

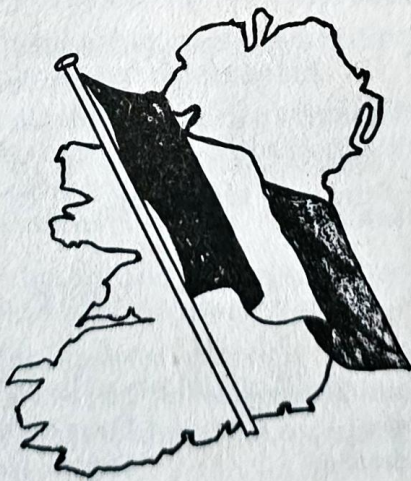
# **Sinn Féin**

## **ARD-FHEIS**

### **1980**

**(Samhain 1 & 2, 1980)**

## **CLÁR agus RÚIN**



15p

# CLÁR na hARD-FHEISE 1980

## DÉ SATHAIRN

9:00	Isteach	Check In of Delegates
10:00	Cathaoirleach a thoghadh	Election of Chairman
	Cuntasóirí a thoghadh	Election of Tellers
	Orduithe Seasta	Standing Orders
10:30	Polasaí Inmheánach	Internal Policy
11:00	Eagras	Organisation
12:00	Polasaí Ginearálta	General Policy
12:30	Bunreacht	Constitution
1:00	LON	LUNCH
2:00	Isteach	Check In of Delegates
2:15	Tuarascáil na gCisteoirí	Financial Report
2:45	Polasaí Polaitiúil	Political Policy
3:30	Gnóthaí Ban	Women's Affairs
5:00	Oifigigh a thoghadh	Election of Officers
5:30	Poiblíocht	Publicity
6:00	An Phoblacht/Republican News	An Phoblacht/Republican News
6:30	Gnóthaí Eachtracha	Foreign Affairs

## DÉ DOMHNAIGH

9:30	Isteach	Check In of Delegates
10:00	Rúin Eagsúla	Miscellaneous Motions
10:30	Gnóthaí Ceardchumann	Trade Union Affairs
11:00	Ard-Chomhairle a thoghadh	Election of Ard-Chomhairle
11:30	Eagrais Eile	Other Organisations
12:00	Oráid an Uachtaráin	Presidential Address
1:00	LON	LUNCH
2:00	Príosúnaigh	Prisoners
3:30	Polasaí Sóisialta & Eacnamaíochta	Social and Economic Policy
4:30	Polasaí Toghcháin	Election Policy
5:00	Cultúr agus Oideachas	Culture and Education
5:30	Oige	Youth

Brian Mac Donald Clones G. Mayhew

## Rules governing the procedure of An Ard-Fheis

### ORDUITHE SEASTA — STANDING ORDERS

1. The proposer of a motion shall be allowed to speak for five minutes when proposing a motion. The proposer or seconder of a motion or an amendment shall be given three minutes to reply before the proposal has been put for a decision.
2. All other speakers to a motion or an amendment, shall be allowed to speak for three minutes each.
3. The policy spokesman introducing each section shall be allowed five minutes and three minutes to conclude the section.
4. On the motion being moved and seconded "that the question be now put", the Chair, after allowing those who have expressed their wish to speak to do so, shall have no option, but to put the motion to a vote of delegates. In the event of the motion being carried, the Chair, after allowing the proposer or seconder of the resolution (and amendment if any) under discussion, three minutes as provided for in (1) above, shall have no option but to put the resolution or amendment to a vote.
5. Visitors shall be admitted at the discretion of An Ard-Fheis. One visitor, representing an accredited organisation, shall be allowed to speak on behalf of the organisation for three minutes on any proposal or amendment under discussion, but shall not be allowed to vote. Sinn Féin Local Councillors shall be given the same facilities as accredited organisations.
6. Persons nominated for officership or membership of An Ard-Chomhairle shall not be eligible to act as tellers.
7. Delegates when speaking, must give their names and the name of the cumann and area represented.
8. All amendments must be handed in, in writing.
9. Once adopted by this Ard-Fheis it shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates present to suspend Standing Orders.
10. The Clár shall be agreed at the commencement of An Ard-Fheis and shall be strictly adhered to.
11. Points of order will be allowed at the discretion of the Chairman and shall be limited to 30 seconds.
12. Delegates requiring information on matters under discussion must do so in writing.
13. Resolutions seeking suspension of Standing Orders must be submitted to the Chairman in writing giving reasons for same.
14. A Steering Committee will be approved by An Ard-Fheis.

