

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 5p

Jail corrupt politicians PROTEST
Dail Eireann
 Tuesday December 17th
 7.00pm

Jail the corrupt politicians: Break the golden circle!

A HUNDRED key individuals at the top of Irish society have been given money by Ben Dunne.

Their names are on a list compiled by the accountants Price Waterhouse.

The only reason we know about all of this is because the Dunnes family have fallen out amongst themselves. The sharks who run this company are fighting over the will of their dead sister, Theresa.

Because of this family feud they have spilled the beans on what is really happening in Irish society.

The company has been buying politicians for years.

Restored

They have restored the house of a government Minister, given more than a £1 million to a top Fianna Fail politician and even bought off a top 'tel-

evision personality'.

Why? Because they want special favours done for them. These misers pay terrible low wages to their staff. They have never had a name for generosity.

When they pay out more than £5 million to

politicians, they know that they get something in return.

Crime

Dunnes are not the only company who have put politicians on the pay roll.

Everyone knows that massive crime has gone on for years in Ireland's beef industry.

They fiddled the weight of meat and even

sent rotten meat to Third World countries.

But the key owner in this industry, Larry Goodman, walks around as a free man today.

The reason is that he also managed to buy political influence by contributing to Fianna Fail funds.

Power

In the last few days, the reality of power has been starkly revealed. They tell us that we all have an equal vote and can have a say in running the country.

But the reality is that this country is run by a tiny elite who operate behind closed doors.

It is high time we cleaned up this mess. For the last week the politicians have been making excuses and trying to cover up.

We now need a massive outcry where people get on the streets and demand that politicians who have been taking

bribes be sent to jail.

That is where these crooks belong. If a few of them were behind bars, this would be a deadly blow to the Golden Circle who have been running this country for years.



WHO IS ON THE TAKE?

■ **MICHAEL LOWRY:** He got £208,000 just to do up his house.

He has resigned from government but has given no explanation for why he took the money.

He doubled the size of his house—but got no planning permission.

This same hypocrite has

been lecturing poorly paid CIE workers, telling them they are 'living beyond their means'.

■ **CHARLES J HAUGHEY.** According to the *Phoenix* magazine Dunnes paid £1 million into London bank account under the control of Haughey while he was Taoiseach.

Charles J Haughey is one of the wealthiest men in this country.

He even owns an island off Kerry.

But very few people knew where he got his money.

■ **JOHN BRUTON.** According to his own admission, the Taoiseach of this country approached the Dunnes family

for money for Fine Gael.

He pretends that no favours were granted. But why did Dunnes give over so much money?

■ **FINE GAEL:** They got £180,000 from Ben Dunne.

This party has always claimed to be cleaner and more honest than Fianna Fail. Now we know that they

are in the same racket.

■ **THE LABOUR PARTY.** In 1992, Dick Spring promised to break the Golden Circle in this country. But we now know that his party had already taken £10,000 from Ben Dunne. These hypocrites should be rejected by the working class.

Is this really democracy?

Bertie Ahern has found a new excuse for what is going on. He claims that 'democracy is an expensive business' and that 'modern political parties' need business donations.

But the recent scandal shows that there is no real democracy in this country.

We have all been taught that everyone, whether rich and poor, has an equal vote.

That means that we all are supposed to have a say in running the country.

But we now are starting to know how this country is really run.

Power in Ireland is wielded behind closed doors.

Discussions at the cabinet table are confidential.

Even the TD who won the 'Backbencher of the Year' this year claimed that ordinary TDs have very little influence.

All that big business has to do is buy influence with the tiny number who sit in the cabinet.

They make huge and secret donations to the parties.

It is no accident, for example, that Michael Lowry was the treasurer for Fine Gael who liaised with business.

But this is not the only one way that business gets to run this country.

The top judges come from the wealthy.

This is why they nearly always make judgements against workers in strike situations.

They always liaise with big business.

