

# UNCENSORED NEWS

# Sinn Féin

March/April 1989



● PAT DOHERTY

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

**UNCENSORED NEWS** will be a monthly publication in Donegal, that will be distributed to the public by Sinn Féin. In these pages we intend to address local issues, respond with our policies, divulge and hopefully unveil some of the current injustices and corruption that prevent us all from moving forward. Our intention is to form a broad based readership, to combat the censorship of what is a legitimate political party. Our first publication coincides with International Women's Day, for which we must pay tribute to humanity's longest struggle. It is in this spirit we intend to build our message, and therefore are interested in contributions from anyone in the public interested in the progressive politics of Sinn Féin.

Contributions should be submitted to 104 Lower Main Street, Letterkenny.

## Sinn Féin EEC candidate

PAT DOHERTY from Carrigart who was recently elected vice-president of Sinn Féin is one of three candidates for Sinn Féin in the Connaught-Ulster constituency. The other two candidates are, Caoimhghin O Caolain from Monaghan and Dermot Guy from Galway.

Prior to his election as leas-uachtaran, Pat Doherty was National Organiser of Sinn Féin and was the party's Director of Elections for the Leinster House elections in 1987.

At a Electoral Directorate meeting Pat Doherty said that the main thrust of the Sinn Féin campaign should be related to agriculture and the allocation and spending of regional funding.

He said that rural areas of Ireland, particularly the western counties, were severely affected by the EEC agricultural policy, which had forced hundreds of small farmers to leave the land, resulting in the breakup of communities.

He said that it had been proven in other European countries that with proper planning, small farm holdings can not only be economically viable, but have greater long term advantages with relation to job creation in the development of community based co-operatives processing industries. He said that the present methods of allocation and spending of regional funds only served the interests of hoteliers, large farmers and self interested business people in general. The supposed investment in the tourist industry, he said, was totally misleading. Job creation in this area was negligible, as the temporary nature of employment in hotel work provides no security or statutory employment entitlements.

Sinn Féin would strive with the EEC for the allocation of capital investment to create long term employment. To ensure that infrastructure development would be concentrated in areas such as Donegal, where this development has been so badly neglected in the past".

## Vote Sinn Féin 1, 2 & 3

# CRISIS OF SHELTER

THE FAILURE of consecutive Dublin governments to come to grips with its chronic housing shortage is reflected in its latest statistics for grants to local authorities.

The finance allocated for housing has been reduced as follows over the past four years:

1985	—	£189m
1986	—	£181m
1987	—	£81m
1988	—	£49m

This represents a reduction of 25% in just four years.

The official figure for families in Letterkenny on the housing waiting list is 135.

Most of these families have been waiting for a council house for over six years and are forced to live in overcrowded and totally inadequate accommodation.

Despite sustained representation to local councillors demanding adequate funding for house building, they continue to act as though a housing crisis does not exist. Instead of challenging present government's inaction they clamour for the position of official apologist attempting to justify such inaction.

## THATCHER STRATEGY

SINN FEIN believe that Fianna Fail's policy on housing is but a carbon copy of the Thatcher strategy which represents a rundown of local authority housing thereby forcing young families in particular to purchase a house on a long term mortgage. The results of this strategy has meant that thousands of families face an endless struggle to meet ever increasing mortgage repayments. The only benefactors of this scheme being the banks and building societies.

For families who cannot even contemplate buying their own home it means that their present living conditions regardless of how inadequate, must be accepted in even longer terms than they would have thought possible.

The only solution to this present crisis is the declaration of a housing emergency by the central government and its development of a long term programme of housing which would take account of current needs and project requirements.



LIAM McELHINNEY

## COUNCILLOR IMPRISONED

COUNCILLOR LIAM McELHINNEY was imprisoned for five years at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin on Friday, February 24th.

The State successfully appealed to the Supreme Court against a High Court ruling, which had earlier quashed a five year sentence imposed by the Special Criminal Court last June following the conviction of the Donegal Sinn Fein councillor on a charge of seditious while speaking at the Drumboe commemoration.

Pat Doherty of Carrigart, Sinn Fein vice-president, said that, "there was a pro-British offensive North and south of the border against opponents of British rule in Ireland.

"Their motives are to deny Sinn Fein the right to function as a political party by censorship laws, police repression and the denial of the right to free speech."



**Drumboe**

**Commemoration**  
Assemble:

**Stranorlar**

(Johnston's corner)

Main Speaker: **Mitchel**

**McLaughlin**

*Bands in attendance*

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Sinn  
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# A POSITIVE ANSWER TO WOMEN'S NEEDS

LETTERKENNY WOMEN'S CENTRE is very near opening its doors, as a much needed and welcome service to the women of the community. The Centre, which has been established at 16 Port Road, is the result of two years of concentrated effort by several concerned women in the community.

The determination of these women must be applauded, in recognition of their voluntary labour and time subsidies to a project that became precedent in every other developed countries' infrastructure twenty years ago.

