ndearna an Chúirt Dúiche barántas chun teach cónaithe an Bhreithimh Curtin a chuardach faoi alt 7 den Acht um Gháinneáil ar Leanaí agus Pornagrafaíocht Leanaí

That Seanad Éireann, pursuant to Standing Order No. 60A,

- 1. Noting the following information from the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform:
  - (a) that the Garda Síochána in August 2001, on receipt of information from Interpol obtained by the United States Postal Inspection Service during a search of premises in Fort Worth, Texas, concerning details of alleged customers of a company offering access to child pornography websites, commenced an operation in relation to persons allegedly so identified from this jurisdiction,
  - (b) that these details included the names, passwords and credit card and charge card details of certain persons,
  - (c) that one of the persons from this jurisdiction so named was a Brian Curtin, 35 Ashe Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry, and that subsequent enquiries indicated that this person was Brian Curtin, Judge of the Circuit Court, with a home address of 24 Ard na Lí, Tralee, Co Kerry,
  - (d) that a warrant to search Judge Curtin's home under section 7 of the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998 issued from the District Court on foot of an application by a

1998 a eisiúint de bhun iarratais ó chomhalta den Gharda Síochána an 20 Bealtaine 2002,

- (e) go ndearnadh cuardach ar theach cónaithe an Bhreithimh Curtin dá éis sin de bhun an bharántais sin agus gur ghlac Gardaí seilbh ar ríomhaire pearsanta agus ar ábhar eile le linn an chuardaigh,
- (f) gur chuir údaráis an Gharda comhad imscrúdaithe faoi bhráid Stiúrthóra Ionchúiseamh Poiblí i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2002, agus threoraigh an Stiúrthóir Íonchúiseamh Poiblí go ndéanfaí an Breitheamh Curtin a ionchúiseamh as pornagrafaíocht leanaí a bheith ina sheilbh go feasach contrártha d'alt 6 den Acht um Gháinneáil ar Leanaí agus Pornagrafaíocht Leanaí 1998.
- (g) gur thosaigh triail an chúisimh sin an 20 Aibreán 2004 i gCúirt Chuarda Thrá Lí agus go bhfuarthas an Breitheamh Curtin neamhchiontach sa chúiseamh sin an 23 Aibreán 2004 gan fianaise a bheith tugtha i ndáil le hábhar an chúisimh, tar éis don Chúirt Chuarda Choiriúil chinneadh go raibh an barántas sin a dúradh imithe in éag nuair a forghníomhaíodh é dteach i cónaithe an Bhreithimh Curtin;

member of the Garda Síochána on 20 May 2002,

- (e) that Judge Curtin's home was subsequently searched on foot of the said warrant and that Gardaí took possession of a personal computer and other material during the search,
- (f) that an investigation file was submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions by the Garda authorities in October 2002 and that the Director of Public Prosecutions instructed that Judge Curtin be prosecuted for knowingly having in his possession child pornography contrary to section 6 of the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act, 1998.
- (g) that the trial of the said charge commenced on 20 April 2004 at Tralee Circuit Court and that on 23 April 2004 Judge Curtin was found not guilty of that charge without evidence being given in relation to the subject matter of the charge, the Circuit Criminal Court having determined that the aforesaid warrant was spent when executed at the home of Judge Curtin;

agus

2. A éileamh go ndéanfar, de bhun Airteagal 35.4 den Bhunreacht agus alt 39 den Acht Cúirteanna Breithiúnais 1924, an tOnórach an Breitheamh Brian Curtin, Breitheamh den Chúirt Chuarda, a chur as oifig de dheasca mí-iompair a luafar, arb é atá i gceist ann a chuid iompair maidir le síntiús a thabhairt do shuímh idirlín ar a raibh íomhánna pornagrafaíochta leanaí, rochtain a fháil ar na suímh sin agus na suímh sin a úsáid agus i ndáil leis na nithe sin agus é féin a fhágáil mí-oiriúnach dá dheasca sin chun oifig Breithimh den Chúirt Chuarda a fheidhmiú.

and

2. Calls for the removal, pursuant to Article 35.4 of the Constitution and section 39 of the Courts of Justice Act 1924, of His Honour Judge Brian Curtin, Judge of the Circuit Court, from office for stated misbehaviour, being his conduct in and in relation to subscribing to, accessing and use of websites containing child pornographic images and thereby rendering himself unsuitable to exercise the office of a Judge of the Circuit Court."

