

# Fingal Voice

The  
Fingal Voice is  
produced by  
the Socialist  
Party.

You can contact us at 6772592  
or email us at  
info@socialistparty.net  
We would welcome any news  
or views which you might  
like to feature in the  
Fingal Voice

Support the End Low Pay  
demonstration for....

## £5 an hour, tax free now!

Join the march and rally to reject Mary Harney's insult to the low paid. We will be telling Harney in no uncertain terms that a £4.40 an hour minimum wage is not enough.

- We are demanding £5 an hour, tax free from the 1st of April.

- There should be no exemptions. The minimum wage should be paid to all workers over 16.

- We want the minimum wage to raise automatically each year in line with the rise in general wages.

- £5 an hour is only a start. The EU decency threshold on wages, two-thirds of the EU average is £8 an hour. The minimum wage should be increased by £1 a year to reach that by 2002.

**When? Saturday March 11th 2.00pm**

**Where? Assemble at Parnell Square,  
march to the Dail**

**The demonstration is being organised by the Socialist Party and is being supported by the trade unions, ATGWU and Mandate, and is also supported by USI (Union of Students in Ireland).**



Joe Higgins TD.

**Joe Higgins TD says, " £5 an hour by 2002 is an insult. The ICTU should never have accepted that. The pressure has to now be put on the government to change it".**

**In this issue:**

Every issue of the *Fingal Voice* features a column by Socialist Party Councillor **Clare Daly** ... see page 2 and a column by **Joe Higgins TD**... see page 3.

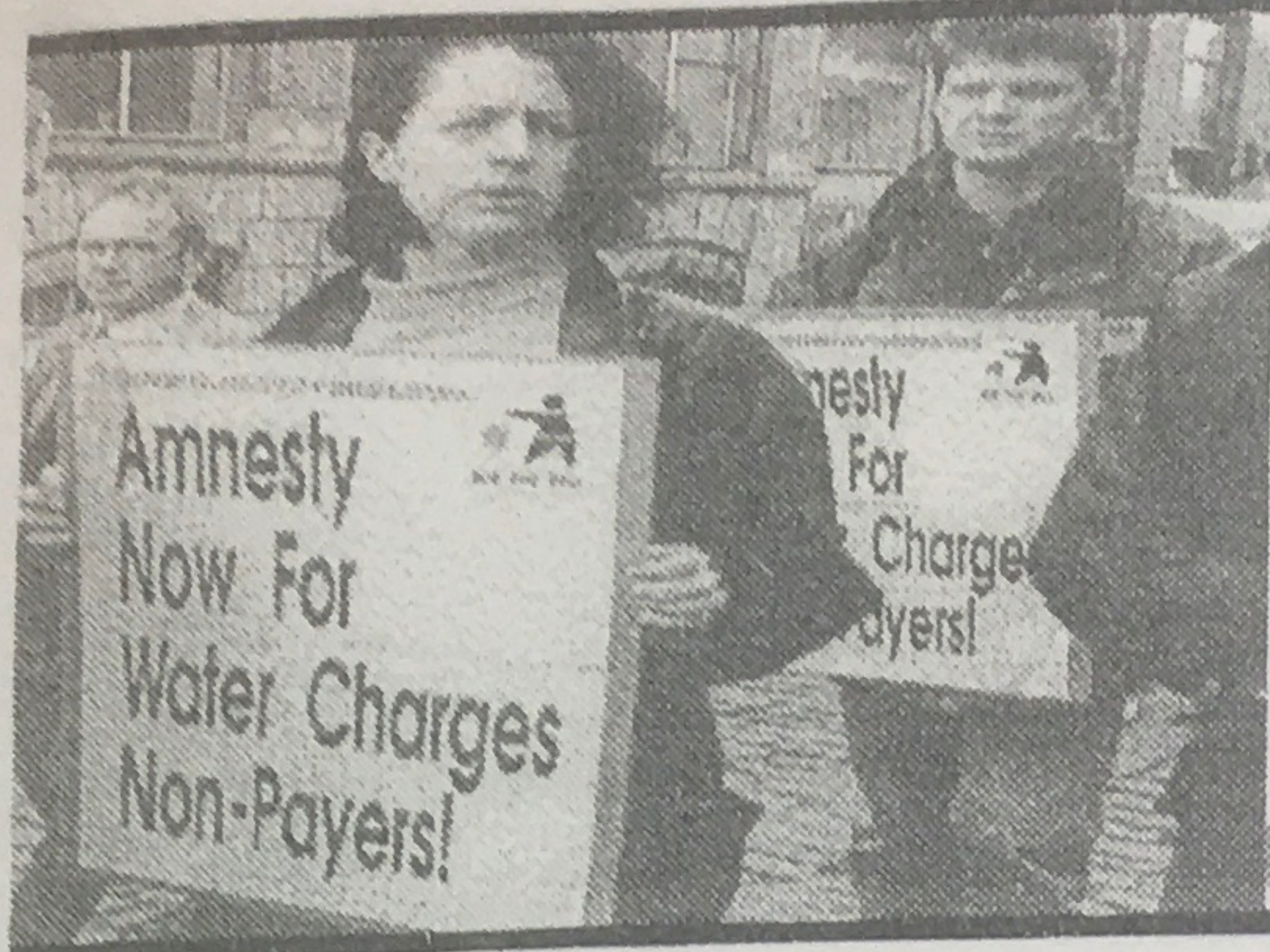
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All Pics by Michael gallagher.



