



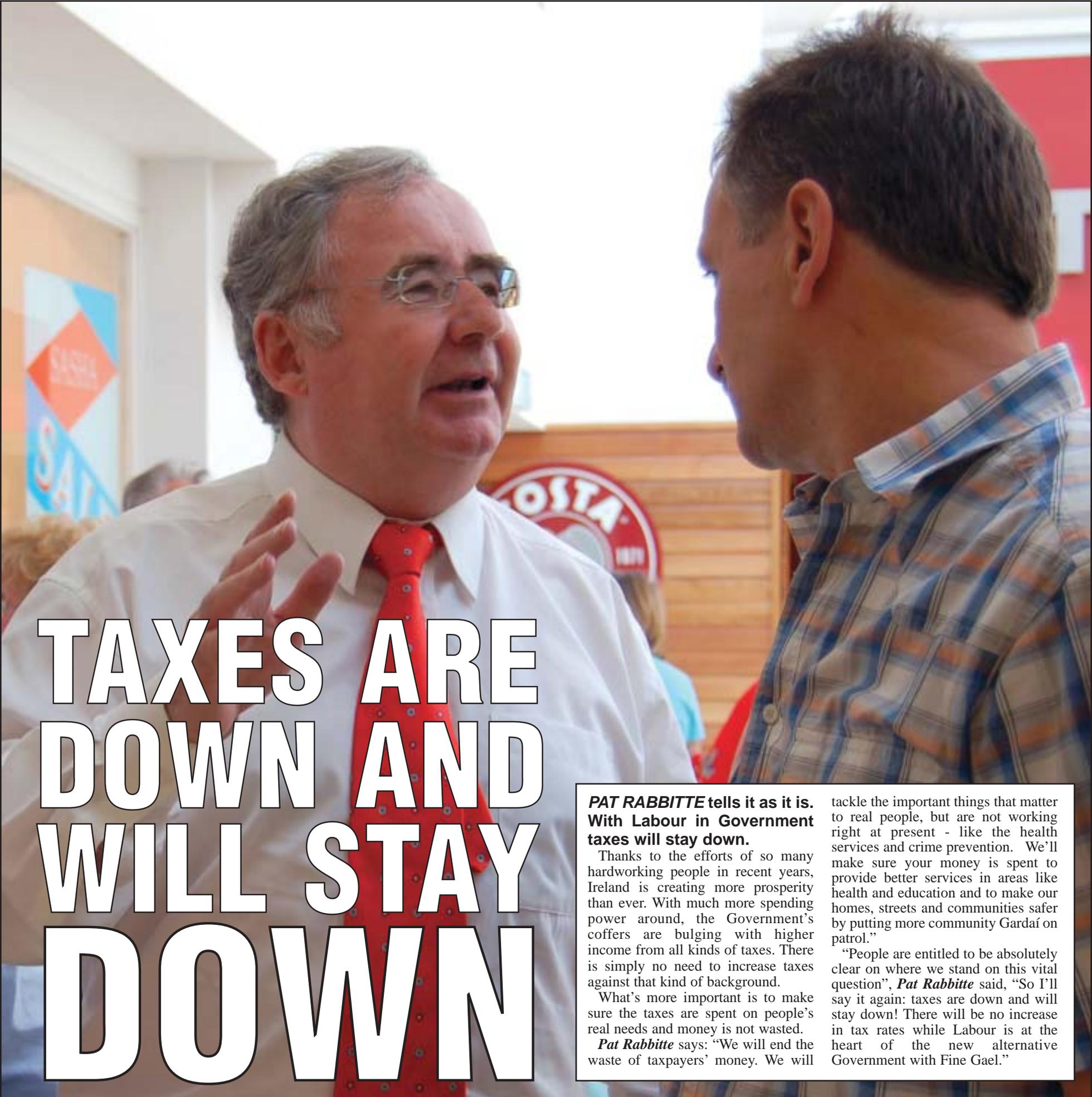
# THE *Rose*



## CONNED

### Thousands go without Government payments

September 2006



# TAXES ARE DOWN AND WILL STAY DOWN

**PAT RABBITTE** tells it as it is. With Labour in Government taxes will stay down.

Thanks to the efforts of so many hardworking people in recent years, Ireland is creating more prosperity than ever. With much more spending power around, the Government's coffers are bulging with higher income from all kinds of taxes. There is simply no need to increase taxes against that kind of background.

What's more important is to make sure the taxes are spent on people's real needs and money is not wasted.