-Senator Mary O'Rourke.

# 19. Tairiscintí nach ón Rialtas:

**Non-Government Motions:** 

#### 1. "That Seanad Éireann—

#### notes:

 the 57 recommendations of the Motor Insurance Advisory Report relating to Government Departments and Agencies, and the 2002 consultants report on speed cameras commissioned by the National Roads Authority;

#### recognises:

- the success to date of the penalty points system in reducing road fatalities;
- the lack of resources available to the Gardaí to enforce our road traffic laws and implement the penalty points system in the long-term;
- the extraordinarily high costs for insurance premiums quoted to drivers under the age of 30;
- that the recently-established Personal Injuries Assessment Board is not yet dealing with motor accident compensation claims;
- that driver instruction is not supported or regulated by the State; and
- that the Irish driving test has not been updated for 20 years and is perceived as being unfair and has an unacceptable failure rate;

condemns the Government for its delay in implementing the necessary reforms to alleviate the insurance crisis facing young drivers and further condemns the Government for failing to invest adequately in long-term road safety education and enforcement;

#### and calls on the Government to:

- ring-fence the proceeds of the 2% levy on motor insurance for investment in road safety initiatives;
- enact the outstanding recommendations of the MIAB report;
- introduce free compulsory driving lessons for all drivers before they sit the driving test;
- implement a complete overhaul of the driving test based on making it a fair test and relevant to 21st century Irish driving conditions;
- purchase 17 new 'GATSO' speed camera vans as proposed in the consultants report commissioned by the National Roads Authority;
- establish immediately the Garda Traffic corps;
- authorise the Personal Injuries Assessment Board immediately to begin dealing with motor accident compensation claims; and
- use its remaining period of time as President of the EU to prioritise further reform of the EU common internal motor insurance market."
- —Senators Fergal Browne, Brian Hayes, James Bannon, Paul Bradford, Paddy Burke, Ulick Burke, Paul Coghlan, Noel Coonan, Maurice Cummins, Frank Feighan, Michael Finucane, Jim Higgins, Joe McHugh, John Phelan, Sheila Terry.

[18 February, 2004]

P.T.O.

2. "That Seanad Éireann urges the Minister for Arts, Sports and Tourism and the Minister for Finance to retain Section 481 Film Tax Incentive."

—Senators David Norris, Feargal Quinn, Mary Henry.

[4 November, 2003]

- 3. "That Seanad Éireann condemns the Government for its inaction in relation to:
  - (1) fishermen and co-ops who are frustrated at licensing delays with the lack of response from the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources;
  - (2) the lack of progress in relation to promised investment in harbour development, highlighted in a reduction in funding of 27% in this year's estimates;
  - (3) the new licensing and control regime for aqua-culture and shell fish farming;
  - (4) fish farming delays in relation to licensing, and
  - (5) the promotion of sea-angling as a viable option for future tourism development."
    —Senators Joe McHugh, Brian Hayes, James Bannon, Paul Bradford, Fergal Browne,
    Paddy Burke, Ulick Burke, Paul Coghlan, Noel Coonan, Maurice Cummins, Frank
    Feighan, Michael Finucane, Jim Higgins, John Phelan, Sheila Terry.