## Clare Daly's Fingal Council Column

# VOTE NO TO NEW PARTNERSHIP DEAL

**O**ver the next number of weeks union members will be asked to vote on a new partnership deal. Already the media and big business are whipping up the propaganda that this is a great deal for workers. What a load of nonsense! Proof of how bad it is, is demonstrated by the fact that the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), famous for pushing the last rotten partnership deals, could not even bring themselves to come out in favour of this agreement.

While profits and dividends have soared in the Celtic Tiger, wages for workers have been held back since 1987. Now we're being asked to vote to control wages for another three years! What's on offer is 5.5% in each of the next two years, with a ban on any special claims and local bargaining. But officially inflation is running at 4%, EXCLUDING mortgage repayments.

With interest rates rising, it is likely that before the year ends, those with an £80,000 mortgage will be forking out an extra £50 a month. In other words we'll be lucky to stand still with what's on offer.

Tying in proposed tax cuts is a con. These have already been announced in the program for government and will apply to everyone, but it is only union members who are being asked to hold back on wage increases. Taxes on profits have been reduced from 50% to 12.5% - no holding back there!

In return, for what effectively amounts to nothing, the unions will have to agree a "voluntary code" to restrict industrial action in "essential services".

This will be used to stop hospital workers, firefighters, airport workers, bus-workers and others, from taking action to advance their conditions. Relativity payments, which traditionally have

achieved substantial increases for public sector workers, would be banned forever.

### Profits booming

This deal should be rejected with a massive No vote. That would mean that the unions could go back and negotiate a better deal, or each union could put in their own claim. At the very least the 5.5% figure can be used as a benchmark for higher rises.

Through determined action, construction workers have achieved increases of 20%. Nurses were told there was no more money available, but by turning down the first few offers and taking action, they got substantial rises.

This deal is trying to hold back the offensive on wages that is developing on the ground. With profits booming and labour shortages, workers are in a strong position to demand our fair share. Already in many parts of the private sector, workers have been able to negotiate themselves substantial pay increases, because employers are desperate to hold on to staff.

For over a decade partnership agreements have been used to tie the hands of workers, while the share of national wealth going to profits has soared, the amount to workers has been reduced. There has never been a better chance to defeat a partnership deal.

Vote NO, campaign in your workplace for free collective bargaining, for real action by the unions on pay.

**Clare Daly is a Socialist Party Councillor for the Swords ward and is the Socialist Party representative for the Dublin North constituency. She can be contacted at 8408059.**

## Ray Burke again

RAY BURKE, remember him?

He is back in the news, this time for taking a £35,000 bung from Century Radio. When he was Minister for Communications, Ray was convinced that his beloved Fianna Fail were getting a bad press from RTE (remember the daily news broadcasts telling us that Haughey was on the take?).

Burke decided to sort them out by ending their monopoly. He capped RTE's advertising revenue, to divert a share into the private stations. Century Radio overcame all the obstacles placed in its path to be selected by an independent committee hand picked by Burke and set up to award licenses.

