

# Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

## inside

**Was World War Two fought for democracy?**  
—centre pages

**Fight the 400 lay-offs at Packard**  
—page 10

# Give us all decent pensions

# TEACHERS ARE RIGHT TO FIGHT!

**MOST WORKING class people worry at some stage whether they have enough money to get them through their old age.**

Many would like to retire early rather than slave away to make money to survive.

Now teachers are starting to do something about it.

They are going on strike on May 23rd to be let retire at 60 after 38 years service.

This is hardly a very extreme demand. But the teachers are being hounded by the press.

They claim that teachers are "greedy" and "lazy".

This is nonsense. Top bosses in this country can retire early on massive salaries.

### Complain

Take Howard Kilroy, for example, who has worked for Smurfits.

He can retire at 60 on a pension of £333,000 a year.

It would take the average worker 22 years to earn what Kilroy gets in a single year's pension.

But you never hear the press complain about these scandals.

That is probably because the vast majority of Irish newspapers are owned by one man: Tony O'Reilly who earns more in a single day than the average worker earns in five years.

The reality is that there is no end to the greed from the Irish boss class.

Seven directors of Cement Roadstone Holdings have just paid themselves an average salary of £427,000 each last year.

They include its chairman, Tony Barry.

### Redundant

Cement Roadstone have made hundreds of workers redundant and told them to accept wage restraint.

But the sharks who run CRH are not in the least embarrassed by their own greed.

Barry claims that the salaries were "sensible" because the directors have "talents that are higher than average".

Yeah. Like the ability to get born with a golden spoon in their mouths.

It is time to start getting even with the rich. Every worker should give full support to the teachers' strike on May 23rd.

If the teachers win, it will open the way for other groups to press for early retirement on a decent pensions.

## Bosses get huge pensions

**Howard Kilroy of Smurfits will be getting a pension of £333,000 a year. It would take the average worker 22 years to earn what Kilroy gets in one year of his pension.**



**David Dilger of Greencore is getting £100,000 a year when he retires. His company is putting aside over £5 million to look after him in his old age.**



**Brian Wilson of AIB will get over £150,000 a year in a pension. His bank insists on hiring part time workers who will get no pensions at all.**



# RUC attacks Derry protest

**JOHN MAJOR's** description of everybody who protested against his visit to Derry as "thugs" should be treated with contempt.

The real thugs are the RUC who are now trying to frame 13 people for taking part in the protest.

The riot in the city was caused directly by their activity.

Major came to Derry to get some cheap publicity before the British local elections

## Unpopular

He is so unpopular that he cannot go into working class areas of England or Scotland without a huge security presence.

When news came through that Major was to visit a local museum a picket was quickly called.

There is a lot of anger in the town at the way the Tories have been dragging their feet on the peace process.

And there is also a class resentment at the way hospitals have been closed and people are being left on the dole.

"Just after the protest started, the RUC started to shove us about.

"They drove a cordon between us and began



## Why we were on the protest

**IN A statement** after Major's visit the Derry branch of SWP explained why they were on the protest.

"We chose to highlight the Tory attacks on the NHS because on that issue—as on job losses and cut-backs throughout the public service and on low pay and anti-union laws—there is a potential to carry forward opposition to Major's government in a way that transcends sectarianism,

which unites rather than divides us.

"It is important to proclaim above the hubbub of condemnation and demands for more condemnation that there are class issues, too, which make it proper to protest against what John Major represents.

"Working class people in Derry, Protestant and Catholic, should take no cheek from the likes of John Major. It is by uniting against what he and his government represent that the best hope for the future lies"

pushing us. I saw this middle aged woman who was fairly well dressed get a full scale whack from the fist of an RUC officer", said Helen.

When people began a sit-down against this denial of their right to protest, the RUC stepped up their violence.

"There was one fellow

who had footprints all over his chest and neck. The RUC really laid into him" said Malachy.

Meanwhile the disturbances spread from Union

Hall to the nearby Foyle St. After scuffles between some police officers and locals, RUC cars sped into the area.

"The media showed this picture of a guy throwing a calor gas cylinder through an RUC car. Fair play to him. Because what they never showed was that the same RUC car had knocked down a young lad just before the incident," said one protester.

After the riot all sorts of politicians began to attack Sinn Fein for orchestrating the riot and demanding apologies.

## Explosion

But there was nothing to apologise for. What happened in Derry was an explosion of the burning anger that exists against the hated RUC.

After the incidents a number of Sinn Fein reps, particularly Gearoid O'Hara and Mitchell McLoughlin claimed there were 'faults on both sides'.

But this is wrong. The reality is that it was the RUC who were entirely to blame. They tried to stop a peaceful protest and then laid into the crowd.

Pretending otherwise only the whets the appetite of Major and Mayhew to make people get right back on their knees.

# Break the law—says Law Society

**IRELAND's** upper class professionals are up in arms because they might have to reveal the scale of tax evasion that is going on.

In January, the Labour Finance Minister, Ruairi Quinn, announced that accountants and lawyers would be legally bound to report tax evasion when they came across it.

While PAYE workers are taxed on every penny, the Irish rich has built up a huge crock of gold in evaded taxes. One estimate put it at £836 million.

The Beef Tribunal showed that the leading firm of accountants, Stokes Kennedy and Crowley, knew all along that Goodman was defrauding the government.

SKC even represented Goodman in a meeting with the Revenue Commissioners to try to settle the back taxes he owed -- while they kept quiet about all the fiddles he ran.

Quinn's new measure—called Section 153 of the Finance Bill—was supposed to end this practice of accountants covering up tax evasion.

## Threats

But the top professionals are having none of it. The Incorporated Law Society have even called on their members to break the law if the measure goes through.

And the threats of these upper class prats is already starting to work.

The Attorney General Dermot Gleeson—who happened to represent



■ Attorney General Gleeson: backs the tax fiddlers

Goodman for a huge fee—has advised that it would be 'unconstitutional' for lawyers to have to report tax evasion.

Thousands of ordinary citizens can be charged with withholding information from the Gardaí but Gleeson claims that the top lawyers should be left hide the millions of tax evasion they come across.

Quinn has already started to back down before these protests from the rich.

He has watered down the Bill so that tax evasion of less than £5,000 does not have to be reported. Accountants are also to be given 30 days to warn their wealthy patrons to put their house in order.

