

# POA probe intimidation allegations

By TOM BRADY

ACCUSATIONS of threats and intimidating phone calls to the homes of prison officers at Mountjoy, Dublin, are to be investigated by their association.

POA general secretary, Mr. P. J. McEvoy, said last night that if the alleged culprits were identified they would be disciplined by their branch committee in Mountjoy. "We do not condone any threats or abusive calls," he

said, "but at the moment there is no evidence that these allegations are true."

"We believe that a certain group are trying to embarrass this association by running a smear campaign of propaganda against our members," he added.

Mr. McEvoy was commenting on claims by a spokesman for middle management officers in Mountjoy who are defying their association's instructions in the current dispute.

The spokesman alleged that the campaign of intimidation against them included an abusive telephone call to the 78-year-old mother of one of the staff.

He said about 50 newly-admitted prisoners by Mountjoy since the dispute began at midnight last Thursday were being treated as "ghosts" by officers backing the industrial action.

"But for the intervention of middle management officers these committal prisoners would not be either fed or washed," he added.

This was confirmed by Mr. McEvoy, who said POA members had been instructed to ignore any prisoners committed since midnight on Thursday.

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions has promised the POA to raise the dispute with the Government in an attempt to find an early settlement.



At yesterday's Labour Court

THE DIRECTOR General of RTE, Mr. George Waters, last night defended RTE regarding the provision of programmes in Irish, but admitted they fell short of their 20 per cent objective for television.

"We still offer less Irish than we would like on children's programmes and sports programmes. Our new Irish learning series has still to start, but these objectives exist because we have set them for ourselves and we are working towards them."

Referring to recent accusations that there was an anti-Irish element in RTE, Mr. Waters said that the Oireachtas had given RTE control of broadcasting in Ireland.

## RTE chief admits Irish content below target

"Consequently RTE does not recognise the claim of any pressure group to be the sole custodian of the Irish cultural heritage."

Mr. Waters, who was addressing the Galway Regional Institute of Ireland, said that RTE, as the national broadcasting service, owned in the end by the Irish people, had its own right and its own competence to make necessary decisions within the ambit of

broadcasting related to the Irish heritage.

And in a reference to a new RTE service for businessmen, Mr. Waters said they might soon have their own private "viewdata" system to keep them up to date on market changes.

The service would be provided by RTE and give subscribers access to tele-

vision "pages" for the exchange of information. RTE was investigating the possibility of a special television information service for the business community, he said.

"Thus, say, a company with head offices in Dublin would use the broadcast network to provide video displays in all parts of the country to clients or customers."