

TAKE BACK OUR NATION

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DEMOCRATIC REFORM

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The Government of Ireland has failed to protect our Nation, Our people are disillusioned and weary. Seeking an alternative solution, but finding none. Our people have no Faith in our political leaders. It is a sad reflection on the quality of the opposition that after less than 100 years of Independence, many Irish people believe we are incapable of self government.

There are many dedicated representatives who became involved in politics to try to change and improve the way we are governed. But any politician who shows courage and conviction is often seen as a threat to the leadership of our political parties, and he / she is quietly sidelined. Some go quietly, others go with a bang, but their commitment is often lost to the Nation forever.



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# Chapter 1

## Democratic Reform

Democratic Reform is a completely fresh start, born out of frustration with the lack of choice among the existing political parties. Democratic Reform will offer a real choice to the Irish people.

### Fundamental Principles

#### **Sovereignty:**

The Irish People have earned the right of Self-Government, and the right to be Governed without interference or threat from within or from outside the Nation, And we have the right to hold accountable that Sovereign Government. Sovereignty is the belief that the legitimacy of the state is created by will or consent of the People, who are the source of all political power. Democratic Reform will seek to restore these rights.

#### **Tolerance**

Within this Nation we must demand tolerance and inclusion, No citizen of this Nation should be vilified or excluded because of his/her, colour, gender, sexual preference, marital status, age, or disability.

Social discrimination is unacceptable and outdated. All the citizens of this Nation are equal and must be treated so. Responsible citizenship is the Minimum requirement of All who are, or seek to be, part of the Irish Nation.

#### **Non-Violence**

The use of violence to achieve a political objective is unacceptable and unconditionally condemned. Violence does not win arguments, it only creates enemies. Bombs and Bullets destroy lives, they don't build Nations.



## Chapter 2

# The Irish Nation

The Irish Nation is a collective of families, and neighbours drawn and held together by a common belief, common values, and a shared history. The Homeland of the Irish Nation is the Island of Ireland, and though many of the Irish family have spread throughout the world, they still look to Ireland as their home. As a Nation we must harness the creativity and develop the skills of that which is our greatest asset, Our People.

### 2.1 The Population

The community which makes up the Irish nation is spread around the World, and numbers almost 80 Million People

According to the 2006 census the population of the Republic of Ireland was 4,239,849 (approx 4.25 Million) This is a population Density of 60 persons per Km/Sq ( ranked 139th. in the World ). Compare this with the United Kingdom which with a population of 58.8 Million, has a population density of 246 persons per Km/Sq (ranked 48th in the world). A similar Population Density, if applied to Ireland, would give Ireland a Population of over 17 Million People.

We must rebuild the population to at least 10 million people, to create a viable and sustainable economy.

### 2.2 The Culture

For many thousands of years this island has been home to a small population of people whose origin is uncertain. History teaches us that the island has been invaded many times, first the Vikings, and then the Saxons. For a thousand years the English and Irish have been engaged in a sometimes violent co-existence. Many times the conquerors have settled and become entwined with the indigenous population. Always the natives have sought to establish a unique identity.

The advent of mass travel systems has led to Irishmen and Irishwomen spreading to the four corners of the Earth, and they in turn have contributed to the development of our culture. From this melting pot of humanity, a varied and exciting culture has evolved, A passive and Tolerant people has emerged, choosing to express themselves in their sports, their music and dance, their writings, and their welcoming, humorous nature.

We have a culture as colourful as any in the world. Our writers are acclaimed throughout the world. Our musicians, song writers and dancers are renowned for their skills and talents. The richness and quality of our artists and sculptors, ancient and modern are impressive. Our entrepreneurs are leaders in commerce around the world. Our universities produce talented young people highly valued, and widely sought around the world.

## 2.3 The Territory

### The Island

The Island of Ireland has since 1922 been divided, 26 Counties form the Republic of Ireland, and 6 Counties are under British Rule. A recent amendment to our constitution, accepted by the People of the Republic and the People of the North Eastern Counties, Accepted that the reunification of the Island could only be brought about by peaceful means, and the agreement of both Communities in the North and the people of the Republic. The Unification of the two northern communities, together with the People of the Republic can only be achieved by consent.

### The Sea's around Ireland

The Internationally recognised boundaries of the Irish Nation include the Seas around the Coast of Ireland. This area of our territory extends for 200 Nautical Miles “370 Km” from our Shoreline over The Atlantic Shelf, or to the midpoint between our neighbours coastline. This area is defined By the United Nations as an Exclusive Economic Zone. By International Law, all of the Natural Resources oil or Gas, all mineral deposits, and all fishing rights belong to the Irish Nation. The total area is ten times the size of the Island of Ireland, and it belongs to the Irish People.

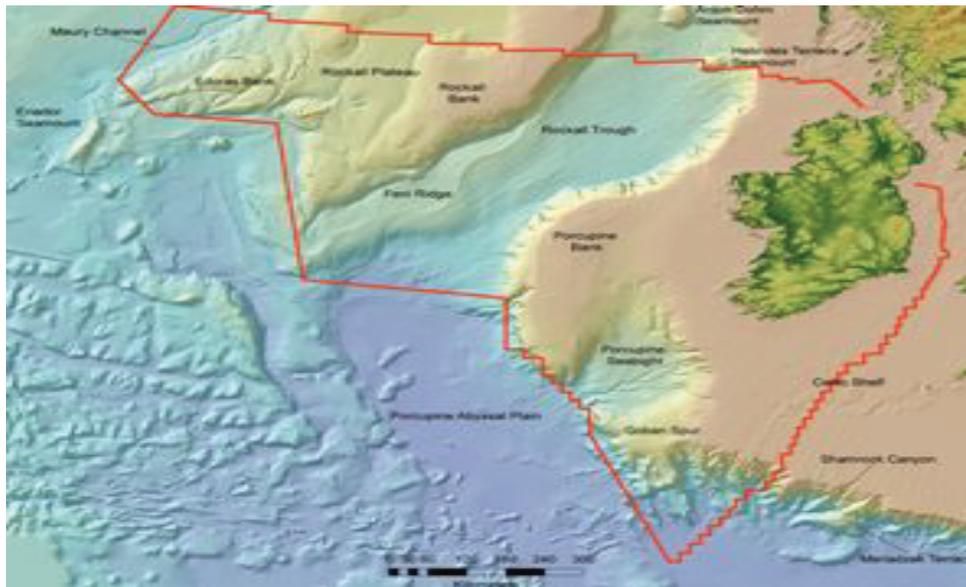


Figure 2.1: The Real Map of Ireland

## Chapter 3

# The Irish Republic

The Irish State is a Constitutional Democracy. This is the best system of government in the world. We must restore our independence and the right of the Irish People to Govern this Nation in the interests of the Irish People. The establishment of the Irish State was based on the principle of Government of the People, by the People, for the People. A state in which the supreme power rests in the body of citizens entitled to vote and which is exercised by representatives chosen directly or indirectly by them. They chose this model because they believed in the right of the collective body of citizens to direct the government to govern in a manner which guaranteed the rights of the individual and the equality of all citizens.