PAYE workers should draw a lesson from this disgraceful drama that is being played out in Dail Eireann. If the wealthy can throw out laws that do not suit them, so should we.

## Church money

**LAST MONTH** the Archbishop of Dublin announced that the Dublin diocese had cleared its debt, which stood at £16 million in 1985, three years ahead of schedule.

The Bishops paid off their debt by squeezing money out of churchgoers who had to contribute to two separate collections every Sunday.

But they never dipped into the money which religious orders have gained from selling off tracts of land in prime areas of Dublin.

■ One of the most expensive residential sites ever sold in Dublin fetched the Sisters of Charity more than £8 million.

The purchasers, Park Developments, plan to convert St Annes National School and three other buildings on the 18 acre site in Miltown into 400 apartments and town houses.

■ Part of the property of the Holy Ghost Fathers in Kimmage is up for sale for a minimum of £5 million.

The site is to be developed into apartments that are well beyond the reach of most working class people.

The Church is mainly selling off property because of the decline in religious vocations.

These have declined to one eighth of the level in 1965.

# Cover up on mysterious cattle deaths

**A HUNDRED** cattle in Askeaton Co Limerick have died recently in mysterious circumstances.

There are now growing worries that the health of people in the area may also be at risk.

One vet who saw the cattle described the illness they suffered as similar to AIDs in that their immune system seems to have collapsed.

The cattle suffer hair loss and then terrible swellings before dying.

Now two farmers in the area have also spoken out about the dangers to people.

## Autopsies

Mary Ryan said her son, Alex, suffered from severe rash until he stopped drinking milk from the cows.

The autopsies have revealed high levels of aluminium in the

carcasses of the dead animals.

This is significant as the farms are situated near the giant Aughinish Aluminium plant.

This plant was once held up as the showpiece by the IDA.

They gave it specially high grants and even arranged for the plant to benefit from subsidised electricity.

The farmers believe that the illness in the cattle and the danger to their families comes from airborne pollution from industrial plants.

But the government has done nothing—although it has known about the problem since 1988.

# Discrimination kills

**ON EASTER** Sunday last six died on the road from Killarney to Rathkeale.

They were all settled travellers from Killarney.

## Reported

What was not reported in the national press was that Killarney travellers have to go to Rathkeale for a night out as only two pubs will serve them in their home town.

"Discrimination is after six lives now," said Eileen Harrington, a sister of one of

those killed.

A group of travellers is considering taking their case to the Court of Human

Rights.

When asked to comment a Killarney publican stated that he didn't serve trav-

ellers generally.

"If you leave in one, you get swamped." This view is not only racist, it kills.

# Lord Mayor Tim's fancy chambers

**CORK'S** LORD Mayor Tim Falvey has outraged people by allocating £62,000 of Corporation money to have his city hall chambers renovated.

Some of the corporation's own tenants still do not have adequate toilet facilities.

## Plush

The Lord Mayor has plans for a plush apartment with gold fittings for the bathroom.

Funnily enough Falvey is also a

building contractor.

Once the *Cork Examiner* reported the story the corporation gave out stink and claimed that the *Examiner* could have been less revealing of the circumstances surrounding the ludicrous amount put forward for the job.

The corporation has suspended standing orders in the chambers to discuss the paper's expose of the renovations.

A number of councillors believe that the *Examiner* should simply have censored the news.

# A third of all children go hungry

**POVERTY** is the world's biggest killer, says a new report by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and it warns of "a catastrophe" unless something is done.

It reveals:

- One in five of the world's population is living in "extreme poverty".
- One in three of the world's children are undernourished.
- Over half the world's population lack access to the most essential drugs
- 12.2 million children under five die each year from poverty related illness.
- More than one million women annually die in childbirth from lack of ba-

sic health care.

■ Over one million children die of measles each year when vaccines would cost just 9p each.

■ More than half a million newborn babies die of tetanus for lack of clean blades to cut their umbilical cords.

## Gap

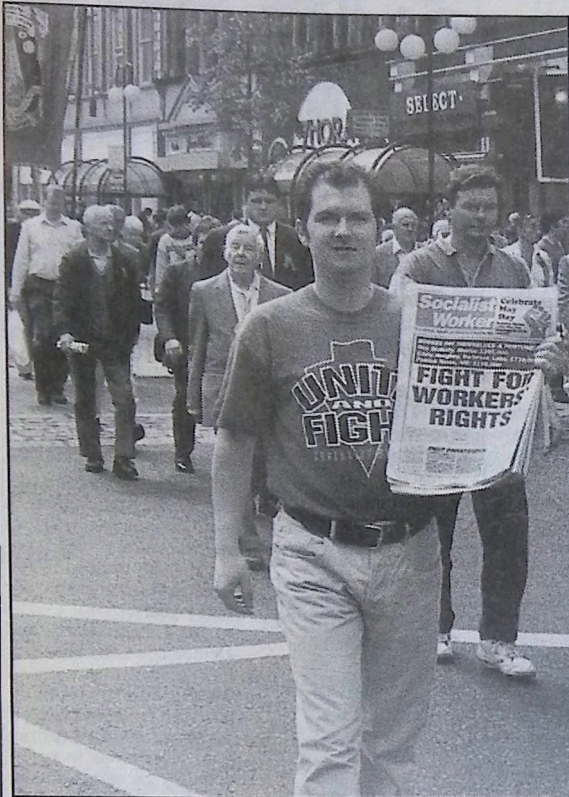
The WHO report points out that far from the gap between the health of the rich and poor narrowing, it is getting wider.

Life expectancy is actually falling in some countries.

Free market programmes by Western banks and governments lie behind the WHO's statistics.

# what we think

## Class is the real division in the North



Part of the 1,500-strong May Day march in Belfast

PHOTO: MICHAEL GALLAGHER

AS SINN Fein leaders finally get to meet the British government Minister, Michael Antrim, for exploratory talks there is a growing clamour to demand that street protests be called off in Northern Ireland.

Politicians like John Hume are arguing that the peace process is fragile and that matters should be left to delicate negotiations.

*But none of the underlying problems in the North are being solved.*

No moves have been made to change the sectarian nature of the RUC, for example.

This bloated force of more than 13,000 officers is stepping up its harassment.