*Pat Rabbitte* says: "We will end the waste of taxpayers' money. We will

tackle the important things that matter to real people, but are not working right at present - like the health services and crime prevention. We'll make sure your money is spent to provide better services in areas like health and education and to make our homes, streets and communities safer by putting more community Gardaí on patrol."

"People are entitled to be absolutely clear on where we stand on this vital question", *Pat Rabbitte* said, "So I'll say it again: taxes are down and will stay down! There will be no increase in tax rates while Labour is at the heart of the new alternative Government with Fine Gael."



## HEALTH CARE CURE

Page 4



## CRACKING CRIME

Page 2

## Feeling unloved? Just ask Rosie

Page 3



# Cracking Crime and creating communities

**LAWLESSNESS, vandalism and drugs are tearing the heart out of many of our communities. Crime and anti-social behaviour is making life a misery for some of our most vulnerable people, particularly the elderly. It's time to call a halt!**

Labour is determined to give people a voice in how their community is policed. We want to create a partnership between the local community and the Gardaí so that crime and anti-social behaviour are rooted out.

This approach is known as community policing, it produces real results and it's a central part of Labour's plan to crack crime and build strong communities.

## Labour will:

- Increase Garda strength
- Bring in more Community Gardaí
- Ensure that Community Gardaí work in communities for sustained lengths of time
- Ensure that Community Gardaí become central to policing
- Free up Gardaí from deskwork to ensure they are where they belong, on the beat
- Establish local policing forums where the community has a voice in how their area is policed

According to Labour's Justice Spokesperson, **Brendan Howlin, TD**, "Young people, families and our older people expect and are entitled to live in peaceful, law-abiding communities. Effective policing means creating links between communities and the Gardaí."

"We've got to change our approach to policing. Crime and anti-social behaviour cannot be allowed to ruin people's lives. Labour is determined to crack crime and give people back control of their communities."



COMMUNITIES have been ripped apart by ongoing criminal sprees

## CONNED

**THE GOVERNMENT is conning tens of thousands of families out of Family Income Supplement (FIS) payments that they're entitled to, according to Labour's Willie Penrose.**

50,000 families are entitled to FIS payments but much less than half of them - only around 19,000 families - are actually getting the cash. That means about 70,000 kids are losing out on basics like healthy food, schoolbooks and proper clothing.

"Instead of paying out this money, the Government has pocketed about €100 million and left it lying idle in the Department of Finance", said Willie Penrose, TD.

The Government has all the necessary information on their computers. They should just pay out this money immediately to the hardworking families who are entitled to it.

## STOP ESTATE MANAGEMENT RIP-OFF

**LABOUR is committed to clamping down on private management companies in housing developments, Environment Spokesperson Eamon Gilmore, TD, has said.**

"The use of management companies in new housing developments is a totally inappropriate means of managing housing developments. They don't work and they cause misunderstandings and bad feeling among residents.

"Management company charges put an extra financial burden on householders already overstretched by mortgage and childcare payments

"These companies charge residents annual fees to provide services such as roads and water, which should be the responsibility of the local

authority. The fees amount to thousands of euro in some cases."

Labour in Government will regulate these companies. We will:

- Make sure that all estates are fully completed by the developer
- Limit management companies to apartment buildings
- Bring in consumer protection laws to protect homeowners from rip-off management company fees

New homeowners are often left in limbo as the management company demands fees ranging from a modest €250 to over €2,000 per annum. The quality of service provided for these fees varies from estate to estate.

"It's the luck of the draw whether you get a fair service or get totally ripped off," said **Deputy Gilmore.**



## What has Labour ever done for us?

**WELL lots actually. Between 1992-97 Labour was the driving force in Government. We worked hard, lived up to our promises and delivered:**

- As Minister for Finance, **Ruairi Quinn** brought in the first budget surplus in decades.
- The foundations of the **Celtic Tiger** were laid, with 1,000 jobs a week being created when Labour left office.
- We introduced the **Freedom of Information Act** which gave people the right to know what the Government and state agencies we doing in their name.
- We ensured that gay people were treated with **equality** and those whose marriages broke down could avail of a divorce.
- Labour's **Michael D. Higgins** revolutionised our approach to the arts, film and the Irish language.
- Throughout the period, **Dick Spring**, as **Minister for Foreign Affairs**, played a crucial role in the evolving peace process in Northern Ireland.

## Give our kids

# ROOM TO LEARN

The 1916 proclamation called on the Irish State to cherish 'all of the children of the nation equally'.

It is an ideal that this Government has failed to live up to.

More than 110,000 primary school children are crammed into overcrowded classrooms across the country, *Jan O'Sullivan, TD*, Labour's Education Spokesperson has learned.