The founders of this Republic were honourable men and women, how could they ever have anticipated the corruption of their ideals and the failings of those who claim to be their successor's.

### 3.1 Our Constitution Denied

This constitutional democracy, system of Government was set aside when we joined the European Union.

When we joined the European Union, our Constitution was changed to allow the State to Ratify the Treaty of Accession, This allowed Ireland to Join the European Union. At that time, the Irish Constitution was changed to allow European Laws to take precedence over Irish Law.

#### 3.1.1 Article 29, before the Lisbon Treaty

Article 29, section 4, subsection 10,

*No provision of this Constitution invalidates laws enacted, acts done or measures adopted by the State which are necessitated by the obligations of membership of the European Union or of the Communities, or prevents laws enacted, acts done or measures adopted by the European Union or by the Communities or by institutions thereof, or by bodies competent under the Treaties establishing the Communities, from having the force of law in the State.*

### 3.1.2 Article 29, after the Lisbon Treaty

Article 29 was rewritten as follows,

*No provision of this Constitution invalidates laws enacted, acts done or measures adopted by the State, before, on, or after the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, that are necessitated by the obligations of membership of the European Union, referred to in subsection 5 of this section or, of the European Atomic Energy Community, or prevents laws enacted, acts done or measures adopted by,*

- *said European Union or the European Atomic Energy Community, or by institutions thereof.*
- *the European Communities or European Union existing immediately before the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, or by institutions thereof, or*
- *bodies competent under the treaties referred to in this section, from having the force of law in the State.*

This is similar to the existing subsection 10 and allows for the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty to be put into effect in Ireland.

Quote, from the referendum commission extended guide to the Lisbon Treaty.

#### **What does this mean**

Either way, this means you cannot successfully challenge any Irish or European Law, Act, or Measure, Necessitated by our membership of the European Union, the European Atomic Energy Community, or any of the European institutions thereof..... in The Supreme Court of Ireland.

#### **A New Modern Constitution**

A complete review of our Constitution is now required to defend our democracy and reflect a modern Irish Nation. In the meantime, deleting this subsection from our Constitution would immediately restore the Constitution as the basis of our democracy, and the Supreme Court as the final Arbiter of all laws, acts or measures, proposed or introduced.

#### **Would this effect our membership of Europe**

No. This would have no effect on our membership of the European Union, Ireland is the only Nation in Europe which has set aside its constitution in this way. Ireland is the only State which denies the right of its citizens, to challenge the constitutionality of its Laws, Acts, or Measures, in this way.

## **3.2 The Government**

### **3.2.1 The President**

The election of a President of the Irish Republic is limited to a selection of candidates offered to the electorate by the political parties. A candidate may be proposed by 20 or more members of the Oireachtas, or a candidate may be proposed by four or more administrative counties, councils, or Borough's. This effectively means that the political parties can agree amongst themselves, who will be President. Only if they disagree on a candidate, do the electorate get to choose from between the parties choice of candidates. This denies the Irish people the fundamental right to choose their President. We need a system which allows the people to directly nominate a Candidate for the Presidency. The role of the President also needs to be reformed, At present the President can only speak on matters approved by the Oireachtas. We need a President who can and will speak out on matters of National Importance, and if necessary institute a referendum to establish the will of the people on matters of National Importance.

### **3.2.2 Dail Reform**

The present administration has brought the Oireachtas into disrepute. And yet we keep on electing them on the basis of personal favours or worthless promises. We are all guilty, and must share the blame, if we continue to elect our Government, as we do now.

### **Changing the Rules**

A Constitutional amendment should be introduced, requiring all members of the Oireachtas, to vacate all other offices, including all directorships and consultancies, Paid or Unpaid, during their tenure of office in Government. This is currently required of the President.

### **Salaries**

A Complete review of remuneration should strive to encourage the best talent to take an active part in politics, and at the same time remove the perception of a gravy train not related to performance. All expenses should be based on receipts and published Monthly. This means no hidden perks.

### **Performance**

In order that the public be kept informed as to the performance of their elected representatives, A monthly report should be made public, detailing the deputies attendance at Dail and Committee sessions, A transcript of their contribution to questions and debates should also be published.

### **3.2.3 Seanad Reform**

The Seanad should be reformed. If the Seanad is to serve a useful purpose, it must be to provide a breathing space between proposed legislation and its enactment. A fully elected Seanad would at least give credibility and

legitimacy to the Upper House. It could also have a useful function as a body, to review junior ministerial and senior public service appointments.

### **3.2.4 Local Government Reform**

The reform of local government is long overdue, how many more tribunals do we need before we accept that in its present form local government is susceptible to corrupting influences and pressure.

#### **City and County Councils:**

Large city and county councils should be broken up and their powers devolved to new Area Development Boards. Existing town and borough councils would be re-established as A.D.B's. The objective of this program is to bring local government back to the local community. These A.D.B's would consist of locally elected Councillors. also Garda, Health, Education, and Welfare Officials.

#### **Area Development Boards**

Belonging to a community is the first step to rebuilding civic pride, and providing a sense of security for our citizens and elder generations. A.D.B's should be established on a statutory basis, which would focus on local issues and the welfare of the local community.

Existing council functions, would be devolved to these A.D.B's, E.g. cleansing, waste management, community employment schemes, and local planning applications. These A.D.B's would have real powers, and should not be seen as a downgraded council. This is an attempt to bring real power to the community in the area where they live. They would have real power to propose or veto any activity in their local area.

Exchequer funding which is currently given to town and city councils would instead be given to the proposed A.D.B's.

## Chapter 4

# Foreign Affairs

The Irish Republic in its short lifetime has gained the recognition and respect of the International Community. Despite the failings of the present and past administrations we have managed to remain mostly Neutral, and because it is known worldwide that the Irish People desire to remain non-partisan in our dealings with other Nations. We are fortunate that we are still perceived as a non-threatening and a non-belligerent Nation. We have no history of conquest or occupation of other Nations, and therefore no animosity exists toward our Nation.

### 4.1 Irish Neutrality:

The perception of Irish Neutrality has become eroded, due to the policy of partisan neutrality. We may in future be faced with a choice, continue to speak with two tongues, and risk being embroiled in conflicts our people do not support. If we continue as at present, we risk the loss of respect of the international community, and the respect of our valued friends. The Irish Republic must speak clearly, and must be prepared to stand for Democracy, Peace, and Justice.

Our policy of Neutrality has often been interpreted as a policy of pacifism in the face of global military problems. This has not however prevented Irish Troops and Police from being deployed in support of the United Nations. The participation by Irish forces in armed conflict situations is not unusual, and requires the approval of the United Nations, and the Oireachtas.

