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Settlement not reached in Irish Dancing Circles.

The following is an official statement issued by the Executive of the Irish Dancing Teachers Professional Organisation (An Comdhail).

Our Organisation most emphatically deny the false report published in your paper on January 1970 - that a "settlement had been reached in the dispute in Irish Dancing Circles". Nothing could be further from the truth. There has been no reconciliation whatsoever with the Irish Dancing Commission and why this latter body should make such an irresponsible and untrue statement is irreprehensible even by the lowest of standards. Even more surprising to us is the fact that the President of the Gaelic League, the Rev. L. McTaggart should associate himself with this false claim. Father McTaggart was present at the Commission Meeting in Belfast on Sunday 18th January 1970 and surely must be aware from the small teacher representation at this meeting that the situation is far from even the elementary stage of settlement. What purpose do the Commission hope to achieve from what can only be fairly described as unadulterated and mischeivous misrepresentation of fact. They know quite well that it is not just a small handful of teachers who have broken away.

The vast majority of teachers and adjudicators of note in Ulster stand by our Organisation and at a meeting in Belfast also on the 18th January they re-affirmed their pledge to break with the Irish Dancing Commission and run their own affairs as professional people should. Obviously the Irish Dancing Commission in Ulster have no moral code of ethics nor for that matter any regard for truth. False propaganda to mislead ordinary public opinion is revolting and will most certainly be unsuccessful in its veiled object of undermining the allegience of Teachers and Adjudicators who stand by our Organisation - An Comdhail.

The false claims and the fairy tales of the Irish Dancing Commission must assuredly place them in the ranks of Aesop and Hans Anderson. We in An Comdhail however detect a more serious, a more sinister motive behind the facade of propriety and outward clerical respectability. This assessment of the position is only too well confirmed by the Commissions campaign of nerves over the past month during which they have by personal phone calls, personal interviews, threats of ejection from halls, sought to intimidate many of our members. In this context and on the basis of evidence placed before us they must shoulder some responsibility as a contributory factor in the precipitation of the early demise of one of our teacher members.

Our Organisation - The Professional Teachers and Adjudicators Body have never on any occasion stooped to this low level of nefarious practice. We have not canvassed, cajoled or threatened any teacher - each has been left to his or her free choice. Our motives can never be described as unworthy or our hands unclean.

We wish to make it absolutely clear that our dispute is not with the Gaelic League, but with its wayward Sub-Committee in Ulster called the Irish Dancing Commission, who have felt it their prerogative to make and break its own rules with impunity.

We the executive of an Comdhail (The Teacher Professional Organisation) feel it incumbent on us as responsible people to expose falsehoods, intimidation, discrimination and all forms of injustice, as they exist in the Irish Dancing Commission, to the clear view of your readers and so knowing the facts they may fairly re-assess the situation in the light of the revealed truth.