

APPENDIX I

GENERAL ELECTION, 1957

LABOUR PARTY ELECTION PROGRAMME

66 The Labour Party seeks the support of the people in the forthcoming General Election so that it can urge the new Dail to give effect to the following measures which the Labour Party believes will provide prosperity and security for the people.

1. Industrial Development

13 The development of existing industries and the promotion of new industries to produce commodities which are at present imported.

13 Public ownership of the flour-milling industry under a National Flour-Milling Corporation.

20 A comprehensive survey of national resources to be carried out and the development of minerals encouraged.

43 Intensive development of peat resources for the generation of electricity. Additional briquette factories to be erected.

17 The use of electricity in factories and on farms for motive power, etc., to be encouraged so as to reduce imports of foreign fuel.

10 Shipping tonnage to be increased to meet the Nation's requirements.

2. Agricultural Development

47 Special credit facilities to farmers to enable agricultural production to be increased. The National Flour-Milling Corporation to provide special grain storage and grain-drying facilities for farmers. Marketing facilities for agricultural produce to be promoted.

47 Special consideration to be given to the dairying industry with a view to the raising of milk yields and the export of dairy produce at competitive prices.

47 Fruit growing to be encouraged.

47 Guaranteed prices for the principal agricultural products.

10 The law relating to the title to agricultural land to be revised in order to facilitate the granting of loans to credit-worthy farmers.

43 The establishment of at least one pilot farm in each county, to be managed in co-operation with the local County Committee of Agriculture.

47 A comprehensive survey and valuation of agricultural land to be carried out in order to assess the productive capacity of the agricultural land in each county.

46 The establishment of an Agricultural Labour Court for Agricultural Workers. The promotion of legislation for the safety, health and welfare of Agricultural Workers.

3. Fisheries

47 Development of inland and sea fisheries with adequate safeguards for the interests of inshore fishermen.

4. Housing

25 Drive to complete the Housing Programme and the clearing of derelict sites.

5. Forestry

17 The expansion of the forestry programme especially with a view to providing much-needed employment in the Gaeltacht areas in the immediate future and the development of wood product industries in due course.

6. Income Tax

24 Review of the income tax code so as to secure an equitable distribution of the tax burden in relation to the paying-capacity of the different sections of the community and, in particular, to give greater relief in respect of personal and dependants' allowances for persons in the lower and middle income groups.

7. Banking and Credit

43 Greater powers for the Government under legislation so as to direct the Central Bank to provide adequate credit facilities for the development of the industrial and agricultural resources.

17 The Central Bank to accept the securities offered for advances by State-sponsored bodies such as E.S.B., Bord na Mona, Aer Lingus, Irish Shipping, etc. so as to facilitate the further expansion of these bodies.

17 As a means of promoting industry and agriculture and stimulating the economy, the private banks to be required to hold a higher proportion of their investments in Irish securities.

8. Health

25 An immediate improvement to be effected in the present health services by the local authorities for those in the lower and middle income groups.

9. Social Welfare

25 Increase in social welfare benefits, old age and blind pensions, unemployment insurance, unemployment assistance, disability benefit, widows' and orphans' pensions.

50 Retirement pensions to be provided on a contributory basis at 65 years for men and 60 years for women.

25 Provision of mortality benefit.

25 Increase in maternity grants.

25 Abolition of three-day waiting period on change-over from unemployment benefit to unemployment assistance.

25 A national comprehensive Workmen's Compensation Scheme.

10. Education

43 Review of educational system and special investigation of the teaching programme with particular reference to the results of the present method of teaching Irish.

27 Acceleration of the National School building programme and the reconstruction of existing buildings together with the provision of adequate heating and sanitary accommodation in all rural National Schools.

Improvement and extension of educational facilities with the object of providing free secondary education.

11. Control of Prices

Review of existing machinery for the control of prices.
The retention of the use of subsidies on essential articles of food.

12. Land Programme

The present unsatisfactory land division programme of the Land Commission to be abandoned in favour of a new re-settlement programme which will accelerate the acquisition and division of lands and their distribution among tenants on conditions which will ensure the fullest utilisation of the land.

13. Holidays with Pay

The promotion of legislation to provide for the granting of two weeks' annual holidays with pay to all workers.

14. Transport

Co-ordination of transport facilities so as to provide an efficient transport system and ensure security of employment and decent living standards for employees.

Expansion of the Irish shipping fleet including the provision of vessels suitable for coastal traffic.

Substantial assistance for harbour improvements.

VOTE LABOUR AND FACE THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE

February, 1957.

APPENDIX II

MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Resumé of Discussions already held

The following facts have emerged from the various Meetings of the above Committee, which have taken place and for the purpose of simplicity these are divided into Sections and sub-Sections.

Section 1

1. That one of the greatest barriers to progress in this country is the attitude adopted by Irishmen towards mental disease and mental illness. We feel that a more enlightened approach will have to be made in order to remove the real, or imaginary, stigma which people are prone to associate with mental illness.

2. That there is not a sufficiently strong line drawn between the various types of mental illness.

3. That if such a division were made and there was a proper segregation of the various types of mental illness, that the accommodation at present existing in the State would be sufficient. In other words, if there was a proper division for the old, sufficient number of O.P. Clinics, proper schools for the advancement of the educationally sub-normal, definite segregation of the psychotics, etc., there would be no need for additional mental hospitals.

4. That the present method of selecting R.M.S. for mental hospitals is out-moded, and that promotion to these offices should be not solely and simply on the basis of seniority and further, that a knowledge of agriculture and accountancy should not be a pre-requisite for obtaining a post as R.M.S.

5. That sufficient incentive for post-graduate work and training is not given to Junior Medical Officers in mental hospitals.

6. That it is much more important to have a well-trained staff, than a well-appointed hospital.

7. That R.M.S. posts in mental institutions should be made sufficiently attractive to attract the best possible people.

Section 2

Out-Patients' Clinics

1. The Committee are satisfied that there is a very urgent need for the provision of additional O.P. Clinics in all parts of the country and that if there were sufficient O.P. Clinics it would have three immediate effects:

- (a) Much more speedy and effective treatment and care.
- (b) An immediate step towards the removal of the stigma already mentioned.
- (c) A reduction in the number of patients going into mental hospitals.

2. It is essential that such Clinics should be properly staffed and it is the opinion of the Committee that the staff should consist of,