[3 December, 2003]

- 4. "That Seanad Éireann in the light of the many positive resolutions on Tibet already passed in various fora including
  - the European Parliament resolutions regarding Tibet dated October 14, 1987,
    March 15, 1989, September 15, 1993, May 17, 1995, July 13, 1995, April 18, 1996,
    May 23, 1996, May 13, 1997, January 16, 1998, May 13, 1998, July 6, 2000, April 11, 2002;
  - the resolutions regarding fundamental rights violations in Tibet adopted by the German Bundestag (October 15, 1987, June 20, 1996 and April 18, 2002), adopted by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian House of Representatives (April 12, 1989), by the Belgian House of Representatives (June 20, 1990), adopted by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Irish Parliament (July 21, 1998);
  - the resolution adopted on August 23, 1991 by the United Nations sub-Committee for the prevention of discrimination and protection of the rights of minorities;
  - the resolutions adopted by the United States Government, by the Australian Senate and House of Representatives and by the Czech Parliament;
  - the Constituent Act of the 'Association of Italian Communities, provinces and Regions' an organisation which many local organizations have joined; and

#### Bearing in mind

- the tragic historical events experienced since 1949 by the Tibetan people;
- the United Nations resolution n. 1353 of the year 1959, and n. 1723 of the year 1961 and n. 2079 of the year 1965; co-sponsored by Ireland;
- the 'agreement consisting of 17 points' signed in Beijing by the Tibetan authorities, which guaranteed full autonomy for Tibet and, particularly, the acknowledgement of its political system and the full respect of religious freedom;

- the repeated attempts to give new force to the dialogue with Beijing authorities made by the Dalai Lama with the 'five point program', presented before the American Parliament in 1987, and with the 'Strasbourg proposal', presented before the European Parliament in 1988;
- the recent execution without a fair trial or legal representative of Lobsang Dhondrup in Sichuan despite protest from the E.U.;

Commends the position of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government in exile as far as it concerns the realization of an autonomous government for Tibet as a moderate position encouraging dialogue and negotiations;

Shares its profound concern for the serious damage already done to the Tibetan environment, traditions, culture and the Tibetan religion, and for the deterioration of the situation regarding human rights in Tibet;

Commends the recent contacts commenced between the Chinese government and the Tibetan Government in exile;

Expresses the hope that these will become, as soon as possible, true direct negotiations between the Chinese government and the Tibetan Government in exile with the aim of defining a new statute which guarantees genuine autonomy for Tibet;

Adopts as its own the European Parliament resolutions dated July 6, 2000 and April 11, 2002, and requests the Government

- to adopt among the aforesaid European Parliament resolutions, all possible initiatives regarding the People's Republic of China, so that, by way of dialogue, conditions be created for the realization of a new statute for Tibet, which will guarantee full autonomy for the Tibetan people in all sectors of political, economic and cultural life, with the exception of foreign affairs and defence;
- to call upon the Chinese government to acknowledge and fully respect the fundamental political, social and cultural rights of religious, ethnic and other minorities, and also their cultural specificity including religious freedom;
- to aid, in accordance with the other European Union members, the dialogue between the Beijing authorities and the Dalai Lama the Tibetan Government in exile; and
- to work within the European Commission so as to appoint an E.U. Special Representative for Tibetan Affairs."

—Senators David Norris, Joe O'Toole.
[21 January, 2004]

<i>5.</i>	"That Seanad Eireann, in light of the introduction of inequitable development levies
	on new housing that will make building a house prohibitive for many young people
	and the refusal of the Government to fulfil its promise to make it easier for local
	residents to build one-off houses in rural areas, condemns the Government for failing
	to act on its promise to ease planning legislation on one-off housing and calls on the
	Government to restore immediately public confidence by reversing its decision to
	introduce development levies and to honour its pre-election promise to improve the
	planning process and by doing so reinvigorate rural Ireland."

—Senators Joe McHugh, Brian Hayes, Ulick Burke, Fergal Browne, Noel Coonan, Paul Coghlan, Maurice Cummins, Michael Finucane, Paddy Burke, Jim Higgins, Paul Bradford, John Paul Phelan, Frank Feighan, Sheila Terry, James Bannon.

