



Tenth Anniversary
Gala Dinner Dance

in the

Royal Dublin Society Concert Hall
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

Friday 15th December 1995

Raffle Prizes

- * Dinner and B & B for one mid-week night for two sharing (expires 1st March '96) – Presented by Rathsallagh House.
- * Designer Blouse – Presented by Matt O'Donoghue.
- * Return tickets for two to any Ryanair UK destination (expires 30th June '96) – Presented by Ryanair.
- * Dinner for two – Presented by the K Club.
- * Blazer – Presented by Louis Copeland.
- * Snuff Mathe Tunic Suit – Presented by Richard Lewis.
- * Two nights B & B for two – Presented by Dromoland Castle (expires 31st March '96).
- * One mid-week night for two with full Irish breakfast – Presented by Marlfield House.
- * Two nights B & B and 1 evening dinner for two – Presented by Sheen Falls Lodge.
- * Police designer sunglasses – Presented by Murray McGrath.
- * Christmas Hamper – Presented by Brown Thomas.
- * Jacket with skirt – Presented by Wolfangel.
- * Christmas Hamper – Presented by Quinnsworth.
- * Picture in Oils, framed still life (9.5" x 8.5") by Adam Kos.

Tickets will be available at about 10.30 p.m.

Price £5 each 5 for £20 15 for £50

Winners as drawn will select prizes from the above selection according to their choice.

Progressive Democrats – the story so far

December 21, 1985

Launch of the Progressive Democrats, founded by Des O'Malley and Mary Harney. Within months they were joined by Deputies Robert Molloy, Pearse Wyse and Michael Keating and by Senators Tim Conway and Helena McAuliffe-Ennis.

At the launch, Des O'Malley said there was "a great consensus in Ireland which favours fundamental tax reform, which favours enterprise." He called on people, particularly young people, to join him in building "a new progressive force in Irish politics" and committed the Progressive Democrats to building a New Republic.

May 1986: 1st National Conference, Dublin

Policy priorities outlined included:

- A tax reform programme of a 25% standard income tax rate, with a single higher rate.
 - Reform for Government Departments and the legislature. Fewer T.D.s and abolition of the Seanad.
 - Self-assessment tax system for the self-employed.
 - Rationalisation of social welfare schemes with a single allowance to replace deserted wife benefit, deserted wife's allowance, widow's non-contributory pension and unmarried mother's allowance.
- Removal of Constitutional ban on divorce.

October 1986

Publication of major economic document "A Nation that Works – Blueprint for Jobs, Fair Taxation and Social Justice".

This was the first time an opposition party published a detailed economic programme. It included £370 million itemised in public expenditure savings to combat State overspending and redress huge upsurge in taxation levels.

January 1987

Publication of Party's Environmental Policy to protect and enhance the natural and built environment. The first environmental policy document published by any major political party.

Main proposals included Establishment of Environmental Protection Agency and the ending of exemption of state agencies and local authorities from the Planning Acts.

February 1987, General Election

The Progressive Democrats win 14 seats and 11.8% of the national vote in Party's first election.

Elected were:

Peadar Clohessy, Limerick East

Anne Colley, Dublin South

Martin Cullen, Waterford

Martin Gibbons, Carlow-Kilkenny

Mary Harney, Dublin South-West

Michael Keating, Dublin Central

Geraldine Kennedy, Dun Laoghaire

John McCoy, Limerick West

Michael McDowell, Dublin South-East

Bobby Molloy, Galway West

Des O'Malley, Limerick East

Pat O'Malley, Dublin West

Mairin Quill, Cork North-Central

Pearse Wyse, Cork South-Central

June 1987

Party supports Single European Act referendum to enable Ireland to participate fully in rapidly uniting Europe.

January 1988

Party publishes "Draft Constitution for a New Republic" of which some principal points were:

Reform of the Oireachtas – including abolition of Seanad.

Provision for appointment of two members of the Government from outside Oireachtas and reduction in the number of T.D.s.

Abolition of capital punishment and removal of ban on divorce.

Amendment of Articles 2 & 3 expressing aspiration to unity by consent.

May 1988

Progressive Democrats Bill to abandon payment of compensation where planning permission is refused to speculative developers is defeated in the Dail.

November 1988

Party Bill to establish independent agency to disburse all lottery funds is defeated by minority Fianna Fail government supported by Labour.

April – May 1989

Progressive Democrats expose in Dail fact that total amount of Government-backed export credit on beef exported to Iraq exceeded the total value of all Irish exports to that country in 1987 and 1988 and that there was a virtual monopoly of such insurance given to the Goodman Group.