"The Fianna Fail/ PD Programme for Government promised to reduce class sizes, but there are actually 5,000 more children in overcrowded classes than there were just two years ago. Things are getting worse, not better."

Labour in Government will give this issue the priority it deserves. We will:

- Make a commitment that schools will be provided with sufficient resources to end the overcrowding shame
- Ensure that there is a far greater level of co-operation between the Department of Education and local planning authorities
- Make sure that schools are built for communities BEFORE families move in
- Provide decent permanent buildings for our schools

Labour's *Brian O'Shea, TD*, said the failure of the Fianna Fail/ PD Government to provide sufficient places for children starting school was further evidence of their incompetence.

"It is hardly rocket science! Other countries manage it with relative ease. They know where population growth is coming up and plan ahead for roads, schools hospitals, leisure facilities etc. Labour will ensure we do the same".

*Deputy O'Sullivan* added: "In Fianna Fail's Ireland, the two most likely options for junior infants in rapidly growing communities are a prefab or a temporary building, which could be anything from a scout hall, to a disused factory unit, to a rugby club.

"You're lucky if a real purpose built classroom comes along before you reach 6th class!"



**CLASSROOM CRAMMING:** The number of children in classes of 30 or more has increased under the current Government

## For Sale



### 2,700 Electronic voting machines

**Never used.** Still in original packing cases. Needs further spending on software to make them work. Cost the taxpayers €54 million. This money could have been spent instead on more hospital beds or extra teachers in schools. Owner now willing to part with them for next to nothing. **Offers to:** Dick Roche TD, Minister for the Environment, Dublin 1

### Computer system for use in health care

**Never used.** Goes under the brand name 'PPARS'. Would need more money spent on it and it still might not work. **Cost the taxpayers** €150 million. Money could have been spent instead on more Gardai on the streets to prevent crime or on improving public transport. *Now going for a song: 'I did the taxpayers my way'* **Offers to:** Mary Harney TD, Minister for Health, Dublin 2

### Cabinet

**In continuous use since 1997.** Now in very poor condition. Clapped out and out of touch. A lot of cracks appearing in it. Better alternative now available.

**First reasonable offer secures:** Bertie Ahern TD, Government Buildings, Dublin 2

## ASK ROSIE

*Feeling out of sorts? A bit unloved? Don't be alone. A problem shared is a problem halved. For the best of advice on how to handle your problems, just ask Rosie.*

## TIME FOR A CHANGE?

**Dear Rosie** A friend of mine is involved in politics. He has been in the same job in Government since 1997. He feels he has lost touch with real people. There is a lot of fighting going on between his colleagues and, to make things worse, their popularity has been falling steadily in the opinion polls since the start of this year.

What should my friend do?

**Bartholomew, Drumcondra, Dublin 9**

**Rosie says** Bartholomew, your friend sounds like he could do with a good long rest. Obviously, things are getting to him a bit and he will just end up being increasingly narky with people and making a lot of mistakes.

There's a general election coming up some time soon and, with a bit of luck, the voters will do themselves and your friend a big favour by voting him out of Government. That way, some new people with fresh ideas and a bundle of energy can take over. Those guys Pat Rabbitte and Enda Kenny look like they could do a much better job.

## Another fine mess

**Dear Rosie** I have this friend who has a very important political job in the Government.

My friend thinks he is much brainier than everyone else and keeps saying this to people all the time. He's never wrong about anything. Yet, everything he gets involved with gets messed up - there are fewer Gardai around on the streets, prisoners get out of jail before they've served their sentences and the whole thing is a mess. How do I tell my friend discreetly that he's actually not as brainy as he thinks he is?

**Michael McD, Dublin South East**

**Rosie says** Well, Michael, I suppose your problem could be worse. You could be trying to tell your friend he has B.O.

Sounds to me like your friend badly needs a rest and a career change. I wonder has he thought of taking up something a bit easier like, say, practising as a barrister? With the general election coming up soon, I've no doubt the voters will help him make up his mind. That way, someone maybe with less arrogance might take over from him and do a better job.

**Michael McDowell - never wrong?**





**THE  
Rose**

**STANDS FOR**

## A Real Alternative

**LABOUR is committed to making this country a better place for everybody.**

With our Alternative Government partners we are getting ready for Office.

Labour Party Leader Pat Rabbitte and Fine Gael's Enda Kenny are now preparing policies to add to those we have already worked on areas such as curbing Government waste, the plight of the Irish abroad and Dáil reform.