[5 February, 2004]

#### 6. "That Seanad Éireann

- condemns the blatant and cynical move by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government in bringing forward guidelines for rural housing, particularly as the said guidelines offer no hope to people in need of housing in rural Ireland and
- considers that there is an urgent need for the Government to make a statement on the position of local authorities in readjusting their County Development Plans to facilitate the Government's u-turn on this matter."
- —Senators James Bannon, Fergal Browne, Brian Hayes, Paul Bradford, Paddy Burke, Ulick Burke, Paul Coghlan, Noel Coonan, Maurice Cummins, Frank Feighan, Michael Finucane, Jim Higgins, Joe McHugh, John Phelan, Sheila Terry.

[10 March, 2004]

#### 7. "That Seanad Éireann:

- recognises that the services provided by the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) are very important to many children throughout the country;
- considers that access to an educational psychologist can be critical in finding out
  what special educational requirements a child may have, and how best they can be
  met within the school system;
- notes, however, that access to the services provided by NEPS is extremely slow, with many children waiting an unacceptable amount of time before seeing a psychologist after referral;
- refers to the findings of a recent survey which showed clearly that the average waiting time for a child to see an educational psychologist was 6.5 months with more than a quarter of schools waiting more that 9 months for access to a psychologist for their students:
- maintains that the Government has a clear responsibility to fund NEPS properly so that such unacceptable delays no longer occur;
- laments the paltry increase in funding to NEPS of only 1% in Budget 2004;
- believes that children who require psychological assessment should be seen within one month of this assessment being requested, with 6 weeks being the maximum permitted waiting time."
- —Senators Brian Hayes, Michael Finucane, Paddy Burke, Paul Coghlan, Jim Higgins, Noel Coonan, Paul Bradford, Ulick Burke, John Paul Phelan, Frank Feighan, Sheila Terry, James Bannon, JoeMcHugh, Maurice Cummins, Fergal Browne.

[7 April, 2004]

- 8. "That Seanad Éireann requests the Government to use its present leading position as holder of the European Union Presidency to ensure that the European Union and its member States take the necessary steps, including by engagement with the United States, to ensure that the 60th session of the UNCHR will:
  - (a) support adequate monitoring of human rights in Iraq, permitting the monitors to cover human rights abuses in Iraqi territory by any party, and ensuring that their reports are regularly and publicly available;

- (b) extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq for a further year, clarifying that the mandate covers all past and present human rights violations in Iraq;
- (c) support the establishment of a UN commission of experts tasked with developing proposals for building the rule of law in Iraq, in consultation with Iraqi civil society;
- (d) support the establishment of an international commission of inquiry mandated to conduct independent, impartial and thorough investigations into past human rights violations, regardless of when they occurred; and
- (e) call on the Coalition Provisional Authority to bring to trial, in accordance with international standards for fair trial, Saddam Hussein and other officials and associates of the former Iraqi government accused of committing human rights violations."

-Senators David Norris, Shane	e Ross, Mary Henry,	, Joe O'Toole and Fe	argal Quinn.
			[7 May, 2004]

- 9. "That Seanad Éireann calls on the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources to provide greater transparency to the operations of the National Lottery and, in particular, calls on the Government to make the National Lottery subject to the Freedom of Information Act."
  - —Senators Shane Ross, David Norris, Joe O'Toole, Feargal Quinn and Mary Henry.

    [27 May, 2004]
- 10. "That Seanad Éireann takes note of the Report on the Proposal for a Dublin Metro System prepared by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport."

—Senator David Norris, Feargal Quinn, Mary Henry, and Shane Ross.

[15 June, 2004]

### 11. "That Seanad Éireann

 taking account of the outdated and cumbersome procedures involved in registering, changing address and applying for postal votes

and

 aware of the many deficiencies in the Electoral Register, especially the non-inclusion of eligible voters who have recently moved house or have turned 18 years of age,

calls for

- · root and branch reform of the electoral process,
- a review of the procedures used to update the Electoral Register to ensure greater accuracy and improved convenience for those wishing to register,
- information campaigns on the role of Local Government, the European Parliament, the Houses of the Oireachtas and the President prior to the relevant election and the importance of transfers in the proportional representational system,
- a widening of the grounds on which a postal ballot can be applied for and an extension in the deadline for applications,

and

- the automatic registration of all people upon reaching the age of 18 by means of using the PPS serial number provided by the Department of Social and Family Affairs."
- —Senators Fergal Browne, Brian Hayes, James Bannon, Paul Bradford, Paddy Burke, Ulick Burke, Paul Coghlan, Noel Coonan, Maurice Cummins, Frank Feighan, Michael Finucane, Jim Higgins, Joe McHugh, John P. Phelan and Sheila Terry.

