



Poblacht na nOibrithe

Election Special February 2011

CHANGE THE SYSTEM - NOT JUST THE GOVERNMENT

Despite all the waffle of the establishment politicians a change of government will make virtually no difference to the current economic and social crisis. Swapping Fianna Fáil and the Greens for Fine Gael, Labour or Sinn Féin will be about as useful as rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic.

Two international institutions, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Union (EU) are now in control of the purse strings of this state. Fianna Fáil and the Green Party handed over power to these vultures in return for loans of €68 billion. This shameful pact came with crippling interest rates and a series of anti-social austerity measures that will impoverish this and future generations.

The brutal effects of cutback budgets and bank bailouts are already painfully evident. 440,000 people are on the dole. Another 50,000 people will be forced to emigrate this year alone. The rates of child poverty have increased dramatically. Housing waiting lists are growing and the public health and education systems are collapsing. And most alarmingly of all the rate of suicide is on the rise. Unfortunately there is more to come from the IMF/EU, including a tax on the family home, water taxes, VAT increases and the privatisation of public assets.

Social Parasites Protected

While the IMF/EU deal will drive ordinary people into poverty and despair, the debts of bankers and developers are being cleared. These social parasites, along with their political friends, continue to enjoy privileged lifestyles - joyriding in helicopters from their vast mansions to racehorse meetings.

Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, Labour and the Green Party have all publicly stated that they broadly support the IMF/EU deal. Sinn Féin's claims of opposition to the deal should be taken with a pinch of salt. In the Six Counties Sinn Féin are happily implementing savage cutbacks and preparing to introduce water



taxes. All talk of 'renegotiation' by the establishment parties is nothing more than cynical electioneering.

There is Another Way

But it does not have to be like this. History has shown that people power can bring about real change. The working people of Ireland have a proud history of fighting both foreign and native tyranny. The IMF/EU takeover must be resisted and the failed politics of the political establishment consigned to history. Kick out the IMF/EU and their native lackeys. We need a change of system not just a change of government. It's time to take to the streets and reclaim control of our futures!

éirígí - for a socialist republic

NO to the IMF/EU **YES to a Socialist Republic**

Under the current IMF/EU deal we face a future of mass unemployment, emigration and debt slavery. The establishment parties are proposing 'solutions' that are simply designed to repair the system of casino capitalism that created the crisis. Then it will be back to business as usual for the rich and powerful. We need an alternative to the slash and burn economics of the

political establishment. The only viable alternative is the establishment of a socialist republic where we build an economy that serves the people, not bankers and developers. As a first step we must free ourselves of the burden of private banking debt. The people of Ireland will not be the debt slaves of the banks! We cannot pay, we will not pay!

Towards the Socialist Republican Alternative

1 We Need Jobs

Tackling the jobs crisis is a priority – invest in public infrastructure: schools; hospitals; public transport and broadband networks. We have the expertise in areas such as alternative energy, pharmaceuticals and information technology - establish a public investment fund to create jobs.

2 A Democratic Banking System

To avoid future economic disasters the entire banking sector must be taken permanently out of the hands of the rich and placed under democratic control.

3 Tax the Rich

Ireland remains a very wealthy country but just 1% of the population own 34% of that wealth. éirígí calls for a progressive tax system where wealth is evenly distributed.

4 Nationalise our Oil and Gas

The Dublin government's own figures say our oil and gas fields are potentially worth 100s of billions of euro. These reserves, including the Corrib gas field, should be taken back from the oil corporations and put in public ownership.

5 Invest in Fisheries, Farming and Forestry

Successive Dublin governments have sold out the great potential of Ireland's land and seas in return for short-term EU grants. Public investment in Ireland's fisheries, farms and forests will result in employment and valuable exportable goods.

6 End British Rule in Six Counties

To achieve a true democracy British rule in Ireland must be ended. As James Connolly said: "We cannot conceive of a free Ireland with a subject working class; we cannot conceive of a subject Ireland with a free working class"

Join éirígí

éirígí is made up of ordinary people who have decided to take a stand and fight for a better future for their families, their communities and their country. People just like you. If you are interested in joining éirígí or helping us in some way please:

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