

PRESS RELEASE

from

SINN FÉIN

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WAGES FREEZE OPPOSED

Sinn Féin opposes resolutely the wages freeze imposed by the 26-County Minister for Finance on Friday last. The very idea of interfering with free collective bargaining is bad enough, but the attempt to change by law the terms of agreements already freely entered into is reprehensible in the extreme, and a very dangerous precedent. Workers must, by strong opposition to these measures now, ensure that such a precedent does not in fact come into existence.

The introduction of the Turnover Tax, the Wholesale Tax and each increase of them have been occasions for "hidden" price increases. Decimal Day on February 15 next may well prove to be another such occasion despite guarantees to the contrary. The so-called price control has been largely a failure and the further controls announced with the wages freeze promise to be merely just more window-dressing to take the sting out of what is an outrageous interference with workers' rights.

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