



**NOVEMBER 1983** 

# 

O. Reports indicate that Ireland has the highest rates of heroin addition in the World. A recent report by the Medico Social Research Board shows one in ten of 15 to 24 year olds to be addicts. What can the IRA do against the pushers who are destroying the lives of so many ⇒oung people?

4. There is a serious problem in relation to heroin in the inner city and this has largely come about in the past 3 years or so. The IRA has always been opposed to drug pushing and drug abuse and do not view lightly those who are destroying the lives of thousands of young peoale. Having said this we do not believe that the solution to the problem lies in our hands. It has with the people in the areas affected by heroin. They are the ones who can say 'we son't want such people living amongst us' and who can put pressure on them to go.

🗆 In some areas such as Hardwicke Street Flats and in Teresa's Gardens and Dolphin House, the people themselves have begun to organise to get the pushers out. Are they not just moving the problem elsewhere?

F. We fully support the people in those areas ata the actions they have taken. There is no reason to expect anyone to live amongst herain pushers and addicts. In Teresa's Gardens the people of the flats got together and dumped out the furniture of three well known pushers who had ignored several starnings by the people to stop pushing or else get out. They got out and are still out. exople have now got to ensure that those ज्ञां। using drugs in the area avail of proper facilities to come off them, because though their circumstances may be different, the users make it possible for the pushers to survive. While either aspect remains the whole problem remains.

As 'or moving the problem to another area, it is for people in all areas to show pushers and users alike that they will not be tclerated anywhere. When it is obviously not feasible or profitable for pushers to operate arywhere they will stop doing so.

#### GARDA INACTION

O. Many people say that the Gardai are unwilling and unable to deal with the problem of drugs in Dublin. Is this true and why is it

A The Gardaí, the strong arm of the state, are not at all serious about tackling the issue. Most pushers and users don't fear them or what they might do to them - they regard them with contempt. Those involved in drug trafficing know that the Gardaí have no intentions of taking any serious action against them. This was plainly seen in their ecent half hearted attempts at prosecution of those involved in big time drug dealing.

There are also widespread allegations that there are those amongst the Garda Drugs Squad who are involved in the re-selling of some of the heroin they confiscate.

Most of the drug related prosecutions only relate to small time users who, once they are imprisoned in Mountjoy, can then resume their habit as there is fairly free access to heroin in the iail.

The Gardaí are unwilling and unable to deal effectively with the problem because it is an area that cannot be dealt with in isolation from the rest of the rot created by the system which they uphold.

#### NO DRUGS IN NORTH

Q. It is true to say that heroin addiction is practically unknown in the nationalist areas of the six occupied counties - why is this so, in your opinion?

A. Since the war in the North started, and the politicisation that followed amongst previously disillusioned people, many have found that they can actually do something affect their own future. The struggle has



despite living in very bad social conditions there is not the same feeling of helplessness that there is, for instance, in Dublin. The hold down here is that it is an escapism - it - what the consequences could be for them. blots out all the rottenness for thousands of O. With the increase of heroin abuse in Dutayoung, disillusioned people who see no pur- lin's Inner City the incidence of break-ins, pose in living. To them there is no change in muggings and handbag snatching has soared.

provided them with this opportunity and they can do anything about it. Another reason that such a problem has not come about in the North is that the IRA in the course of fighting the war could not possibly tolerate main reason that heroin has taken such a it, and potential pushers were well aware of

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### treet Traders &

STREET TRADERS IN Dublin are being deprived of their livelihood by constant harassment from the gardaí and corporation officials under the new trading law.

The women who are part of the ageold Dublin tradition of street trading were not aware of the new regulations and found the best pitches being lost out to new-.come often students, who applied for licences in time. Now 20 or so, women have been left without a pitch to sell and live in constant fear of harassment, abuse, arrests and heavy fines which they find almost impossible to pay.

The arrests and charges have become a daily persecution of the women. Two women Mary O'Driscoll and Rita Murphy were recently jailed because they were unable to pay outstanding fines of £30, £50 & £250. As they point out it would

weeks' earnings to pay this amount.

Two months ago some of the street traders, along with Christy Burke of Sinn Féin, had a meeting with Lord Mayor, Michael Keating (Fine Gael). They asked him whether it was his intention to deprive the women of their livelihood and whether he agreed with the garda harassment. They heard nothing for a month. Christy Burke wrote a reminder. They are still awaiting his

Most of the traders have been refused their right to legal aid in court, and have opted for trial by jury which could mean fines of up to £5,000 if found guilty!