[22 June, 2004]

# 12. "That Seanad Éireann

- acknowledges the widespread public concern relating to the operation of the National Car Testing system since it was introduced in January 2002;
- believes that it is now time, mid way through the life of the existing NCT contract to re-examine the operation of this contract;
- notes that there is an unequal distribution of testing centres nationally, with only 3 out of 43 NCT centres based in Dublin, despite having one-third of all registered cars in the State;
- notes also that there is only one provider of the NCT service; resulting in unnecessary bureaucracy and lengthy delays for those waiting to avail of car testing services:
- calls a greater ease of access and a greater choice of service providers of the National Car Testing Service for Irish motorists than is currently available; and
- calls for the introduction of greater competition into the car testing market by permitting State licensed garages to operate the NCT for fixed periods".
- —Senators Fergal Browne, Brian Hayes, James Bannon, Paul Bradford, Paddy Burke, Ulick Burke, Paul Coghlan, Noel Coonan, Maurice Cummins, Frank Feighan, Michael Finucane, Jim Higgins, Joe McHugh, John Paul Phelan, Sheila Terry.

[6 October, 2004]

- 13. "That the time limit for the Order of Business be extended to a maximum of 90 minutes in order to facilitate the proper ventilation of topical matters of current public interest by members."
  - —Senators David Norris, Joe O'Toole, Mary Henry, Feargal Quinn, Shane Ross.
- 14. "That Seanad Éireann calls on the Government to honour the commitment clearly given by An Taoiseach at the United Nations in 2002 that Ireland would reach the target of 0.7% of GDP for overseas development aid by 2007."

—Senators David Norris. Shane Ross.

#### 15. "That Seanad Éireann,

- expresses its extreme concern at increase in drug abuse nationally and the increasing availability of hard drugs to all parts of the country;
- condemns the Fianna Fáil-Progressive Democrat Government for its failure to adequately fund the National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008 and to meet the commitments promised under the strategy;
- denounces the Government for its failure to expand drug prevention, treatment,

rehabilitation and other community-based diversionary facilities such as sporting and entertainment venues for young people;

- demands that this Government give full recognition to Ireland's growing drug problem by immediately establishing a high level Ministerial Task Force to report and make recommendations on tackling this problem;
- recognises the links between alcohol misuse and drug abuse and moves to create a National Addiction Strategy, which seeks to address the interrelationship between the two:
- calls on the Government to fulfil all of the 100 commitments made under the National drugs Strategy 2001-2008; and
- demands that the Government provides increased funding to both the Local and Regional Drugs Task Forces."
- —Senator Brian Hayes, Fergal Browne, James Bannon, Paul Bradford, Paddy Burke,

4]

	nlan, Noel Coonan, Maurice Cummins, Frank Feigha iggins, Joe McHugh, John Paul Phelan, Sheila Terry. [ <b>20 October, 200</b>
<b>20.</b> An Seanad a chur ar athló. Adjournment of the Seanad	l.
	ILLÍ SEANAID SA DÁIL Seanad Bills with the Dáil
An Bille um Dhlí na Farraige (Law of the Sea (Repression of Law)	Píoráideacht a Chur faoi Chois) 2001. Piracy) Bill 2001.
An Bille um Thruailliú na Farra Sea Pollution (Miscellaneous Pr	nige (Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha) 2003. rovisions) Bill 2003.
An Bille um Shaoire Uchtaíoch Adoptive Leave Bill 2004.	2004.
An Bille um Fhorghníomhú Pia Transfer of Execution of Senter	
An Bille um Sheirbhísí Uisce 20 Water Services Bill 2003.	003.
An Bille Talún 2004. Land Bill 2004.	