In Derry, they laid into a crowd protesting at Major's visit.

In Coalisland, an RUC man fired a shot into the air at an unarmed group of people.

As long as they are allowed to roam loose, the threat of violence hangs over Northern Ireland.

Sectarianism will not be solved by leaving matters to

the politicians.

Even when Sinn Fein finally make it to the full all-party talks they will find that there is little on offer to them beyond a recognition of their "cultural identity".

Nothing will be done to solve the real material problems of unemployment and poverty which have arisen out of both discrimination and the general attacks of capitalism.

The talks will be dominated by right wing politicians who

have won a base by claiming to represent the interests of one community over those of "the other side".

*Sectarianism will only be uprooted from the North when the working class movement starts to move. And here there is real hope.*

### Defend

1,500 Belfast workers turned up on a May Day march to hear Arthur Scargill attack the Tories and the capi-

talist system they defend.

He got a tremendous reception from trade unionists who know that the real division in the North is between classes.

The tragedy is that the union leaders who organised the march did their best to keep politics out of it.

But what is desperately needed in the North now is a political force that builds on the sentiment for class unity.

## The right royal scrounger

PRINCE Charles, the royal scrounger, is threatening to visit the Republic and Irish politicians are salivating at the prospect.

The announcement of the visit was greeted with a flood of the most sickening toadying and cap-tipping the people of this state have ever had to endure.

There was quite a bit of sympathy expressed for the tough life the prince has had to live and right enough, a quick look at his life would leave you weak with pity.

His mother is the world's richest woman.

Charles owns half of Cornwall and gets millions in state handouts.

### Cottage

His ex-wife Dianna could spend £1 million just to buy a holiday cottage in France.

Apart from the fact that a monarchy is probably the most backward system of government in the world today it should also be remembered that the prince is the head of the most hated regiment ever to serve in Northern Ireland: the Parachute Regiment.

The Para's are most notorious for the slaughter of thirteen innocent civilians in Derry on what became known across the globe as Bloody Sunday.

Bertie Ahern, the man of the people, is on record as saying that Prince Charles should get what he called "a traditional Irish welcome".

And so he should: the kind of welcome James Connolly gave when he organised major protests against the visit of that other scrounger, Queen Victoria, 100 years ago.

## Scheme workers organise

WORKERS on Community Employment schemes have begun to organise against government cuts.

The day of action on 12th May should be only the start of a fight for these workers' basic rights.

The Labour Party gave itself a clap on the back when the CE schemes were included in its Programme for Government with Fianna Fail in 1993.

This was an advance for the unemployed, they argued, taking them off the dole and giving them 'dignity'.

But it was not long before Labour's Employment Minister Ruairi Quinn slapped a £5 a week tax on the scheme workers' payment of £79 a week.

### Save

The present coalition now wants to cut 7,000 places on the schemes.

The government says this is needed to save money. But as one scheme worker told *Socialist Worker*:

"The £6 or £7 million they hope to save is not worth throwing 7,000 people back on the dole and depriving hard-pressed communities of useful projects."

"It's madness when you consider the huge profits being made by the banks in this country."

Militant action is needed

to stop these cuts.

The scheme workers should follow the example of young workers and students in France last year who defeated their government's plans to scrap the minimum wage.

### Revolted

The Balladur government wanted everyone under 26 to work for 80 per cent of the minimum wage.

Thousands of young people revolted against the plans and their angry demonstrations forced Balladur to drop the idea.

Scheme workers in Ireland can build their campaign by:

- Winning the support of local communities. Often the only facility in a working class area is a community centre staffed by CE workers. These people should be urged to form action groups to defend local projects.
- Joining a union. The ATGWU has organised some scheme workers and is open to more joining.

CE campaigners should go around all the schemes with union membership forms and make sure the union fights for their rights as workers.

## Howlin's housing con

WITH GREAT bluster and glossy press hand-outs Brendan Howlin and Liz McManus have launched a government plan for housing called "Social Housing—The Way Forward".

They claim that they are introducing a big increase in housing spending. They have proposed that 3,900 local authority houses be built and 3,100 homes created by the voluntary sector. But looked at in perspective these plans are entirely inadequate.

In 1975 the government built 15,029 new houses, so the latest figures only look good compared to the miserably low building figures of 1991 and 1992.

The demand for housing is rising, both from the 80,000 individuals who Streetwise believe are homeless and from those people who are in need of new housing.

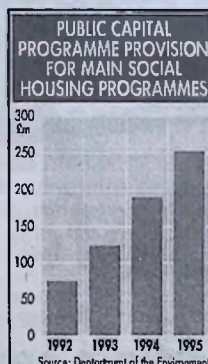
Instead of providing cheap, decent accommodation the government is encouraging private landlords to make a fortune.

In Dublin, for example, there has been a long term decline in inner city Corporation housing.

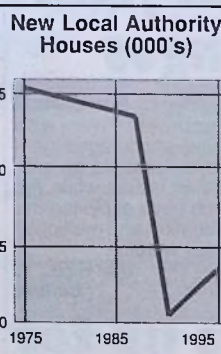
This has allowed developers to make a fortune from the land in Dublin's city centre.

Terence Creagh is campaigning for rehousing of people from the Charlemont estate in their

How the government presents its figures:



The broader picture:



own area. He remembers how the Mount Pleasant estate was broken up.

### Split Up

"We were promised new

housing, but even though many people had spent their whole lives in the area and didn't want to go, the community was split up.

People were forced out of Tallaght or pushed out to

## A fight to stay put

THE PEOPLE living in Hillsbrook Lawn and Chianti Park are fighting to hold on to their homes.

Their estate is a mobile home park which is privately run in the hills beyond Tallaght.

It is a well run estate where people feel safe for their kids and where they are not too far from their friends and relations in Tallaght.

The accommodation is affordable and far superior to the usual standard of landlord run flats and bedsits in the city.

But many of the tenants are dependent on housing benefit. Although many of them have lived there for nearly 14 years, the local

welfare officer, Niall Fallon, has recently threatened to cut them off if they don't move. He sent in an environmental health officer to condemn the homes that people are happy in.

"Stay and Starve" is what the tenants have been told when they said that they would fight to keep their accommodation.

The problem is that the people in Hillsbrook Lawn are not beef barons or bankers, and state officials think that they can be pushed around.