According to the Centre's committee spokesperson, the idea was spawned out of the overwhelming attendance and interest in a one day seminar on Women and Health, held in Letterkenny in October of 1986, in conjunction with the National Women and Health Week. Originally a committee formed to follow-up on the issues raised at the seminar. This was addressed through the organising of several workshops on specific issues. It soon became evident to this committee that a physical centre, designed to cater to women's issues, was a long overdue necessity. After a functional organisation of committees, several dedicated and sometimes tedious hours, and one year later, the premises on the Port Road was confirmed.



In response to the absence of its own family planning programme or stipulations, the North Western Health Board have provided a grant to purchase equipment for the clinics, as well as a 50% of the operating costs for the first year. The committee is planning other fundraising projects as well, so as to see through the extensive plans to fully utilise the facility.

Although family planning and cervical screening are the most immediately planned and urgently needed services, other plans include a wide variety of workshops, classes and support groups, and a women's library. Currently running every Thursday evening, is an eight week seminar on Women and Health.

The committee spokesperson emphasised the urgent need for a Centre of this kind, is clearly seen through the enthusiastic response of the women in the community, and added that the membership in the Centre is open to anyone interested. The alarming facts of women's health threats are reported daily in our newspapers, but the evidence of ignorance remains. A survey in 1986 regarding family planning facilities in this region, showed only 22% of the GP's surveyed, having family planning certificates. Even more distressing was a survey conducted in 1988, showing that of mothers having their second child in Letterkenny General Hospital, that 32% had never had a smear test, and of the 68% who had the majority had felt they must travel what was often a long distance to a legitimate clinic.

# WHAT SINN FÉIN WILL FIGHT FOR:

Unemployment and emigration are the greatest problems facing our nation at the present time. Immediate steps must be taken to provide capital for job creation, stop the exportation of profits, and the government debt.

Job creation programme. The encouragement of Irish publicly-owned co-operatives and an end to forced emigration.

Social Welfare increases to bring basic income up to £60 per week for single people and the equivalent increases for families — as recommended by the 1986 Commission of Social Welfare.

Tax reform. Tax reductions for those on or below the average industrial wage. Introduction of wealth and profit taxes. No excessive tax breaks or grants to subsidise big businesses. Shift the burden of taxes from the PAYE workers.

The upgrading of Letterkenny General Hospital and will oppose closure of St Conals.

Free education, both primary and secondary. Free book scheme for all on low income. More teachers and smaller classes. Real access to third level education for working class people.

Clean environment. Sinn Fein was the first party to call for closure of Sellafield.

Effective neutrality. Neutrality to be enshrined in the Constitution. All ships and aircraft carrying nuclear weapons to be barred from Irish seas and airspace. Resistance to moves by EEC/NATO/Single European Act to wipe out neutrality.

No water rates or ground rents. Adequate funding to local authorities.

Housing. The declaration of a Housing Emergency. Cut-backs in expenditure by Fianna Fail and Fine Gael for housing reflects their lack of will to tackle the problem of homelessness. (See housing article)

Agriculture: Interest free loans for small dairy farmers to increase milk quotas.

Roads: Upgrading of all roads in Donegal and an effective programme for road maintenance.

Fish: For a 100 mile fishing zone and an increase in quotas.

# THE LETTERKENNY PARKING SCANDAL

THE SITING of the Department of Social Welfare offices at the upper end of Oliver Plunkett car park, part of the government's so-called decentralisation policy, seems only to be a blatant distraction that glosses over blunder and waste of the public money.

The car park that cost the public £250,000 to build only five years ago, will now forfeit its place to a new government building, which of course will also come out of the taxpayers' pocket as well. Lest we forget, this more than likely will mean that we will probably be asked in the near future to fund an alternative car park.

After the poor planning and the years of hiccups in the construction of the car park, the proposed development exposes the haphazard procedures, waste, and continual failure of the town's representatives to stand up to outside and special interest pressure.

## STEAMROLLED

Even though five other less expensive sites were available within the town, including the former bacon factory, the proposed site has seemingly been steamrolled through by Des Mahon, the assistant county manager.

The question must be asked, "of who's interest does the siting of these offices serve at the public's unnecessary expense?" Would not the car park built recently beside the Golden Grill with public money, serving mainly this private establishment, have been less of a loss to the people of Letterkenny and the district?

Furthermore, the myth must be explored that new jobs are being created in this venture. The fact of the matter stands, that 200 people presently employed in Dublin will be transferred to Letterkenny, at what now is showing itself to be a much greater cost than advantage to our area.

Sinn Fein calls for a public inquiry into this entire affair, because we believe that the total cost of this scandal would be equivalent to the cost of 100 new homes, for which there is certainly a greater need.

**Donegal Sinn  
Féin  
Comhairle  
Ceantair**

THE following officer Board was elected at the recent AGM of Donegal Sinn Fein members.

Cathaoirleach: Pat Doherty  
Leas-cathaoirleach: Gerry McMonagle  
Runai: Una McIvor  
Cisteoir: Pat Murphy  
Oifigeach Airgeadais: Veronica Molloy  
OCP: Johnny White  
Oifigeach Oideachas: John McCluskey  
Ceannasal Roinn na gCimi: Rosie Diamond  
Oifigeach Cultuir: Maura McCluskey