The women who are not prepared to give in on their right to earn a living say that if necessary they will go to jail to protest against what Mary O'Driscoll calls 'a law for the rich, and a law for the poor'.

# BOITORIA

CONTESTING THE Dublin Central by-election will be seen as a very important move for Sinn Féin in the 26 Counties.

The candidate, Christy Burke, is a 35 year old ex-docker who has grown up with the problems facing the people of the constituency, and has become involved in tenants' organisations and other community associations in the area.

In the 6 Counties Sinn Féin has succeedin exposing the fact that the British government are unable to govern the futile  $\delta$ county statelet.

Sinn Féin will now be setting out to expose the fact that Leinster House will not and cannot govern the people of the 20

They will not because it is not in their own interests to give the people a fair crack of the whip. They cannot, because there can never be social justice and independence under a capitalist system.

The politicians who have made a total shambles of running this state need the system to prop themselves up. The system needs them to survive.

Sinn Féin will be offering a republican socialist alternative and on this basis will be seeking the support of the people of Dublin Central.

We aim to establish a democratic socialist 32 County Republic run by the people of Ireland for the people of Ireland.

Contesting this election will be a major step forward.

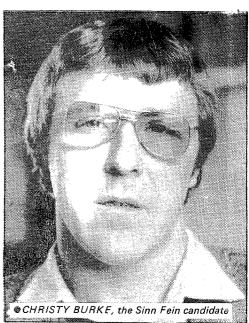
# Sim Fein Gandidate

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE in the ATG-WU Hall, Marlboro Street, on Friday, November 4th, Sinn Féin launched its manifesto for the Dublin Central by-election and their candidate was announced.

He is to be Christy Burke, a 35 year old ex-docker from Hardwicke Street area and has been a full time Sinn Féin community worker since November '81. Since then the Advice Centre at No. 5 Blessington Street has dealt with thousands of cases and boasts a 90% success rate.

The issues dealt with range from social welfare queries to housing and trade union issues and as well as dealing with individual cases, Christy, along with Sinn Fein in the area has spearheaded campaigns for people's rights where officialdom has failed them.

Speaking at the press conference, 1easuachtarán Shinn Féin, Gerry Adams said that contesting this election would be a very important move for Sinn Féin in the 26 Counties. "Sinn Féin", he said, "is a political organisation whose aims are the establishment of a 32 county socialist republic free from British military presence and economic interests in our country"



Sinn Féin in this constituency hopes to hold its 1458 first preference votes which it got when Christy Burke last stood in the February '82 general election, and would be very happy to increase that vote.

The issues Sinn Fein will be concentrating on in this campaign as outlined in their manifesto will be unemployment, housing, drug abuse, the economy and police powers.

## WHAT'S WRONG

Q. You have worked in the Advice Centre in 5 Blessington Street for over two years. How do you see the problems in the area?

A. On a general level one of the main problems as I would see it, is the present Corporation system which because of the bureaucracy imposed on it, discriminates against many sections of the community.

There is a terrible shortage of housing in the area. There are over 7,000 families on the housing list for the city, and at least as many again on the transfer list and then there are at least several thousand people who are simply not on the list at all.

Some of those not on the list are homeless. I've come across many families left out on the balconies because they have squatted or built up rent arrears. We've often gone down with the families to the corporation and pointed out flats we know to be available, and still they have refused people accommodation.

Many of those not on the housing list are living in private tenancies, often in appalling conditions, sometimes even condemned as unfit. These tenants are at the mercy of often unscrupulous landlords who carry out no repairs, and yet are entitled now, through the law, to raise rent, in some cases by as much as a thousand per cent!

Old people — there are many just around our centre here — suffer badly. A retired person with a few savings has to pay this rent. In other cases the rent v ii be paid by the Social Welfare. So it's a direct ha 1-out from the tax payer to the landlords. The tear and insecurity that this new rent law has given old people has already led to some cases of suicide.

While private housing is bad, public housing is sometimes even worse.

