

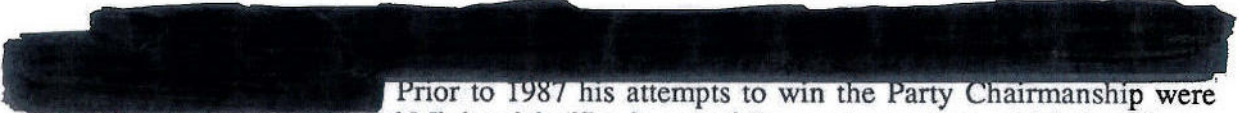
GRIMSSON, OLAFUR RAGNAR

Minister of Finance September 1988 – April 1991.

Chairman of the People's Alliance.

Born 1943 (14 May).

Educated Reykjavik Grammar School and Manchester University (BA in Economics and Politics 1965; PhD 1970). Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Iceland 1970 and since 1973 has held the first Icelandic Chair in the subject. Since his return from Britain in 1965 he has been actively engaged in politics, first as a member of the Progressive Party. In 1969 he broke away to form the Left-Liberal Alliance, which gained a number of seats in the 1971 election, and joined the coalition headed by PP leader Olafur Johannesson. Joined the PA after the LLA collapsed in 1974. Member of the Althing 1978–83. Alternate member since 1984. Active in the Peace Movement and has attended rallies in UK. Chairman of Global Action (formally Parliamentarians for World Order) from 1984 until he became a Minister in 1988.

 Prior to 1987 his attempts to win the Party Chairmanship were thwarted and he never achieved Ministerial office in any of the governments to which the PA was party. He was busy in 1984 and 1985 with the PWO's nuclear disarmament initiative involving the Heads of Government of India, Greece, Sweden, Mexico and Tanzania. Awarded the "Pomerance Prize 1986" in recognition of this activity. He succeeded Svavar Gestsson (qv) as Party leader in 1987, but only after a bitterly contested leadership battle which accentuated the divisions between the intellectual and traditional unionist wings of the Party.

Married (Gudrun Thorbergdottir) and speaks excellent English.

For 0141/18