

ould have placed  
re accurate per-  
to myself and  
rmances. But then  
now very much  
mp.

NDAN O'REILLY



ur

on Lieut. Gen.  
, 14 September)  
e is the son of a  
a colonel and a  
arly this sheds a  
on the potential-  
ule in the North,  
correspondent not  
the mother?

YRNE-SUTTON  
6, apt. 1315  
a 80,

September

Cement Roadstone  
andpits and quarries  
and pickets are in  
oscommon, Arklow,  
Athlone and Water-  
of cement deliveries

ent did not wish  
ing to state-sponsor-  
should be given to  
from foundations,  
rusts which had al-  
commitment to the  
Chairman of Gael  
hairman of the RTE  
rity, Donal O Mor-  
ne Rotary Club of



Since the decision of the Jury is based on performances at each stage of the Competition, and not just on the final round (Concerto for piano and orchestra), perhaps Miss Feehan, in the interests of fair criticism, will inform your readers if in fact she attended all the various stages this year in Leeds in order to formulate her opinion.

RONALD B. SWAINSON  
24 Shelton Drive,  
Kimmage Road West, Dublin 12.

## Gadarene slope

Allow me to congratulate you on the recent brilliant article about the late Pope Paul.

His dismissal as a failure was presented in a manner truly worthy of *Hibernia*, the issues supporting his rejection being presented in splendid fashion. Had your paper praised him, I would indeed have been seriously worried.

Your article convinced me that he was a good pope who halted, if not quite ending, the rush down the gadarene slope of trendy theologians, progressive prelates and contraceptive clergy who, so far, seem to be the principal fruit of Vatican II.

5827 Crescent Drive,  
Ladnor, B.C.,  
Canada.

J. MAHER

Ireland.

## TUESDAY, 26 September

The Government directs the Commissioners of Public Works to place a further, indefinite, stay on the building of the Civic Offices at the Wood Quay Viking site in Dublin, so that archeological investigations can be completed.

In a reference to the industrial dispute in Cement Roadstone which is in breach of the National Wage Agreement and in contravention of ICTU rules the President of the ICTU Harold O'Sullivan says that 'difficult and distasteful steps might have to be taken to maintain their (ICTU) credibility as a united trade union movement'.

proportion of Ministers who were out of the country when they were not on holidays. And it appears that the decision to proceed with the destruction of Wood Quay — announced by a Junior Minister on the day before he himself set off for a three-week junket in the U.S. — was not even debated at Cabinet level. If this is so, then Fianna Fail is indeed falling into the same folly as the Coalition in allowing foreign business, or pleasure, to divert them from the reality at home. And this, after only 18 months in office.

But another part of the answer is simply that not enough people in Fianna Fail give a damn for conservation. Significantly, but not surprisingly, not a single Fianna Fail Councillor from Dublin Corporation or Dublin County Council joined the 20,000 marching citizens of Dublin last Saturday. Kevin Boland's contempt for the "Belted Earls" committed to the preservation of Hume Street a decade ago, is still an accurate reflection of Fianna Fail's insensitivity on the question today. In this area at least, Fianna Fail is badly out of touch with the public mood.

The reprieve announced last Tuesday is not only an impressive victory for the Friends of Medieval Dublin, but a great encouragement to the cause of conservation generally. The Wood Quay march has demonstrated a new public determination to put a stop to the wanton destruction of the city of Dublin. And the active support of the Trade Union Movement in this determination is an important new departure. But the basic issues concerning Wood Quay remain unresolved, as do many other questions thrown up by this particular confrontation.

A large part of the public protest last Saturday was directed at the stubborn intransigence of government and the undemocratic method of its decision-making. Why shouldn't the reports of the National Monuments Advisory Council — and of other such advisory bodies — be made public automatically? Why should the Minister attempt to mislead the public on the advice tendered to him? What sort of government is it anyhow that so casually accedes to the destruction of a national monument, and then needs a massive demonstration to persuade it of its folly?

The Coalition gravely underestimated the new sophistication of the Irish electorate and paid the ultimate price. Fianna Fail would be well advised to interpret the Wood Quay demo as an early warning signal to avoid the same pitfall.

Spot the marchers! A postal subscription for *Hibernia* to any address in the world is offered to the reader who first identifies the greatest number of Wood Quay marchers on our front page. Photos by Martin Devlin.



**Title:** Editorial [Extract from Hibernia, September 1978]

**Date:** 1978

Downloaded from the Irish Left Archive.

Visit [www.leftarchive.ie](http://www.leftarchive.ie)

*The Irish Left Archive is provided as a non-commercial historical resource, open to all, and has reproduced this document as an accessible digital reference. Copyright remains with its original authors. If used on other sites, we would appreciate a link back and reference to the Irish Left Archive, in addition to the original creators. For re-publication, commercial, or other uses, please contact the original owners. If documents provided to the Irish Left Archive have been created for or added to other online archives, please inform us so sources can be credited.*