

WHAT WE SEEK

AND HOW TO ACHIEVE IT

BY a Democratic Socialist Republic we mean an Ireland in which democracy would be extended to economic as well as political life. Under the present system a few wealthy individuals decide the fate of millions. For instance, office blocks are built instead of houses despite the shortage of living accommodation. This is because more money can be made out of office blocks by the wealthy few. This is the inhuman capitalist system under which the rich get richer and the poor poorer.

We wish to bring the means of production, distribution and exchange under the control of the producers of wealth, the workers and farmers, through co-operative ownership and management. And we wish to see all Ireland free of foreign domination, political and economic.

In short, we seek to change the system. Leinster House is an instrument of the present system, imposed on us by Britain, helping to keep us divided and exploited, with high unemployment and emigration, and guaranteeing large profits to the few at the expense of the many. Our objectives cannot be achieved in full within the framework of the present system. What is

needed is a movement to change that system, and Séamus Costello will lead that movement in Wicklow if the electors give him their support.

AFTER 46 YEARS OF THE LEINSTER HOUSE GOMBEEN CAPITALIST SYSTEM SINN FÉIN IS LEADING THE STRUGGLE TO REPLACE IT. WE HAVE A POSITIVE, VIABLE ALTERNATIVE IN THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC.

Sinn Féin representatives elected at local and parliamentary elections will lead the people in rejecting the present system and building that alternative. They are the only elected representatives free to do so, because they do not accept the assumptions of a system of graft and patronage, but lead the people in demanding their rights. By such radical revolutionary policies we can solve Ireland's problems. But this can be done only by teaching the people not to depend on party hacks to win their rights.

When Sinn Féin wins a majority it will immediately set up a National Parliament and implement its policies for the whole nation. If you are dissatisfied with the sameness of party politics and want a real change. Vote No. 1 Séamus Costello.

Ar son na hÉireann
Ar son na Gaeilge
Ar son Cothrom na Féinne
Ar bhur son féin . . .

a mhuintir Chill Mhantáin!

Vótáil SINN FÉIN

"IF I AM ELECTED . . ."

Séamus Costello says

"The fact that I am not aligning myself with the other political parties in the Leinster House system, which I want to get rid of, does not mean that I will play a negative role in Irish politics.

"If I am elected I will be more active in the constituency on behalf of my constituents than any representative yet elected by the people of Wicklow.

"I will use all methods open to me to gain for the people what is theirs by right, through

- ★ leading a more active opposition to the establishment than has yet appeared on the Irish political scene,
- ★ spending all of my politically active time in the constituency,
- ★ giving leadership on all matters of public importance,
- ★ delegations,
- ★ pressure on government departments,
- ★ pressure on local authorities,
- ★ making full use of the mandate you give me to further our policies,
- ★ directing that the salary which I will not be accepting be used to provide University Scholarships for children of small farmers and underpaid workers in Wicklow.

"This is the first time since the establishment of the state that the electors of Wicklow have been given an opportunity of voting for a real alternative policy. Every vote for me will be a blow against corruption and patronage; against greedy speculators and arrogant ministers — it will be a vote for a policy of powerful political ACTION to restore the ownership of Ireland to the people of Ireland.

"In the last election one-third of the voters did not bother to vote, probably because they saw no point in voting for the political parties which came before them. They now have an opportunity of expressing their desire for a radical change.

"There are many thousands of others who gave the party men a chance and now feel disillusioned and let down with false promises. Now is their opportunity too.

"I have nothing to gain personally from being elected. But I am prepared to SERVE your interests — and lead the movement for a Socialist Republic."

WICKLOW BY-ELECTION, 1968

Your

SINN FÉIN

Candidate



SEAMUS COSTELLO

Vote No. 1
COSTELLO

Youth!

Honesty!

Action!

SINN FEIN POLICY

SINN FEIN is a National 32-County organisation, with a clearly defined ideology and definite political, social, economic and cultural objectives. A political organisation without an ideology and such objectives will sway with every wind that blows and will not be capable of national leadership.

Our major political objective is National Independence and the establishment of a Democratic Socialist Republic based on the 1916 Proclamation. Our economic, social and cultural aims are based on the historic aspirations of the nation and on the fundamental needs of the Irish people to-day. Here are some points from our programme:

FINANCE Finance is the lifeblood of the economy and a national government should have complete control over credit, interest rates and the import and export of money. The Dublin Government has not got this. A unified and independent Ireland should have a national currency unit, on the decimal system, free of artificial parity tie with Sterling, which subjects our credit policy to what suits the Bank of England, not what suits the needs of the Irish people.

BANKING The wealth created by the people should be concentrated under the control of the national government, rather than be manipulated by a few individuals for their own profit. The Credit Union Movement could be the basis of such a system. A cheap money policy should be adopted as a pre-requisite to the implementation of a full employment policy. Sinn Féin advocates the nationalisation of all banks, loan, insurance and investment companies whose policy is the investment of Irish money abroad.

INDUSTRY Investment in industry should be concentrated as part of a national full employment policy, on processing of native raw materials, particularly textiles, brewing and distilling, food processing, mining and chemicals; and the economically viable heavy engineering industries, especially in the North. Only in these can spectacular results be achieved and other back-up industries would then be a logical growth in conditions of rapid expansion. Heavy capital investment in these areas would be of great benefit to industry, trade and agriculture.