*It all goes to prove that there really IS an alternative.*

## A Home of Your Own

**The speculator-driven explosion in house prices has to come to an end.**

Young people find it near impossible to afford a house in the area they grew up. The house price explosion is forcing people to live dozens of miles away from their workplace. This means long commutes, less family time and undermines work-life balance. It's often a planning nightmare.

Labour wants to see a stable housing market where young people in particular can get a home of their own.

We need:

- *To end the profiteering in building land*
- *Increase the number of affordable houses*
- *Ensure that housing supply meets demand*
- *End the scandal of homelessness in our towns and cities*

Fianna Fail's cosy relationship with builders and developers means they'll never take the hard decisions necessary to put people before profit in the housing market.

*Labour is determined to tackle this crucial issue.*

## Taxes staying down

**TAXES are down and will stay down. In a successful economy like ours, there is no need to increase taxation and Labour has no intention of doing so.**

Labour will end the waste of taxpayers' money and we will use our prosperity to make our society fairer and our communities safer. We will tackle the important things that don't work like the health services and crime prevention.

Making Ireland a better place doesn't mean you have to increase taxes on working people.

The main thing is that everyone pays their share, something that has not been happening.

What we need now is not more taxation, but fair taxation.

People want to see better value for money when it comes to spending their taxes. Shortage of money is no longer a problem for the Government.

The problem is the delivery of services and this Government is part of the problem rather than part of the solution.