Future demands for military assistance and co-operation must always be considered on a case by case basis. Our friends and neighbours who share much of our cultural and moral values should be entitled to seek our support at times of difficulty. We may then support or criticise their actions in accordance with the wishes of the Irish People.

### 4.2 Europe:

A Europe of free movement of people and trade was an attempt to end centuries of suspicion, territorial disputes and trade wars. A collective of Member States seeking harmony and co-operation. A collective of neighbours, sharing common values and aspirations forming a cooperative community, supporting each other in their search for a better life for all their peoples.

### **What about the European Parliament:**

Electing a Federal parliament of 785 members, weakens the democratic mandate of the European People, and denies the original European concept of a collective of sovereign Nation States. If The European Commission and the Council of Ministers found it difficult to agree decisions, how much more difficult will it be for 785 Members to reach agreements.

### **What about the Lisbon Treaty**

Many people believe that the Lisbon Treaty was forced on the Irish Nation, in order to provide a legal basis for the annexation of our Exclusive Economic Zone, 220 million acres of the continental shelf, which contains vast reserves of oil, gas, and minerals. These reserves along with energy potentials from wind and wave technology, make this area vital to European energy requirements. The Lisbon Treaty allows for Qualified Majority Voting in the European Parliament, particularly in the area of Energy. This means Ireland cannot block the annexation of our Exclusive Economic Zone by Europe.

## **4.3 Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

The Irish Nation is inextricably linked to the United Kingdom. For almost a thousand years both Nations have been entwined in a dramatic sometime bloody engagement. Britain and Ireland both bear the scars of the recent struggles. It is time to close the book on the past. The Irish family, Unionist and Nationalist on these islands will only be reunited when we can genuinely offer the hand of friendship to each other. Bombs and bullets only offer pain and suffering. Almost every family in Ireland has a relative in the United Kingdom, earning a living, raising a family, and building friendships with British people. Many of the Sons and Daughters of the Irish in Britain speak with British accents, Many brave Irishmen fought and died alongside their British counterparts in two world wars to defend Europe and the Islands from the "Third Reich".

We should learn from our past.. but we must not live in the past.

## **4.4 The United States of America**

The relationship between Ireland and the United States of America is a special relationship. A large percentage of Americans claim Irish blood connections, and the Irish emigrant community has been very effective in the commercial and political life of America. America has provided a refuge for the Irish, fleeing from the Famine and the economic recessions of the past. Both Nations have shown a great affection for each other, and support in times of need. We need to harvest the good will, that exists between our People's And create a spirit of co-operation between the Government of the United States, and the Irish Government.

## Chapter 5

# Security and Defence

The Security of the Irish Nation is a primary function of the State. The Government is charged under the Constitution with defending the State from Attack or Insurrection. Our Nations Land and Maritime Borders are recognised internationally, and In modern times no other Nation has threatened our borders.

Under the United Nations Law of the Sea, our Maritime Boundaries are Clearly Defined. These maritime boundaries encompass 220 million acres of the European Continental Shelf and encompass our United Nations recognised, “Exclusive Economic Zone“. The Irish Nation must have the capability to police and protect all of the Resources of our Nation. We must also have the capacity to deliver on our responsibilities to the United Nations. We need to undertake a major restructuring of our defence forces capability, and that includes a major recruitment of personnel and a major expansion of our Navy and Coast Guard services.

### 5.1 The Army

The Irish Army is a credit to the Irish Nation, and has performed its duties at home and abroad with courage and distinction. Our armed forces are primarily defensive forces, and our United Nations missions are usually of a ceasefire policing nature. This role may change in future to peace enforcement and humanitarian defence.

#### Equipment

Our soldiers must be equipped with the most modern weapons , transport and protection systems available. Hi-Tech weapons systems which are highly mobile, accurate, and armour piercing should be developed by our indigenous industries, in conjunction with our defence forces and universities. and personal protection systems which provide maximum protection for our soldiers, must be developed in Ireland, for the use of the Irish Army and our Defence forces.

#### Air Support

Fixed wing and Rotary wing aircraft, which enable our soldiers to move quickly and effectively, must be available at all times and must be under the command of an Army Air Support Unit, a part of the regular Army.

## **5.2 The Navy**

The Naval Service is based on Haulbowline Island. in Cork.

The Irish Navy has a limited capability, confined mainly to fishery protection, and rescue services with occasional police actions. Considering we have 220 million acres of territorial waters, this is remarkable. Our navy is never likely to engage in conventional warfare, so we must acknowledge our navy will only ever be engaged in policing our ocean territory or occasional support of U.N. missions.

### **The Coast Guard**

The Irish Coast Guard has responsibility for our national system of marine emergency management in Ireland's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and inland waterways. It is responsible for coordinating our response to maritime accidents, which require Search, Rescue and Counter Pollution and Salvage operations. It also has responsibility for vessel traffic monitoring.

### **Restructuring our Navy and Coast guard**

The existing naval capacity should be expanded to enable it to adequately perform its duties. A new restructuring of the navy, and Coast guard based on the model of the American Coast Guard Service should be considered. Allowing for Leave, Maintenance and other down time such as refits, we should consider the acquisition of additional patrol vessels and complement this by the acquisition of an ocean based Amphibious Platform Dock, (Carrier) with capability for a small squadron of naval helicopters, suitable for search and rescue missions, surveillance duties, and interception.

## **5.3 The Air Corps**

The Air Corps has no independent role and should be merged with the Army and Navy. We cannot afford a real Air Force and risking the lives of brave men and women foolishly is irresponsible. Assets and personnel useful to the Navy should be transferred to the Naval Service. Assets useful to the Army should be transferred to an army air support Unit.

## Chapter 6

# Equality and Justice

*And seeking to promote the common good, with due observance of Prudence, Justice and Charity, so that the dignity and freedom of the individual may be assured, true social order attained, the unity of our country restored, and concord established with other nations,*

An Extract from the Irish Constitution 1937.

### 6.1 Child Protection

Nothing defines a civilisation so much as how we treat our Children  
The Irish Nation has failed to live up to even the most basic civilised standards when it came to caring for and protecting our children. Until we correct our mistakes, how dare we call ourselves civilised. We may try to excuse this once, but if it happens again we are all criminally guilty. We must seek out, expose those who are still a threat, and punish those who have been found guilty, of neglect or abuse of our children. We must also expose and punish those who through neglect, failed to respond to our children's cries for help.

We must put in place a system of monitoring, and for protecting our children, which will ensure all the children of the Nation are safe and secure, free from intimidation and abuse, at home, in the community, or at school, from the day they are born until as Adults, they are able to speak on their own behalf. All our citizens have these rights, but we must make special efforts to protect these rights for our children, who often do not even understand that they are being abused.

### 6.2 Civil Rights

#### **Religion:**

Under the Constitution (the Rule Book) religious freedom is guaranteed, and must remain so. As individuals every citizen has a right to belong to the religious organisation of choice, this must remain so. Despite recent controversy, many religious organisations have contributed greatly to many aspects of Irish life. The actions of individuals and groups of individuals, should not cause us to ignore the good that has been done.

