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Mon November 27 2006

Editorial In Brief

Port mess

THE Shannon Foynes Port Company investigation into allegations made against chief executive, Brian B ... <u>More »</u> Remembering Jerry

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Editorial

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Remembering Jerry

CAN a democracy do a deal with those who would kill its defenders, and not risk undermining all our freedom? So asks former, Limerick East, TD, Des O'Malley. Mr O'Malley, a former Minister for Justice asked the question at the launch of the book "To the Honour of Jerry McCabe" which was launched last week.

The book, penned by experienced journalist, Dermot Walsh is a 176 page account of the killing of Garda McCabe in Adare, and the political fallout. Mr O'Malley, one of the finest, honourable and talented politicians ever to represent the people of Limerick strongly criticised Gerry Adams and Sinn Fein at the launch. Adams, he pointed out, still refused to condemn the murder of a garda "by his brothers in blood." It is more than 10 years since the Limerick detective was shot, as he sat in his car in Adare, while escorting an An Post delivery van. Since then his widow, Ann has kept asking unanswered questions about, Sinn Fein's knowledge and the IRA's involvement in the murder. Remember immediately after the incident the IRA denied any involvement. A week or so later they said their members were involved, but it was not sanctioned. Gerry Adams, in an interview in more recent times, said it was sanctioned at lower level by the IRA. What we all do know is that Sinn Fein have worked tirelessly to try and get the killers out of prison, under the Good Friday Agreement, before they serve their full sentences for the manslaughter of Det Garda McCabe. If Ann McCabe and her family, did not continue, to press the government on this, the likelihood is that these same killers would be walking up and down the streets of Limerick today. While many predict that Sinn Fein will do very well in the next General Election, and may even end up in Government, here in Limerick the party will not succeed in having anyone elected. The people of Limerick still remember Jerry McCabe and how his life ended.

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24 November 2006 « Previous Page Next » Page 1 of 1

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