

DUBLIN SOUTH NEWSLETTER

November 1992

FINE GAEL PLEDGES RADICAL ACTION

JOBS CRISIS: PUBLIC ANGER MOUNTS OVER GOVERNMENT DISHONESTY

Employment has been top of Fine Gael's agenda for the past 16 months - not for the past few weeks. And FG - sponsored meetings on the employment issue were held in all constituencies during September.

With employment clearly defined as the party's top political priority, the meetings drew large attendances in all areas - including South Dublin. The message coming through those gatherings: the obstacles to work are widespread.

Party leader John Bruton told a Jobs conference in Jury's Hotel on October 3 it was now time for deeds - enough has been said, it was time for action.

Mr. Bruton said the Taoiseach and Minister for Finance tried to brush this aside - but it was their fault. They, demonstrably, had no economic strategy.

Mr. Bruton said Fine Gael will introduce a comprehensive "Budget for Jobs" designed to make it restore the financial gain to the individual from creating a job - and accepting one.

"First, it should pay to give someone a job - a job will not survive any other way", he said, adding: "And secondly, no one must lose money by taking a job".

The country needs a change, but not just new faces around the Cabinet table. We need specific, concrete changes which will make a difference to the shape of this country over the next decade.

It's just not enough for a political party to react to a widespread sense of public anger by criticising the outgoing Government and calling for change. What you as a voter need to be sure of is that Fine Gael knows what has to be done, and is willing to do it, even if it won't be popular with every interest group.

We know that the first problem facing the country is the escalating crisis of unemployment. Unemployment is the main cause of poverty in Ireland.

Albert Reynolds puts it all down to the state of the international economy. That's dishonest - it's just not true.

No other EC country has as severe a problem as we have; our unemployment has risen faster than other countries'.

Of course conditions abroad will affect job creation here...but that doesn't explain why our situation should be getting worse compared with everyone else's.



The fact is that Albert Reynolds and Fianna Fáil haven't grasped that there is no possibility of turning the unemployment problem around unless we make it more profitable to create a job than to leave money in the Post Office, and more attractive to take up a job than to remain on the dole.

Fine Gael understands that. You do, too. And we are proposing to do something concrete and immediate:

- Fine Gael in Government will in the 1993 Budget cut in half Employers' PRSI in manufacturing and the internationally traded services sector. That will lower employment costs for most employers covering most jobs by 6%. It will make employing a person relatively more attractive than hiring a piece of machinery. It will help preserve jobs threatened by the fall in the value of sterling.
- Fine Gael will introduce an

extra annual tax free allowance of £5,000 for the first two years in employment for those between the ages of 18 and 23 years.

- Fine Gael will ensure that no one on social welfare will be worse off by accepting a job than by turning it down: we will do this by guaranteeing through the tax and social welfare system that a person's net income will rise by £25 per week if he or she moves from social welfare to employment.

'Fine Gael produced a comprehensive employment policy entitled Towards The Jobs Economy last May. The document is quite brilliant ... it offers hope and tackles vital issues'

- Damien Kiberd, Editor, Sunday Business Post

Fine Gael's plan will reduce the cost to employers of creating extra jobs and ensure that when a job becomes available to someone on the Dole, it will be worth their while to take it.

One thing you can be sure of: we won't add to the burden of debt that Fianna Fáil are now proposing to hand on to us and our children.

DID YOU KNOW ... that more than 5,000 people are registered in the Nutgrove Employment Exchange.

Male	Under 25:	824
	Over 25:	1,937
		2,761 (54%)
Female	Under 25:	662
	Over 25:	1,662
		2,324 (46%)

THE FINE GAEL PLAN

- Tax relief on Third Level fees and approved maintenance costs to families who don't qualify for higher education grants - a saving of up to £1,661 per student per year.
- Fundamental re-examination of the Green Paper proposals. We are not convinced of the arguments for large scale closure of smaller schools. However, we are in favour of introducing a modern language in primary schools.
- Improved remedial teacher services for ever child unable to cope. (Two-thirds of schools have no access to remedial teachers at present).
- On-going assessment and project work for examination purposes at second level to ensure the points system takes account of a balanced range of student abilities and is not over-dominated by purely academic considerations.
- Proper inservice and retraining facilities to upgrade teacher skills and improving process for identification of child abuse and bullying.
- Improved pupil / teacher ratio within the context of available resources.
- Investigate lowering retirement age of teachers to create more openings for young teachers.