However every religious organisation must be subject to the laws of the State,

without exception, and those who have been guilty of neglect or abuse must be held accountable. The Irish Nations equalities and anti-discrimination legislation must be extended to all religious organisations.

### **Abortion**

Every human being from conception to death has a right to life. But in some circumstances it is difficult to reconcile that concept with the creation of an unwanted life, where that life is a result of a criminal act such as rape. Unfortunately once consideration to termination of this life is considered then many people fear it may open the floodgates and become another form of contraception. Termination in circumstances where a pregnancy is the result of a Criminal act, and limited to twelve weeks, should be permitted. Where a false claim of a Criminal act is used to secure a termination, an offence equal to Manslaughter must be Established in Law, and prosecuted with all the vigour of the Law.

### **Euthanasia**

When a person reaches the natural end of their life, it is difficult for the relatives of that individual to accept the inevitable. Sometimes though there is a lack of human love and emotion from some. In these cases there may seem an undue haste to bring conclusion to the process. Taking these opposing circumstances into consideration, those charged with the care of the elderly of incapacitated must consider what is in the best interest of the Patient. Hastening the process of death to facilitate the living is totally unacceptable, and must be punishable in Law. However unnecessary prolonging of the suffering of the patient is equally wrong. In the final days of life the primary consideration must be the comfort and mental capacity of the patient. Artificial means of life support should be discontinued if in the opinions of medically qualified consultants this should be so.

## **6.3 Law and Order**

Criminals have waged war on our streets with impunity, killing and maiming each other and innocent bystanders in the process. The ordinary citizens of this Nation are entitled to walk the streets and pursue their business without fear. We must take back our streets from the criminals.

### **The Legal System**

The Irish legal system is failing in its primary duty to protect the citizen. Crime is rampant and unchecked. Criminals walk our streets without fear of apprehension or punishment. The ordinary citizen feels powerless and afraid to challenge even the youngest of the thugs who terrorise our neighbourhoods. Our Supreme Court is Independent and must remain so. This is fundamental to our Democracy, however we must demand justice, and protection for all citizens, not just for criminals.

## **Law Reform**

Our Courts need to take into consideration the concerns of the People. An annual or Bi-Annual forum where interested parties and the members of the Supreme Court could exchange views and opinions should be established. A report of the opinions of the members of the Forum, and suggested Law reform could then be published and considered by the Oireachtas. A three-way Dialogue between the Public, the Oireachtas, and The Judiciary, would result in better Laws and greater respect for the system of Justice in this Nation. This would not infringe on the Independence of the Supreme Court.

## **Violent Crime**

When a person sets out to commit a crime, he or she makes a conscious decision to break the law. If the consequences of their action leads to violence then they are responsible for the act of violence. If the act of violence results in the death or serious injury of another, then the perpetrator is and must be held accountable. The concept of criminal intent must carry through from the initial intent to commit a crime to the final criminal actions of the perpetrator.

## **Glamorising Crime**

Many ignorant people look on criminals as enterprising, as a modern day Al Capone, or simply very clever people cheating the State by providing goods and services which are either prohibited or too expensive. This illusion must be shattered and the glamour of associating with these criminals must be destroyed. The assets of friends and associates of criminals, believed to have been provided by criminal activity should be seized and forfeited.

## **Sentencing**

A comprehensive review of sentencing is needed in order to restore respect for the Justice system in this Nation. Prison should be a last resort, and used mainly for Violent and Serious Crime. Lessor crimes can and should be dealt with in a manner appropriate to the Crime.

## **Free Legal Aid**

Free legal Aid must be available to defend a person against criminal charges, and in cases where a person seeks protection for His / Her Human rights. When a person having exhausted all the legal options, is convicted of a criminal or civil offence, Then that person must be held to account for all of the legal costs involved. His / Her own legal costs and the Legal costs of the State. (Including the Free Legal Aid provided). Upon conviction it must be mandatory for a Recovery order against all costs, to be issued by the Court. It must be seen that Crime Does Not Pay.

## **6.4 An Garda Siochana**

At current staff levels (14,000 approx.) there is only one Garda on duty at any given time for every two thousand of the population. *1per2000* Covering

a variety of duties such as, Law enforcement, Traffic control, Accident Investigation, Criminal Investigation, Court Attendance, Escort duties, Public Service Duties and Administration. It's no wonder criminals have little fear of getting caught. Many duties currently performed by the Gardai, should be Carried out by other agencies, Prosecution of offenders should be the responsibility of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Traffic duties should be performed by a Garda dedicated traffic corps.

## **The Solution**

The Garda Force should be increased in size from 14000 to 25000 (twenty-five thousand) of which 3000 (three-thousand) would be dedicated Traffic Corps. An agreed minimum ratio to International Standards, of law enforcement officers to population should be determined, and a Constitutional amendment to prescribe that ratio of Gardai to members of population in service, should be considered. This would prevent the Government and opposition from playing political football with the security of the Citizens.

## **6.5 The Prison Service**

Did you know; The governor of a detention facility (prison) can override the sentencing, imposed by a Judge, and release on temporary licence any convicted criminal, due to Overcrowding, for Rehabilitation, or for Compassionate reasons. This includes Drug Dealers, Rapists, Paedophiles and Murderers. Many of these so called reformed criminals then carry out further criminal acts, knowing fully that any new sentences will run Concurrent (at the same time) to their original sentence We already have many of the powers required to tackle serious crime. Unfortunately we appear not to have the resources to keep violent criminals off the streets. Many arrest warrants are never executed, and offender are left free to scourge society, believing they are invincible.

### **Detention**

We need More prison places. (approx 1000 High security detention places, in a single facility.) Prison officers identities in these facilities must be protected. Camera's similar to those used in Garda stations would protect the prisoners from abuse or inhumane treatment. Our Prisons should be place's of Penitence and Rehabilitation and , Not Universities of Criminal behaviour. Those prisoners who are habitual or unrepentant, should be evaluated to consider if it is safe to release them back into society.

### **Probation**

If a period of rehabilitation is required on release then it should be for the Courts to decide the nature of and the duration of that rehabilitation in consultation with the Prison Service. Behaviour during confinement should influence these conditions. Probation should be Post Sentence, not During sentence.

## 6.6 Public Order

### Drug Abuse

The abuse of drugs is a major destabilising factor in Irish society, causing distress to family members, communities, health services and law enforcement agencies. Opinion varies from acceptance to intolerance. Suggestions such as legalisation of drug use, in the same way as alcohol is legal, to the other extreme of incarceration in prison, even suggestions of the death penalty, fail to respond to the real problem, the destruction of the right of the individual to a healthy and productive life.

Our society accepts the legal sale and distribution of some recreational drugs, such as alcohol and nicotine (cigarettes). No one in their right mind would suggest that the abuse of these drugs is healthy. No one in their right mind would suggest that society is wrong to try to eliminate the abuse of these drugs. However these drugs are called recreational drugs and are accepted by a large element of society, we don't want prohibition, that just leads to more crime.

