



06 November 2009

CAMPAINING FOR PUBLIC SERVICES

NIPSA BACKS TRADE UNION RALLIES

Hundreds of NIPSA members joined the trade union rallies being held today in Belfast, Derry and 8 other towns in Northern Ireland.

The demonstrations were organised by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) to demonstrate opposition to cuts in public services and for fair treatment of all workers.

Speaking at the Belfast rally NIPSA General Secretary John Corey and Chairperson of the ICTU's Northern Ireland Committee rejected the Executive Ministers' plans for public expenditure cuts in Northern Ireland. Mr Corey said:-

“There is no inevitability about public expenditure cuts. Executive Ministers can make £100 millions of funding available by:-

- ***Cutting the £10 millions being spent annually on private sector consultants.***
- ***Stopping the £10s of millions being wasted on consultants trying to devise schemes to privatise our public services.***
- ***Stop spending £millions on companies to come here, set up anti trade union workplaces with low wages, and then close down when they can find more profit elsewhere.”***

Mr Corey also called for an end to the freeze on domestic rate increases and the capital value cap saying:-

“The Executive Ministers can make more money available by scrapping the domestic rates freeze and cap on capital values which has favoured the far better off in this society at the expense of working people.”

The NIPSA General Secretary also pledged that the trade unions would fight any attempt to introduce separate household water charges.

ENDS

Notes

Copy of comments attached.

NORTHERN • IRELAND • PUBLIC • SERVICE • ALLIANCE

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NIPSA represents over 40,000 members in the Northern Ireland Civil Service, Education & Library Boards, Health and Social Services Boards and Trusts, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, & District Councils.

General Secretary: John Corey • Deputy General Secretary: Brian Campfield • Media Contact: Geraldine Alexander

ICTU Public Rally – 6 November 2009

Opening Statement by John Corey, Chairperson of Northern Ireland Committee Irish Congress of Trade Unions

On behalf of NIC ICTU I welcome you to this rally today.

At this same time you are joining with trade unionists, workers and their families and the public in 9 other centres in Northern Ireland.

I welcome you from all parts of Belfast and those who have joined us from outside Belfast.

I welcome particularly workers and their representatives from Royal Mail and am sure you will join me to commend their resolute stand which at its heart is about saving that important public service for us all.

And Lawrence Huston CWU representing postal workers will address the rally shortly. Other speakers will be Peter Bunting ICTU, Patricia McKeown UNISON and Kevin McAdam from Unite.

You are also joining trade unionists, workers and their families who will be demonstrating in 8 towns and cities in the South of Ireland to deliver the message to Governments, North and South, to all the political representatives.

To deliver the message that the trade union movement is going to stand up against attacks on our public services.

Stand up for the rights of working people and their families.
And stand up for fairness in this society.

For the trade union movement today is a starting point as we seek to build unity with every community and the public.

The Government had no problems finding £85 billion last year to save banks and the financial world from its own self destruction and reckless actions.

This week, as reported, the Government found another £29 billion for so called financial stability.

And who is being asked to pay for this?

Certainly not the bank bosses and those who run the so called free market, whose reckless actions caused the recession, and who have now discovered that Governments will dance to their needs and bail them out at everyone else's cost.

Now it is working people and their families who are being asked to pay.

Who are being asked to pay with cuts in their public services.
With cuts to beds in hospitals.
With closures of old people's homes.

With the kind of news you hear this morning that working people are left with choices between treatment for swine flu or screening for cancer.

Working people have had to pay with over 20,000 losing their jobs in the last year.

Today the trade union movement is saying **NO**. Working people are not going to pay.

And we reject any notion that there is an inevitability about public expenditure cuts.

Executive Ministers can make £100millions of funding available by:-

- Cutting the £10millions being spent annually on private sector consultants.
- Stopping the £10s of millions being wasted on consultants trying to devise schemes to privatise our public services.
- Stop sending £millions on companies to come here, set up anti trade union workplaces with low wages, and then close down when they can find more profit elsewhere

And the Executive can make more money available by scrapping the domestic rates freeze and cap on capital values which has favoured the far better off in this society at the expense of working people.

Executive Ministers, Assembly Members, the political parties, are going to have to decide what side they are on.

Are they on the side of big business, who called this week for more attacks on public services so that they can protect their take out of public expenditure.

Or are they on the side of the vast majority of their constituents, ordinary working people who depend on public services?

Who depend on those Ministers to use public expenditure in the interests of all working people and not the few.

Today we confirm we stand on the side of working people.

We confirm that we are going to fight for our public services and for a better and fairer society.

And something else we are also saying NO to today, and the politicians, need to listen, we are saying no to household water charges.