'Fine Gael, to its credit, has published its election programme on the first day of the campaign with special emphasis on jobs, not as a theoretical exercise but in the light of consultations throughout the state'
- Irish Times Editorial

EDUCATION'S VICIOUS CIRCLE

With education one of the key issues facing thousands of families, the insight, understanding and trenchant views of one of Fine Gael's standard-bearers in Dublin South are of particular relevance.

Senator Maurice Manning speaks from the 'inside track' ... from inside the heart of the education system.

His achievements in education do not have to be spelt out. Long regarded as one of the most effective lecturers at University College, Dublin, he has been consistently elected by the graduates to the Colleges' Governing Body and to the Senate of the National University of Ireland.

So, when he speaks on education matters, he speaks with experience and authority.

He knows at first hand the frustration of young people trying to enter the jobs market. Even though they have high qualifications, nobody wants to take them on because they lack job experience - but, without a job, they cannot get that experience.

"It is a vicious and frustrating circle - a circle which must be broken", says Senator Manning.

HIGH COST

One central reason for the "circle of hopelessness" is the high cost employers face in taking on a young, inexperienced person. Senator Manning says the expense is simply too high and, for that reason, he argues that Fine Gael's proposal to halve employers' PRSI in manufacturing and export service sectors will make it easier for employers to create new jobs by removing what is no more than a direct tax on every job created or maintained.

Maurice Manning argues strongly that equally important in breaking this "vicious circle" is Fine Gael's incentive to companies to provide jobs for young people.

Throughout this incentive, the Senator says, Fine Gael will introduce an extra annual tax-free

allowance of £5,000 to every person up to 23 years of age. This will apply to his or her first two years at work, or in self-employment after completing third level education.

ATTRACTIVE

Senator Manning says this will apply to those starting work on or after November 5, 1992, and will make it attractive to employers to offer young people job opportunities here in Ireland and help them get that vital experience without which further advancement is not possible.

Maurice Manning knows from experience and has seen over the years the sacrifices so many families make over an extended period to put their children through third level education without the benefit of any grants. Fee and maintenance, he points out, are paid out of income already heavily taxed and, for too many families, the consequence is one of crippling hardship. In many cases, talented young people lose the opportunity of a third level chance.

UNFAIR

Senator Manning says it is a system which is manifestly unfair and discriminating and, for that reason, Fine Gael proposes to allow income tax relief on the full college fee, and on a sum in respect of maintenance equal to the maximum level of the relevant Higher Education Grant. This, he says, will represent a saving of up to £1,661 per student per year.

Maurice Manning is critical of many aspects of the Education Green Paper. He admits it has some good ideas - but is based on a philosophy which is at times flawed and half-baked. In particular, he rejects the notion of "educating for industry" rather than educating for life which underlies much of the direction of the Paper.

"STUNTS"

He says the paper was clearly printed for political reasons and needs further detailed examination and genuine consultation, not a series of "photo opportunities" and media stunts.

Maurice Manning says he is particularly concerned that the Paper fails totally to address such central issues as the teacher / pupil ratio and the provision of remedial teachers to the two-thirds of schools which do not have them at present.

DID YOU KNOW ... that the Minister for the Environment recently issued an order relating to the Southern Cross Motorway in which he refused to allow the construction of a re-aligned College Road as part of the Motorway Plan, contrary to the wishes of Dublin County Council. In other words, when the Motorway is built, there will be no College Road or access to or from the Grange to Whitechurch School.

... that the Motorway will cut through the heart of the community, affecting the Church of Ireland Parish of Whitechurch and the Catholic Good Counsel Parish of Ballyboden and Divine Word Parish, Marley Grange.

The impact of the Minister's decision on Whitechurch School and Parish will be the greatest, in relation to College Road and in terms of access, particularly for parishioners and school parents in the Grange / Harold's Grange areas. *About half of the school parents use College Road at present.*

It will also result in the loss of accessibility to Marley Park from College Road and result in overcrowding in the already overcrowded car park beside Marley estate. Children attending Ballinteer Community School and UCD will also be affected as will the 47B bus service.

Following the Minister's inexplicable decision, the elected members of Dublin County Council unanimously passed a motion proposed by Alan Shatter T.D. calling on the Minister to modify his order and to fund the slip-road.

DUBLIN SOUTH SHOCK AS SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS CRIME ACTION NEEDS

From June to October, 1992, Fine Gael conducted a Crime Survey in Dublin South and in other Constituencies. The survey was prepared by Fine Gael Justice Spokesperson and contributed to the development of the Fine Gael Crime Action Plan.

There was a substantial response to the Survey, which gave residents of Dublin South a unique opportunity to contribute towards the development of Fine Gael Policy.

