

INNER CITY REPUBLICAN



NOVEMBER 1983

IRA SPEAKS ON DRUGS AND CRIME

Q. Reports indicate that Ireland has the highest rates of heroin addiction 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 young people?

A. 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 people. Having said this we do not believe that the solution to the problem lies in our hands. It lies with the people in the areas affected by heroin. They are the ones who can say 'we don't want such people living amongst us' and who can put pressure on them to go.

Q. 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?

A. We fully support the people in those areas in the actions they have taken. There is no reason to expect anyone to live amongst heroin 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 warnings by the people to stop pushing or else get out. They got out and are still out. People have now got to ensure that those still 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 for moving the problem to another area, it is for people in all areas to show pushers and users alike that they will not be tolerated anywhere. When it is obviously not feasible or profitable for pushers to operate anywhere they will stop doing so.

GARDA INACTION

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

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 trafficking know that the Gardaí have no intentions of taking any serious action against them. This was plainly seen in their recent 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.

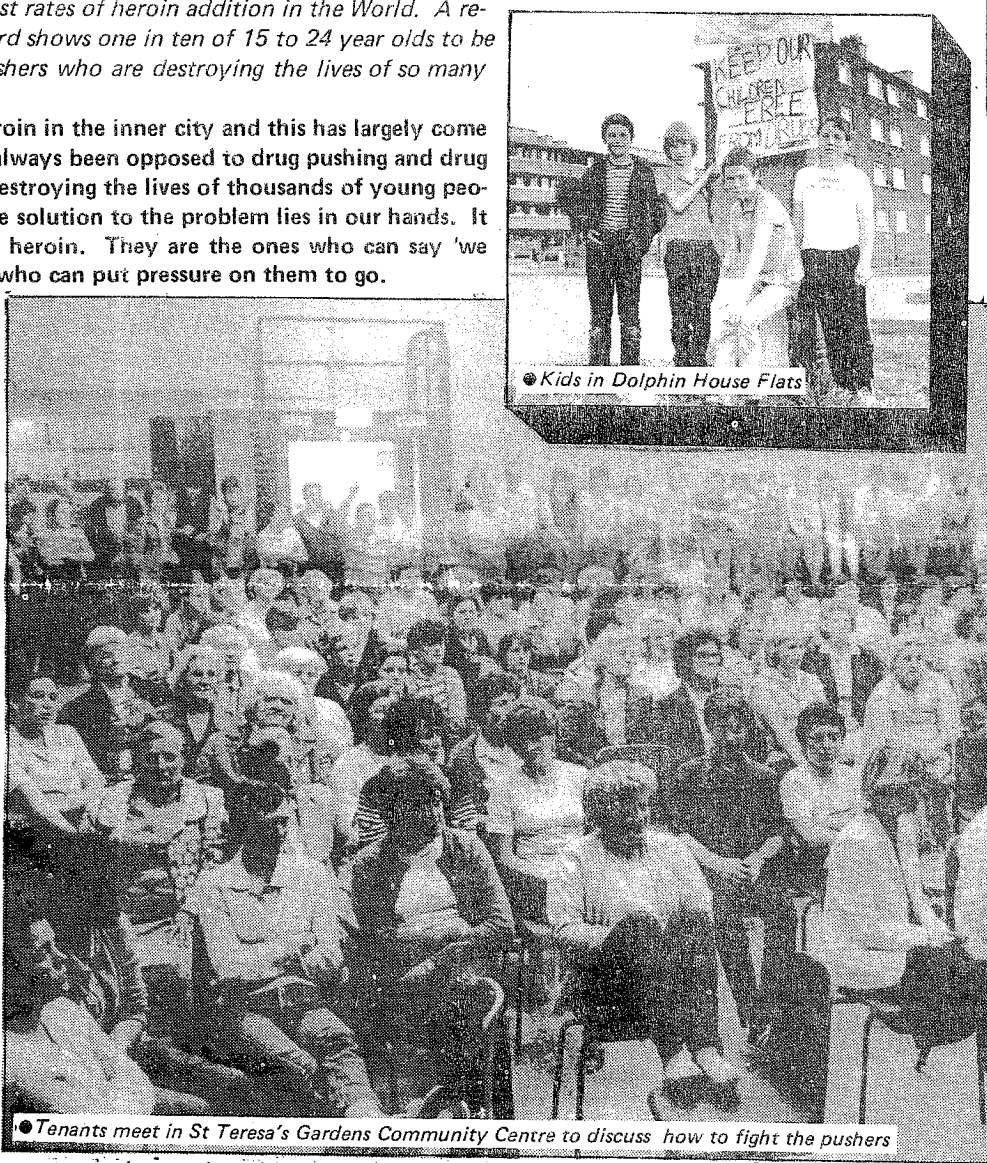
Most of the drug related prosecutions only relate to small time users who, once they are imprisoned in Mountjoy, can then resume their habit as there is fairly free access to heroin in the jail.