The Avoca Mines should be re-opened and developed under national ownership. As a first step, a public enquiry should be held into the reasons for their closure. A single national authority with both farmers and workers represented on it should own and control the fertiliser and chemical industry. Liquidations, closures and large-scale redundancies should not be allowed to take place unless a public enquiry into the reasons for these moves has been held. Social viability and not profitability must be the criterion for maintaining an industry.

LAND AND AGRICULTURE Sinn Féin opposes the present policy of driving 70,000 small farmers from their holdings. Small holdings can be made viable by promoting co-operative production and marketing. We propose that an upper limit should be placed on the amount of land owned by one individual. Large estates should be acquired by the Land Commission and leased to a number of families to run on a co-operative basis as one unit. Such methods would be more productive and give a greater return to the families than would individual farms. It would also be socially more desirable as houses on the estate would be grouped together and could be more easily served by water, electricity, shops and other amenities. The estate would become the property of the co-operative after a certain time, on condition that it remained a co-operative.

Mountain sheep farmers should be immediately assisted by grants for improvement of mountain pasture on a co-operative basis and by establishing wool marketing co-operatives under the control of a wool-marketing board controlled by the primary producers and not by profiteering wool merchants. Farmers should be in control of all agricultural marketing boards. Their objective should be to seek fixed prices and long-term contracts for all their produce. Marketing of farm produce should not be in the hands of middlemen who can reap great rewards by manipulating rising and falling prices at the expense of the farmer.

HOUSING Ruthless exploitation, for private profit, of the people's social need for housing, must be halted. Inordinate profiteering by land speculators, builders and money-lending organisations are the main causes of the current high cost of houses. In the 1967 Local Elections Sinn Féin asserted that speculation in building land be ended by establishing the local authority as the sole dealer in building land and giving them powers of compulsory purchase of building land at a price based on its current agricultural value. We strongly advocate this policy so as to ensure that land use would be a social decision and would not be determined by speculative prices. Cheap money, at 3-4 per cent, should be made available for housing as is done in many European countries.

All builders should be licensed and required to publish annual statements of accounts and full costings of each housing estate

on which they are engaged. These measures would effect a spectacular reduction in the price of houses and would ease the pressure on local authorities by bringing house purchase within the range of a greater number of workers. Ground rents should be completely abolished.

HEALTH A free health service is essential. The present means test system is cumbersome, costly and much abused. There should be no first and second class medical treatment. The experience of other countries having free medical services should be studied; and the medical, pharmaceutical and public interests consulted; and a free service devised. Health centres should be manned co-operatively by at least three general practitioners with adequate technical assistance, so that round-the-clock service can be given. Drugs should be available at nominal cost, and drug production and importation should be controlled by the State and costs reduced by bulk purchase and standardisation. As advocated in our Local Government Policy, health charges should be the responsibility of the central administration and not added to the rates burden.

EDUCATION A small nation needs to aim at a high level of intelligence and adaptability must be exploited to the full, irrespective of the ability of parents to pay for education. Education must be free, in order to ensure that all our children achieve their greatest potential. Overcrowding of classes must be ended and buildings, equipment and staff must be the very best. Technical and secondary education should be integrated in a comprehensive system and all intellectual and social snobbery eliminated. Standards of university education should be raised and it should be available free to all who pass the entrance examination.

FREE TRADE AND E.E.C. Two years ago Sinn Féin opposed the Free Trade Agreement with England. Our attitude has since been proved correct. Factories are being closed and the farmers have got no benefits from it yet. Free trade would be disastrous for Ireland. It would ruin our industry and put tens of thousands out of work.

We are opposed to E.E.C. membership for the same reasons. We are a divided, under-developed country, with six counties under direct British control, and we must resist British pressure to submit to competition with her and other highly industrialised countries on terms of free trade. No small country has ever built up its industry under free trade.

The alternative to free trade is to achieve political, economic and financial independence; bringing back to Ireland Irish capital invested abroad; control of import and export of money; expansion of State industry and public investment and the promotion of co-operative control of the means of production, distribution and exchange; vigorous pursuit of alternative trade links; selective use of protection in the development of native industry. This is also the way to secure full employment for all.

TOURISM Tourism is important for Wicklow. Its potential must not be destroyed by selfish individuals. Sinn Féin opposes the destruction of scenic amenities by indiscriminate building on unsuitable sites.

Again we advocate the ending of the rates system. It is unjust because it places a burden on people irrespective of their capacity to pay. Many wealthy people who are not property owners do not pay rates at all. The revenue required for Local Government should be raised by a more equitable taxation system based on incomes.

RURAL WATER SCHEMES This is a top social priority as well as an economic necessity in rural areas. People cannot be left waiting for grandiose regional schemes which may never materialise. Every aid and encouragement should be given to voluntary co-operative group schemes capable of being eventually connected to regional schemes.

The second attempt within a decade to abolish the P.R. proportional representation system is an effort by Fianna Fáil to gain an overwhelming number of Dáil seats with less than 50% of the votes. If this were allowed to happen the interests of the people would suffer under the combined power of Fianna Fáil and the big business interests of TACA who finance them. Every democratic Irishman should vote to retain P.R.

Our programme is designed to serve the interests of the common people. It is a programme that deserves the support of the people of Wicklow. Sinn Féin has the enthusiasm, ability and determination to put it into effect. You can help to win these objectives when you go to the polling booth.

VOTE SINN FEIN