The re classification of all drugs is urgently required, this might permit some recreational drugs to be legalised, and controlled. Allowing the Justice system to concentrate on ridding society of the criminal importers and distributors of more dangerous and harmful drugs.

### Binge Drinking

The recent increase in the prevalence of binge drinking must be tackled. This behaviour is a major factor in Social disorder, drug abuse, and health problems, bringing with it both economic and social costs, which we as taxpayers are burdened with. There is a legitimate and acceptable use of alcohol. The public house as a meeting venue for social exchange is a valuable outlet for most Irish people. However the abuse of alcohol off premises, by underage and irresponsible people must be tackled. This abuse is facilitated by the easy accessibility of cheap alcohol through supermarkets, off licence sales and petrol filling stations, among others.

Very often children as young as ten years old are served drinks and cigarettes in these outlets, without as much as a second thought. Allowing staff who are only children themselves to sell these products, is asking for trouble Often they are selling these products to their peers, and would be too frightened to say "NO", for fear of reprisal.



# Chapter 7

## Education

Our constitution says “Treat all of the children of the Nation equally“. That has to become a reality. Irish families are entitled to expect an educational system that nurtures and educates the children of the Nation, to a high standard, without discrimination, or favour. A system which encourages and supports the child in its endeavour to find a place in society. where the 3 R’s are accompanied by a disciplined approach to Social Education. A system which acknowledges the difference between education and Intelligence, and allows its children to express themselves in a manner appropriate to each Child’s ability.

We need a revolution in how our children are educated, No more should a child depend on the patronage of a particular Faith, or the Wealth of the family to determine the education he/she receives.

The Irish Nation needs citizens of all disciplines, Academic, Technical, and Cultural. Our education system must accommodate the development of our children to fill all of these roles.

### 7.1 Primary Education

Reform of our Education System begins at primary level. and must address the needs of the child in a manner never before contemplated. The needs of the Child must be paramount. Those who complain about the Cost must ask themselves what is the cost of failure to educate our children.

Ask yourself this question;

How many of our children pass from Primary to Secondary School, who cannot Read, Write or do Basic Arithmetic? This is after eight years of ”Education”, This is a disaster. And before you say its the teachers fault, ...its not.

Placing a young teacher in charge of a class of children aged between 4 to 12 years, which can at times reach 35 children, is asking a qualified Teacher to be a babysitter, a counsellor, and an educator all at once. Add to this cocktail, a requirement to keep this group of children interested for up to 6 hours a day 5 days a week. This is ridiculous, Reform of our education system is urgent. We must that class size to 20 within ten years.

## **Health Education**

Along with educating their minds, we also have a duty to educate children in caring for their bodies, Nutrition, Hygiene, and Physical Education should play an important part in the Curriculum. Children's play time should be incorporated into a physical education program, which could include, circuit training, athletics, and organised game play.

## **Religious Education**

Religious education should be a matter of choice for the Parent, and while I would encourage this, It should not be a compulsory part of the Curriculum. It should be available as an additional voluntary subject, and provided by the relevant faith. However the ethos of this Nation is Christian, and all education establishments should support and reflect this ethos. (There should be no exceptions).

## **Irish Language Schools**

Many parents wish to have their children taught through the medium of the Irish Language, and this is commendable. The Irish language is a very beautiful language and its revival would be a credit to the Nation. However the English language is also now our Native Language, regardless of the manner or history of how it was imposed. It is also the language of our Business Community and an International Language. Our children must be educated in a manner which gives each child the greatest opportunity to succeed.

## **7.2 Secondary Education**

Secondary education in Ireland needs to undergo a major change: Our educators need to re-evaluate both in its purpose, and our expectations. Creating a one size fits all, system of education is a tragic waste of time and effort. Our children are the future adult citizens of this Nation. Some of these children will fail to reach their full potential because we are blinded by our own limitations. Failure to provide a real life education system, is damaging to our children and damaging to the Irish Nation. We Irish succeed not "because" of our education system, but "Despite" it.

## **Diversity**

Our secondary system of education must begin to recognise that all children develop skills and aptitudes as individuals. Some children are Academically inclined, some are Technically inclined, Some excel at Sport, and some are Artistically inclined. Our curriculum must encourage all disciplines. Identifying, encouraging, and acknowledging those skills and attributes. This will lead to greater satisfaction and achievement for the children concerned and benefit the Nation enormously. There is an old saying, "you cannot fit a square peg into a round hole", have our educators forgotten this?

## **Streaming**

When children leave Primary school, and embark on the second stage of the education process, they should already have a good foundation in Reading, Writing, Civics (behavioural), and Computational skills. These skills should be re-reinforced during the first years of secondary school. There should then begin the process of identifying, encouraging and enabling, those traits which are unique to every child.

## **Managing Change**

During our lifetimes we change direction and sometimes career, many times. Allowing children to change their minds is as natural as Life itself. We must encourage our children to experience many different aspects of life, before settling on a career. Secondary school must be a place of research and practise, allowing our children to grow in both body and mind in the safety of a controlled and monitored environment.

## **7.3 Third level education**

Having completed primary and secondary level education, our children will have progressed and become young adults. Depending upon their abilities and ambitions, some may wish to continue on the path of education and development to a higher level. A variety of institutes and universities will provide these higher level courses.

All State providers of these higher level courses, should in future be linked to research and development projects. And all courses should seek to educate through the principle of tutorial assisted, research based, learning techniques.

## **Selection**

Entrance to our Universities must be reformed, the current system of points assessment puts too much emphasis on memory learning, and little account of ability. Our children deserve an education system which from primary, through secondary, and through university, provides an integrated solution for learning development, and opportunity for all our children.

## **7.4 Adult Education**

Adult education must become a priority for the development of our Nation and our Economy. A system of open education offering certificate, diploma, and degree course's, must be available for all adults. The delivery of these courses should be on a home study, peer to peer, community, or school basis. These course's must be affordable and flexible to enable all willing adults to participate.



## Chapter 8

# The Health Service

Reform of the health service is long overdue, every citizen of the Nation is entitled to feel secure in the knowledge that in times of illness or medical crisis, there is a service designed to care for, heal and restore our body and mind to good health. We cannot allow the creation of a two tier health service. we must make it possible for all our citizens to secure the best possible health-care at the provider of their choice, without any more delay.

### 8.1 Medical Standards

The HSE should be reformed and its mission changed to one of setting standards, and monitoring the performance of medical service providers, and the administration and management of the Medical insurance Scheme. The State would ensure quality performance through the establishment of a Medicare review panel, on which the patients council would be represented.

### 8.2 Medical Services

In order to ensure the variety and availability of medical services for the medical consumer, throughout the country, licenced health care facilities should be encouraged and developed in cooperation with the private sector. The HSE could then negotiate (or invite tenders) for the provision of specific health care solutions, to meet the needs of the community. The medical consumer could then choose the care provider which suits his or her needs.