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 to affect their own future. The struggle has



● Tenants meet in St Teresa's Gardens Community Centre to discuss how to fight the pushers



● Kids in Dolphin House Flats

provided them with this opportunity and despite living in very bad social conditions there is not the same feeling of helplessness that there is, for instance, in Dublin. The main reason that heroin has taken such a hold down here is that it is an escapism — it blots out all the rottenness for thousands of young, disillusioned people who see no purpose in living. To them there is no change in sight and furthermore they don't see that

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 it, and potential pushers were well aware of what the consequences could be for them.

Q. With the increase of heroin abuse in Dublin's Inner City the incidence of break-ins, muggings and handbag snatching has soared.

continued on back page

Street Traders Hounded

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 age-old Dublin tradition of street trading were not aware of the new regulations and found the best pitches being lost out to newcomers — 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

take 4 or 5 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 word.

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'.

EDITORIAL

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 succeeded in exposing the fact that the British government are unable to govern the futile 6 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 26 Counties.

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.

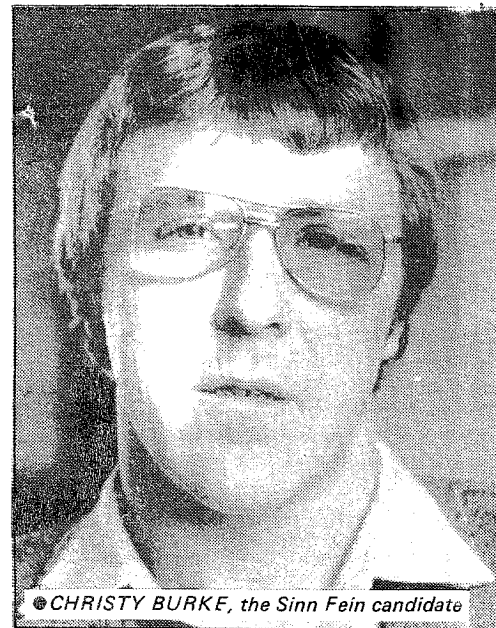
Sinn Féin Candidate

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE in the AIG-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 Féin in the area has spearheaded campaigns for people's rights where officialdom has failed them.

Speaking at the press conference, leas-uachtarán 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".



●CHRISTY BURKE, the Sinn Féin candidate

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

Title: Inner City Republican

Organisation: Sinn Féin

Date: 1983

Downloaded from the Irish Left Archive.

Visit www.leftarchive.ie

The Irish Left Archive is provided as a non-commercial historical resource, open to all, and has reproduced this document as an accessible digital reference. Copyright remains with its original authors. If used on other sites, we would appreciate a link back and reference to the Irish Left Archive, in addition to the original creators. For re-publication, commercial, or other uses, please contact the original owners. If documents provided to the Irish Left Archive have been created for or added to other online archives, please inform us so sources can be credited.