The tenants have been demonstrating outside the council offices in Tallaght where they have been getting a good response.

"We need new decent housing where we live."

"For example, old people here have to get hot water from heating the stove."

"They deserve new facilities."

## Bray protest at loss of football park

OVER 300 people attended a protest rally in Bray recently to oppose the redevelopment of a local football park.

The central location of Bray Emmets GAA field has made it a target for developers.

Current plans are to turn the five acre ground into a 75,000 square foot shopping centre, incorporating Dunnes Stores and a 500

unit car park.

Emmet Park is one of the few remaining green spaces in Bray and opening a shopping centre will cause major traffic pollution.

### Supporting

A busy link road would pass close by four schools.

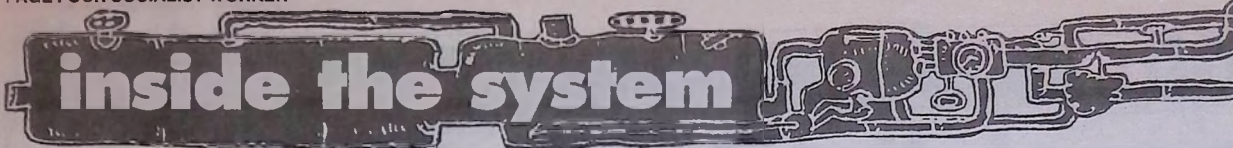
Tragically the Democratic Left politicians, Liz and John McManus, are supporting the scheme

claiming that it will create jobs.

But local people argue that the vast majority of these jobs will be part time and low paid.

The final decision on the development is still pending. People need to keep up the pressure by picketing all Urban District Council meetings.

In Ringsend this type of militant street protest stopped the building of an incinerator. It can also stop this development in Bray.



★ AMERICA, once proclaimed as the "classless" society, is more divided in terms of wealth than any other industrialised country.

The most affluent 1 per cent of American households owns nearly 40 per cent of the nation's wealth, the top 20 per cent controls 80 per cent of the assets, and the trend is accelerating.

At the other end of the scale, the incomes of America's poorest families are declining, while the child poverty rate in the US is four times the average in Western European countries.

## Right-wingers on the benches

ALMOST ALL major political decisions in Ireland are being referred to the courts at the moment.

The legal eagles are having a field day. But who are the people who sit on the benches of the Supreme Court? Here is your *Socialist Worker* quick guide.

■ **John Blaney, age 69.**

Drew up the amendment for the Pro Life Amendment Campaign in 1983. But now he claims to be neutral when examining the Abortion Information Bill currently before the Supreme Court. Salary: £70,000

■ **Seamus Egan, age 71.**

Member of the Milltown Golf Club and the Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club, both of which have excluded women.

No further questions, your Honour.

Salary: £70,000

■ **Hugh O'Flaherty, 57.** Good friend of Charlie Haughey's.

O'Flaherty was Haughey's legal adviser and reportedly drafted some of his speeches.

### Business

Obviously a judge of the "kinder, gentler" type since he cut the X-case rapist's sentence from 14 to 4 years, on the grounds that the man's business might suffer. Salary: £70,000

■ **Chief Justice Liam Hamilton (age couldn't be determined by *Socialist Worker*, but certainly no spring**

chicken.)

Ex-Labour Party member, in the days when his private practice dealt with worldly things like trade union cases. Having shed all that, Hamilton went on to jail Nicky Kelly at the non-jury Special Criminal Court for the Sallins mail train robbery.

He topped that performance in 1986 by ruling that the Well Woman Centre could not give out information on abortion.

Salary: £100,000.

Aren't they value for money: two anti-abortionists, at least three sexists, and all of them part of the upper class law and order brigade?

## Suicide victim faced life for video theft

A 32 year old man, Steven White, committed suicide in Las Vegas after he faced the prospect of life imprisonment for stealing a video, valued at 146 dollars.

Steven was a victim of the new "three strikes and you're out" rule where you spend the rest of your life in jail for a third offence.

He had previously been found guilty for

burglary twice but had never been charged with a violent crime.

The public prosecutor called Steven a "persist-

ent criminal of the type the law was designed to protect people against"

Maybe he is happy now.

★ THE US Postal service has an odd line in stamp design. They recently issued a stamp commemorating the disgraced US President Richard Nixon who specialised in bugging his opponents.

One of their previous issues had to be withdrawn.

They wanted a special commemoration stamp for the atomic bombing of Japan at the end of WW2.

## Dermot's anti-gay prejudice

FIANNA FAIL are back to their old dirty tricks of trying to blame minorities for society's ills.

Louth TD Dermot Ahern has said he does not consider homosexuals as "part of the norm".

### Nazi 'at home' with the Tories

THE TORIES in Britain got annihilated in the recent local elections. And a good thing too.

One of their candidates was a former Nazi National Front member, Mark Cotterill.

Cotterill, who left the NF three years ago, said "I felt much more at home in the Conservative Party"

He added that those with "homosexual leanings" used to sit down the back of the class!

### Affairs

But what did he say about his fellow TDs?

He said he has never seen any evidence of fellow politicians having illicit affairs or using prostitutes.

"I've heard rumours about the odd person, but have seen nothing." What a guy.

## Lavish dinners for Sinn Fein big-shots

WHILE SINN Fein claim to represent working class interests, their top people seem to be trying to mirror Fianna Fail.

And they are doing it in style in America with \$1,000-a-plate dinners.

But surely they must be holding these lavish recep-

tions in hotels ordinary working class Americans usually frequent? Not half—the latest was held in the super-posh Manhattan Plaza.

## Bertie's new overcoat

BERTIE Ahern's recent visit to Waterford caused a flurry of activity in FF HQ in Dublin when word reached them the Waterford organisation had decided to give their esteemed leader a present.

### Stature

The local Comhairle Dailcheantair were going to give him a brand new overcoat!

Word reached Dublin and Waterford was told the item in question was "inappropriate" for a man of Bertie's stature.

★ WITH all the talk of a Labour-DL merger, it's interesting to see what happened in East Cork recently.

Labour TD John Mulvihill knocked DL Senator Joe Sherlock out of the Dail in the last election and relations between the two were not helped with talk of redrawing the constituency boundary.

