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Workers Party Launches Major Document on Industrial Strategy : Press Release

The workers Party

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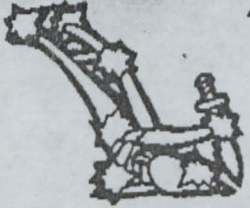
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THE WORKERS' PARTY

PAIRTI NA nOIBRI

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PRESS RELEASE

NOT FOR USE BEFORE 12.00 NOON MONDAY MAY 28TH

W.P. LAUNCHES MAJOR DOCUMENT ON INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

Statement by Deputy Pat Rabbitte, Workers' Party Spokesman on Industry and Commerce, in conjunction with the launching today (Monday) of a major 12,000 word discussion document on industrial policy, 'MAKING IT WORK - A Framework for Industrial Development'.

"This draft discussion document is designed to provide a framework for the Workers' Party, within which the Party can develop a new dynamic industrial develop strategy which will challenge the stale assumptions which have consistently failed the right wing establishment in their feeble efforts to create an indigenous industrial sector".

"The key element in any successful endeavour to develop new industry is to develop a strategic plan, clear objectives and relevant structures and to direct limited resources at key target areas in a disciplined and scientific manner. It will become essential to replace the current corrupt ethos prevalent in Irish business which unashamedly preaches the message of the market to workers and the unemployed, while simultaneously demanding State intervention in the form of grants, subsidies, tax relief and advisory assistance at every turn."

"The primary purpose of State investment is to achieve a reasonable social or economic return on that investment. It is time to back winners, not losers. The proposals contained in this document outline a new deal for industry. In return for comprehensive investment and assistance designed to rapidly develop designated industrial sub-sectors, industry will provide equity (or equivalent) participation, and compliance with the strategic goals for the overall development of the industrial sub-sector including shared use of facilities, markets, expertise and the joint development and manufacturing of products."

"The prima donnas of Irish industry who have bled the PAYE taxpayer dry for years will scream in indignation. It is something which they are well practised at and they should be allowed to withdraw into the safety of the free market. Genuine businessmen with the skills and the vision to see the necessity for the strategic planning of a small open economy such as ours, will welcome this initiative and will be participants with the State in the dynamic development of the national economy."

over/-

"It is also envisaged in the structural changes of the public sector development agencies to replace the present environment of consultation and assistance with a fully participative pro-active organisational model."

"In the commercial public sector companies, radical new structures are also proposed which are designed to free these companies from artificial restrictions currently imposed on them and to facilitate these companies to engage in programmes of expansion, joint ventures and to maximise potential synergies which currently exist between state companies. Alternative sources of capital for investment are also proposed in an effort to create imaginative new financial instruments which will allow these companies to reduce the debilitating level of loan equity which currently obtains."

"It is also proposed to develop new models of industrial democracy which will provide for genuine participation by workers in industry and which will, in the medium term, result in increased quality and productivity and a new and more mature relationship between worker and employer".

"The publication of this document today, is the start of a process which, it is hoped, will culminate in the adoption of a new detailed party policy of industrial development job creation at our next Ard Fheis. The document is being sent to all party branches and constituencies, and they are being invited to make comments or submissions. We will also be circulating it widely to trade unions and to industrial development agencies, and will also welcome comment from this area".

ends.

Tony Heffernan - Press Officer