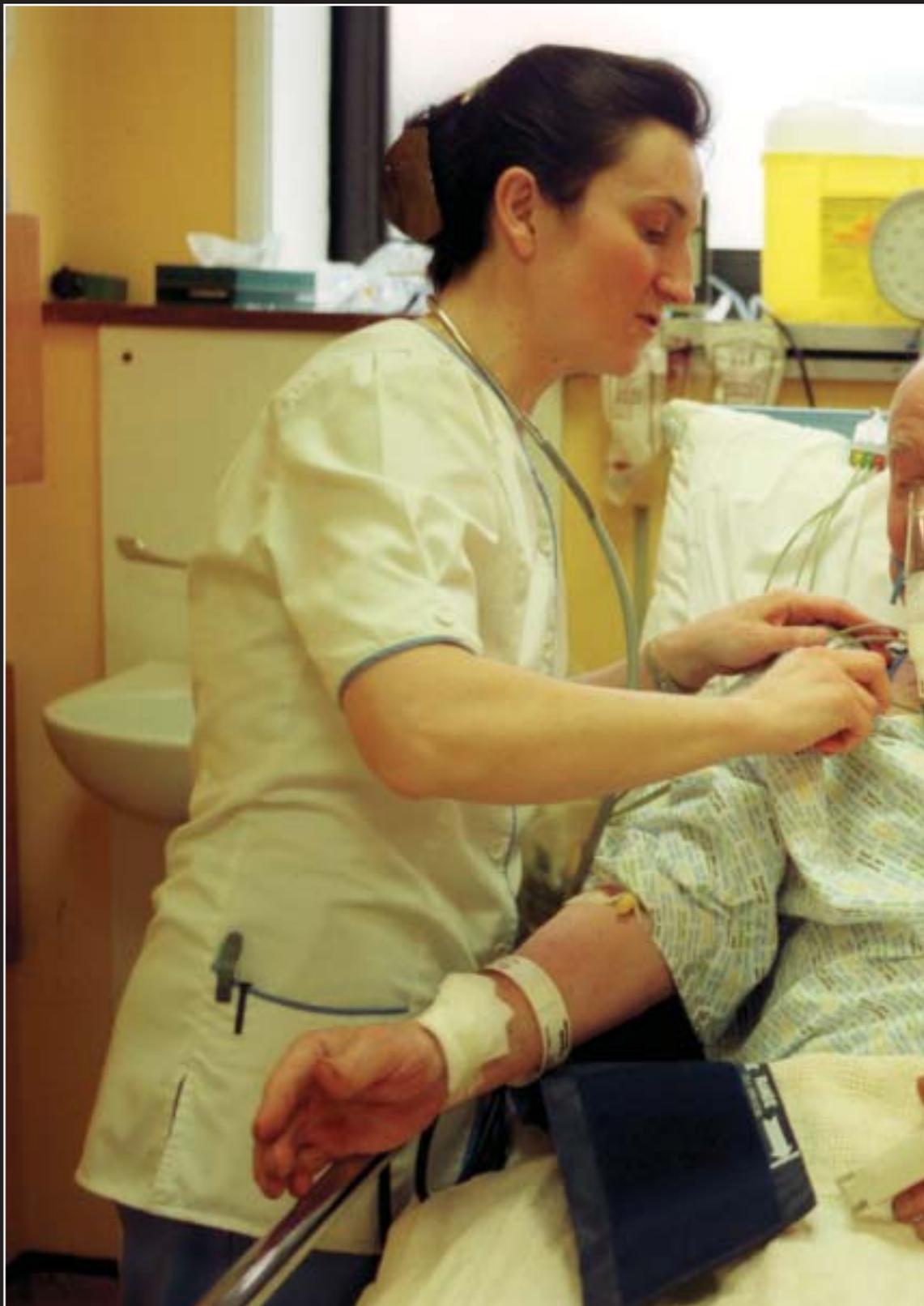
*It's time to kick them out!*

**www.labour.ie**

**HEALTH**

# WE CAN PUT

## Labour's new health plan will



**LABOUR'S top priority in Government will be to give hardworking families the health service they deserve. Pat Rabbitte has spelt out Labour's no-nonsense action plan to tackle the health crisis.**

- *More hospital beds* to relieve A&E scandal
- *Keep healthcare local* and invest in GP care
- *Tackle waste* and ensure that patients are the priority
- *Do the simple things* right – keep our hospitals clean
- *Scrap Mary Harney's* costly plan to privatise the healthservice

"Healthcare is our top priority. Labour is determined to end the scandal of our crumbling health system. Investment and reform are needed to give people a decent standard of hospital and GP care and Labour is determined to deliver," says Rabbitte.

**Liz McManus, TD**, Labour's health spokesperson, zones in on the key problem facing our A&E units: "In

the late 1980s our hospitals lost 3,000 beds in Fianna Fáil-driven cutbacks. These beds haven't been replaced. Now, more than ever, we must also invest in care of the elderly.

"We need more investment in frontline care, not increasing an already fat bureaucracy. Labour will ensure that more beds are available in our hospitals and the money we invest will deliver real results".

Labour also has ambitious plans for GP care. "For most people primary health care means their local doctor. It will play a key part in our health reforms. We believe people should receive high quality treatment in their local community. It's better for the patient and it also takes the pressure off our hospitals. Labour is the only party that has a detailed strategy for primary care reform. We're determined to see it become a reality."

**Liz McManus** says: "There's one thing we know for sure – Fianna Fáil and the PDs have failed on health. In 2002 FF promised you that waiting lists would be a thing of the past in two years. They lied. FF and the PDs are part of the healthcare problem. With your support, Labour will be part of the solution".

# SCANDAL

# GET IT RIGHT

## How to tackle Government's failure



**“There’s one thing we know for sure – Fianna Fáil and the PDs have failed on health. In 2002 FF promised you that waiting lists would be a thing of the past in two years. They lied.”**

# Scrap Harney’s crazy giveaway

*Plan favours speculators, not patients*

**“Mary Harney’s plan to give massive tax-breaks for super-private clinics, is crazy” says Labour TD, Emmet Stagg. “This policy will cost a fortune, and deepen the divide in our health system.”**

Mary Harney wants to build super-private clinics by giving developers massive tax-breaks and access to publicly-owned land around public hospitals. This mad-cap scheme will cost the taxpayer a fortune, and result in the give-away of irreplaceable sites around our hospitals

“Labour will scrap Harney’s plan. We’ll reform the health service and invest resources in not-for-profit hospitals and facilities, so that patients get the health care they deserve, said Deputy Stagg.”



**Public deserve better**

# Medical Card Fiasco

**LABOUR believes that access to your local doctor is one of the most important elements of a decent healthcare system.**

Yet, under this Government the percentage of people who have medical cards, which, among other things guarantees free access to a GP, is falling. Just 28% of people now have a medical card. When FF and the PDs came to power that figure stood at over 34%.

