

BIOGRAPHY

Olafur Ragnar Grimsson

Born: 14 May 1943

Leader of People's Alliance since 1987. Member of Althingi 1978-83 and since 1991.

Formerly Professor of Politics, University of Iceland, 1973-91.
Editor Thjodviljinn (left-wing newspaper, now defunct) 1983-85.
Minister of Finance 1988-91.

Married to Gudrun Thorbergsdottir, business lady, and town counsellor for the PA in Seltjarnarnes (Reykjavik suburb).

Graduated Reykjavik Grammar School 1962. BA economics and politics 1965, PhD politics 1970, University of Manchester.

Speaks good English.

General Comments: Began in the Progressive Party and progressed to the left via the short-lived "Liberal-Left Alliance" 1974-5, finishing up in the PA. Some doubt about the future: according to the rules he has to stand down as leader in 1995. But the rules may be changed to allow him to continue. Possible successors: Steingrimur J Sigfusson (q.v.), one of Grimsson's disciples, and Svavar Gestsson (q.v.), whom he ousted in 1987.

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