



Mr. Dermot Ryan, President of the Insurance Institute of Ireland (seated) and Mr. Des McGuire, President of the Insurance Institute of Galway pictured with the recipients of Certificates of Proficiency in Insurance. Seated are: Ann Scott, Sun Alliance and Stephen O'Boyle, Sun Alliance. Standing: Mary Sheehan, Mulryan Associates; Aine McDonnell, Mulryan Associates and Josephine Finnegan, Hibernian Insurance.

Court reforms 'could bring 10% drop in insurance cost'

PRESENTING Certificates of Proficiency in Insurance to six local candidates, Mr. Dermot Ryan, President of the Insurance Institute of Ireland said in Galway last week that education and training in the business were of paramount importance, and should lead to greater efficiency in claims dealing.

A ten per cent saving in insurance premiums was also predicted by Mr. Ryan, who is claims manager with Royal Insurance, if reforms of the courts system were implemented — in particular the abolition of juries in civil actions.

"Unless trial by jury is abolished, then it is very difficult to envisage the legal profession accepting the other important administrative and procedural changes that must be introduced in order to improve the operation and efficiency of the present legal system.

"The abolition of juries and the other reforms of our legal system that will follow, will produce

material savings in claims costs, which the industry is confident will enable insurance premiums to be reduced," claimed Mr. Ryan.

Such reforms, he said, would make for claims to be settled earlier, with greater predictability, and do away with the 'scandalous overmanning' of the legal system.

The Courts Bill is promised to the Oireachtas before next December. Other changes that would help reduce claims costs are better roads, realistic fines for infringements, and greater safety standards in industry.

Changes that the insurance industry must face are the coming EEC Directive on products liability, and the Freedom of Services that will shortly come effective.

Those receiving Certificates of Proficiency were Ann Scott, Stephanie O'Boyle, Anne McDonnell, Mary Sheehan, Josephine Finnegan and Grace McGuirk.