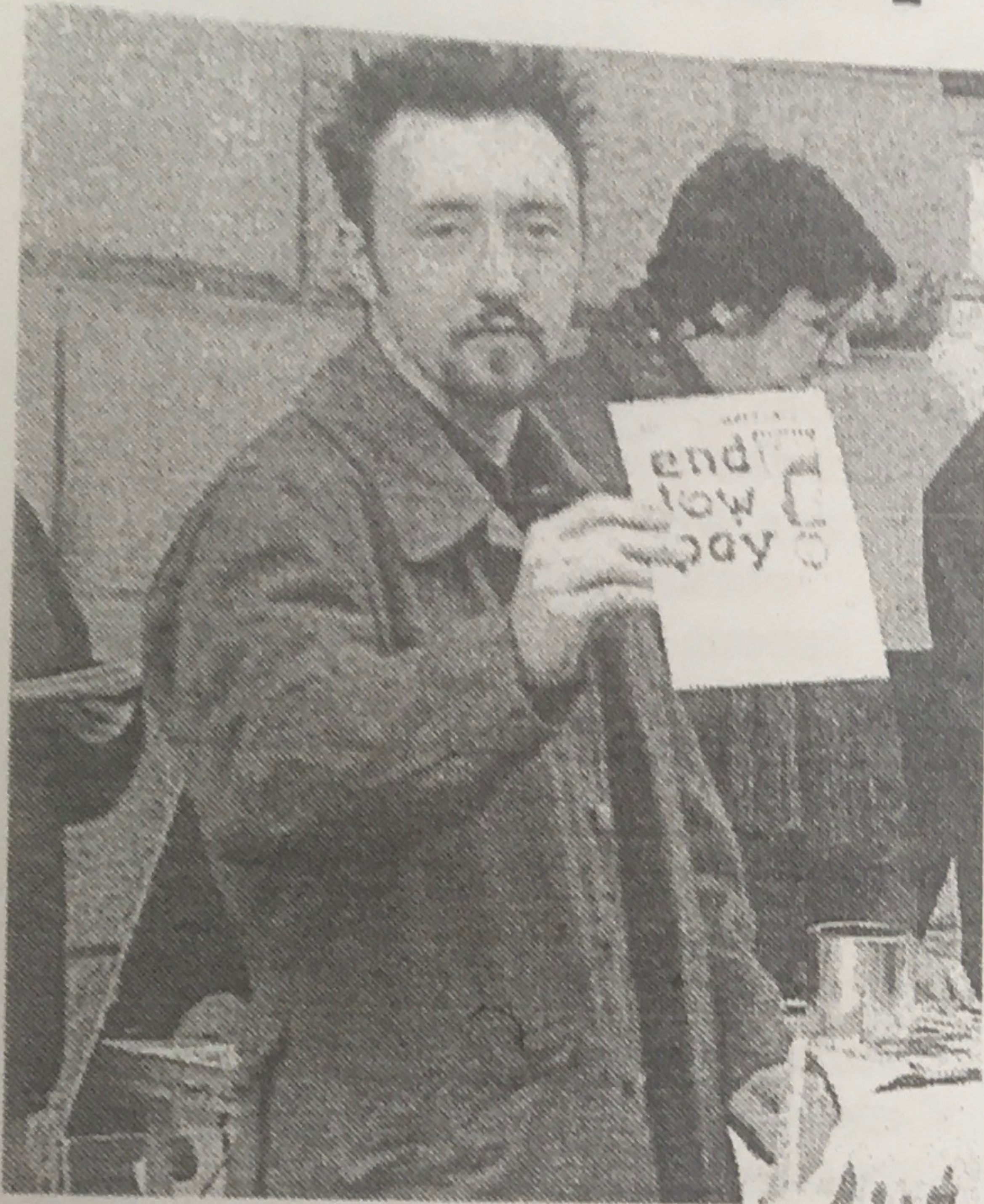
Burke then forced RTE to lower the license costs for Century by £200,000 at the taxpayers' expense.

## New education set for Swords

A campaign is up and running to set up a multi-denominational school in the Swords area. Many such schools have been set up around Dublin and have proved very popular. Working under the national umbrella group, Educate Together, the school ethos is multi-denominational, co-educational, child-centred and democratically run, while having the same curriculum as all other national schools. It is hoped that recognition will be granted by the Department of Education, this year, and if there is enough interest to open in September 2000. If you are interested in finding out more, or enrolling your child, contact Swords Educate Together at 8900721.

The Government are planning that the national minimum wage of only £4.40 will be introduced from April 2000, rising to £5 an hour in October 2002! They have an objective, not a commitment, to remove workers on the national minimum wage from the tax net by October 2002. If you are 16 or 17 an employer can pay you only 70% of the minimum wage - £3.08, 18 year olds .80% or £3.68., 19 year olds 90% or £4.14. Trainees can be denied the full minimum wage for three years of training.

# Reject This Insult To The Low Paid



£4.40 an hour is an insult to the low paid. The Socialist Party has called demonstrations in Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Wexford to fight for £5 tax free.

The nurses and the farmers showed how the bosses and the government can be defeated. You now have a chance to take a stand against the scrooge employers and their friends in Leinster House.

Take part in the regional and national demonstrations and send out a clear and loud message that workers will no longer tolerate low pay. The Socialist Party is campaigning for the minimum wage to be introduced immediately at £5 per hour, tax free.

The low paid do not have the luxury of being able to wait 3 years to receive £5 per hour, and they need more than just objectives, false promises from politicians, they need it tax free now.

## Women fighting low pay

A majority of the low paid in Ireland are women. Workers at Roches Stores in Dublin are on strike over the fact that they are paid as little as £4.16 an hour. In Dublin 10,000 contract cleaners threatened industrial action and won a pay increase to £5 per hour.

In Cork, home helps who were being paid £1.70 per hour by the SHB, fought a campaign and got an increase to £3 per hour, they are still fighting for more. £5 an hour tax free would have dramatic affect on the lives of working class women.