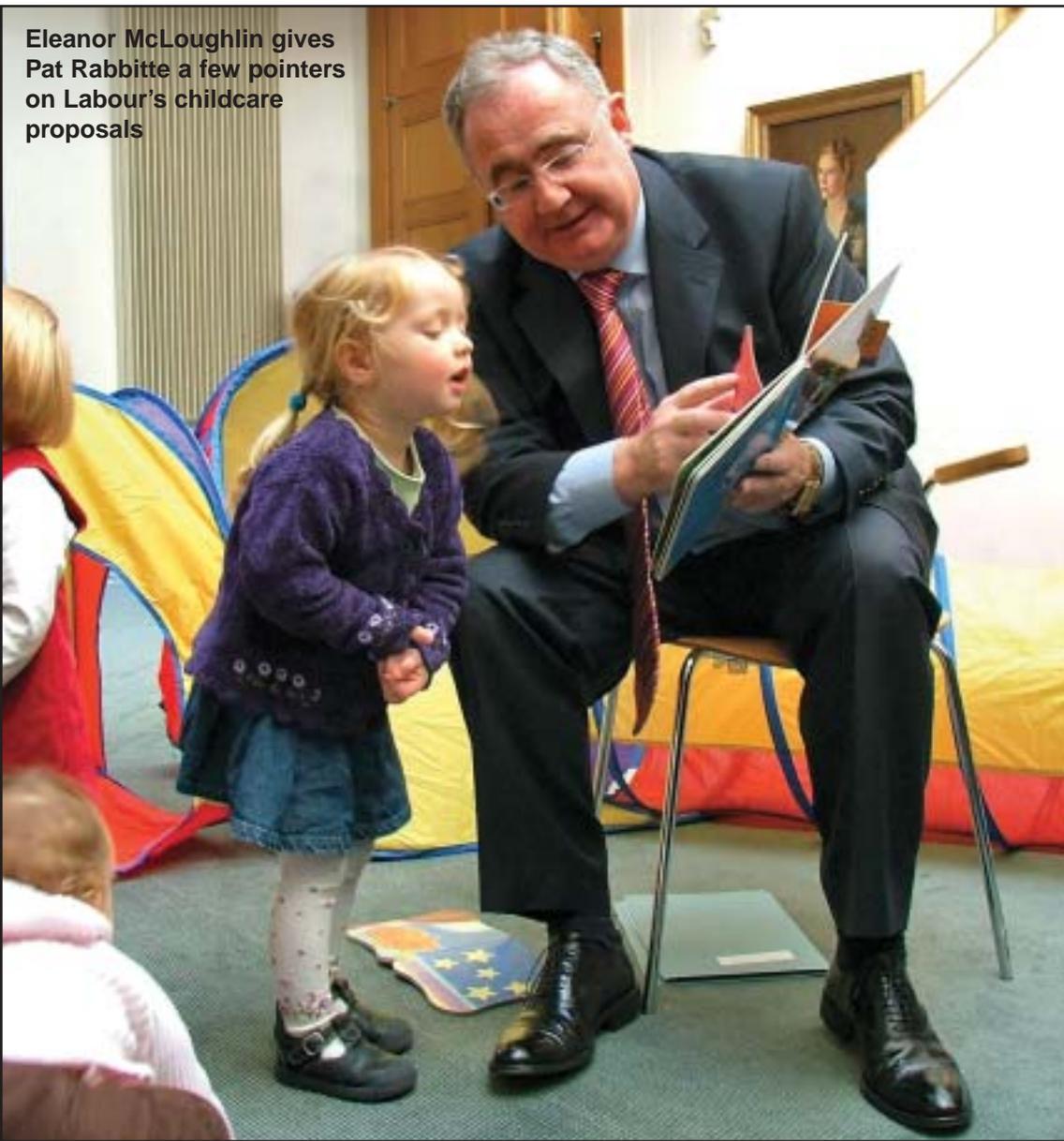
The cost of attending a GP, which averages about €50 a visit, is simply out of reach for many people, and places a huge strain on thousands of families.

One of Labour’s top priorities in Government will be to see substantially more people covered by the medical card scheme.



**‘Just 28% of people now have medical cards - Labour will increase that number’**

Eleanor McLoughlin gives Pat Rabbitte a few pointers on Labour's childcare proposals



# Childcare PUTTING FAMILIES FIRST

**OUT-OF-CONTROL childcare costs are crippling young families, Labour Spokesperson on Children, Kathleen O'Meara has said.**

She said: "Parents are being forced to fork out hundreds of Euro every week in childcare costs, and they're getting little or no support from the Government.

"We need a system of family-friendly work options for parents in the workforce."

Under Labour's childcare policy:

- Children's needs are put first
- Parents are offered a real choice
- Every parent will be eligible for Early Years Subsidy of €50 per week
- Every parent will get extended parental leave
- All three-year-olds will be offered a free pre-school place

Senator Joanna Tuffy, said Labour's plan would give equal

recognition to the contribution of all parents – whether full-time in the home, part-time in the workforce, or full-time in the workforce, with a subsidy which goes to all.

"Our policy acknowledges the high cost of childcare, no matter how the child is cared for or by whom," Joanna Tuffy said.

"Our proposals also respond to a key concern for so many parents – having the time to be at home with their children. A package of family-friendly work options, including paid parental leave, career leave and flexible working, will support parents in being parents, especially during the critical early years in a child's life".

