



January 19 2009: Archive

The Voice Of Reason

Time To Grow Some Balls!

The reaction of our cabinet representatives, elected by the people with a mandate to take decisive action in times of crises has been pitifully inadequate to say the least.

The lack of action is all the more extraordinary as the two Brians have direct experience of the finance portfolio, although neither have shown ability or leadership as finance ministers now or in the past. Actually they frighten me.

The Irish people need action, leadership and someone to exhibit a willingness to take proactive control of the situation we now face. All we are offered is 1980's economic philosophy masquerading as 'tough decisions' and a litany of pathetic and cowardly excuses.

From January to September 2008 we were told there was no problem, that the economy was self-correcting and that the government knows best so let them govern. At worst we were going to have that wonderfully fictitious term, a soft landing.

Then we are told that it is an international problem and outside of their control. In other words not their responsibility.

Finally we are constantly being told that there exists a very big problem and we the public must wake up to this fact. We the public have been telling the government this fact all year. They refused to listen. They have and continue to abdicate responsibility on a massive scale.

They are currently hiding behind a regressive and ineffective budget and try to use it as evidence of their willingness to take hard decisive action.



The budget on October 14th last was the simplistic action of a group of cowardly incompetents. Brutal, ill thought out, and ineffective fiscal measures without corresponding stimulus to kick-start economic growth will only serve to exacerbate the problem and further constrict aggregate demand and economic growth.

I highlighted on national media how they failed to avail of between €500,000 Million and €1 BN in motor related taxes. These taxes would have had the support of all stakeholders in the industry and would have been the classic win-win situation for everyone in this country. They happily ignored the pre budget submissions and did what they do best.

Nothing!

The single most important thing this government must do to tackle the economic crises that we now face is to address current government spending. To do this they must immediately cancel the social partnership pay deal and publicly announce that they are not getting involved in such a ridiculous exercise ever again. Public sector pay must be frozen with immediate effect.

Social partnership is an evil, undemocratic and regressive scheme between an elected minister (or two), some unelected civil servants and a group of self-serving, unelected partisan employer and union representatives. It is unfair, undemocratic and does not reflect the wishes of the people. People who do not have a democratic mandate are wielding the power in Ireland. In other countries they would be referred to as dictators. Our government have not addressed the problem of public sector spending for one simple reason.

They are cowards!

They are afraid to take on the unions. In spite of the fact that it is obvious to all that the unions in Ireland are subjective, biased and do not in any way promote the ideals of inclusive social policy or the common good.

So lets make a call here and now to the two Brian's and tell them to grow some balls and take on the unions if that is what it takes.

After all that is their job. It is not the job of a cabinet minister to take only those decisions that will ensure their popularity and re-election down the road.

Only when they grasp this nettle can they go on to deal with the economy and take the actions required. Such as dispensing with the Quango's and radically reduce the size of the public sector.

Expect to see this around the same time that Leitrim win the McCarthy cup!

Pearce Flannery