# POLICY

## (A) Political

1. That the present Eire Nua policy and governmental structures be retained, promoted and publicised during the coming year as the policy of Sinn Fein with any amendments as may be passed by this Ard-Fheis  
**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE**
2. That this Ard Fheis fully supports the federal governmental structures as outlined in Eire Nua, the social, economic and political dimensions.  
**TOM WILLIAMS/THOMAS HARTE - LURGAN**
3. That this Ard-Fheis reaffirms the four province federal solution as our policy on governmental structures after Brit withdrawal.  
**STRAFFAN -- CO. KILDARE**
4. That Sinn Fein retain their policy on Federalism.  
**McNULTY/CANNON CUMANN ATH CLIATH.**
5. Present policy as outlined in Eire Nua i.e. federal system be supported and propagated as the official policy of the Movement. We further propose that whilst recognising the need of up-dating policy from time to time anybody holding reservations about federal policy should document what they propose as an alternative and that it be circulated for discussion throughout the movement.  
**CHARLES KICKHAM, NENAGH, CO. TIPPERARY.**
6. That the constitution be amended to delete Federalism and to insert in its place – maximum decentralisation.  
**COMHAIRLE ATHA CLIATH**
7. That the word 'federal' be deleted from paragraph A of the constitution (objects of Sinn Fein) and the word 'English' be changed to 'British' in same, and therefore the section read as follows: "The complete overthrow of British rule in Ireland, and the establishment of a Democratic Socialist Republic based on the Proclamation of 1916."  
**COMHAIRLE CEANNTAIR, BELFAST  
JAMES CONNOLLY, BELFAST.**
8. The concept of federalism in whatever form is totally incompatible with democratic socialism and must be rejected; the debate on alternative structures should continue.  
**HENRY HEANEY, LONG KESH**

9. That the term "Federalism" be dropped from policy (Sinn Fein) and replaced by the term "Maximum Decentralisation".

**PATRICK McADOREY, BAILE ATHA CLIATH**

10. We feel that the present Federal structure has served its original purpose and that it should be abolished in favour of a more decentralised structure.

**JOE CLARKE, FINGLAS, DUBLIN**

## **( B ) Social and Economic**

11. That the first and second paragraphs of No. 6 be withdrawn and replaced with the following:-

"Land and water are natural resources which must be controlled and utilised in the interests of the nation as a whole. An upper limit will be placed on the amount of land any one individual may own, based on its valuation and productive capacity rather than on area.

Large farms or tracts will be acquired and leased as family holdings and to family groups or co-operatives for its development and utilisation with the right of inheritance.

Sinn Fein will establish and uphold public ownership and community control of rivers, lakes and sea areas and foreshores and access thereto, and their use, utilisation and conservation in the public interest."

**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE**

12. That No. 7 (a) be withdrawn and replaced with the following:-  
"Sinn Fein upholds the basic right of ownership of and privacy of the family home or personal living accommodation.

That Sinn Fein oppose the acquirement and ownership of housing accommodation by private individuals and companies for exploitive renting or property and wealth accumulation."

**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE**

13. That No. 7 (b) be amended to read:-

"We are opposed to personal ownership of productive property such as a large farm or a large factory. This type of ownership involves the exploitation of other people's labour for personal gain and is alien to Republican principles. This type of enterprise should be co-operatively owned."

**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE**

14. That No. 9 be amended to read:-  
 "Private enterprise will have a role to play in the economy. It will have no place in key industries. State incentives will favour co-operative projects as the most socially desirable. Only resident citizens shall be allowed to have a controlling interest in an Irish industry.  
 Small local businesses will have a place provided no exploitation occurs. There would be an upper limit to the size of any private enterprise. Anything above this limit will come under community or co-operative ownership. Where private enterprise exists there shall be workers' participation."  
**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE**
15. Comhairle Chuige Uladh propose the following alteration in the document "Eire Nua, the social, economic and political dimensions" In Reamhra, Section 7, paragraph (b) the words "large farm" be replaced by the words "large estate or farming enterprise".  
**COMHAIRLE CHUIGE ULADH**
16. That the words 'small farms and workshops' be added to the end of paragraph (a) point 7, page 3, of the policy document 'Eire Nua - the Social Economic and Political Dimensions' be deleted as they are covered in the Draft Charter of Rights.  
**COMHAIRLE CHUIGE LAIGHEAN**
17. That Sinn Fein pledges itself to work for a social order where the family farm is the foundation for agricultural policy - a back to the land movement in reality.  
**COMHAIRLE CHUIGE CHONNACHT**
18. Eire Nua - Reamhra:  
 That we reject No 6, 7, 8 and 9 of Social and Economic Policy document adopted by Ard Fheis of 1979.  
**COMHAIRLE CHUIGE CHONNACHT  
 STRAFFAN -- CO KILDARE**
19. That foreign capital investment should be stopped, and home investment be encouraged in mining, Industrial and agricultural and fisheries.  
**P. McGORRIAN/McNULTY DOWN**
20. That paragraph (5) of the objectives contained in the Economic Resistance section of the Social Dimension document on the building of a national 'Buy Irish' publicity campaign be deleted.  
**BELFAST COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR**
21. That Sinn Fein publish a policy on the use and control of modern technology in the new Ireland.  
**COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR CORCAIGH**

22. That Sinn Fein concentrate the energies of its political machine towards advancing the national struggle in preference to promoting a document which is not unanimously acceptable to the movement.

**ROBERT EMMET DUBLIN 8**

23. That Sinn Fein is a Socialist organisation dedicated to the emancipation of the working class. As such we are committed to the freedom of our fellow-countrymen in the fullest sense, and we therefore are committed to free and fair multi-party elections, decentralised democratic government, and the right of limited free enterprise.

**GAUGHAN/KEENAN, UCD.**

## **(C) Internal**

24. That the implementation of the Economic Resistance programme be made a priority during the coming year.

**ARD CHOMHAIRLE**

25. In line with our Economic Resistance Policy we initiate a campaign to have the payments of disability benefits made locally.

