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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

Déjà vu all over again

A Letter From the Road

a Chairde,

The word of the week is tautology. Tautology is saying the same thing twice in different words.

I'm in Washington this week, meeting with Labor, Irish American, and Congressional leaders to brief them on political developments in Ireland. I found myself saying that, "it feels like Groundhog Day again". I stumbled onto a tautology. The "again" is not needed. We have been here before.

Politically we have been reliving the same day for the last year. The DUP hints that it will remove its block to government formation and return to power sharing and the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement. Then there is speculation on a deadline that is never met, and the denial of democracy continues. All at a cost to our people, economy, and confidence in the political institutions.

Over the past year, it has been speculated that the DUP would move after the signing of the Windsor Framework in February, then again after St. Patrick's Day, then again after the local government elections, then again in the Autumn, and then again before Christmas. Here we are in a new year with the same old problem.

The next deadline is January 18th. If the institutions are not formed by that date, under law, the British Secretary of State has to call an election. But then again, the British government can and has changed the law to suit its interests. We are back in

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Commentators have said that the DUP needs time and space to come to a decision. The decision comes down to whether they support the Good Friday Agreement, power sharing, and democracy or not. It is not a difficult decision to make. The British Government is on record as saying that the negotiations are over. They have also said that they are continuing to meet with the DUP.

That is the problem. The British Government has indulged and facilitated the DUP. Deadlines have come and gone and they are now considering changing the law to prevent an election. All of which has brought the process no closer to a resolution.

As Einstein is believed to have said, "The true definition of madness is repeating the same action, over and over, hoping for a different result." It appears that this British government is no Einstein.

It is past time to take stock. If the DUP cannot or will not make a decision, a new approach is required. The two governments must bring forward a plan to progress the work of the North/South Ministerial Council. In the absence of working devolved institutions, the two governments must determine a new partnership to administer the North. Direct rule from London is not an option. These contingencies can operate until the DUP wants to join the other parties in functioning institutions.

The next week will tell if the DUP will again ignore the wishes of the people and bust another deadline. If that is the case, the British government must acknowledge that the DUP can no longer hold the process to ransom and work with the Irish government to protect the functioning of the GFA while the institutions are suspended. Anything else would meet the definition of madness and condemn us to Groundhog Day again and again and again...

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

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Ciarán Quinn with Brent Booker, General President of LIUNA, and Harry Connolly from the James Connolly Center, presenting Brent with a print of James Connolly.

Decision time for the DUP

Speaking from Stormont on Monday, Conor Murphy, MLA said, "It is now decision time for the DUP. Sinn Féin is ready to form an Executive & work with all parties.

"It is time for positive leadership. The DUP boycott must end."

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Later in the day, North Belfast Sinn Féin MP John Finucane said, "It is decision time for the DUP - and the only decision they should take is to end their blockade of the Assembly."

Sinn Féin is ready to form an Executive and work with all parties to deliver a pay rise for public sector workers, cut waiting lists, and tackle rising living costs."



Irish Unity Summit - March 1, 2024 - NYC

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Friday, March 1, 2024 from 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

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More information, guests, and details to be shared soon!



2024 is the year of momentous political change

Sinn Féin Senator Paul Gavan has issued a rallying call to party supporters, trade unionists and community activists to ensure “that 2024 is the year of momentous political change for our country.”

Addressing a crowd of 200 people at the annual Seán Sabhat Commemoration in Limerick Senator Gavan declared that a change of government cannot come soon enough for the people of Ireland.

“After 12 years of Fine Gael government, propped up by Fianna Fail for the last 8, it is abundantly clear that the parties that created the health and housing crises are totally incapable of solving them.

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“Only a Sinn Féin government will build affordable homes, tackle the high cost of living, build healthcare capacity and reduce health waiting lists, respond ambitiously and fairly to the climate crisis and begin planning for a United Ireland. Our country cannot afford another 5 years of FF/FG failure-our mission must be to lead the struggle for a New Ireland, and to work with progressive civil society, especially our trade unions, and community groups to deliver the greatest possible level of change.”

[READ FULL STORY HERE](#)



From the Union to a New Ireland

Former British soldier and Ulster Unionist party officer Glenn Bradley spoke in the Duncairn Complex in November with senior Republican Seán Spike Murray, exploring his transition from a loyalist heartland and unionism to joining civic nationalist group Ireland's Future and planning for a New Ireland.

Glenn Bradley talked through his own personal history from being in the British Army operating in the North, his involvement in the negotiations of the Good Friday

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Glenn also spoke about how ultimately the interests of all people on this island are best served by coming together and ending Britain's misrule of the North.

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