Senator O'Meara said that the PDs had promised us an additional 40,000 childcare places, but that the Government has "gone nowhere near" meeting this figure.

"In fact, they have cut crèche supplements and slashed CE schemes including those providing childcare."

# End the transport CHAOS

Fianna Fail is stuck in second gear

**THIS IS the message from Labour Transport Spokesperson Roisin Shortall.**

"Our transport system is creaking at the joints. It simply can't meet the demands that are being placed on it at the moment thanks to years of poor planning and inadequate investment, says Deputy Shortall.

"As a result, Ireland has become a nation of traffic snarl-ups, jam-packed trains, lengthy queues at bus stops and overcrowded airport terminals."

According to Deputy Shortall our clapped out transport system is in dire need of an overhaul. Labour in Government will deliver on:

- More buses for our cities and towns
- Additional investment in the expansion of our national rail system
- End the delays in the building a metro for Dublin
- Better planning for our national roads network
- More investment in secondary roads around the country

Dublin North Central Senator Derek McDowell said: "Recently we saw where commuters in Dublin would be quicker

travelling by donkey and cart than on a bus. The Government has shamefully neglected investing in our bus services. In fact they have broken promise after promise to provide for additional vehicles. As a result, the service has become less and less reliable and an increasing number of people have been forced into cars, further clogging up our roads. It's a vicious circle of the Government's own making."

He added: "Families and single people are paying their taxes – more taxes than ever before – and they're perfectly entitled to expect decent transport services and infrastructure. What they're getting is a long list of broken promises on from a Government that has run out of ideas."

Deputy Shortall added: "Recent research shows that over a third of commuters spend two hours or more in their cars getting to and from work. Every week I meet people who are at their wits end trying to balance work and family life. Snarl-ups are making life hell for many commuters.

"There's absolutely nobody taking responsibility for the clearing up this mess. Martin Cullen seems to have the happy knack of making things even more complicated than they need to be. There has been a complete lack of political leadership on this."



# Historic Joint Visit To Belfast



**LABOUR LEADER, Pat Rabbitte, and Fine Gael Leader, Enda Kenny, paid a historic joint visit to Belfast. Here they are pictured meeting SDLP leader Mark Durkan at Stormont.** This was the first time the leaders of the Alternative Government went there for discussions with political parties, as well as with the Chief Constable of the police force, Sir Hugh Orde. The visit signalled both Leaders' commitment to the peace process and it underlined the increasingly close co-operation on major issues between the two parties. The clear message is: the people now have a real choice.

# Red is the Rose

**IN POLITICS a good logo or symbol can influence people more than long speeches.**

Political parties rely a lot on symbols to make themselves immediately recognisable to voters and to show what they stand for.

The Labour Party are lucky to have a red rose as their symbol. Lots of people say they instantly recognise it and they like it.

Labour leader, **Pat Rabbitte**, explains how they came to choose the rose: "James Connolly and Jim Larkin were two of the most influential people in modern Irish history. They worked together to improve the lives of real people. They founded the Labour Party and the Irish Citizen Army which took part in the Easter Rising of 1916."

He went on: "A famous playwright, Seán O'Casey, knew both men well. Talking about Larkin, O'Casey said he was a man who would as soon put a rose in a vase as bread on a table. By that he meant that Larkin, as every Labour leader should be, was concerned not just with the economic well being of hardworking people and their families but with the quality of their lives as well."

"From that story, we were inspired to choose a red rose as our party's symbol."

Labour's red rose is a symbol of a better tomorrow:

■ A tomorrow where you have the essential things for a better life, but where you can hope for the extra things that make life truly worthwhile.

■ A tomorrow where you can catch your breath, see past the pressures of today and enjoy what life has to offer.

■ A tomorrow where there is time for your kids, help in looking after your aging parents and the opportunity to do more than just get by.

■ A tomorrow where families can plan for a better future.

■ A tomorrow where there is bread but where there are roses too.



## INVESTIGATION



# No more sneaky taxes

**YOU are paying the price for the reckless economic policies of Fianna Fáil and the PDs.**

With less than a year to go to the next general election, **Labour** is warning voters: *beware of Government giveaways. You'll still be picking up the bill in years to come.*

"Before the last general election, Bertie Ahern and Mary Harney squandered taxpayers' hard earned cash in a massive pre-election splurge. But as soon as the election was over, the bills started to arrive. These came in the form of cuts in services like education, hospitals and policing plus a long list of indirect tax increases sneaked in by the back door." said **Kathleen Lynch, TD.**

Hardworking families have forked out for more than fifty sneaky taxes imposed on them by the Government since the last election. Yet, Bertie and Mary boast about running a low tax Government. The grim reality is that VAT rates have been increased and more and more taxpayers are being dragged into the 42% tax bracket. *Some 'low' taxes!*

This time round there's a clear lesson for voters. Don't be caught a second time by false FF and PD promises. You'll soon have a chance to elect a Labour / Fine Gael alternative Government that will do what it says and won't waste your taxes.