**PADRAIG O PEARAILL, LOCH GARMAN**

26. That Sinn Fein actively oppose the erection of a nuclear station anywhere in Ireland.

**LOUGHNANE BROTHERS, DUBLIN**

27. That elected public representatives be given a vote at the Ard Fheis.

**BALLYSHANNON - CO. DONEGAL**

28. That policy documents in future be written in simple, straightforward and easily understood terms.

**COMHAIRLE CHUIGE LAIGHEN**

29. Go mbeidh seisiun i nGaelige ag an Ard Fheis seo, agus ag gach Ard Fheis uaidh seo amach.

**COMHAIRLE CHUIGE CHONNACHT**

30. That Sinn Fein makes a greater effort to highlight the unequal distribution of wealth and property which results in lack of opportunity in Jobs, education and housing.

**McADOREY/McCUSKER, LUTON, ENGLAND**

31. That the unequal distribution of wealth & privilege creates a class barrier and negates the prospects of a peaceful just and prosperous society.

**McADOREY/McCUSKER, LUTON, ENGLAND**

32. That Sinn Fein set up a body to organise and advise on the setting up of co-operatives.  
**PETER McNULTY, CO. DOWN**
33. That the coming year be viewed as a period of consolidation and that no further major changes in policy be undertaken.  
**STRAFFAN -- CO. KILDARE**
34. That Delegates should have the right to reply to all statements from the leadership read at Ard Fheisanna which relate directly to policy.  
**CATHAL HUGHES, DUBLIN**

## **(D) General**

35. That Sinn Fein calls for the immediate and total withdrawal of British troops from Ireland and simultaneously with it, the disbandment and disarming of the UDR and the RUC by the British, rather than the current Sinn Fein policy of phased withdrawal.  
**BELFAST COMHAIRLE CEANNTAIR  
 JAMES CONNOLLY, BELFAST**
36. That we in the Republican Movement affirm our determination to get the British out of Ireland. That the people of Ireland be free, free to choose freely through democratic franchise their right to proceed and evolve as a free nation and a free people.  
**COMHAIRLE CHUIGE CHONNACHT**
37. Sinn Fein reaffirms that its major objective remains the removal of the Brits from this country.  
**STRAFFAN-- CO. KILDARE**

## **WOMEN'S AFFAIRS**

38. That the draft policy document "Women in the New Ireland" be endorsed by this Ard-Fheis.  
**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE  
 TERENCE McSWINEY CORK**

39. That a department of Women's Affairs be established to replace the co-ordinating committee.

**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE  
MHIC CEASMAINNT/UI NUALLAIN, B.A.C.  
O'CALLAGHAN/KAVANAGH. BELFAST  
BELFAST COMHAIRLE CEANNTAIR  
P. McADOREY B.A.C.  
JAMES CONNOLLY BELFAST  
COMHAIRLE ATHA CLIATH**

40. That this Ard Fheis accept the policy document "Women in the New Ireland as a basis on which to work out a broader and more detailed policy.

**PADRAIG O PEARAILL, LOCH GARMAN**

41. That in the section on 'Violence Against Women' (page 2) in the Women's Affairs document, the following be added to the end of the paragraph:- "That legislation should ensure that the private life and character of the victims are protected during the enquiries and judicial proceedings".

**BELFAST COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR**

42. If the Document "Women in the New Ireland" is adopted, then we would propose the following amendments:

(a) Introduction:

First two paragraphs down to words "us all" be deleted..

(b) Sexism and stereotyping:

(a) Section marked (c) be deleted.

(b) Section marked (d) the words "especially for girls" be deleted.

(c) last sentence of this section beginning "We particularly" be deleted.

(c) Equal pay and equal work:

(a) paragraph 3, beginning "The introduction of a comprehensive programme" to end of sentence, be deleted.

(b) paragraph 4, sentence beginning "Jobs done at home" be deleted.

(c) Paragraph 4, sentence beginning "They are generally" be deleted.

(d) Paragraph 8 the words "women's rights" be changed to "People's rights".

(e) Last paragraph be deleted.

(d) Family Law and Contraception:

Paragraph 2 beginning "We also" and ending "responsibility" be deleted.

Abortion:

Whole section be deleted and replaced with "Sinn Fein is opposed to Abortion".

- (e) Marriage laws:
  - (a) Paragraph 2 be deleted.
  - (b) Paragraph 3 be deleted.
- (f) Childcare:
  - Paragraph 5 beginning "We envisage" and ending "if they wish" be deleted.
  - Paragraph 6, last sentence beginning "Where possible" be deleted.
  - Paragraph 7 beginning "The Eire Nua" and ending "well-being of the child" be deleted.
  - Paragraph 8 beginning "In the New" and ending "in society" be deleted.
- (g) The need for sex education:
  - The whole section be deleted.

**STRAFFAN -- CO. KILDARE**

43. We propose that the document "Women in the New Ireland" be accepted with the following amendments.
- (a) On Page 2 – section "Equal pay and equal rights" that in paragraph 8 the word "Federal" be deleted.
  - (b) On page 3 – section "Family Law" that the second paragraph in under "Marriage laws" be changed to read:  
 "Separated women and widows are discriminated against by society and by law; separated women and men should have the right to free legal aid to obtain a legal separation."

