

Attac&TJN News Sheet. July - August 2006

It's time for all of us to open our eyes, look around and see for ourselves what is going on here in Jersey and the wider world. If we do not then we will continue to be taken in by smokescreens and shadows while we and our Island are bled white by the exploiters who make themselves ever wealthier at our expense. So what are we expected to believe? That all is well? No need to worry?

No need to worry!

No need to worry says Senator Routier. That is as long as your income is the same or better than a Jersey politician's. The Minister for Employment and Social Security, Senator Routier stated in the Jersey Evening Post (13th July) that there is no need to worry about social protection in Jersey for at least five to ten years, and then they could increase social security contributions to meet demand by 0.5%.

Wake up Senator Routier, 45% of single pensioners and 64% of single mothers and their **children** live in relative poverty in Jersey according to your own department's figures. Action is needed NOW, not in five to ten years. Relative poverty in Jersey is totally unacceptable in an Island that has the second highest gross national income per capita in the world, and who spends less than any of the European Union's 25 member countries on social protection.

Perhaps the Minister should consider protecting Jersey's real people, the ones who do the jobs that no one else wants to do - the jobs they have been schooled for by our two-tier education system, but keeps the Island functioning for the hard up finance industry, that get all the tax breaks and financial inducements to make some of the highest post tax profits in the world.

Chris Steel. Treasurer Attac Jersey

New Labour Sleaze and tax havens

I have been following the "cash for honours" stories for a few months and what is apparent already is that there is, quite predictably, a Jersey angle. We hear already that Lords Sainsbury and Levy have been interviewed or arrested. Both, as well as Lord Simon, and many

of the donors involved in this story, have tax avoidance accounts in Jersey.

Lord Levy raised up to £7 million pounds for Tony Blair in the 1997/8 period and his "blind trust" is also believed to be in Jersey. New Labour is up to its armpits in sleaze and corruption - see today's Independent newspaper, for example - but is also complicit in safeguarding the tax havens in British dependent territories - New Labour figures often utilising tax dodges and having business friends/donors who do the same. Perhaps this explains (despite encouraging early signs when Offshore Watch was first established - eg Ed Balls then in Brown's office taking a keen interest) why the New Labour Government has done next to nothing to 'rock the boat'.

Keep a close eye on the papers in the next two weeks or so, as the Levy arrest and connected stories (including corruption within the Tories) develop, because the Jersey tax haven is likely to raise its ugly head more than a few times.

Interesting too, re the Nat West 3/Enron 3. Whilst much debate is taking place about human rights/extradition and reciprocity between the US and UK, it is a fact that the Natwest 3 are under suspicion for possibly assisting Enron executives to siphon off some \$7 million US dollars. Where to? So far, the media have hinted only at a British offshore centre. Aren't Islanders proud that every scandal, every scam, every whiff of corruption, from Enron to Levy, from Pinochet to Abacha, seems to feature our lovely little tax haven ?

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**Our next meeting will be on Thursday at 7.30
14th September at Saint Paul's Centre, Dumaresq Street.**

We are members of the Association for the Taxation of financial Transactions for the Benefit of Citizens (Attac) & the Tax Justice Network (TJN).

The aims of both organisations are to research, educate and campaign to further public awareness. We are seeking to alleviate poverty through the creation of just taxation systems to fund social goods.

For further information please go to www.jersey.attac.org