### Name and Shame

The Socialist Party's End Low Pay Campaign has been naming and shaming low paying employers all over Ireland. Our stalls have publicly outed the scrooge bosses, some of whom are paying as little as £1.50 per hour! The campaign has played an important role in getting the idea of a £5 minimum wage, tax free onto the agenda. But we won't be stopping there, we will continue our campaign until our demands are implemented. And once the minimum wage comes in we will act as enforcers. We will picket the businesses of employers who refuse to pay the minimum wage. In Belfast, our members have picketed businesses that are breaking the law by paying less than the minimum wage, and we have forced them to increase their wage rates. Employers be warned, we will be watching you.

Do you want to "Name and Shame" your scrooge employer?

Contact the Socialist Party Low Pay hotline at 6772592.

## Greedy Bosses!

IBEC argues that workers shouldn't price themselves out of a job, yet... Aidan Heavey,

chief executive of Tullow Oil, is paid £284,000 a year....

The total net worth of the 100 wealthiest people in Ireland is over £10 billion.

It would take a worker on £4.40 per hour 25,000 years to earn what one rich boss, Denis O'Brien of Esat, made in one day on the stock market - £230 million!

The employers' organisation IBEC have conspired with the Government to keep the minimum wage as low as possible. Yet these hypocrites think that the low paid can survive on just £4.40 per hour.

At a time of record profits, they expect us to believe that they can't afford to pay £5.

They expect the low paid to be grateful that they have a job.

The low paid can't afford to subsidise the rich any longer.

## Fight for £2,000 per year more!

Under the governments' proposed minimum wage of £4.40 a low paid worker, for a 39 hour week, after tax, would have a take home pay of £157.

Under the Socialist Party's proposal of £5 per hour, tax free, this worker, for a 39 hour week would have a take home pay

of £195. That is nearly £2000 per year more!

## NORTH COUNTY RESIDENTS

TAKE NOTE....

# WE'RE GOING TO BE DUMPED ON AGAIN!

Before the local elections last year, Fingal councillors voted through a Waste Management Strategy, which was agreed by the four Dublin local authorities. The Socialist Party opposed it at the time, and continue to oppose it.

Part of the strategy involves acceptance of a major additional landfill dump for Dublin's municipal waste. As a result, a number of sites have been shortlisted, all in north county Dublin, and an extension to Balleally dump is being examined.

From an original list of 16 possible sites, Fingal have shortlisted 5 for more detailed examination as the potential location of Dublin's new dump, with a capacity of 10-11 million tonnes. They are the Tooman, Annsbrook, Loughmain/Brownstown, Palmerstown, and Loughbarn, all rural parts of the north county.

These must be opposed. The only solution to the waste crisis is a policy based on waste reduction and reuse. Landfill as we know it is not necessary. Every decision to extend or open

a landfill site, sets back the implementation of these alternatives. Political action can eliminate non-reusable or non-recyclable waste, for example, through the banning of items such as plastic bags, and the introduction of severe penalties for excess and unnecessary packaging.

Waste separation at source through the use of different bins for different waste has worked very successfully in other countries, with the re-use and recycling of the vast majority of waste. Why should any community have to put up with all the problems caused by proximity to a landfill site, just because the political will to implement these alternatives has been lacking.

The Socialist Party councillors are opposing this plan and we are there to assist the local communities in their campaigns to stop this death sentence. We showed that people power defeated the hated water charges, when the powers that be said there was no alternative, we can do the same on this issue.

## BALLEALLY DUMP EXTENSION MUST BE FOUGHT

Fingal County Council is currently examining the possibility of extending Balleally dump to the south. A commitment has already been given that Balleally will close in 2004, but its remaining capacity will probably be filled by 2003.

Hence the call for it to be extended to allow it to continue to be used up until 2004.

Residents should not be fooled. For over thirty years, Balleally has been the subject of broken promises. The local communities in Lusk and Rush have had to suffer the consequences in terms of health and quality of life. Why should they be scapegoated again? Is the council going to bother to extend it just for a year. What's to stop them saying in 2004, we have no choice, it'll have to stay open until we have an alternative.

Their own consultants admit it will take another 6-7 years to develop a new landfill site. Even if that was achieved it leaves 2-3 years after Balleally is due to close where they have nothing in place. It doesn't take a genius to work out that Balleally will be called on again.

This extension must be stopped. All residents must use the next number of weeks and months to step up the pressure on the so-called public representatives, public meetings should be called and commitments sought. Protest activity must again take place. The extension will only go ahead if councillors vote for it.

Don't let them off the hook. Why should our communities suffer because of politicians' failure to deal with the waste crisis? Take action now.

applications for planning permission and the planning decisions made. These can have an important bearing on the development of your area. Keep informed, check out the website [www.fingalcoco.ie](http://www.fingalcoco.ie)

Fingal County Council has a website, which gives information on services provided by the Council, information on Council meetings, and the elected representatives. Every week it is updated to include the weekly

## Tunnel vision?

Two days after Christmas, the Minister cynically announced that the controversial Port Tunnel would go ahead. As usual the so-called public inquiry was a total whitewash, ignoring the well researched arguments of campaigns like Santry Against the Port Tunnel, who clearly showed the devastating effects this proposal would have in terms of their health and quality of life.