**COMHAIRLE ATHA CLIATH**

44. That in the policy document 'Women in the New Ireland' the end of the first paragraph on contraception, from the words "under community control" to "for the young" be deleted.

**JAMES CONNOLLY – BELFAST**

45. Women in the New Ireland: Amendment:  
 Page 3: Section "Abortion". Delete final sentence beginning "We are opposed to abortion...."  
 Addendum:  
 Page 3: Section "Marriage laws"  
 Following last sentence include: "In addition we recognise that other forms of personal and social relationships may emerge in the spirit of freedom ushered in by a New Ireland and therefore will recognise full rights under the law for relationships built outside the formal institution of marriage".

**JAMES CONNOLLY - TYNESIDE**

46. That Sinn Fein investigate, develop and publicise alternatives to abortion.

**COMHAIRLE CHUIGE ULADH**

47. That the phrase 'under community control with adequate safeguards for the protection of the young' be deleted from the first paragraph of the section on contraception, in the document on Women's Affairs.

**BELFAST COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR**

48. Comhairle Chuige Uladh propose the following alteration to the Women's policy document — that the last sentence in the section on abortion be deleted and replaced by these two sentences. "We are opposed to the attitudes and forces in society to impel women to have abortions. We are totally opposed to abortion".

**COMHAIRLE CHUIGE ULADH  
BILLY REID, OMAGH CO. TYRONE**

49. That the phrase 'We are opposed to abortion but' be deleted from the section in the women's affairs document on abortion, to read simply: 'We are opposed to the attitudes and the forces in society which impel women to have abortions'.

**BELFAST COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR**

50. We object to the paragraph in "Women in the New Ireland" document "The Eire Nua constitution will embody" ending with "Welfare and care of its children".

We consider that the children are the prime responsibility of the parents who alone are best fitted to carry out that responsibility.

**O'CARROLL/TIERNEY - BELFAST**

51. Document — Women in the New Ireland Abortion — delete "We are opposed to abortion but".

**O'CALLAGHAN/KAVANAGH BELFAST C.C.**

52. We propose that the incoming Women's Affairs Department if such exist, research and produce a comprehensive document which explains the Sinn Fein attitude to abortion.

**BELFAST COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR**

53. That this Ard Fheis recognised that the availability of divorce and contraception are basic rights of each individual, and condemns the Free State policy of moral oppression in these and other matters.

**HENRY HEANEY, LONG KESH**

54. That Sinn Fein recognise the double exploitation of working-class women in capitalist society, and takes immediate steps internally to counter the effects of this within the Movement – including the provision of creche facilities at all Sinn Fein meetings, and positive discrimination in favour of women in the election of officers inside the Movement. **HENRY HEANEY, LONG KESH**
55. That Sinn Fein recognise women's struggle for equality to be the most fundamental aim in the class struggle, as the 'slave of the slave' in capitalist society, and that the measure of freedom and equality in a Republican society will be gauged by the freedom and equality enjoyed by women. **HENRY HEANEY, LONG KESH**
56. Mid Down Comhairle Ceantair wishes that Sinn Fein take a firm stand on the question of abortion by stating in their policy document that they are totally against abortion, by so doing they will show the people of Ireland and the whole world that they wish to safeguard the liberty and the civil rights of the unborn. **COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR, MID DOWN**
57. We believe that the provision of a realistic alternative to the abortion trail to England in the form of adequate financial assistance, advice, accommodation and other resources is a basic duty of government. **GAUGHAN/KEENAN, U.C.D.**
58. That the discussion document 'Women in the New Ireland' not be adopted as Sinn Fein policy. **STRAFFAN -- CO. KILDARE**
59. That the first priority of the Sinn Fein co-ordinating committee on Women's Affairs be to expose and publicise the degrading treatment and abhorrent conditions experienced by the women in Armagh and women held in interrogation centres. **MARTIN FORSYTHE, RATHFARNHAM, ATH CLIATH**

## **PRISONERS**

60. Congratulations to the H-Block committee and the POW Dept, Sinn Fein on the great work done in the past year on behalf of the POWs. **JOE CLARKE, FINGLAS, DUBLIN**
61. Solidarity greetings to our comrades in prison in England and Ireland. **JOE CLARKE, FINGLAS, DUBLIN**

62. That Sinn Fein highlights the conditions of the POWs in English jails.  
**TOMAS O DUILL -- BAILE ATHA CLIATH**
63. That Sinn Fein members be actively involved in the campaign for political status.  
**PADRAIG O PEARAILL, LOCH GARMAN**
64. That Sinn Fein delegates on the National Smash H-Block committee propose that its name be changed to the National Political Prisoners Committee.  
**COMHAIRLE CHUIGE LAIGHEAN, LAIGHIN**
65. That protest groups acting on behalf of the H-Block prisoners should incorporate in their title the protesting prisoners in Armagh and the blanket men on protest in England as they are fighting the same cause.  
**O'CARROLL/TIERNEY -- BELFAST**
66. That Sinn Fein hold a national demonstration for H-Block on an assigned date.  
**PADRAIG O PEARAILL, LOCH GARMAN**
67. This Ard-Fheis selects a committee consisting of seven people who will operate on behalf of Republican prisoners welfare. The final aim being a speedy release.  
**CLANMHOR -- CO. OFFALY**
68. That each cumann should give a minimum of £50.00 per year to the H-Block/Armagh Appeal fund.  
**COMHAIRLE CEANNTAIR BELFAST  
COMHAIRLE ATHA CLIATH  
MHIC CEASMAINNT/UI NUALLAIN, B.A.C.**
69. That in the coming year each comhairle should ensure that their cumainn support An Cumann Cabhrach and Green Cross in their respective areas.  
**COMHAIRLE ATHA CLIATH**

