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# Rift in Irish dancing circles

## Objection to 'partition'

A STATEMENT by Comhdhail na Muinteoiri Rinci Gaelacha (Congress of Irish Dance Teachers) says that its connection with An Coimisiun le Rinci Gaelacha was severed at a special convention on November 30, because the teachers in Ulster were not prepared to accept a "new form of partition, even when introduced with the blessing of Conradh na Gaeilge".

# Appointments by N.U.I. Senate

The Senate of the National University has made the following appointments to University College, Galway: Professor of Oceanography: Brian McK. Bary, Ph.D.; Lectureship in Zoology: Noel P. Wilkins, B.Sc.; Lectureship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology: James A. D. Clinch, B.A., M.B., M.R.C.O.G.

Mr. Michael D. Murray, B.A. (U.C.D.) was awarded the Mansion House Fund Scholarship in Irish for 1969 on consideration of the report of the examiners. In addition, £30 prizes were awarded to: Padraig S. Costello, B.A. (U.C.D.); Liam D. McMahon, B.A. (U.C.D.) and Mary D. Barrins, B.A. (U.C.G.).

It was decided, on consideration of the reports of the examiners that the Ph.D. degree should be awarded to the following: John F. Timoney, B.Sc., M.V.B.; Catherine L. Cavanaugh, M.A.; Peter Bennett, B.Sc.; Patrick J. McArdle, B.Sc.; Birendra Kumar, M.Sc.; James Murphy, B.Sc.; Alan K. Keenan, B.Sc.; Diarmuid A. McDaoid, M.Sc.; Thomas N. D. Feeley, M.Sc.; Feisal A. E. M. Esmael.

### Meeting

The meeting, which was chaired by the Chancellor of the University, the President, Mr. de Valera, appointed Dr. M. O Tuathail, President, U.C.G., to represent the university at a meeting of rectors of European universities in Bucharest in April, 1970.

On the motion of the President, U.C.G., seconded by Prof. James Mitchell, the Senate unanimously adopted a resolution of sympathy with Most Rev. Michael Browne, Bishop of Galway, on the death of his brother.

### Symposium on

The special convention of the teachers and their decision was a sequel to a dispute which arose some months ago regarding a feis in Moville, Co. Derry.

The statement, issued by Harry McCaffrey, secretary, accuses "some officials of the Ulster sub-committee of An Coimisiun" of "aiding and abetting breaches of the rules in the Derry area".

The statement continues: "This resulted in serious embarrassment for the local teachers and brought Irish dancing into disrepute. The Derry teachers, supported by the other teachers in Ulster, and the approval of the executive of An Chomhdhail, demanded the removal from office of the officers concerned and refused to deal with the Ulster sub-committee until their removal had been effected."

This decision was supported by 175 dance teachers, drawn from all parts of the country, who signed undertakings to stand by the Ulster teachers "in the event of their being victimised".

### Challenged

Mr. McCaffrey says that as the "offending officers" remained in office, the stiurthoir and secretary, Seamas Mac Con Uladh, and Eamonn de Bhal, of An Coimisiun, convened a meeting of the Commission and proposed a resolution which, in effect, would dissolve the Ulster sub-committee.

This resolution was challenged by members of the Ulster sub-committee and the matter was referred to the Coliste Gno of Conradh na Gaeilge for a ruling. Conradh na Gaeilge, as sponsors of An Coimisiun le Rinci Gaelacha, is the only body empowered to interpret and amend the commission's constitution.

The statement continues: "The reply conveyed to An Coimisiun was that the constitution had been amended so as to create two separate and independent commissions, one to deal with all Irish dancing affairs in the nine counties of Ulster and in Co. Louth, and the other for the remainder of the country and overseas.

"Naturally, the teachers in Ulster were not prepared to accept this new form of partition, even when introduced with the blessing of Conradh na Gaeilge, and they decided to sever all connections between them and An Coimisiun."

At the special convention on November 30 only two teachers voted against this resolution, and

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