### 8.3 Hospital Management

The management and control of our hospitals and medical clinics is best performed within each facility. Each medical centre should be allowed to develop its services in line with best practise, and the needs of the community. Monitoring and evaluation would be done by an independent unit of the Health Service Executive, with strict penalties for failure to meet set standards. Three areas of Management must be subject to HSE supervision.

- General Business Management.
- Clinical Excellence Management.
- Customer and Patient Care Management.

## 8.4 Health Education

Health education begins in the classroom. All infant, primary and secondary schools, must adopt a health care strategy for all children in their care. these strategies must be developed in consultation with the parents, health care professionals, and teachers. The physical, mental, and social welfare of our children is too important to be left to any one of the above alone. A community based approach to child welfare is urgently required. While there are many excellent parents, who raise their children to the highest standards, there are some who do not. We cannot allow the welfare of our children to be sacrificed at the altar of parental rights. The community must be able to act when some parents are obviously failing their children.

## Chapter 9

# Social Welfare

Every citizen in this State, is entitled to expect the Government to create a climate in which the freedom of the individual to choose a way of providing for the necessities of life is enabled. The Nation is entitled to expect every individual to contribute to his or her own welfare in a manner commensurate with his or her abilities.

The reform of social welfare is a matter of urgency. Social welfare is supposed to assist and protect the citizen from hardship in time of need. It is not supposed to keep those who contribute nothing to the Nation in a lifestyle which is dependant on the hard work of others. It is unfair to those hard working citizens to expect them to support those who will not work. Sometimes we need a little help from our friends and the wider community. We should however expect recipients to repay that help, with an effort to contribute to the community.

- We must clearly distinguish between Social Insurance, paid for by the individual, and State Support systems, which are paid for by the Taxpayer.
- We must support those who through age or infirmity, are unable to provide for their own needs, in a manner which respects the self esteem and dignity of the individual.
- We must support those who while caring for the young or the infirm are unable to follow a full time career, until such time as they are able to resume employment.
- We must support those who have fallen on difficult times through no fault of their own, to enable them to regain their self esteem and dignity.
- We must encourage those who have lost direction to recover their appetite for life and become useful members of the Community once again.

### 9.1 Pay Related Social Insurance

Every Citizen Employed or Self-Employed should be brought into a New PRSI scheme. This would be a compulsory contributory system of Income

protection, Medical insurance, and Pension fund provision, which would be designed to give income security to all contributors as follows.

### **9.1.1 Income Protection**

Every worker should contribute to a common Unemployment Insurance fund, to provide income protection in the case of periods of unemployment or Illness. Our present system is adequate but could be improved, Waiting periods before benefits begin, and the duration of cover could be addressed, while at the same time discouraging dishonest claims, in particular claims for medical related unemployment benefits. Suspect claims would be investigated by a specially trained anti fraud unit, who would be required to act thoroughly but respectfully toward all claimants investigated.

### **9.1.2 Medical Insurance**

The introduction of a contributory medical insurance card which can be presented to the medical service provider of choice, would effectively extend private cover to all qualifying citizens.

- A Children's Medical Card would be available free to all school-going children.
- An Adults Medical Insurance Card would be compulsory for all employed or self employed persons.
- A Pensioners Medical Insurance Card would be subsidised for all qualifying Pensioners.

Most medical services would be free, upon presentation of the medical insurance card to the Medicare provider of the patients choice. Vanity or Cosmetic services would be paid for by the Client.

### **Chronic illness cover:**

The State would continue to provide chronic illness cover.

### **9.1.3 State Pensions**

Every worker should contribute to a common Pensions Fund. to provide for an income upon retirement. This pension would be calculated on a typical 45 year working life span, to provide an Income equal to 66% of the average national wage, thereby providing a standard of living which acknowledges the contribution of the pensioner, and allows for retirement with dignity and security. if a pensioner wishes to increase the pension available, then it should be possible to continue to work and contribute for some additional years, or voluntarily increase their pension contribution, achieving actuarial growth of the pension in relation to the pensioners age, contribution history, and life expectancy.

## Chapter 10

# The Irish Economy

Many of the problems associated with the Irish economy can be explained very simply, "responsibility", or lack of it. The Government walks away from responsibility, saying "its a Global Crisis". The Banks walk away saying "its the market". The Unions walk away saying "its the employers fault". and the employers walk away saying "we cant compete". And the Worker and the Public walk away scratching their heads saying "How did it Happen". We are all to blame, but playing the blame game will not get us out of this mess we're in now.

There is a common factor throughout the Irish Economy which has led us to this situation.

- **Bad Government**

We are all by now aware of the Government's failure's, and I wont dwell too much on this, We elect them we can Fire them. If we don't, then don't complain about them.

Whats the Solution; Change the rules to regulate the terms and conditions of our elected representatives.

- **Bad Management**

In the lower echelons of Industry, bad managers get fired. In the upper echelons of Industry, bad managers are rewarded with Bonus Payments and big Severance Payoffs. They laugh all the way to the Bank. Big business isn't about the economy or people, not even about shareholder profit, it's about how much you can walk away with.

Whats the Solution; Reform the concept of Limited Liability, to extend liability to the executive directors of all corporate entities.

- **Bad Investments**

The bankers (not the ordinary staff), work with the Big industries, Government and Investors to create an "impression of wealth", and to facilitate the transfer of wealth between the financiers and Investors. Please don't pretend they create jobs, that is not their function. Their function is only to create and facilitate the transfer of wealth.

Whats Solution; Those who advocate a free market, must live by free market principles, No more bailouts.

## **10.1 Ideology**

The Irish economy should have as its primary function the Welfare of the People. The function of the Economy is to enable citizens to create the wealth, which allows them to live in the manner they desire, and which when taxed will provide sufficient funds to administer, police and protect the Nation, allowing the Nation to develop and expand in accordance with the wishes of the People. The function of the State is to manage, regulate and protect the economy in a manner which will encourage the Citizen to participate fully in the economic activity which generates the wealth which we all rely on.

### **10.1.1 Capitalism**

Capitalists believe that wages and living standards are derived from successful business enterprise. The profit motive driving the creation of wealth, which in the hands of the successful is considered the most appropriate way to provide for the economic needs of the Nation.

### **10.1.2 Socialism**

Socialists believe that businesses are there to provide a standard of living to which the worker aspires, and that all the wealth is generated by the workers and therefore must be taxed and re-distributed to the Citizen by the State. Both ideologies are wrong, although both have elements of right on their side.

### **10.1.3 A hybrid Solution**

A blend of the Ideologies of Capitalism and Socialism is the answer. We know that self interest is what drives most people. We must recognise the right of the individual to choose how to provide for his/her needs and the needs of his/her family. The development of a business is often the result of an idea or skill which when properly financed results in employment and maybe profit. Both the employer and worker are interdependent. The employer needs a profit to expand and develop the business, and the employee needs sufficient income to buy the goods and services produced by business.