This is a proposal to benefit big business in getting trucks to the port. A toll of £3 for cars will operate. The road works in Drumcondra in recent weeks will give you some idea of what it will be like when the route to the city centre is reduced to a single lane to accommodate the tunnel.

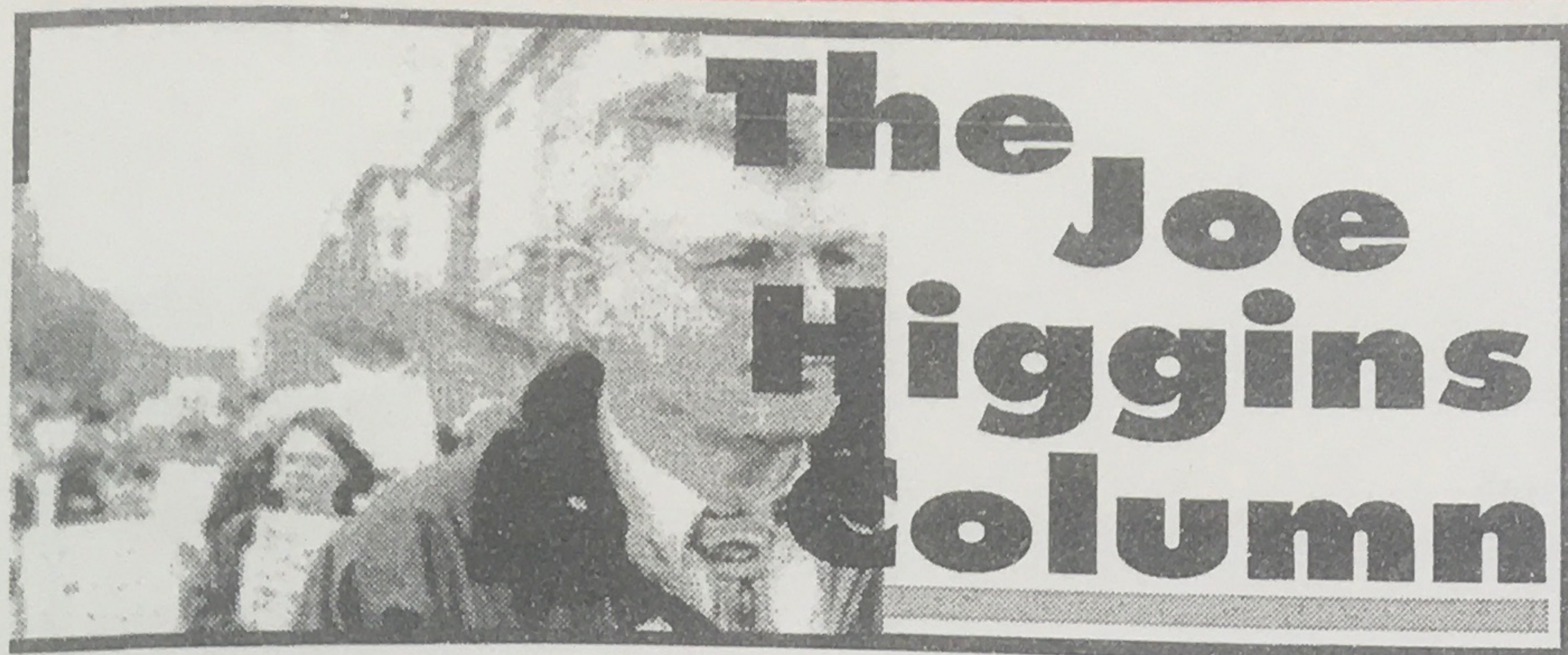
The campaign goes on with complaints to the European Commission, court action and pressure on the politicians to stop this madness.

## Swords traffic betrayal

After a year of traffic chaos in Swords, following the village "improvements!!" scheme, the Council agreed last October to reinstate the traffic lights. In response to a motion from Clare Daly, they said the contract was going out to tender and that rather than carry out the work in December, disrupting the Christmas shopping, the work would be completed in January.

January has come and gone, and no lights. Now amnesia has set in and they claim that they hope to have that work and a number of other traffic calming measures in the village, completed in the next number of months.

That is not good enough. It is a miracle that nobody has been killed already. Is that what they're waiting for? Swords Community Council have been campaigning on this issue for a long time, now is probably the time to engage in protest action again.



# "There is one law for the banks and another for the poor."

**O**ne would think that with two Tribunals sitting to investigate the corrupt relationship between big business and establishment politicians, that the Government might adopt a policy of "zero tolerance" towards anybody else found to be involved in shady off-shore accounts or major tax evasion.