The fraud in the beef industry, for example, was covered up by the mandarins

at the Department of Agriculture.

The police are organised to deal only with the crimes of the poor.

Stolen

According to one criminologist, Paul O Mahony,

more money is stolen in fraud than all that is taken in theft.

But there is not a single company boss in jail.

The truth is that this country is being run by the rich for the rich.

The scandal over Dunnes is only the tip of the iceberg.

Clean up this corrupt mess—join the SWP

The Dunnes family pay their own workers only £3.50 an hour—but they have spent millions in buying off politicians. These skinflints must know that they are getting something for their bribes.

In every town in Ireland they are able to get planning permission in some of the top sites to build up their supermarket chain.

They have been able to get away without paying proper taxes because they have friends in high places.

The parties in Dail Eireann are now trying to cover up what is going on. They pretend that it is the most natural thing in the world to get money from big business.

Bertie Ahern, for example, has even said that 'democracy is an expensive business' and so they need millions to run a modern political party.

But parties like the Socialist Workers Party have to survive without any help from rich friends. Our own members make a regular contribution to keep the party going. We are not willing to put our organisation at the service of big business but want to overthrow it.

The Labour Party and Democratic Left are doing everything to help the establishment cover up what was going on. Dick Spring got huge numbers of votes in the last election because he said that he was against the Golden Circle. But we now know that his party got £10,000 from the Dunnes family to help Mary Robinson's Presidential election.

This scandal shows why we need a political force that is prepared to rock the political establishment. The SWP believes that real change in this country must come from working class people themselves.

In the next election, we will be standing candidates in a number of constituencies. We will use the election campaign and any position we win to encourage people to struggle outside the Dail.

We believe that real change will come when working people take to the streets in great numbers and use their industrial power to press for their demands.

We stand for:

An end to the situation where millionaires like Ben Dunne and Tony o Reilly make more in a single day than working people make in a year.

We want public ownership of the main sources of wealth in this country. We want a minimum wage of £4.50 an hour for every worker immediately.

For workers control of industry. The people who work in factories, offices and shops should be given control of their jobs. It would stop the corruption and sleaze that is now going on.

If you are sick of the political establishment and want to see a real alternative, the SWP is the party for you.

Italy: How to get the establishment

Two years ago a similar scandal happened in Italy.

On the streets people turned on the establishment politicians.

Demonstrations

Whenever they appeared hundreds of people started to throw

coins at them to give them their little 'pieces of silver'.

Workers came out on huge demonstrations.

The result was that a few key politicians were sent to jail.

It did not end the rule of the rich—but it frightened them enough get some of their greedy hands out of the till.

We need some of that type of action here.

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Fined

The strike at Nolan's Transport, for example, was banned by a High Court judge and the union SIPTU fined £1.25 million.

The heads of the civil service operate as a permanent power in the land.

FACT

It would take a Dunnes worker 150 years to earn £208,000 into their hands.

Yet this is what Ben Dunne gave to Michael Lowry for his house.

And Lowry says he does not quite know exactly how the money was paid!

FINE GAEL STINKS AS MUCH AS FIANNA FAIL

The Dunnes scandal is the tip of the iceberg.

All around Leinster House there is a stink of corruption. And Fine Gael have shown that they are equally as corrupt as Fianna Fail.

The Lowry scandal is only one example of Fine Gael on the take.

Esat Digiphone: This small

company was awarded the licence for the mobile phone licence. It is run by Dennis O'Brien. In 1995, O'Brien gave £15,000 to a Fine Gael candidate in the Wicklow Bye-Election. And they wonder why he got the money spinning licence!

Alan Dukes made representations on behalf of a beef

exporter in 1987. This businessmen wanted export credit insurance so that if his foreign customers did not pay, the Irish taxpayer would stomp up. The same businessman had previously made a donation to Dukes' election funds.

Now Dukes is standing in as a replacement for Michael Lowry.

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