

# Dubliners to pay

# £95

# Bin Tax

**Dublin City Council voted 25/22 to introduce a new refuse tax on Friday 12 January. Most households in the city will now face a charge of £95 for a standard bin or £65 for a small bin in 2001. Those who don't have wheelie bins will most likely have to pay the council for special refuse sacks or tags.**

## Parties try "con trick"

The Socialist Party was not surprised this charge was imposed. All the parties have been involved in manoeuvring to get the charge implemented. They decided that a majority of councillors from most parties would vote in favour, with a minority from most parties voting against. That way they hope they can con the people and divert the anger of Dubliners as no party would have fully opposed nor fully supported the charges.

Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, the PDs and the Greens of course support double taxation. More shamefully, in an orchestrated manoeuvre three Labour councillors voted in favour. Indications are that Sinn Fein were involved in this process. Only two of their councillors voted against, the other two were absent! When Tony Gregory demanded that the vote be recorded for the public record, Sinn Fein refused to support him.

Once again the politicians are completely out of touch with ordinary people. None of these people said they would vote for a refuse tax when they were looking for your votes in 1999. They don't represent the interests of ordinary people and should be rejected.



## SAY NO TO BIN CHARGES

Recent protest at Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown council

## Why you should not pay

- ★ Experience shows the charge will increase, over time, to anything up to £500 a year.
- ★ If they get away with this, it can lead to the privatisation of the service. This will result in job losses and leave residents at the mercy of profit hungry privateers
- ★ This is not a tax to help the environment. Everyone is concerned about the environment but this is a double tax on PAYE workers who pay the vast bulk of all taxes. If the council is short of cash, any deficit should be paid from the governments huge tax returns, gained from workers.

# Socialist Party Leaflet

# No justification for double tax refuse charges

The councillors will argue they had to bring in charges otherwise the council would have been abolished and a commissioner appointed to run the city. This is false. If they had backbone and were interested in fighting on behalf of working class people, they would have launched a mass campaign to force the government to provide more funds. That way there would be no refuse tax and there could be extra cash to spend on other much needed services.

If it is impossible to defy the city manager, how come both South Dublin and Fingal councils did so and rejected refuse charges? A key factor in both these areas was that water charges were defeated in these areas in 1996. The Socialist Party that led that campaign is strong in these areas and the parties were frightened off.

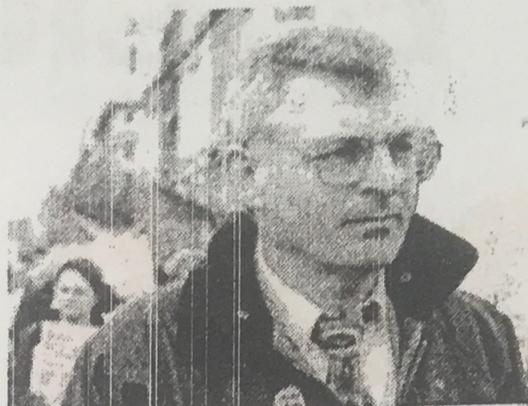
The argument will also be made that we have to bring in refuse charges because Eurpoe says so. This is also false. Europe can be defied. Because of our campaign, Europe has given Ireland an exemption from charging for water. The same can happen again.

## Charges can be defeated!

The Socialist Party will initiate with others a broad based campaign against this refuse tax. The foundation of the campaign must be mass non-payment. This tax can be defeated but only if the campaign is democratically run and ordinary people get actively involved. Between 1994 and '96, a mass campaign of non-payment, community action and political pressure defeated the water charges. If you would like to get involved, contact the Socialist Party, using the slip below.

**Joe Higgins, Socialist Party TD, has initiated a meeting to discuss what to do against this double tax, inviting community organisations, trade unions, groups and individuals who are interested in getting involved.**

**Come along to the meeting on Thursday 25th January, 8pm, Teachers' Club Parnell Square.**



Joe Higgins, Socialist Party TD.

### Socialist Party's record on double tax

- *The Socialist Party has fought double taxation more consistently than any other force in Irish society.*
- *We led the campaign that defeated water charges between 1994 and '96, which resulted in them being abolished throughout the country.*
- *While most campaigns against double taxation in the years before, were not successful, this campaign won because it was founded on mass non-payment and was capable of responding on all occasions to the tactics of the councils. It was a real mass movement.*
- *On the strength of his stand against water charges, Cllr. Joe Higgins was elected to the Dail in 1997 for Dublin West.*
- *The party is currently playing a key role in the battle against refuse charges in Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown, Limerick and Drogheda*

- I would like to find out more about the campaign against refuse charges*
- I would like to join the Socialist Party*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Socialist Party, PO Box 3434, Dublin 8  
phone 6772592, e-mail info@socialistparty.net

**Title:** Dubliners to Pay \$95 Bin Tax

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