## **CONSTITUTION**

70. That the incoming Ard Chomhairle enforce strictly part 1 (b) of the Constitution against all efforts to have Sinn Fein accept Westminster Stormont or Leinster House and that this include preventing resolutions to that effect appearing on the Clar of future Ard-Fheiseanna.

**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE**

71. That any members advocating entry to partitionist assemblies or to Westminster parliament ceases to be a member of the organisation.  
**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE**
72. That the constitution and rules be amended to rule that any Sinn Fein member who is a landlord or speculator be expelled forthwith and that such persons will not be accepted as members henceforth.  
**COMHAIRLE ATHA CLIATH  
MHIC CEASMAINNT/UI NUALLAIN, B.A.C.**
73. That all Landlords and speculators be expelled from Sinn Fein and not be eligible for re-admission.  
**PATRICK McADOREY, BAILE ATHA CLIATH**

## **ELECTORAL**

74. That this Ard-Fheis recommends to the incoming Ard Chomhairle whether or not to contest the local elections due in the Six Counties in 1981.  
**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE**
75. That Sinn Fein contest the forthcoming local elections.  
**BILLY REID, OMAGH, CO. TYRONE**
76. That Sinn Fein policy on elections including local elections in the Six Counties remain.  
**O'CARROLL/TIERNEY – BELFAST**
77. That preparations for further elections – local or otherwise be launched immediately and that a progress report be submitted to next Ard Fheis.  
**LOUGHNANE BROTHERS, DUBLIN**

## **ORGANISATION**

78. That for geographical reasons Comhairle Chuige Mumhan and Comhairle Chuige Laignean examine a system of regional structures to make the organisation more cohesive and effective.  
**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE**

79. That the four Comhairli Cuige be disbanded in favour of more workable regional structures.  
**PATRICK McADOREY B.A.C.**  
**COMHAIRLE ATHA CLIATH**  
**COMHAIRLE CEANNTAIR, BELFAST**
80. That the Comhairli Cuige be suspended until such time as our membership be large enough to necessitate same.  
**MICHAEL O HANRAHAN, NEW ROSS, CO. WEXFORD**
81. That the Ard-Chomhairle be enlarged to receive regionally elected members as before the introduction of the Comhairli Cuige.  
**MICHAEL O HANRAHAN, NEW ROSS, CO. WEXFORD**
82. That Comhairle Chuige Laighean be disbanded in its present form and a committee be set up to study the province with a view to making it work.  
**WOLFE TONE, DUBLIN**
83. That the present Comhairle Chuige Laighean be dissolved and that regional executive areas be established. These regional executive committees should have the same powers and functions of Chuige Laighean, in their respective areas.  
**PADRAIG O PEARAILL, LOCH GARMAN**
84. That lack of attendance at Comhairle Chuige Laighean meetings is one of the main reasons for its weakness and this should be investigated and rectified.  
**MARTIN FORSYTHE CUMANN, RATHFARNHAM**
85. That organisation problems in each province be the responsibility of the respective Comhairli Chuige prior to any intervention by An Ard Chomhairle.  
**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE**
86. That all Comhairli Cuige be given the power to elect from its members a committee to run the affairs of the Comhairle Cuige between meetings which would make the Comhairle Cuige more operational.  
**TOM WILLIAMS/THOMAS HARTE - LURGAN**  
**COMHAIRLE CHUIGE ULADH**
87. That Sinn Fein formulate a study group to bring about changes in the adoption laws in the Free State, so that legitimate children could be adopted with the consent of both parents.  
**PADRAIG O PEARIALL, LOCH GARMAN**

88. That in keeping with the democratic and decentralist principles of Sinn Fein the National Executive recently set up in Britain should have clearly defined powers of discipline over Sinn Fein members in Britain, including the powers of suspension and expulsion with a right of appeal to the Ard Chomhairle for members so disciplined.

**DEREK HIGHSTEAD, LONDON, ENGLAND**

89. That a committee be set up, drawing out talent from all levels of the organisation. To research and advise cumainn on the best methods of attracting new members and making contact with the local community.

**COMHAIRLE ATHA CLIATH**

90. That the Sinn Fein National executive (Britain), as elected by the cumainn and agreed by the Ard-Chomhairle be retained as the governing body of that country.

**PEARSE/McDAID BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND**

91. That no member of Sinn Fein whatever his or her specialist knowledge and expertise, should be co-opted to the Ard Chomhairle in successive years.

**DEREK HIGHSTEAD, LONDON, ENGLAND**

92. That Sinn Fein organisers make a determined effort to have a cumann operating in every parish in Ireland within the next twelve months.