Take the flats in Ballybough for instance, many of them have no bathrooms at all. Some have just had showers put in. The complex is badly neglected. Maintenance just does not get done. Or look at the flats where I come from in Hardwicke Street. Several families of five or more are living in ONE-ROOMED flats. The overcrowding affects the children. No one should be expected to live like that.

People naturally do no want move out of the area. There is no shortage of space here in the town! And there is no shortage of suilding labour! What is the problem? The government simply won't take the needs of the people seriously. They have other priorities — like their own wages!

arOmega. What are the underlying problems?

A. Well of course the underlying problem is just simply poverty. People don't realise what the overall unemployment statistics mean for areas like our own. Unemployment in Sheriff Street is estimated at 70%. In the Ballybough, or Hardwicke Street it's nearer 60%. Living on the dole is not an ideal life for anyone. Young people, some of whom have never worked, don't even expect to get a job. And it's this situation which often leads to vandalism, the joy-riding, the drug addiction and its attendant crimes of muggings and break-ins.

Q. You have helped many people in getting their entitlements in claiming social assistance. What attitudes have you come up against?

A. The worst problems here arise from the anomalies in the Social Welfare system itself. The Health Board system allows one man at his own discretion to decide whether to make a payment or not. So you get the situation of one family getting a clothing grant, a grant for furniture or heating which another family will be refused. There is a failure by the Free State Government and by the



officials in the department to explain peoples' entitlements. Its unjust, and the failure of the appeal system means that people have no redress.

Q. Do you see things ever getting better?

A. Not without a complete change in the present system. Take housing. There is no way that sufficient numbers of houses are going to be built until a government comes to power which is committed to socialism — to putting the needs of the people first. Instead of paying handouts to landlords, multinationals, bankers, they put resources into jobs for our people to build the houses our people need. The money our government spends in maintaining partition of our country would finance several times over the houses we need, and take many hundreds off the scrap heap of unemployment.

Q. Do you feel disappointment working in the edvice centre knowing that for everyone you help there are hundreds left with just the same problem — that nothing is being done to change things?

A. Yes of course. It's like plugging a hole which grows bigger all the time. There certainly is help which an advice centre can give — if it's just letting people know what their rights are and helping fight to get this entitlement.

Sooner or later I believe people will see that their poverty and deprivation is not necessary, but a question of their choice of government and the need to vote for a socialist alternative. The first step I am sure is to realise that the 26 county government should stop propping up the British Empire, which rules the six counties by violence against the people and instead direct finance towards correcting the injustice of our economic system here.

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#### IRA SPEAKS ON DRUGS AND CRIME

What is your attitude to this and how can you see it being stopped?

A. There is a need to recognise why all this petty crime is taking place, and though heroin addiction is responsible for a lot of it, it's not the only cause. Given the terrible social deprivation in many areas, people have enough to contend with in their day to day lives without having the extra worry of not knowing when their house is going to be broken into, or when they are going to be mugged if they walk the streets at night.

#### STRONG WARNING

But the cause mainly goes back to the feeling of hopelessness amongst those responsible and while understanding the reasons it is in no way excusable. People need protection in these areas and we would see it as the work of Sinn Fein to encourage community care for those in a particularly vulnerable position. Demands should be made for more telephones, alarm systems, etc. Those responsible for break-ins as described above should see that they are only reinforcing amongst the community as a

whole the feeling of utter helplessness.

Q. The IRA has taken action in the past against drug pushers and gangsters who were running organised crime in areas around Dublin. Is there any indication that action of this kind will be taken again?

A. In situations where pushers are living amongst the people in the areas affected, we would see it as the work of those people to make life unbearable and unprofitable for the pushers and we do not see ourselves as a police force.

There are however shady characters operating who will never be affected by community action since they do not live anywhere near where the problem has taken hold. These are totally cynical and callous business people who will exploit unscrupulously to fill their own pockets and we issue a strong warning to those people that they will not be safe, no matter where they live. They are the ones who are making vast profits from the misery of thousands of young people and we are keeping a constant watch on

# Myno will die of cold this winter?

THIS WINTER MANY PEOPLE will face a choice each morning between staying in bed warm, and getting up to feed 50p which may be their last into the meter. This winter several hundreds of people at least will die of 'hypothermia' — a long name for a simple disease — being cold!

There are heating allowances you can apply for if you are on the dole, or living off the assistance. But they don't always tell you about them so here are some details.