#### **MEMORANDA**

Déardaoin, 21 Deireadh Fómhair, 2004 Thursday, 21st October, 2004

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Chomhshaol agus Rialtas Áitiúil i Seomra Coiste 4, TL 2000, ar 12 meán lae.

Meeting of the Joint Committee on the Environment and Local Government in Committee Room 4, LH 2000, at 12 noon.

Dé Céadaoin, 27 Deireadh Fómhair, 2004 Wednesday, 27th October, 2004

Cruinniú den Chomhchoiste um Airgeadas agus an tSeirbhís Phoiblí i Seomra Coiste 4, TL 2000, ar 3 p.m.

Meeting of the Joint Committee on Finance and the Public Service in Committee Room 4, LH 2000, at 3. p.m.

# PÁIPÉIR A LEAGADH FAOI BHRÁID AN tSEANAID Papers laid before the Seanad

#### Reachtúil:

- 1) Ráiteas Síntiús/Dearbhú Reachtúil Bliantúil Leasaithe i leith 2002 ón Uas. Máirtín Ó Cuilinn, T.D., de bhun ailt 24(1)(a) agus 24(3) den Acht Toghcháin 1997 [19 Deireadh Fómhair 2004].
- 2) Togra le haghaidh Cinnidh ón gComhairle ag ceadú chríochnú an Choinbhinsiúin ar Luathfhógra i dtaobh Tionóisce Núicléiche [agus] Togra le haghaidh Cinnidh ón gComhairle ag ceadú chríochnú an Choinbhinsiúin ar Chúnamh i gcás Tionóisce Núicléiche nó Éigeandála Raideolaíochta mar aon le nóta faisnéise míniúcháin. COM (2004) 560.
- 3) Togra le haghaidh Cinnidh ón gComhairle lena socraítear na ranníocaíochtaí airgeadais a bheidh le híoc ag na Ballstáit a rannchuidíonn leis an gCiste Forbartha Eorpach (an tríú tráthchuid don bhliain 2004). COM (2004) 647.
- 4) An Coimisiún um Chearta an Duine in Éirinn. Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2003.
- 5) Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál Ollscoil Luimnigh. Tuarascáil Airgeadais don bhliain dar chríoch 30 Meán Fómhair, 2001.
- 6) Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál Ollscoil Luimnigh. Tuarascáil Airgeadais don bhliain dar chríoch 30 Meán Fómhair, 2002.

# Statutory:

- 1) Amended Annual Donation Statement/Statutory Declaration in respect of 2002 from Mr. Martin Cullen, T.D., pursuant to sections 24(1)(a) and 24(3) of the Electoral Act 1997 [19 October 2004].
- 2) Proposal for a Council Decision approving the conclusion of the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident [and] Proposal for a Council Decision approving the conclusion of the Convention on Assistance in the case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency together with explanatory information note. COM (2004) 560.
- 3) Proposal for a Council Decision fixing the financial contributions to be paid by the Member States contributing to the European Development Fund (third instalment for 2004). COM (2004) 647.
- 4) Irish Human Rights Commission. Annual Report 2003.
- 5) Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál Ollscoil Luimnigh. Financial Report for the year ended 30 September, 2001.
- 6) Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál Ollscoil Luimnigh. Financial Report for the year ended 30 September, 2002.

# Neamhreachtúi:

Achtanna an Choimisiúin um Chearta an Duine 2000 agus 2001. Tráchtaí/Freagraí ón Aire Dlí agus Cirt, Comhionannais agus Athchóirithe Dlí maidir leis na Moltaí ón gCoimisiún um Chearta an Duine atá ina Thuarascáil faoi alt 24 d'Acht an Choimisiúin um Chearta an Duine 2000.

#### Non Statutory:

Human Rights Commission Acts 2000 and 2001. Comments/Responses of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform on the Recommendations of the Human Rights Commission contained in its Report under section 24 of the Human Rights Commission Act 2000.