**CLANMHOR, CO. OFFALY**

93. That a full-time National Organiser be appointed by the Ard Chomhairle to co-ordinate organisation work and give special attention to weak areas.

**MARTIN FORSTYHE CUMANN RATHFARNHAM**

94. That the organisers of all Comhairle Ceanntair, work more closely with the cumainn organisers, and have regular meetings with the Provincial organisers where they exist.

**JOE CLARKE, FINGLAS, DUBLIN**

95. That Ard Chomhairle members give an account of his/her work for the year before the Ard Fheis to be read out before the election of Ard Chomhairle

**WOLFE TONE, DUBLIN**

96. That all outgoing members of the Ard Chomhairle elected or co-opted should: furnish a report, in writing verified by their local cumann of their local involvement and their work at Ard Chomhairle level, verified by an Ard Chomhairle.

**COMHAIRLE ATHA CLIATH**

**MHIC CEASMAINNT/UI NUALLAIN, B.A.C.  
PATRICK McADOREY, BAILE ATHA CLIATH**

97. That in part of the proceedings of An Ard Fheis a section be allocated to outgoing Ard Chomhairle members to report on their local involvement, and that this section be held before the election of the incoming Ard Chomhairle.

**COMHAIRLE ATHA CLIATH  
PATRICK McADOREY, BAILE ATHA CLIATH**

98. That all Sinn Fein councillors send quarterly written reports detailing their activities to the appropriate Comhairle Chuige.

**CATHAL HUGHES DUBLIN**

99. That conferences solely dealing with organisation similar to the Athlone Conference be held regularly and at least once a year.

**MARTIN FORSYTHE CUMANN, RATHFARNHAM**

100. It is proposed that the steering committee should consist of one member from each Comhairle Ceantair and be duly elected before the Ard Fheis.

**SEAN McENTYRE BELTURBET, CO. CAVAN**

101. That no pen-pictures of nominees appear on future nominees' list.

**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE**

102. That a shadow officer board be set up for all Comhairli Ceanntair and that these are not advertised so that in the event of mass arrests, Sinn Fein will not be thrown into a state of disorder.

**SEAMUS McCUSKER, NORTH BELFAST**

## **PUBLICITY**

103. That a full-time National Press Officer be appointed and if this is not possible for financial reasons, that one of the Joint General secretaries may act as National Press Officer.

**MARTIN FORSYTHE, RATHFARNHAM, ATH CLIATH**

104. That all spokespersons of Sinn Fein affirm that they will make every effort to propagate the political social and economic proposals embodied in Eire Nua.

**McADOREY / McCUSKER, LUTON, ENGLAND**

105. That a National Publicity Committee or Department be set up under the chairmanship of the National Director of Publicity.

**COMHAIRLE ATHA CLIATH**

106. That publicity of Republican Prisoners conditions and of Sinn Fein policy and teachings to the Irish people and to the nations of the world, is the most essential, most important and primary objective of Sinn Fein today and that Publicity be given priority as the principal subject of debate and ample time at this Ard Fheis, contrary to the last Ard Fheis when Sean O Bradaigh got a disgraceful five minutes to introduce the subject at the very last of the Ard Fheis without further debate or comment.

**MAINISTIR FEAR MUIGHE**

107. List of Films on all topics concerning the movement should be made available to all cumainn so that these would be available on request to any cumainn running a function.

**ALICE MILLIGAN, LOUGHMACRORY, TYRONE**

- 107a. That all members of Sinn Fein, from this Ard Fheis refuse to pay their Television licence fees as an active protest against the RTE ban on Sinn Fein spokespersons and also as a protest against the lack of Irish culture particularly the Irish language on RTE.

**LOUGHNANE BROTHERS, DUBLIN**

108. As an active protest against the RTE ban on Sinn Fein spokespersons all members should refuse to pay their television licence fees.

**MARTIN FORSYTHE, RATHFARNHAM, ATH CLIATH**

109. That this Ard Fheis demand that Sinn Fein spokesmen be accorded access to radio and television.

**ENNISCORTHY, CO. WEXFORD**

110. That Sinn Fein should make more effort to get the ban on the media scrapped.

**P. McGORRIAN / McNULTY DOWN**

111. That Sinn Fein organise a selected boycott of goods advertised on RTE as part of our campaign to further our claim for time on RTE.

**LOUGHNANE BROTHERS, DUBLIN**

## **AP-RN**

112. That the management of AP/RN return to the monthly a/c's system of a monthly statement of a/c to each cumainn.

**JOE CLARKE, FINGLAS DUBLIN**

113. That the Ard Chomhairle appoint two of its members to attend weekly editorial meetings of AP/RN to ensure satisfactory coverage of Sinn Fein matter.

**MARTIN FORSYTHE, RATHFARNHAM, ATH CLIATH**

114. That AP/RN print a series of articles taking, in turn each of the fifteen points in the Reamhra of Eire Nua – The Social Dimension.