**Here's how the Government have been pilfering cash from your pocket with their sneaky taxes:**

- Rent Allowance cuts
- College Registration Fee
- Health Insurance
- ESB and Gas Charges
- Public transport fares
- Postal Charges
- Stamp Duty
- Tax on petrol and diesel
- TV Licence
- Drugs Payment scheme
- Value Added Tax
- Motor tax
- Grant for first-time buyers -gone
- Accident and Emergency Charges
- Eircom bills
- Road and bridge tolls



# A safer and fairer world

**"WE HAVE it good here in Ireland, certainly when compared with many other countries around the world. Yet we have failed to distribute our wealth so as to give all of our citizens a decent and equal chance in life. How wealth and opportunities are distributed matters in our country. It also matters internationally", says Michael D. Higgins, TD.**

"We live in a world that is increasingly dangerous and unfair. Military expenditure is growing. The gap between rich and poor countries is getting wider. Our world has the capacity to give clean water, basic health and a chance of development to all the people on our planet in a sustainable way. Yet resources are wasted on weapons of destruction."

"We can't ignore these developments. We must create rights-based policies at home and our foreign policy too must be a rights-based one. Labour's policies on Aid, Trade and Development are based on that principle."

"The new government must see to it that the United Nations, the World Bank and the IMF work properly, in an accountable way."

"The UN must also have a Rapid Response Agency that can save lives by getting to natural and human disasters quickly. We're proud of the Irish Defence Forces' role in UN peacekeeping; this must continue. The UN must have the power to protect people's basic human rights, and we must work for the acceptance of universal human rights as an alternative to future wars."

"Poverty is at the root of much of the conflict in the world. Labour will increase Overseas Development Aid to the UN target of 0.7% within two years of taking office. We will also campaign for a fair global trading regime, ending the crippling burden of debt on the poorest countries, and giving developing countries an opportunity to choose their path to development in the interests of their own people."

"By promoting a rights-based foreign policy we can end the obscenity of war. We can create a sustainable planet that is based on our common humanity and the best of our shared values."

"We can – and must – make this a better world for our children to live in tomorrow" said **Michael D. Higgins.**

**Michael D. Higgins**



# MORE CASH FOR SPORT

## Top amateurs should receive grant

**TOP SPORTS people bring so much entertainment to hundreds of thousands of us every week they deserve to get some supporting cash from the Government.**

That's the view of **Jack Wall TD**, Labour Party spokesperson on Arts, Sport and Tourism.

"The likes of senior inter-county GAA players are really great role models for our kids and they encourage them to take up healthy sporting pursuits. Plus, of course, a recent economic study has shown just how much benefit sport generates in the country," says Jack Wall.

That's why Labour has proposed that top amateurs in every sport – GAA, soccer, rugby, athletics or whatever – should receive a tax-free lump sum from the Government every year. It's based on a similar Government scheme that

provides money for famous writers and artists.

"There's room to spend much more on sports and recreation", says Labour's Senator **Michael McCarthy**. "For years, sticky-fingered bureaucrats in the Department of Finance have been raiding the Lotto money to pay for day-to-day spending. With billions of Euros in taxes rolling in, there's no need to allow that anymore. By law, Lotto money should be ring fenced from the Department's itchy fingers. That way, I estimate that as much as an extra €70 million a year could be switched to spending on sports and recreation around the country."

More ideas for better sports and recreation:

- Increased funding to upgrade PE facilities in schools in co-operation with local sports bodies
- PE to be a 'points' subject in the Junior and Leaving Certs.

## Find out more

If you'd like to find out more about the Labour Party's plans and people check out our web site [www.labour.ie](http://www.labour.ie) It has lots of information about our policy proposals as well as information about how to contact our TDs and Senators.

Or, you could email [head\\_office@labour.ie](mailto:head_office@labour.ie) or drop a line to Mike Allen, The Labour Party, 17 Ely Place, Dublin 2.

Published by The Labour Party

Layout and Design:



101 Grangeway,  
Baldoye Industrial Estate,  
Baldoye,  
Dublin 13.  
Tel: (01) 839 8008  
Fax: (01) 839 8007