

inou budget campaign

On Tuesday November 8th, about 100 members of the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INOU) picketed the Dail as part of the organisations pre-budget campaign. The INOU is demanding that a full, (100%) double payment be paid this Christmas instead of the miserly 65% announced by the Minister for social welfare. They are also demanding that seven specific measures designed to improve the situation of the unemployed be included in next January's Budget. These are:

- Full double payment at Christmas and at the start of the school year for all long-term recipients to be guaranteed in the budget.
- That provision for 'allowable income', i.e. income disregarded when calculating a persons means, be extended to those on unemployment assistance, and that the amount allowed be increased in line with inflation.
- Increase in basic allowances to £50, with payments of £33.30 for adult dependants and £12.10 for children, as an immediate phase in the introduction of the allowance recommended by the Commission on Social Welfare (£56 - £65 at 1988 prices)
- That the income limit for dependent spouses should be increased from £50 to £70.
- That all one parent families should be treated equally
- Introduction of Social Welfare payments for 16-18 year olds.
- An end to the Jobsearch Scheme

The INOU emphasise that "all demands for improvements in social welfare must be seen in the context of the necessity to create real sustainable jobs at decent rates of pay, and the Governments responsibility to carry this out"

The campaign is continuing with the collection of a petition in support of the seven demands, with lobbying of T.D's and other activities. All offers of support are welcome. Contact the INOU at 48 Fleet St.