So, when the Taoiseach, Bertie Aherne was forced to come into the Dail to explain what he knew about the incredible story of one of his Fianna Fail T.D.s (Denis Foley, Ansbacher account) he pleaded for compassion for the feelings of the individual concerned.

Regarding the pressure on senior politicians caught in such activities to resign, the Taoiseach said "it is better from every point of view if the individual can be brought to understand the action that is required, and that they acknowledge the justice of it by taking the necessary steps themselves. On occasion, a little space may need to be given."

Speaking shortly after the Taoiseach in that debate, I pointed out the breathtaking double standards involved here. I said that when the Taoiseach referred to space being given, he no doubt meant space for wealth public representatives or top bank executives and then continued "If a poor single mother shoplifts some groceries for her needy family and is caught ... there will be space for her in the Bridewell overnight and space before a District Court judge in the morning and there will be space, for a few months perhaps, in Mountjoy for the crime. ... There is one law for the banks and another for the poor."

I then went on to outline the news we had got that morning that apparently the banks may escape large penalties for their complicity in massive tax evasion over fifteen or twenty years by evoking measures in the Irish Constitution. The Constitution is rapidly becoming

an overcrowded refuge for scoundrels in this country. The banks are only the latest powerful institutions to hide behind it. It is being used to prevent the abolition of ground rents. It is being cited to prevent laws being brought in to control the outrageous speculation and profiteering in building land by developers. It has even been cited as making it difficult to bring in legislation to control the powers of private landlords in dealing with their tenants.

There was further evidence of the double standards of government when the proposed new National Stadium was discussed in the Dail. Minister for Sports, Mr. McDaid, lavishly praised Mr. J.P. McManus for offering a donation of £50m towards the construction of the Stadium. Mr. McDaid mentioned a legal agreement between J.P. McManus and the State in regard to the Stadium. It was not available before the debate. I demanded to see it before any vote was taken in the debate. I pointed out that we could only speculate on its contents. I wondered if it included a runway for Mr. McManus' private airplane as he jetted in from his tax exile in Switzerland.

I pointed out how sports is regarded as a way of raising the sights of young people to a healthier lifestyle and a better life. I then told a few home truths about Mr. McManus. "He is a businessman who has made a fortune from gambling and speculation in the world's currency casinos, a profoundly anti-social, speculative venture that undermines poor countries, destroys social programmes and impoverishes people. Is that the model for youth?"

**Joe Higgins is a Socialist Party TD for Dublin West and a Socialist Party Councillor for the Mulhuddart ward. He can be contacted at 6183038.**

## Voices in the Dail

During the debate on the Government reshuffle of Ministers January 27th. Tanaiste (Mary Harney )  
 "I listened to Deputy Burton's contribution and I could not help but reflect on how similar his comments have been of late to those of Deputy Joe Higgins. I do not know whether he has found a new scriptwriter"

Joe Higgins "This is a Government which ... pushes at every turn the freebooting greed which characterises capitalist globalisation"

On the nomination of Brian Cowen as Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mary O'Rourke T.D. (Minister for Public Enterprise) "We are extremely pleased that Deputy Cowen will be bringing his qualities to the Foreign Affairs position"

Joe Higgins "Dictatorships throughout the world are quaking"

On the Order of Business, Wednesday, February

Joe Higgins "The State sold off important telecommunications franchise so that private businessmen could speculate and walk away with hundreds of millions of pounds profit that should belong to the Irish people. Is it proposed to privatise a significant section of Aer Rianta and ... the Great Southern Hotel Group. Is the Taoiseach aware that the Minister for Public Enterprise is beginning to make Margaret Thatcher look like a liberal and moderate with her programmes of privatisation?"

On the Order of Business Thursday, December 9th 1999

Joe Higgins "Will the Tanaiste make time available today to continue its discussion (on the Budget) so that we can highlight the outrage of ordinary people over a Budget patently for the rich and privileged in society cooked up in a villa in the South France between the Tanaiste and the Minister for Finance along with the steak and red wine?"

## SHARED OWNERSHIP

# A certain opportunity for affordable housing

Related action is being taken by the government on the housing crisis which they, and the other big business parties created, by refusing to build local authority housing and facilitating speculation, rezonings and profiteering.

While not guaranteeing that those on the average industrial wage will be able to secure an affordable home, some initiatives are beginning to be implemented which will enable many people, who would not otherwise be able to buy a house, put a roof of their own over their head.

One such scheme is the shared ownership scheme run by the Councils. This was a scheme to assist those on low income buy a home. The rise in house prices made this scheme virtually redundant, as very few houses were available within the range of the scheme, which had a ceiling of £90,000.

That situation has changed now, with the councils building houses themselves, specifically for shared ownership housing. The scheme is open to any individual whose income is less than £20,000, or a couple where the combination of 2.5 times the principal salary plus the second salary does not exceed £50,000.