The men are such good friends that at a recent County Council meeting, Mulvihill invited Sherlock to step outside the door to sort out their differences!

## behind the headlines

by DAVE McDONAGH

## Divorce: Don't let the bishops get their way

IN THE 1930's an American film called *I Want a Divorce* came before the Irish censor. He did not ban the film but changed its title to *The Tragedy of Divorce to avoid offending Catholic morality!*

This incident summed up the power that the Catholic bishops had over Irish society. Their control ensured that when the Fianna Fail Taoiseach Eamon De Valera drafted his constitution in 1937 he submitted it to the Pope for approval.

Article 41.3.2 of the new constitution imposed an outright ban on divorce. But even in 1930's Ireland the ban did not reflect the reality of people's lives.

A new book on the issue describes how the "social stigma of a failed marriage meant that many couples kept their situations secret. Often men went abroad to work and form second relationships, while other couples remained in the same home but had no communication".

*Divorce? Facing the issues of marital breakdown* takes on the argument of groups like Family Solidarity that legalised divorce is the 'cause' of marital breakdown.

Census figures quoted in the book show that in the five years after the defeated divorce referendum of 1986 the rate of marriage breakdown went up by 48 per cent—over 3,500 per year.

The truth is that marriage breakdown is not caused by a 'divorce culture' but by the reality of people's lives—in particular the lives of working class women.

### Loveless

Far more women are entering the labour force and staying there after marriage. Women are not as economically dependent on marriage as they were in the past and are less likely to stay in a loveless relationship.

For that reason many people will vote for the right to divorce in the referendum set for 30th November. Opinion polls show two-thirds in favour of divorce.

But the result is not a foregone conclusion. The right to divorce will not be won unless we fight the bigots of Family Solidarity. But the Labour Party are avoiding the fight.

Law Reform Minister Mervyn Taylor now says the wording of the amendment will spell out the conditions under which a di-

vorice can be granted.

These are going to be very restrictive—most couples will probably have to be separated for five years and prove 'irretrievable breakdown' before their marriage can be finally dissolved.

This is meant to be a 'cooling-off period' which will allow the couple to decide if they really want to go their separate ways. In reality couples will continue to be trapped in unbearable situations for many years.

The Labour Party and Democratic Left claim they have a clever strategy of winning as many people as possible to supporting divorce by making it restrictive. They want to prove that they are not in favour of 'quickie divorce'.

But this strategy did not stop the bigots winning in 1986. The amendment voted on in that referendum also included a five-year 'cooling-off' period but it was still defeated.

### Shameful

By making divorce more restrictive Taylor is giving the impression that there is something shameful about two adults leaving their marriage. This only adds grist to the mill of the bigots and puts people who want a divorce on the defensive.

The bigots won in 1986 because they claimed that divorce would leave women in poverty. They linked this argument to the demand for 'jobs not divorce' and turned the anger against Labour.

Labour was then in coalition with Fine Gael and presiding over the health cuts. It was easy for the anti-divorce campaigners to depict Labour as a party that wanted to leave women without a roof over their heads.

Today both Labour and Democratic Left have attacked their working class supporters while in government. We may yet again hear the cry of 'jobs not divorce' coming from the bigots. They will try to turn the people's bitterness against any liberal change.

Socialists argue for decent jobs and divorce on demand. It is not divorce but unemployment and low wages which leave women in poverty.

The right to divorce on demand would mean that no woman would have to endure a violent relationship and couples would not remain trapped in loveless marriages. And well-paid jobs and childcare facilities would ensure that it would be easier to make the break and start a new life.

## Socialist Worker welcomes letters

PO Box 1648, Dublin 8

## Northern politicians fight over places on quangos

"WE'VE TRIED our best to get our people on to these bodies but nobody can tell us the right way to go about it."

This was how former Belfast Councillor Brian Feeney described the SDLP's lack of success at obtaining positions for its members on the Quangos which govern the major institutions in the North of Ireland.

"It's very hard for Unionists to get onto these committees," was the equally not-so-heart-breaking utterance from Clifford Forsythe the Unionist MP for Antrim.

For twenty six years the people of the North have been listening to petty minded politicians arguing and bickering over power sharing.

In the meantime the North has been governed by the rich, for the rich. Part-time positions on Tory run quangos, which pay salaries of up to £20,000, are being shared out among the wealthy.

People are starting to realise that the real struggle is not between Unionist and Nationalist but between rich and poor. As people's living standards fall, more and more people are coming to the conclusion that they have been mis-

guided by their political representatives who have encouraged them to concentrate on sectarian issues while the rich have exploited the situation and multiplied their wealth.

JIM REILLY, Belfast

## UN covers up for China's tyrants

NEXT MONTH's UN conference on women is being staged in Beijing, China.

China has pillaged and raped the nation of Tibet.

Its policy of destroying that country's people and culture has been ruthless.

This small country has been brought to its knees very much like East Timor.

Almost every country is sending a delegation to this conference but a delegation of Tibetan women has

been asked to stay away by the Chinese government.

### Record

Why is this conference being held in a country which has such a terrible record on human rights?

The UN is again acting like a 'dishonest broker'.

But then again the UN recognised the tyrant Pol Pot in the past, so what can you expect.

GINO KENNY, Clondalkin.

## around the world

FRANCE:



# Chirac gains from Left's broken promises

**JUBILANT** right-wingers celebrated in France on Sunday night after Jacques Chirac's victory in the presidential elections.

But media talk of Chirac's victory ending 14 years of socialism was well wide of the mark.

Chirac won because Francois Mitterrand of the Socialist Party broke all the promises for change he made when elected in 1981.

He presided over soaring unemployment, homelessness and poverty.

The Right's victory in France is a warning about what can happen when a left government betrays the people who look to it for change.

But although Chirac won, his talk enthused few people. He got just 20% of the votes in the first round of the election last month.

In that round over four in ten people voted for candidates from outside the established parliamentary parties.

Even on Sunday's Chirac-Jospin run-off one in five people refused to back either. This reflects the deep cynicism towards all established politicians in France and suggests Chirac will not have an easy ride.

Those celebrating his success on Sunday are also fearful of the potential response from workers.

The French media is already talking of a "third round" of the Presidential election - one which will be fought through street protests and strikes.