**CATHAL HUGHES, DUBLIN**

115. That more space be given to the question of Federalism in the AP/RN.

**WEST TYRONE COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR**

116. That AP/RN publicise all aspects of Eire Nua policy on a weekly basis.

**SEAN TREACY CUMANN, TIPPERARY**

117. That more space be given to the question of a four-province Federal Ireland in AP/RN.

**BILLY REID, OMAGH, CO. TYRONE**

118. That AP/RN restrict itself much more to news coverage and much less to expression of editorial views.

**STRAFFAN -- CO. KILDARE**

119. That AP/RN discontinue to propagate editorial views contrary to Sinn Fein policy.

**STRAFFAN -- CO. KILDARE**

120. That AP/RN discontinue the practice of giving vast coverage to small, insignificant trade disputes and that any coverage given be objective and not always give only the trade union view of disputes.

**STRAFFAN -- CO. KILDARE**

121. That AP/RN gives publicity to the torture of Republican Prisoners in English jails.

**ROGER CASEMENT, CAVAN**

122. That a list of the Republican prisoners in English Jails be published in AP/RN before Christmas every year.

**ROGER CASEMENT, CAVAN**

123. Iarrann an Ard Fheis seo ar AP/RN meid na Gaeilge sa phaipear a mheadu 20 faoin gcead agus deimhniu de go bhfuil an caighdean 100% litríocht.

**MHIC CASMAINNT/UI NUALLAIN, B.A.C.**

124. Go mbeidh nios mo altanna tre Ghaeilge in "AP/RN" agus iad scaipthe ar fud an phaipeir; agus go mbeidh cuid ar leith dhen phaipear curtha inairithe gach seachtain fa choinne cheacht sa teangain.

**COMHAIRLE CHUIGE LAIGHEAN, LAIGHIN**

125. That AP/RN include a weekly cartoon or article in Irish and English to facilitate those who wish to learn the Irish language.

**JOE CLARKE, FINGLAS, DUBLIN**

126. That more articles in Irish appear regularly in AP/RN and more emphasis be given to our language and culture in the paper.

**MARTIN FORSYTHE, RATHFARNHAM, ATH CLIATH**

## **TRADE UNIONS**

127. That Sinn Fein support and promote the formation of a rank and file organised viewpoint within the trade union movement which would campaign, under Republican leadership, against unemployment and low wages and for fully implemented equal pay for women. A major aspect of this organisation would be the necessity to make the trade union movement more democratic.

**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE**

128. That within the next year Sinn Fein organise a conference of Republican trade unionists to consider proposals and draw up a trade union policy document, applicable to urban and rural Ireland for submission through the Ard Chomhairle to the Ard-Fheis 1981.

**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE**

129. That Sinn Fein Ard Chomhairle look to the possibility of setting up a Republican Trade Union, for our members in the future.

**JOE CLARKE, FINGLAS, DUBLIN**

130. That all republican Trade Unionists be active in fighting through their branches for the removal of the ban on Sinn Fein spokesmen by RTE.

**MHIC CHABA/UI BHOIGLIGH B.A.C.**

# CULTURE AND EDUCATION

131. That an Economic Education Programme be drawn up to educate the membership.

This should consist of:-

- (a) Present day economic systems throughout the world.
- (b) General Economic History.
- (c) Economic Systems relating to Ireland.
- (d) The writings of the philosophers behind these systems.

**ROBERT EMMET DUBLIN 8**

132. That a series of courses be set up immediately after this Ard Fheis on the duty of cumainn officers, in particular PRO's and organisers.

**JOE CLARKE, FINGLAS, DUBLIN**

133. That the Educational Committee be re-structured to include a member of each Department within Sinn Fein.

**PATRICK McADOREY, BAILE ATHA CLIATH**

134. That each cumann should ensure the education on Sinn Fein history, aims and policies of their new members, under the direction of the Dept. of Education.

**MHIC CEASMAINNT/UI NUALLAIN, B.A.C.**

135. That Sinn Fein make an attempt to offer Republican children an alternative education to the present "Murder Machine" processing existing within contemporary Irish society.

**HENRY HEANEY, LONG KESH**

136. That the Department of Sinn Fein set up an Education department to educate Sinn Fein members on religious issues and Irish nationalism.

**KILDARE COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR**

137. That education courses for Sinn Fein members include more detailed study of the basic principles of Republicanism and the history of the Republican Movement.

**MARTIN FORSYTHE, RATHFARNHAM, ATH CLIATH**

138. Have Sinn Fein got competently trained personnel to step into the breach in the event of the actual withdrawal of the British from Ireland, and if not when are they going to set up educational programmes for future ministerial positions?