South Dublin victims of crime: 66% affected

A startling 66% of those who replied stated that during the previous four years a member of their family had been the victim of crime. 59% had been the victim of burglary or theft; 17% of car theft and 10% of assault.

In only 19% of cases was property stolen and 83% of the property recovered was damaged. Whilst 94% described the Gardaí as been helpful when called, in 78% of cases the offender was not brought before the Courts. Only 1% of those who replied said they knew that the offender had been convicted.

Whilst 30% said they were kept satisfactorily informed by the Gardaí of the progress made in their investigation, 70% said they were not.

In the fight against crime,

86% felt that more Gardaí on the streets would help reduce the levels of crime with 3% disagreeing and 7% don't know.

Condemnation of Government: 97% say not enough being done. There was universal condemnation of the Government: 97% stated the Government was not doing enough to combat crime and 92% expressed the same view about the Courts. Whilst there was clear support for more Gardaí on the beat, 66% felt the Gardaí were doing enough to combat whilst 34% said they were not.

Parents responsibility for juvenile crime:

40% attributed lack of parental responsibility as being the main cause for juvenile crime. 32% said unemployment and 9% said drugs. 87% said parents should be held responsible for juvenile crime.

As to the optional penalties that should be available to be imposed on parents, 78% said they should include the payment of compensation to a victim,

41% said it should include the imposition of a fine and 45% said the parent should undertake community service.

Only 6% were of the belief that parents should be imprisoned for the crimes of their children.

Juvenile crime:

78% were of the view that juveniles who commit minor crimes not involving violence should be required to pay compensation to their victims. 73% also favoured their undertaking community service.

Only 5% favoured prison or detention.

Adult crime:

For crimes of a minor nature not involving violence, the penalty options favoured were as follows:-

Payment of compensation - 85%; Community Service - 57%; Fines - 30% and imprisonment - 6%.

Juvenile and adult serious crime:

For serious crime, 63% favoured the imposition of imprisonment and 64% also favoured the payment of compensation to a victim of crime.

Prison and detention centres:

89% favoured a greater emphasis on rehabilitation and re-education in prisons and only 5% disagreed with this: 92% also stated that there was a need for more detention centres for juveniles who constantly break the law.

Drugs:

23% of the parents who responded stated that drugs had been offered to their children whilst 63% said they had not: 14% did not know whether drugs had ever been offered to their children.

Self-help in crime prevention

59% had a burglar alarm installed in their homes whilst 41% had not: 81% of those who replied stated their streets were involved in a Neighbourhood Watch whilst 15% said they were not: 4% did not know.

In thanking those who took time to complete the Survey, Alan Shatter T.D. stated that the results of the Survey "emphasised the need for more Gardaí on the beat and the need for a victim orientated system of criminal justice. Too many people no longer feel safe not only on the streets of Dublin but also in their home". He pledged that Fine Gael in Government would implement the specific initiatives proposed in the Fine Gael Crime Action Plan to confront the alarming rise in crime.

FINE GAEEL CRIME ACTION PLAN INCLUDES ...

- more Gardaí on the beat,
- compensation for the victims of crime,
- new laws to tackle problems caused by gangs loitering and intimidating passers by and people in their own homes,
- life sentences for joy riders who kill,
- new laws to confiscate criminal's assets
- a Charter for Victims of Crime.

GOVERNMENT FAILS ON PESP PROMISES

Promises made as part of the PESP to wipe out waiting lists for services to the mentally handicapped have not been kept. In fact, each year the lists GROW.

That's not the fault of those providing care. With inadequate funding, their services are bursting at the seams so that, in many cases, they can provide little

more than a "baby sitting" service.

OLIVIA MITCHELL frankly admits that one of the main reasons she entered political life was to be a public voice for this forgotten section of the population.

"My first child, a son, was brain-damaged", says Olivia. "Prior to his birth, like most people, I had little contact with mental handicap other than to put money in collection boxes.

"My son is now a handsome, totally dependant 17 year old,

attending a special school in Northern Ireland. I consider myself extremely lucky that he has this opportunity, even though it is so far away."

Olivia, a member of Dublin County Council since 1985, says she has met hundreds of parents of handicapped children over the years who have not been so fortunate.

As a member of the Eastern Health Board she can help individual cases - "but that is NOT good enough", she says angrily. "The Government must

make funds available to provide every individual with an adequate service". And she points out: "As a nation we were horrified by the treatment of the handicapped in Romania. But our own record is not one we can be proud of".