Recent months have seen the



Part of the May Day demonstration in Paris

eruption of a rash of strikes and protests, mainly over wages. The protests have involved train and tube workers, car workers, bank workers and civil servants.

Only two days before Sunday's vote council manual workers in Paris, refuse workers, sewage workers and gravediggers, struck demanding higher wages.

Such struggles could soon take the shine off the right's victory.

## Attempt

The most worrying aspect of France's presidential elections was the success of Jean Marie Le Pen's Nazi National Front.

In the first round of voting Le Pen got his highest ever vote. Some 15 percent - almost 5 million people - voted for the Nazi leader.

The result shows how fool-

ish those commentators were who wrote off Le Pen.

In the course of the election campaign, both Chirac and Jospin made concessions to Le Pen's agenda in an attempt to win votes.

Chirac made a series of speeches promising to crack down on immigration "without guilt" and "without weakness".

He also echoed the Nazi leader's attempt to link crime and immigration.

Jospin has also been pandering to Le Pen.

Toward the end of the campaign he promised proportional representation for "some" parliamentary seats in a coded appeal to Le Pen voters.

Jospin rightly said that some of Le Pen's support comes from disaffected workers - who are far from a Nazi hard core.

But workers do not make up

the bulk of National Front support.

In the first round it scored heavily among groups like small farmers, shopkeepers, traders and the self-employed.

Also one in four of the unemployed who voted backed Le Pen.

But it is true Le Pen also did well among manual workers, especially among the young.

## Slashed

This is because of deep disillusionment with official politics.

Such people can be won away from voting for Nazis but that cannot be done by pandering to Le Pen.

The Nazi character of Le Pen's organisation was made clear by the events of May 1st in Paris. During a 10,000 strong National Front march, a gang of Le Pen's skinhead

thugs attacked a young homeless Moroccan immigrant and threw him into the river Seine where he drowned.

The murderers then rejoined Le Pen's march. Only weeks earlier Nazis putting up posters in Marseilles had shot and killed a young immigrant boy.

Disgracefully, the media in France still treat Le Pen as a respectable politician and allow him a platform.

Le Pen now hopes to build on his presidential election success for June's elections for mayors in towns across France.

But he can be stopped. Within 48 hours of the May day murder, over 30,000 people marched through Paris in protest.

This shows the potential for building a mass movement to expose Le Pen's Nazis and confront them whenever they try to meet or march.

**SOUTH KOREA:**  
**Jailed socialist appeals against jailing**



Choi Il-bung

**SOUTH KOREAN** socialist Choi Il-bung is appealing against his recent 18 month prison sentence under the National Security Law.

He is one of 24 members of the International Socialists of South Korea charged in the latest wave of repression in a country which claims to be a democracy.

Last month 150 workers who were sacked for trade union activity staged a protest outside a government building.

Riot police attacked them with clubs and put 20 in hospital.

The following day police stormed the hospital, arresting the injured workers, who now face jail.

But there is evidence of disquiet at the extent of the repression among a section of South Korea's ruling class.

In an unprecedented move the judge at Choi Il-bung's trial in March threw out half the prosecution "evidence".

This raises hopes that the international campaign to defend Choi Il-bung and the other political prisoners can win their early release.

More details: Committee to Defend South Korean Socialists, c/o P.O. Box 1648, Dublin 8.

## Swedish engineers rock government

**OVER A** quarter of a million engineering workers in Sweden are set for confrontation with the country's Social Democrat government.

The workers have just launched an overtime ban, which will seriously disrupt production, in a fight over wages.

The engineering workers traditionally set

the tone for other workers' wage negotiations.

Sweden's government is out to make workers pay the price for the country's economic mess.

## Bankers

It pushed through a vicious welfare cuts package last month, demanded by bankers as the price for not pulling

the plug on the Swedish currency.

Unemployment, sickness and other benefits have been slashed and the government want to hold down wage rises to less than inflation.

The government is also behaving like right-wing governments across the world in seeking to use racism to deflect rising anger.

It has slashed funding

to refugee groups and plans to deport 5,000 Bosnian refugees.

The deportations were postponed last week following a protest campaign, but could still go ahead.

An open letter from leading writers and actors accused the government of "caving in to nationalist and racist attitudes".

**BOLIVIA:**

## Strikers face repression

**THE BOLIVIAN** government has declared a state of emergency and suspended all constitutional rights after a nationwide teachers' strike looked set to develop into a general

strike.

More than 1,000 trade union, student and peasant leaders have been arrested and exiled.

The teachers were striking against privatisation.

# FIFTY YEARS AFTER HITLER

## Stormont fiddled while Belfast burned

THE ORANGE Order have been quick to publicise the commemoration of the Second World War.

They want to hide the reality of what life was like for ordinary people under Stormont during the war.

The Unionist establishment had only one consideration throughout the war—looking after the interests of the rich.

They refused to bring in adequate measures to defend the population of Belfast.

By 1940 Belfast had just four public air raid shelters, made of sandbags and situated right beside the City Hall.

### Dismal

The state of fire-fighting equipment was dismal.

Not surprisingly the first wave of German bombers killed 900 people.

The Home Affairs Minister Dawson Bates argued that country houses should be opened to put up the Belfast rich.

Of the rest he said

they shouldn't be given accommodation because they had "personal habits which are sub-human."

When a special committee on bombings was finally set up one of its main concerns was to find ways of protecting the statue of Carson and the Stormont buildings.

The war was so unpopular among Northern Ireland's workers that the British Cabinet decided not to introduce conscription.

After a 10,000 strong rally in Belfast the Inspector General of the RUC, Charles Wickham, stated "it is extremely doubtful if conscription has the whole-hearted support of either section of the population."

The Shankill remembered how its men had been used as cannon fodder on the Somme in 1916.

The number of volunteers to the army was low. Among those who spoke on recruitment platforms was the Nazi sympathiser Lord Londonderry.

He had entertained Hitler's Foreign Minister, von Ribbentrop, previously.

Catholic and Protestant workers fought back against bosses' attempts to use the war to push through attacks on their conditions.

### Discontent

In 1941 the Northern Ireland Labour Party took the Unionist "safe seat" of Willowfield in East Belfast.

However this was just an expression of more serious discontent.

The war saw 270 strikes in Belfast - every one of them illegal.

The *Sunday Pictorial* fumed that "the working class were a disgrace to Britain and the Empire."