## **10.2 The Financial System**

### **10.2.1 The Euro**

Our currency is the Euro. This currency is controlled by the E.C.B. which controls issues such as exchange rates, interest rates, and money supply. Belonging to a big club can have many benefits, provided the club managers value you as a member.

### **10.2.2 Economic Management**

Traditionally governments have managed their economies, by means of changes in the money supply, domestic interest rates, and revaluing or devaluing the value of the national currency. These tools used singly or in combination are

powerful if used wisely. They might have lessened the need for the drastic economic surgery we now face.

## **Conclusions**

While there are as many arguments for and against belonging to the Euro, as there are economists, One thing is certain, the hemorrhage of jobs from the Irish economy will continue until the Irish Government takes action. If we as a Nation are too small to stand alone, then we are equally too small to have any influence on the Managers of the ECB / Deutschebank. If we are to remain in the Eurozone, then we must develop alternative tools to manage our economy. This is a matter of urgency.

### **10.2.3 Warning**

If under the present strains within the European Union, which affect the Euro Currency, The Euro should collapse, the consequences for Ireland would be “Disaster“. The money in your pocket, or in your savings account would be worthless, Have the relevant authorities in Ireland a plan to deal with this situation if it occurs.

### **10.2.4 The Banks**

The Irish banking system needs urgent reform.

We can never again allow our economy to be held to ransom by the greed of a few. The ordinary Citizen and Small Business, must never again allow their hard earned money to be wasted on frivolous and expensive gambles.

## **The Central Bank**

The Central Bank should be responsible for developing the banking regulations (to International Standards.) and the strict enforcement of these regulations. The Central Bank should and should have all the necessary resources and powers to carry out these functions. The Central Bank should be independent, answering only to an all party Oireachtas Committee.

## **Retail and Investment Banks**

Should be forced to separate their different arms of retail and investment banking, and allowed to operate under the scrutiny of the Central Bank. They must operate without State support and must be allowed to succeed or Fail in line with Market Forces. No more government Bailouts. The protection of Limited Liability must be removed from the directors and boards of management of these commercial banks where carelessness, negligence, incompetence or breach of banking regulations is proven. Shareholders rights would not be affected.

## **A Public Banking System**

Already exists, In the form of the Post Office, and should be redeveloped urgently to provide a safe system of banking for the ordinary citizen, without the citizen being exposed to the risk of losing all of his/her assets if or when a

bank fails. Expansion of Deposit and Small Loan facilities for the consumer and small businessman should be developed. ATM and Internet banking would be the norm, with cash deposits and withdrawals made through the post office network if required. A limit on loan amounts and purpose, and a modest interest rate on deposits would ensure no unfair advantage over the commercial banks.

## **10.3 Unemployment**

Unemployment is a scourge on the Irish Nation, it robs the Nation of its most valuable resource, the skills, and industry of its people, and it robs the unemployed of their dignity and their dreams. We need vision and courage to end this scourge now and forever. We need a new approach to tackling this waste of our nations labour resource.

### **10.3.1 Manpower Resource's**

Any textbook on managing a business will inevitably point to the three resource's required to develop a successful business. Material, Finance, and Manpower. To develop a successful economy we require the same three resource's. The providers of these resources, invariably compete to maximise their gains. In a perfect world these competing requirements would balance out, and each provider would be satisfied. However utopia is still a long way off, and the best we can hope for is a fair return, and a competent regulator.

### **10.3.2 The Labour Market**

A free labour market is promoted by employers as the panacea for all our economic troubles, and is opposed by Unions on the ground's that it will diminish workers rights. The Government legislates, which pleases no one. In the meantime the economy and the Nation suffer as business's moves to low cost, low tax, strategically placed, and lightly regulated countries, in search of that better profit margin.

### **Mobilising the Unemployed**

With unemployment fast approaching 450,000, we need radical and visionary ideas to utilise this vast wasted human resource. Bringing hope to our people and providing for future generations. Those who say it cant be done, are the same people who said the Celtic tiger would live forever.

### **We must stop the jobs exodus;**

The Exodus of Jobs to low cost countries is progressing at an alarming rate. We have had a brief respite, a wake up call, to come to our senses. We have an opportunity to change direction, to reverse years of mismanagement, and create an economy which can support our people.

### **We must stop taxing Employment**

The next time you receive your pay check, take another look at it. The real cost of employment is your gross wage (or salary), employers PRSI

contribution, government training levies, and pension contributions. Add in costs such as employer liability insurance, council taxes, rates and water charges, and you begin to get the real cost of employing a worker in Ireland.

### **A Warning to employers**

Slavery was abolished years ago and should not be tolerated now. In particular, If certain industries cannot survive without paying wages below the poverty line, and abusing cheap immigrant labour, then they should close up shop and find business more suited to their needs, Good quality at a reasonable price will always win out over shoddy service. The subsidy of these industries through the social welfare system (income support) must end.

### **Collective Bargaining**

The right of free association is enshrined in our Constitution. This includes the right of workers to organise for the purpose of collective bargaining. Any company, national or international, which denies that right is in breach of our Constitutional Rights. It is the duty of Government to protect the rights of all citizens.

#### **10.3.3 Public Services**

The re-structuring of the public service is inevitable and necessary. The Public Service must be reduced through natural wastage and re-deployment. Reductions must be made in non-essential areas of the public services. However we need more Gardai, more Nurses and more Teachers. The explosion in back office public service employment caused by “Decentralisation“ was a disaster. This Nation is now paying the price.

#### **10.3.4 Immigration**

Irish society today is divided between those who believe we should have an open door policy toward immigrants, and those who would close the door to all Immigration. Ireland needs immigration, not as a source of cheap labour, but as an infusion of new blood and ideas, to add diversity to our culture, and to grow the economy.

### **Worker Migrants;**

There are two types of migrant coming to Ireland at present. Those seeking a better life for themselves and their families, who are willing and able to work to support their ambitions. The Irish People know only too well what this means. We should understand how the search for a better life, has driven millions of Irish People to the four corners of the world, where sometimes they were welcomed, more often they were abused. But we are made of stronger stuff, we stayed and prospered. Perhaps our Youth have never encountered this kind of Racism, they are lucky.

To help rebuild the Irish Nation we need these worker Migrants.

## **Welfare Migrants**

And then there are those who have heard of our generosity and are a liability on the Irish Nation.

All Non Nationals (European or Third Country) who are here without a valid work permit and who require economic assistance should be referred to their Nations Embassy or Consular office, and in the event that they are unable to show verifiable means of self support then they should be asked to leave the Country. The European Union is Launching a voluntary repatriation scheme for persons from outside the E.U. We should make the scheme compulsory. This Nation cannot support these welfare migrants,

## **Planning and Control:**

A system of Visa's and permits similar to the Australian immigration control system should be introduced to control who can enter the State. the duration of their stay, and any activities permitted during their stay.