A deposit of £1000 is required upfront, the Council look after all the legal and other expenses. Just contact the Council's housing department at 8727777, and ask them to send you out a form. They will assess your income and savings and grant you approval for a certain amount based on that information.

Among the first of these houses to come on stream are 21 houses in Jugback Lane in Swords, where the price has been set at £88,000 and £90,000, for a mid-terrace, and end-of-terrace, respectively. Others in Seamount in Malahide(14), and Clonard Street Balbriggan (9), are under construction. Anyone who has approval for the purchase price will be written to and offered the chance to view the houses. They then express an interest in the property if they would like it, and are entered into a lottery.

Many people feel that this is a very unfair system of allocation, and in

many ways it is, but in the context of a big demand and not enough houses, there is not really a fairer way. This situation will improve as more and more houses are built.

While this is not nearly adequate to tackle the housing crisis, it will benefit over one thousand people. If you are someone for whom the idea of a home of your own is out of reach then contact the council and find out more about the scheme.

### Number of shared ownership houses to be constructed

**Year 2000 Houses 330**

**Year 2001 Houses 350**

**Year 2002 Houses 505**

**Year 2003 Houses 235**

**Total of houses 1420**

## Travellers accommodation plan

The problem of accommodation is not just experienced by settled people, if anything the situation facing Travellers is far worse. Over the next two months, Fingal County Council, and all other local authorities, will be agreeing a five year Travellers Accommodation Plan. The Socialist Party welcomes this plan.

It is an attempt to come up with a balanced solution to the scandalous situation that only 71 Fingal Travelling families, out of 262 are currently accommodated. As a result of this situation, most live on unauthorised encampments, which are not serviced in terms of the provision of essential services like water and refuse collection, and consequently cause unnecessary problems for both the Travelling and settled communities.

The plan proposes a mix of traditional housing, group housing schemes and halting sites, in many different locations around the county. Where official halting sites are established, they have worked very well. They are properly designed and equipped with essential services, a full time caretaker lives on the site, and often pre-school and other community initiatives take place there.

The provision of accommodation is the first step to ending the ridiculous discrimination experienced by the Travelling community. They make up less than 1% of the population, yet their life expectancy is on average 20 years lower than that of the settled community. Improved accommodation is the key to an increased uptake in education, health and employment.

## The Socialist Party fights for

☛ **Control the price of building land.**

Land for housing should be bought by the Local Authorities at agricultural value by compulsory purchase order.

☛ **Outlaw profiteering**

Houses should be priced at their proven cost to build.

☛ **Take on the landlords**

For all landlords to be forced to register for tax purposes and to ensure they respect tenants rights.

For the Rent Tribunal to set rents.

All tenants to have security of tenure.

For purpose build student accommodation by the state.

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# The Planning Bill - An attack on your democratic rights

The Government has just introduced a major new planning bill into the Dail. When I spoke in the Dail on the bill on Thursday, February 10th, I pointed out some major problems with it. Some key provisions attack the democratic rights of individuals, residents associations and community organisations.

The first time a fee will have to be paid to the County Council to make an objection or observation about a planning application.

The right to appeal against a planning permission to An Bord Pleanála will be restricted to those (if any) who objected to the original planning permission. This is extremely serious as, in some cases, residents may not hear of a planning permission until the local authority has given it. In that case, they would be helpless if they wish to appeal.

People who might want to appeal a planning permission to the High Court would not be able to do so unless they

could show a "substantial interest" in the case. The courts might interpretative a "substantial interest" as a property interest. This could mean that residents groups or environmental groups would be debarred from going for a judicial review of, for example, the granting of permission for an incinerator in their area.

The price of building land and of new houses continues to rocket. Unfortunately, this planning bill does nothing to stop the outrageous profiteering by a handful of speculators and developers in what is a basic human need.

Unfortunately, some of the major political parties, which have received large amounts of political donations from the building industry, allowed naked greed to make it very difficult for young people to purchase a home. This has caused much anguish for ordinary people. There is also an enormous crisis with the people on the waiting list for local authority homes.

## Land speculation to pay for National Stadium?

The Price Waterhouse Cooper report, which recommended the building of the National Sports Stadium also, advocates the sale of 275 acres of agricultural land that would be left over. The report states that this could be rezoned for housing or commercial and could be sold for £80million.

This is an outrageous proposal. Abbottstown was a crucial green break between the huge built up communities of Greater Blanchardstown and Finglas. There is now enough land

zoned in Blanchardstown to bring the population up to about 130,000. Planning permission has been given for over 1,500 houses just beside Abbottstown on the lands formerly owned by Blanchardstown Hospital. An application has just come in for 2,200 in one block of land less than a mile away from the proposed new stadium. It is vital for the sake of the existing communities and future generations that we maintain areas that are green and open between the large concentrations of population so that we can breathe.