Disgracefully, the union leaders and the Communist Party tried their utmost to prevent industrial unrest.

But in 1944 20,000 workers struck for 3 months to defend wages and their shop stewards.

They succeeded in defeating their bosses and the courts.

# Was it a demo

THE STREETS of Europe were swamped with cheering, dancing crowds on VE Day 1945. Tens of millions were celebrating the end of Hitler's genocidal regime.

On the fiftieth anniversary of VE Day, John Major addressed a gathering of almost one million people in Hyde Park in London and claimed

that Britain had fought a people's war against fascism. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The ordinary men and women who sacrificed so much to win the war were lions led by donkeys. Unfortunately, it is the donkeys who are claiming all the glory, while the lions and their families exist on meagre pensions.

Britain's war with Germany was not a war against fascism, but an attempt to defend her overseas colonies and investments.

Sections of the British ruling class were very sympathetic towards fascism.

Many leading Nazi admirers were organised in the Anglo-German Fellowship. Among its members were more than 60 MPs, over 40 members of the House of Lords, directors of the Bank of England and scores of Britain's biggest companies.

### Appeasement

These people helped to forge the policy of "appeasement" -- not opposing Hitler as he sought to create a new German empire in the 1930s.

The British war-time leader, Winston Churchill had co-operated with fascist groups such as the League of Empire Loyalists and the British Fascist Party involved in scabbing during the 1926 General Strike.

In 1927 Churchill expressed his admiration for Mussolini and declared, "if I had been an Italian I would have been wholeheartedly with you in your triumph against the bestial appetites and passions of Leninism."

After the war, Churchill wrote that even when war became certain "Mussolini would have been welcomed by the Allies." The journalist John Ezard, writing in *The Guardian*, recalls how his father "remained convinced until the



end of his life that Churchill would have decamped to Canada with the Royal family at the first whiff of Nazi invasion."

Lord Rothermere had been an enthusiastic supporter of Oswald Mosley's

British Union of Fascists in the early 1930s. His newspaper, the *Daily Express*, carried a front-page headline in July 1934 which screamed "Hurrah for the Blackshirts".

The King of England was photographed giving the fascist salute in 1938. His future wife, the odious Mrs Simpson described Hitler as "a charming man".

When war broke out rationing was introduced. It was supposed to be universal, but the rich availed liberally of the black market. Tube stations were only opened as air-raid shelters during the Blitz after mass protests.

The children of the rich were evacuated to safety in Canada.

The best many working class kids could hope for was a tent in the west country. While the East End of London was being hammered by the Luftwaffe, posh restaurants with lavish menus in the West End remained open.

The resentment at the fact that the working class bore the brunt of the suffering during the war was so great that when the Queen (now the Queen Mother) visited the East End in 1940 she was booed and pelted with mud.

In 1943 the British government released the British fascist leader Oswald Mosley from prison. He had been in-

turned at the against his beaten with ral London.

Perhaps the biguous att throughout to be found in In June 194 by Churchill meet the Fre shocked by t ered.

One senior in his diary French he ref nce as a Co politicians p ight against C Socialists."

A number o rised the slo Blum".

Leon Blum of the Socialie Command pre rather than fa ate social refc They belie pation would Socialists and

## Stalin's secret deal with Hitler

IN THE run up to the war the policies of the Russian dictator Stalin were similar to those of Western governments.

Hitler made clear that having destroyed German working class organisations he would wage war to destroy "Bolshevik Russia".

But Stalin maintained relations with the Nazi regime.

The Spanish Civil War caught Stalin in a dilemma.

### Fear

He had to support the republican government for fear of the creation of another fascist state in Europe.

But he feared victory for the Spanish republic would lead to a socialist revolution.



Stalin (left) signed pact with Hitler (right)

So by 1938 Stalin cut off arms to the republic while his agents inside Spain butchered socialists.

In 1939 Stalin signed a pact



with Hitler to divide Poland between them.

A secret clause saw Stalin hand over anti-Nazis who had taken refuge in Russia.

# ...ER'S DEFEAT:

# ...war for ...mocracy?



allowed to continue ruling in much the same way as before.

This is what the French minister, Jean Ybarnegary, meant when he declared, "Better to be a Nazi province. At least we know what that means."

Churchill believed that the French leaders treated their country "as if it were a commercial company going into liquidation."

The largest and most effective resistance organisation in France was that of the Communist Party.

However, its operations were severely hampered by the British reluctance to supply it with weapons.

## Disarm

Most of France was liberated in 1944 not by the Allies but by the Resistance. On 15 August, the decision of the German authorities to disarm part of the Paris police force provoked a strike. The strike sparked a popular insurrection led by the Communist Party.

For five days the citizens of Paris fought the Nazis. Barricades were erected in every working-class district of the city. The Nobel prize winning physicist and Communist Jules Coliot set up a factory using his students and his technical knowledge to manufacture petrol bombs. The fighting was fierce—over 500 Parisians were killed in two days.

The Allies' reaction to the uprising was one of dismay. They had intended to by-pass Paris—they did not want the trouble of feeding the civilian population. De Gaulle now changed his plans and made a push for the capital. "There must not be another Commune", he declared as he jumped aboard a tank. The Commune he referred to was the short-lived Paris Commune of 1871 when workers briefly took over the city after the Franco-Prussian War.

De Gaulle's priority after the Liberation was to replace the revolutionary committees which controlled large parts of France. Policemen who had worked with the Germans, were quickly back on the streets.

Over 95% of magistrates and civil servants who had sworn allegiance to the pro-Nazi Vichy regime were allowed to return to work unpunished.

The vast majority of French industrialists who had worked for the Germans escaped untouched.

This pattern was repeated throughout Europe. In late 1944 the Russian Army halted its advance on Warsaw just 12 kilometres from the gates of the city. It only advanced when the Nazis had put down a popular uprising.

The Russians wanted to be sure that their puppet regime would not face any resistance from the local population.

In Italy, in late 1944 the workers of the industrial north rose up and executed 20,000 fascists, including Mussolini. Terrified by the strength of the Resistance, the Allies cobbled together

a new constitution with only one aim—to keep the Communist Party, the largest single party, out of government.

The Allies also gave a new breath of life to the moribund Mafia. They found it to be useful in the assassination of socialists.