## **Illegal immigrants;**

Employment, Accommodating, or trafficking in illegal immigrants, must be stopped. Legislation imposing Imprisonment and mandatory fines of up to one thousand 1,000 Euro per day, per person employed, accommodated, or trafficked in the State must be introduced. A reward scheme targeted at the victims of this illegal trade, should reward those who come forward and assist in the prosecution of the Trafficker. Guaranteeing no Deportation would enable many victims to come forward without fear of Reprisals. When a Landlord or an Employer claims to have been deceived as to the status of an illegal immigrant, He/She must prove beyond reasonable doubt that He / She tried to correctly establish the Immigrants Status.

## **10.4 Ireland's Natural Resources**

Under The United Nations International Law of the Sea, The Irish Nation owns the largest area of the European Continental Shelf, and any Oil, Natural Gas, or Minerals found there. This area of marine resource, our Exclusive Economic Zone is over ten times the size of Ireland's land area, Over 220 Million Acres. Visit the Government website: [www.marine.ie](http://www.marine.ie) and look for the Real Map of Ireland under Education.

### **10.4.1 Oil and Natural Gas**

As previously revealed by the Sunday Independent 20th May 2007 and the Irish Times 19th June 2009. The Irish Government has identified Oil and Gas resources, which would satisfy all our projected Energy Needs, and most of Europes energy needs for years to come. An assessment of our Atlantic Oil and Gas Reserves show potential generated volumes of oil and gas to be, 130 Billion Barrels of Oil, and 50 Trillion Cubic Ft. of Natural Gas. And a major Gas Field is believed to exist beneath the Bog of Allen.. estimated at 9.5 Trillion Cubic Ft of Natural Gas. worth 40 Billion Dollars.

## 10.4.2 Mineral Resources

Over the last 40 years a string of significant base metal discoveries were made, including the giant ore deposit at Tara Mines. Zinc and Lead ores are also currently exploited from two other underground operations in Lisheen a recent major find, and Galmoy. which is almost Depleted. Ireland now ranks as the first and second largest producer for Zinc and Lead ore's respectively In the World, None of which is processed in Ireland, It's all exported to refineries abroad.

## 10.4.3 Have we given our Resources away

The following passages were extracted from a Government Report - Titled - Land of Minerals - released May 2006:

Why Ireland?

Because Ireland has a great deal to offer to the exploration and mining industry. It is a stable parliamentary republic with a long-standing policy of encouraging free enterprise, a long mining tradition, diverse geology with a wealth of mineral potential, and a highly developed infrastructure. In a climate of strong Government support for responsible development, major mineral deposits found in recent years include Zn-Pb deposits at Navan, at 70Mt the largest in Europe, Lisheen 19Mt, Silvermines 17Mt, Tynagh 10Mt and Galmoy 9Mt, while for many years the Ballynoe barite deposit was among the top five producers in the world. In terms of tonnes of zinc discovered per square kilometre, Ireland ranks first in the world, and for lead, second in the world. The high grade, shallow occurrence and clean metallurgy, all result in a relatively low cost of mining for the Irish carbonate-hosted Zn-Pb deposits.

Tax incentives relevant to exploration and mining in Ireland include:

- No State Shareholding in the Project and No Royalties are Payable to the State.
- Immediate write-off of development and exploration expenditure
- Corporation Tax of 25 percent
- Capital Allowance of up to 120 percent
- Rehabilitation of mine sites after closure is tax-deductible,
- There are no restrictions on foreign investment in Ireland,
- There are no restrictions with capital repatriation from the State.

End of Extract

The source of this data is the Dept. Of Communication, the Marine and Natural Resources.

How much more of the Irish Nation, will be lost before the Irish People say "Enough".

## **10.5 The Environment**

The Irish People have a right to live in a clean, safe, and pleasant environment. They have a right to breath clean air, drink clean water, Eat wholesome food, and move about our country in a safe and secure manner. They have a right to peace of mind, and should not have to be concerned with hidden dangers, to themselves or their children. They have a right to expect that the government, Local or National, will not endanger their lives, but will ensure they have a place where they can lead their lives, raise their children, and enjoy the fruits of their labours without undue concern. They have a right to expect that our government will protect our environment and our heritage, for today and for future generations. Perhaps even restore our "40 shades of Green".

### **10.5.1 But such is Utopia**

Unfortunately we cannot trust our Government, or indeed the current opposition parties to protect our environment. The scandals of the past few years bear ample testimony to the corruption which attach's to our planning and development practises. Those who were elected to defend the environment, have sold their souls for the power which being in government brings. The motorway through Tara's ancient hills, the Incinerator to be built in Poolbeg, are ample proof of the corrupting influence of the trappings of power, often ignoring the objections of the local population, and the advice of planning officials.

### **10.5.2 What can we Do**

Every aspect of Irish life must be examined with a view to educating our communities, our business partners, and the authorities, as to how best to provide an environment, which is safe, healthy, and enjoyable for all the citizens of the Nation. Industrial and Residential slums do not provide a healthy or stimulating environment to either work in or raise a family. A major regeneration of all slum areas, should begin immediately.

# Chapter 11

## Regeneration

The Irish Nation must begin the greatest regeneration project ever undertaken. The Irish economy must be grown in terms of Population and Gross Domestic Product, in order to provide a reasonable standard of living for all of the Citizens.

### 11.0.3 Growing the Population

We should set a Population target of 10 Million People, to be achieved over a period of 20 Years, This increase in population is necessary, in order to achieve economic viability, and economy of scale. And to create a society which is vigorous and sustainable in the longer term. Both Israel and Australia have proved it is possible to encourage the growth of population for security and economic reasons. We can grow the population of the Nation by encouraging the Birth-Rate, and by encouraging the return of our emigrant population. Estimates of the size of the Irish Diaspora abroad are varied, ranging from the Government estimate of 3.5 million to independent estimates of 70 Million, these are the sons and daughters, the grandchildren and great grandchildren of Irish emigrants.

### 11.0.4 Nine Cities

Part of the regeneration proposed by Democratic Reform involves the regeneration of Dublin City, and the expansion of our 5 existing cities and the creation of 3 New Cities, along with the expansion of other main population centres. This programme would be achieved by creating a development corporation in each of the selected areas, with powers to plan, promote, and implement these development projects in line with best practise, and the involvement of the local population.

### 11.0.5 Economic Benefits

Exchequer returns for 2007 were 48 Billion euro “during the boom”. and estimates for 2009 suggest only 33 Billion Euro, “during the recession” this from a population of 4.25 Million Persons. Economies of scale would suggest that we would be in a much healthier financial situation if we could grow the population. and allow us to achieve efficiency’s within the public and civil service. in some circumstances expanding those public services required to service this larger population.

As a Nation we must escape from the mentality that says “we cant”.  
We have made great contributions to the economies of the rest of the world,  
now lets do it at home.