**McNULTY/CANNON CUMANN ATH CLIATH**

139. That Sinn Fein vehemently condemns the present class-based and exam centred system of Education in the South, and calls for the introduction of Free education and adequate grants, and a complete overhaul in the curriculum.  
**GAUGHAN/KEENANI, U.C.D.**
140. Molann Cumann na Rinne go gcuirfi níos mó beirne ar úsáid na Gaeilge i nGluaiseacht na Poblachta de réir polasai Eire Nua, agus go mbainfi níos mó úsáide aisti i ngnóthaí oifigiúla na Gluaiseachta.  
**RINN O gCUANACH, PORTLAIRGE**
141. Iarrann an Ard Fheis seo go n-úsáidfaidh Sinn Fein níos mó Gaeilge ina gcuid paipéar agus litríocht.  
**MHIC CEASMAINNT/UI NUALLAIN, B.A.C.**
142. That the people who attend at this Ard-Fheis, pledge solidarity with the Irish language revival movement. Dúirt na daoine Sinn Fein focail Gaeilge gach la.  
**CLANMHOR - CO. OFFALY**
143. In an effort to extend the use of Irish among Republicans, that all Sinn Fein members be obliged to greet each other in Irish and that all Sinn Fein meetings be opened and closed in the Irish language.  
**MARTIN FORSYTHE, RATHFARNHAM, ATH CLIATH**
144. That Sinn Fein devise a package of incentives that would act as a catalyst towards the widespread use of An Ghaeilge by the general public and that we abandon the policy of compulsory Irish for public bodies in the new Ireland.  
**ROBERT EMMET, DUBLIN 8**
145. That Sinn Fein in Government reinstate the Irish language to first place, by applying a standard of pass level at least on all people entering any section of the Civil Service, and to all Third level colleges.  
**MICHAEL O HANRAHAN, NEW ROSS, CO. WEXFORD**
146. That the plaque put up for the cumann that has done the most for the Irish language and culture should be handed over to someone on behalf of the men in H-Block who have worked hard to educate themselves in the Irish language without literature and in the worst conditions possible.  
**SEAMUS McCUSKER, NORTH BELFAST**

# YOUTH

147. That a Sinn Fein Youth Conference be held in the coming year.  
**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE**
148. That it be mandatory for a member of the youth department to be on the Sinn Fein education committee.  
**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE**
149. That education of Youth be given priority by the education department.  
**ARD-CHOMHAIRLE**
150. That this Ard-Fheis congratulates the Youth Department on its progress this year and asks that more emphasis be put on youth by the Education Department and that another youth conference be held next year.  
**MARTIN FORSYTHE, RATHFARNHAM, ATH CLIATH**
151. It is imperative that a youth policy document be compiled as soon as possible.  
**COMHAIRLE CHUIGE LAIGHEAN, LAIGHIN**

# MISCELLANEOUS

152. That all major Sinn Fein policy documents, in future be written plainly and in detail explaining in laymans terms, exactly what we mean.  
**JOE CLARKE FINGLAS, B.A.C.**
153. That the Republican Commemoration Committee be requested to make Easter Monday of each year a day of National Commemoration in Dublin, Easter Monday being the anniversary of the actual event.  
**McNULTY / CANNON CUMANN ATH CLIATH**
154. That National Graves Committees be set up in all Comhairle Ceantair areas.  
**KILDARE COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR**
155. That an Ard Fheis recognises that sexual orientation is a matter for the individual, and condemns discrimination against male and female homosexuals.  
**GAUGHAN / KEENAN, U.C.D.**
156. That it be the policy of Sinn Fein to have the ancient kingdom of Ireland restored.  
**CLANMHOR -- CO. OFFALY**

157. That this Ard Fheis, which has its mandate from the 1st Dail Eireann, asserts its rightful authority over the entire Island as speedily as possible.  
**CLANMHOR -- CO. OFFALY**
158. That this Ard-Fheis condemn Charlie Haughey for spending another £100 million on maintaining Brit rule in Ireland while unemployment in the Free State is 120,000 and increasing.  
**ENNISCORTHY, CO. WEXFORD**
159. That the incoming Ard Comhairle instructs Sinn Fein elected representatives to with-hold payment of Television licences until they get satisfactory coverage on R.T.E.  
**PADRAIG O PEARAILL, LOCH GARMAN**
160. That Sinn Fein strongly opposes the schemes for Toll Roads and Bridges.  
**LOUGHNANE BROTHERS, DUBLIN**
161. That the Republican Movement endeavour to arrange with the Vatican for an envoy or delegation to the Papacy, which in our Cumann's opinion would be of supreme importance, not only to the cause of Irish Freedom but to the Catholic Church itself, and that this motion be fully debated at this "Democratic" Ard-Fheis and not hushed aside as it has been for the past five years.  
**MAINISTER FEAR MUIGHE**
162. We propose that all alcoholic drink be banned from any Sinn Fein meetings, seminars excepting social functions.  
**TOBIAS MOLLOY / EUGENE DEVLIN, TYRONE**

## **LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION**

163. That Sinn Fein instruct the National H-Block Committee to call a half day strike on a 32 county basis in support of Political Status.  
**WEST TYRONE COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR**
164. That this Ard-Fheis give priority to the unfinished business of the 1979/80 Clar.  
**FENNELL / McDONNELL, TWINBROOK, BELFAST**
165. That a report of all resolutions passed at an Ard-Fheis be sent to all cumainn, comhairle ceantair, comhairle cuige within 6 (six) weeks of the relevant Ard Fheis.  
**FENNELL / McDONNELL, TWINBROOK, BELFAST**

166. That an Economic Education programme be designed to educate the membership, this should consist of:
- Present day economic systems and proposed systems throughout the world.
  - General Economic History.
  - Economic Systems regarding Ireland both past and present.
  - The writings of the proponents behind these various systems and proposed systems.

**FENNELL / McDONNELL, TWINBROOK, BELFAST**

167. Voting paper for the Ard Fheis be numbered, the total number of delegates present and eligible to vote announced before the vote, the count to take place on the platform and the number of votes cast for each nominee announced with the results.

**FENNELL / McDONNELL, TWINBROOK, BELFAST**

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