## Funding needed to fund facilities for youth sports clubs

Local clubs, which cater for children in field games and other sports, are desperately in need of funding for basic facilities such as changing rooms and showers. These clubs provide a youth service to many communities in Fingal and would not exist except for the dedication of important volunteers who put an enormous amount of time into providing this outlet for the children. Following discussion with a number of locals, Joe Higgins TD is engaging in discussion with Fingal County Council on how they can back up the drive to get these facilities. He is also raising the issue with Minister for Sport, Mr. McDauid. The provision of decent facilities, which encourage children and young people to participate in sport and field games, has tremendous social benefits by giving them an alternative to becoming involved in self destructive or anti social behaviour.

## 2,000 houses, but still no school

Menolly Property has made a fortune from the residents of the new housing estates in Clonee, Dublin 15. But their greed is still not satisfied. They have yet to agree a price with the Department of Education for the sale of the land earmarked for the area's primary school. They will not be allowed hold up proceedings any longer. At a meeting in The Mill House, Clonee on Wednesday 15th February, local residents decided to let visitors to the Show houses know that there is no primary school in the area.

The Department of Education should not be left off the hook either. When land is zoned for upwards of 5,000 houses the sites earmarked for schools and other facilities should be bought straight away. The site for the Secondary school should be acquired now so that residents will not face this situation again in five years time. Immediate action is necessary if the promised opening date of September 2000 is to be achieved.

## Castleknock Community college

Again the lack of planning by the Department of Education is causing chaos for students and parents in the Castleknock area. the castleknock Community College is overrun with applications for places that it cannot fulfil. Students in the area are being turned away even though the college might be on their doorstep. There is only one playing pitch left on the grounds so room for expansion is at an end. The department has ben has been chasing its tail for years now and have stumbled from one crisis to another.

Parents are to hold another meeting to discuss this latest crisis. What is needed is forward planning, not just a reaction to this latest problem.

# SERVISAIR SHOWS THE WAY

The four day strike by Servisair workers in January at Dublin airport, has gone some way to overcome the negative fall-out from the Ryanair fiasco. They have shown that militancy pays- winning significant improvements in shift pay and supplements for early starts, nights, and weekends.

*By Cllr. Clare Daly*

Despite, the confusion caused by SIPTU failing to direct those in the Civil Aviation branch to refuse to handle work done by scabs, although that was the instruction to the Aer Lingus branch, who interface less with Servisair, the determination of the strikers won the day.



Servisair strikers.

There was widespread support for the strike from other airport workers. The dispute shows the need for an airport wide shop stewards committee, to exchange information and co-ordinate action. Aer Lingus workers, have seen a local partnership been used to hold back wages and conditions. Our pay, once the envy of many workers is now less than the starting pay in Servisair. We need action now.

Important battles are not far down the road, with the government determined to sell-off the national airline in the course of the year. While some workers feel that this couldn't make things any worse than they already are, the reality is, that if this goes ahead workers will be sacrificing their job security and terms and conditions. Apart from giving away the public airline which has built an excellent reputation in terms of safety and quality of service, through the dedication of its workforce and taxpayers money.

With the opening up of competition, workers in different companies in the airport are being fobbed off with nonsense that their conditions have to be held back because of competition from the others. Meanwhile the employers are laughing all the way to the bank. We should come together at grassroots level, to take on not just the employers, but SIPTU also, who have rested on their laurels with the partnership agreements being used to say they can't do any more. Servisair showed the way, lets link up and follow them, we'll never have a better opportunity.

## Where we stand on the key issues

- ☛ For a minimum basic social welfare payment of £150 a week for the unemployed, pensioners, widowers and those on sickness and disability benefit.
- .....
- ☛ For a minimum wage of £5.00 an hour with no exemptions to rise to £8.00 within three years.
- ☛ For a 32 hour working week with no loss in pay.
- ☛ For all workers, whether full time, part time or on contracts to have full pension, sick pay and holiday rights.
- .....
- ☛ No worker to pay tax above a 25% rate.
- Increase the tax eligibility level to £10,000 a year for single workers and pro-rata for couples.
- No more amnesties or loopholes for the rich, make them pay their full share.
- No to local charges - No double taxation in any form.
- .....
- ☛ For a properly funded public health care system to put an end to waiting lists.
- No to a two tier health service.
- For free and comprehensive health care, with clinics in all areas to provide primary medical services.
- .....
- ☛ Take economic power out of the hands of the bankers, speculators and wealthy industrialists and transfer it to those who do the work and create the wealth.
- ☛ For public ownership and democratic socialist planning of the key areas of economic activity.

**Join the Socialist Party** I would like to join the Socialist Party

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Address .....

.....Tel.....

Return to: Socialist Party P.O. Box 3434, Dublin 8 or phone (01) 6772592



**Title:** Fingal Voice

**Organisation:** Socialist Party

**Date:** 2000 c.

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