

# GILMORE SPEAKS OUT

**In a new Year Interview, Labour's Spokesperson on the Environment and Dun Laoghaire TD, Eamon Gilmore talks about his priorities for 2001. "I am sick to death of all this Celtic Tiger clap-trap and the smugness and self-congratulation that goes with it", says Eamon Gilmore TD, with his usual directness.**

"Yes, we have a thriving economy and we all want it to continue. But our country has huge problems and the present government is ignoring them. In fact, some of us are regarded as spoilsports for even bringing them up.

"The gap between rich and poor is widening. McCreevy's budget gave an extra £90 a week to people on £100,000 a year but only gave £10 to pensioners who are only on £90 per week. Not everybody in this country is a highly paid dot-com. The most interesting figure in the Budget speech was that almost 700,000 workers or almost 40% of the workforce are on wages which are too low to be taxed at all."



**Eamon Gilmore TD**

expenditure in Ireland are quite low. Very simply, if we want a quality universal health service, or we want a good public transport service or we want efficient policing and good schools, then we have to increase the amounts which we spend on these services, as well as ensuring that we get good value for money. Otherwise we will become a society of private wealth and public squalor"

## HOUSING CRISIS

Deputy Gilmore himself has been responsible for Labour's new policies on Housing. "We were first to spot the Housing Crisis. It is a great pity we were not listened to over the past three years, and an even bigger pity that we were not in Government. If there had been a Labour Minister for the Environment or a Labour Minister for Housing over the past three years we would not now have the have this scale of Housing Crisis.

"However, Labour is ready to solve the housing crisis if we are returned to Government after the next Election. We have a package of radical new housing measures which we will implement if we are back in Government"

## REFUSE CHARGES

As Labour's Spokesperson on the

Environment, Eamon Gilmore has also brought forward new policies on Waste Management. He is highly critical of the refuse Charges introduced by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

"The £150 charge is a money gathering exercise by the council. It is unfair to people on low income and to people who have very little waste. It is also environmentally counter-productive, because there is no incentive to reduce waste. The Labour party opposed this charge again this year but we were out voted again by the FF/FG alliance which has controlled Dun Laoghaire County Hall for the past 26 years."

Gilmore will be publishing Labour's National Waste Policy in the next couple of weeks. "Labour will be putting the emphasis on waste reduction and Recycling. Everybody talks about recycling but to date the facilities for recycling have not been put in place. Labour's document will show how we would develop a waste recycling infrastructure and end the practice of having to export plastics, for example, for recycling in the UK".

## GENERAL ELECTION

Eamon Gilmore wants a General Election this year, and hopes to see

Labour back in Government implementing its new policies. "Here in Dun Laoghaire Labour will be trying to win two seats. Niamh Bhreathnach and I will be the two Labour candidates and I am confident that we can win two seats."

"This country needs a change of Government. It needs a new approach to investing the fruits of economic success. In opposition, the Labour Party has been preparing new policies for a return to government. We are ready. I hope the Election is soon!"

## POOR PUBLIC SERVICES

Gilmore says that the present Government is squandering the opportunity to make Ireland a fair society. "No Government has ever had the surpluses which this one has, and yet our public services are getting worse, not better. Buying a house is now impossible for young couples, it is harder to get a hospital bed, the quality of schooling is

declining and even the roads are not swept regularly"

"Surely, a government with so much money at its disposal should be able to provide quality Public Services. Instead, while in theory the country is getting richer, in reality the quality of life is getting poorer.

## TRAFFIC

"Take traffic for example. Moving around Dublin is now one of life's most

unpleasant experiences and the increased traffic is a major safety and health hazard for young and old."

Gilmore points to the Labour Party's economic proposals which were launched at the end of last year, as the solution to the problems in the public service. "Labour wants to put the emphasis back on quality public services. Labour's document showed that contrary to popular belief, our levels of public

**EAMON GILMORE TD**  
WISHES A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL HIS CONSTITUENTS



### ADVICE CENTRES (Every Monday)

9.30 - 11a.m.  
2.00 - 3p.m.  
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8.00 - 9p.m.

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OFFICE: Dail Eireann, Dublin 2.  
TEL: 6183566  
FAX: 6184574  
e-mail: [eamon\\_gilmore@oireachtas.irlgov.ie](mailto:eamon_gilmore@oireachtas.irlgov.ie)

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