

ROBINSON, MRS MARY

President of Republic of Ireland.

Elected President in 1990, she was nominated by Labour and
Born 1944, Ballina, Co Mayo (Mary Bourke).
appeal went well beyond their constituencies. Promised an

Educated Convent of the Sacred Heart, Mount Anville, Dublin;
Trinity College, Dublin (MA in law); King's Inns, Dublin (LL
B); Harvard University Law School (LL M).
have one daughter and two sons.

Became the youngest Professor of Law in Ireland at the age of
25 at Trinity College Dublin. Was also elected in 1969 to the
Senate from Trinity College (as an Independent). Took the
Labour whip in 1976 and stood (unsuccessfully) for the Dail in
1977 and 1981. Resigned from the Labour Party in 1985 over the
Anglo-Irish Agreement, on the grounds that the Unionists should
have been consulted about it as were the SDLP; did not stand
for re-election to the Senate in 1987.

As a Senator, she introduced in 1970 the first Bill to legalise
contraceptives; she brought forward a Bill which challenged the
then prohibition on people in mixed religious marriages from
adopting children; and, in 1973, in another attempt to legalise
contraception, she successfully secured the first full
parliamentary debate on the subject. She was prominent in
advocating the ending of the constitutional ban on divorce and
in opposing the constitutional amendment banning abortion in
the referenda of 1984 and 1986.

As a lawyer, she established in 1975 the right to free legal
aid by taking a case successfully to the European Court of
Human Rights. She secured the right of women to sit on juries.
Her last notable success, in 1989, was to establish that Irish
laws criminalising homosexual acts were contrary to the
European Convention on Human Rights.

Elected President in 1990, she was nominated by Labour and endorsed by the Workers' Party and the Green Party, but her appeal went well beyond their constituencies. Promised an activist Presidency, as "a resource for the people". have copied a
secretary.

Married (1970) Nick Robinson, a Protestant solicitor. They have one daughter and two sons. which draft declaration, together prepared by HIO. I apologise for the I recorded comments made by the

of this document, I should be personally and ensure that no

has been in touch with me, following the resignation of Mr. Gough's resignation. He is still proposing to visit next Friday. Subject to the Prime Minister's I do not propose to detail his case until following Mr Gough's resignation, and in the light of the outcome of that situation, we will be able to consider whether Ministers want to take this initiative any further.

file
ROBIN HUGHES

CONFIDENTIAL AND PERSONAL