June 1989 – General Election

Party wins 6% of vote and six seats

Elected where:

Peader Clohessy, Limerick,

Mary Harney, Dublin South-West,

Bobby Molloy, Galway West

Des O'Malley, Limerick East

Mairin Quill, Cork North-Central,

Pearse Wyse, Cork South-Central

European Election – Party wins 11.9% of national vote. Pat Cox wins in Munster.

June – July 1989

Negotiation, with Fianna Fail, of the “Agreed Programme for Government, 1989–1993”, enabling establishment of historic Progressive Democrats – Fianna Fail Coalition Government on July 12th.

Des O'Malley appointed Minister for Industry and Commerce; Bobby Molloy Minister for Energy. Mary Harney appointed the State's first ever Minister for Environmental Protection. Stephen O'Byrnes appointed Assistant Government Press Secretary. Three Party Senators, Martin Cullen, John Dardis and Helen Keogh appointed.

1990 Budget

Income tax reform: Standard rate reduced from 32% to 30% and top rate cut from 55% to 53%. Standard vat rate cut from 25% to 23%.

1991 Budget

Standard income tax rate cut from 30% to 29% and top rate cut from 53% to 52%.

June 1991

Progressive Democrats contest their first ever Local Government elections winning 37 seats nationally of which a third (12) were won by women, the highest percentage of women for any party.

January 1992 – Budget

Standard rate of income tax cut from 29% to 27%. Top rate cut from 52% to 48% thereby reducing the number of tax rates from three to two.

Des O'Malley published Culliton Committee report with its blueprint for Irish industrial policy.

February 1992

Charles Haughey resigns as Taoiseach. Albert Reynolds elected leader of Fianna Fail and Taoiseach.

October 1992

Government crisis erupts after Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds, in his Beef Tribunal evidence, accuses Cabinet colleague, Des O'Malley, of lying under oath at the Tribunal.

November 1992

Progressive Democrats resign from Government.

General Election held on November 25. Progressive Democrats win ten seats.

Elected were:

Peadar Clohesy, Limerick East,

Pat Cox, Cork North-Central,

Martin Cullen, Waterford,

Mary Harney, Dublin South-West,

Helen Keogh, Dun Laoghaire,

Michael McDowell, Dublin South-East,

Bobby Molloy, Galway West,

Liz O'Donnell, Dublin South,

Des O'Malley, Limerick East,

Mairin Quill, Cork North-Central.

In the Seanad elections, Cathy Honan and John Dardis won seats.

January 1993

New Fianna Fail / Labour Coalition Government elected.

October 1993

Des O'Malley announces his decision to relinquish the Party Leadership. Mary Harney is elected Leader. She became the first woman leader of a major Irish political party.

February 1995

Mary Harney, as Leader, welcomed the publication of the Joint Framework Document as "another milestone in the quest for peace in Northern Ireland".

Menu

Prawn and Orange Salad
presented with chive mayonnaise and crisp lettuce leaves

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Carrot & Coriander Soup

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Traditional Roast Turkey and Ham
with chestnut stuffing and chipolata

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Selection of Seasonal Vegetables and Potatoes

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Christmas Plum Pudding
with double cream

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Tea or Coffee

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There is also a vegetarian option available on request

Wines

Moreau Blanc * Moreau Rouge

J. Moreau & Fils

Des O'Malley's Initiative



I am today giving notice of my intention to seek support for a new initiative in Irish politics. I do so publicly because I believe that to work in secret towards this would retard the process of change or endanger it.

I am addressing all democrats of goodwill who share my beliefs and confidence that the face of Irish politics can be transformed. I am asking for their support in building a new progressive democratic force in Irish politics. I am confident of its success. I believe that the people will give such support for our venture that it will command a substantial voice in the next Dail.

I cannot today formally launch a new and complete political party; rather I am calling now for support in building one from the ground up. I am not at this stage putting forward definitive and detailed policies. These must await the full establishment of the party and be drawn up as its organisation is built up. My general views are well known however. I particularly seek the active involvement of young people who have so much more to lose if drastic improvements are not brought about in the economy and in Irish society generally. Together we can build such a party in the next few months and in that way give a voice to the new politics which this country so badly needs.

While this task may seem daunting to some, I am confident that it can be accomplished with success. Conventional Irish political wisdom may advise against it, as it often does against worthwhile change. To achieve progress in any field risks must be taken. For myself I am prepared to take them.

No one man or woman can achieve much in politics alone. I am asking ordinary Irish men and women who share my approach to politics and my aspiration to renew our society in a genuinely republican mould, to join with me in the "Progressive Democrats" and to lend their hands to this task.

Statement of Mr Desmond O'Malley T.D.,
to the press conference at
25 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2,
on Saturday 21st December 1985 - 12 noon.

Des O'Malley
15/12/1995
Thomas Foley