Official sources say parents and families are being placed under "enormous pressures" with which they are unable to cope AND they are suffering "grave psychological and social distress, often resulting in psychiatric illness".

YOUR KIND OF PEOPLE



MANNING

Maurice Senator

Senator Maurice Manning is Fine Gael leader in Seanad Éireann and a member of the Fine Gael Front Bench with special responsibility for Northern Ireland.

An experienced parliamentarian, he is a member of the British-Irish Interparliamentary body.

He is a lecturer in Political Science at University College Dublin, at Belfield, where he is a member of the University Governing Body.

He has written several books on modern Irish politics and lectured extensively in France and the United States.

In addition to Northern Ireland, his responsibilities in Seanad Éireann have included Environmental and Education matters. He is married to Mary Hayes and they have one son.

Phone: 760347



MITCHELL

Olivia M.C.C.

Olivia Mitchell is a highly-respected and experienced full-time Public Representative. She has been a member of Dublin County Council since 1985, is a member of the Eastern Health Board and Chairperson of Stillorgan Senior College (VEC). Through her role as a County Councillor, Olivia recognises the urgent need to tackle the road and traffic problems of the South County.

On the major issue of Unemployment, she believes that the Tax and Structural impediments to business growth must be removed to create an environment for enterprise. Olivia takes a keen interest in Health Issues and is an active campaigner for services to the handicapped. A graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, in Economics and Politics and a former teacher of economics at Mount Anville Convent, she is married with three children.

Phone: 295-3033



SHATTER

Alan T.D.

Married with two children. Educated High School, Trinity College, Dublin. A T.D. since 1981, he is the Fine Gael Spokesperson on Justice and formerly Spokesperson on Environment (1988-90) and Labour (1990-92). Outstanding record of public service. Has published more reforming laws as an Opposition T.D. than any other T.D. since 1922. These include:

- the Environment Protection Agency Bill
- the Community Service Orders Bill (to require offenders undertake community service)
- the Judicial Separation Act 1989 which modernised laws on marital breakdown.
- the Adoption Act 1991 which provides for recognition of foreign adoptions.

Author of Fine Gael Crime Action Plan (1992) which calls for more Gardai on the beat; court powers to order offenders to pay compensation to their victims; and a charter for the victims of crime.

Phone: 298-3045

TRAFFIC SNARLS HIT SOUTH DUBLIN ROUTES

The quality of life for residents of South Dublin has been damaged by heavy commercial and commuter traffic, clogging the arteries to and from the city and creating "rat runs" through residential roads. In the Knocklyon and Rathfarnham areas, this problem has been exacerbated by the opening of the partially-completed Motorway which has funnelled traffic on to roads not designed for the purpose.

The solution for these areas is the construction of the southward extension of the ring road - the Southern Cross. After a delay of ten months, following a Public Inquiry, the Minister has finally confirmed the Motorway Scheme with some significant alterations.

Roads in Ballinteer, Sandyford, Dundrum, Kilmacud and Mount Merrion would be choked by traffic, says Cclr. Olivia Mitchell.

Councillor Mitchell says the situation at the end of the Motorway would be a repetition of the "Knocklyon debacle", with traffic disgoring from the new

road grinding to an abrupt halt as the cars crawled on to Brewery and Leopardstown Roads.

In response to submissions by Alan Shatter T.D., Councillor Mitchell and others, the Minister decided during the course of the Inquiry to submit a letter stating that the South-Eastern Motorway would proceed without delay, thus providing an escape route for much of the traffic.

Construction of the Southern Cross route has been deferred until 1994, since priority was given by the Government to the Northern Cross Route. Councillor Mitchell insists that

the South-Eastern Motorway must at worst follow-on once the Southern Cross route has been completed.

ROUNDAABOUT NOW

When Dublin County Council recently sold a site for new offices in the Sandyford Industrial Estate, Councillor Olivia Mitchell was

quick to insist that some of the money be spent on road improvements in the area. The Council accepted her suggestion that new roundabouts be provided to

replace T-junctions on the Kilmacud and Leopardstown entrance roads to the industrial estates. The first roundabout has already been built. Councillor Mitchell says the second will be built in the New Year - welcome news for the very many motorists using this road.

AFTER 6 YEARS IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE FINE GAEL WILL ...

- Assist householders by increasing relief on mortgages up to £40,000
- Help manufacturing industry by cutting PRSI by 50%
- Introduce an extra annual tax free allowance of £5,000 up to the age of 23 for the first two years of employment

VOTE 1, 2, 3
in order
of your choice