There are two schemes to help people pay for heating. One scheme is off the Department of Social Welfare. If you are on the dole, and have dependants, or on a pension, then you qualify automatically for fuel vouchers which are £4 paid weekly. You need to apply for these. The vouchers can be set against ESB, gas bills or used to buy fuel.

The second scheme is the national fuel scheme run from the Health Centre for those who are getting welfare. On this scheme you are entitled to two payments off the Health Centre over the winter, £70 before Christmas and £40 after. Even if you got the money last year you need to re-apply again this year.

Thirdly people on low incomes, living in especially damp conditions, or with particular medical conditions making them susceptable to cold can apply for special heating grants.

#### EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS PAYMENTS

You can also get help with bills and other costs. These come under what they in the

Health Centre call 'Exceptional Needs Pay ments'. You need to apply for them.

Exceptional Needs Payments, have most become almost standard allowances because of widespread poverty. The Department may claim that these following allowances are aliscretionary—that it is up to a particular health officer whether to give them out or not—we hold that such payments should be rights and not left to the whim of the officer—you shouldn't be expected to beg to get enough to live on. These exceptional needs payments include:-

Deposits on flats: People moving into flats needing furniture, bedding, household equipment, cooker etc.

Arrears on the ESB and Gas Bills: (Here you must bring down with you the exact bar, based on their meter reading, not an outtimated bill).

Clothing Allowances: Which can be given at least twice a year, especially to children of school going age.

Footwear: It is almost automatic now that footwear grants are made to people with children going to school.

**Funeral Expenses:** Grants of approximary £200 are given. People can apply for these payments regardless of what benefit they we already receiving.

If you get refused payment you can appeal. You get the forms from the harding in the Health Centre. The Appeals Officer is Fred Donoghue, who is based in Enact House. You should bring someone with your to the appeal.

Come into the Sinn Féin Advice Gentle at No. 5 Blessington Street If you thank we can help you.

#### **Local Irish School**

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT your children should grow up able to speak their own language, there is an all Irish school in Marlboro Street, (beside the Department of Education), where your children can go.

The school takes children all the way up to secondary school but a child who joins without Irish will be brought up to standard. Going to an all Irish school when you are little is the easy way to end up fluent in Irish — as well as English!

The school is one which is struggling for survival in a country which appears to do everything possible to discourage Irish speaking. The Minister for Education Gemma Hussey — cannot even speak Irish herself!

The school exists under her very nose. The department would like rid of it. For this reason there is a fine spirit in the school where children and teachers are struggling together to enable the school to survive, and keep our language a living language.

Because the school is starved of resources by our Gaelic loving government, they have room for more children which will in turn allow more teachers to be appointed. As it is, the classes, which are both girls and boys, are all small — between 12 and 20 children.

So if your children are unhappy, badly taught, lost in large classes, and unable to speak their own language and likely to remain so, why not think about sending them to *Colaiste Chaoimhin* in Marlboro Street?



#### We need your support

IF YOU would like to come in and help in the Sinn Fein campaign — even if you only have a few hours to spare — then please contact us at our election Headquarters at No. 5 Blessington Street, Dublin 7 (Tel. 308783 or 309917), or contact your local centre:—

MARINO: CABRA: DRUMCONDRA: NORTH DOCK: ARRAN QUAY: BALLYBOUGH:

8 Annadale Avenue 45 Rathoath Road Richmond Road(Caravan) 40 Leinster Avenue 20 Aberdeen Street 8 Charlemont Parade

#### Hussey, come off it

Dear Gemma,

I just want to complain to you. The Is all supposed to be free education. I won ar what free education is because we have to buy our books, our uniform and our lanch and then we have to spend busfares and then buy clothes for P.E. and pay a fee into ane school. What do you think we are, made eat of money or something? We have browns and sisters going to school as well. I hope you know that. You might only have two or three going to school but when you have five or six kids going to school there is a big difference especially when nobody in the family is working. In my class there are six girls whose fathers work and the rest are unemployed. You are working and you have plenty of money. Your children might have free education but we certainly haven't, and if you think we have got free education you must be sick in the head. Your children are probably going to big expensive schools or probably even going to a private school.

Yours,

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VOTE CININI CÉINI /VOTE CUDICTY DUDIE

**Title:** Inner City Republican

**Organisation:** Sinn Féin

**Date:** 1983

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