On the fiftieth anniversary of V.E. Day, an Argentine judge ruled in favour

of an Italian request for the extradition of former German SS officer Erich Priebke.

Priebke (81) is wanted for Italy's worst massacre of the Second World War. He executed 335 men and boys in reprisal for the killing of 33 members of a German army unit by Partisans. Priebke was recruited by the Allies at

the end of the war because of his anti-socialist zeal.

The sadistic 'Butcher of Lyons', Claus Barbie, was also recruited by US military intelligence at the end of the war. According to his handler, the expert information he provided on communists was "invaluable".

The war in the Pacific was a particularly brutal affair. It started as a result of Japan's attempts to carve out an empire in Asia using the same methods which had built the British Empire in the nineteenth century—murder, rape and pillage.

Japan was not a fascist power. The atomic bombs dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima were not a cruel but necessary blow for democracy. They were cynically dropped days after the Russians had entered the war in the far-east in order to end the war before Russia could conquer territory in the east.

The end of the war saw a general strike in Japan, which was brutally suppressed. For the next six years the country was ruled by the American military. Power was only grudgingly handed over to a civilian administration in 1951.

The lessons of the Second World War are clear. The western leaders had no particular quarrel with fascism itself. They only went to war when they believed their own strategic interests were under threat.

How dare John Major speak at the V.E. Day rally in Hyde Park about his abhorrence of fascism and racism. His party has been stirring up racism against immigrants in Britain.

Our rulers could not be trusted to fight against fascism in the 1930s and 1940s. They cannot be trusted to fight against those who want to peddle Hitler's message in the 1990s.



## What do socialists say?

### WHAT attitude did socialists take towards the Second World War?

Socialists were the most bitter enemies of fascism and the Nazis. But at the same time they argued the ruling class could not be trusted to fight the Nazis.

To fight the Nazis socialists argued that workers also had to fight their rulers who had wanted to appease the Nazis.

This meant not ignoring the class struggle at home during the war.

Socialists supported strikes by workers—made illegal during the war.

When workers at Vickers shipyard in the north of England struck, a tiny group of socialists gained a good reputation supporting the strike.

When they were attacked for being "pro-fascist", workers put out a leaflet showing it was Vickers managers who had sold war material to Hitler.

### Colonies

For the millions living in the colonies the war was not about democracy. Socialists argued that the Allies should stop defending their empires and free the colonies.

Socialists were not pacifists. They did not oppose conscription. They did not refuse to fight.

They understood that workers wanted to fight against the Nazis.

The revolutionary, Leon Trotsky, argued for workers' control of army units, workers' units led by elected worker-officers and military training under union control.

Above all, socialists said the best way to stop Hitler was workers' revolution.

There was huge potential for revolution at the end of the war. Armed workers and peasants liberated Greece, Italy and France.

Tragically, these revolutions were not pushed through to success.

What is more, socialists argued that revolution was the only way to stop the very system, capitalism, that bred the Nazis.

Today, with the return of slump, fascist politicians are trying to exploit the bitterness created by the crisis.

Ten million died during the First World War and over 50 million in the Second. And a third world war would mean slaughter on an unimaginable scale.

The fight to rid the world of capitalism—the fight for socialism—is as relevant and as urgent as ever.

ermed at the start of the war. Protesters against his release were viciously beaten with batons by the police in central London.

## Ambiguous

Perhaps the best example of the ambiguous attitude of ruling classes throughout Europe towards fascism is to be found in France.

In June 1940 a British delegation led by Churchill travelled to Bordeaux to meet the French leaders. They were shocked by the attitude they encountered.

One senior British officer later wrote in his diary that as he listened to the French he reflected "with some annoyance as a Conservative, that the only politicians prepared to continue the fight against Germany were in the main socialists."

A number of the French generals had raised the slogan "Better Hitler than Blum".

Leon Blum was the moderate leader of the Socialist Party. The French High Command preferred to commit treason rather than face the prospect of moderate social reforms.

They believed that while the Occupation would be disastrous for Jews, socialists and democrats, they would be

# Socialist Workers Party Conference 1995

## Building the resistance

**Socialist Worker's Annual Conference took place in the last weekend of April. Delegates discussed the opportunities to build a genuine socialist party, rooted in workplaces and communities.**

### FIGHTING IN THE UNIONS

**KIERAN ALLEN**, editor of *Socialist Worker*, introduced the discussion on Socialists and the Unions.

Kieran emphasised that the SWM is not a party which relies on votes at election time but is "one which builds according to the rhythm of working class struggle."

We are witnessing a recovery in workers' militancy.

This militancy is not on a par with that of the late sixties and early seventies when shop stewards had the confidence to lead unofficial strikes and organise solidarity action independent of union bureaucrats.

However the mood of workers, North and South, has changed since the 1980s when workers were on their knees.

Kieran likened this recovery in militancy to a sick person getting out of bed.

The recovery isn't immediate but happens gradually, with the occasional set-back and the odd spurt of energy. He pointed to the example of Derry where there have been at least three important disputes in as many months: dockers, UTA workers and the Strand Multiplex cleaners.

The pattern is that in many workplaces workers are beginning to offer resistance, voting for action, but are not necessarily confident in taking action independently of their union officials.

It was stressed that in this climate we must oppose the strategy of union leaders, whose pay, lifestyle and job security makes them fundamentally different to the workers they claim to represent.

The full-time official's role is to argue for concessions and reach deals through negotiations only. Workers' own actions are seen as a disturbance to procedure and minimise the importance of the official. Regardless of how radical a union leader appears, they all perform this bureaucratic role.

Socialists look to the building of independent shop stewards' organisations. Unlike the full timers, shop stewards remain responsible to the members who elected them.

This point was reinforced by a TEAM shop steward: "Another Socialist Worker member and myself were re-elected as shop stewards after the TEAM dispute. I don't believe any of the union officials or management would've been re-elected if they had faced a vote."

#### Assaults

Owen, a busworker, spoke of the increasing number of assaults on busworkers. Because of the anger of their members, the union leaders are being forced to act.

However, instead of focusing this anger on CIE and demanding cashless



Kieran Allen, Editor of *Socialist Worker*

buses as the only solution, they are assisting the government in whipping up a law-and-order atmosphere by looking for bail laws to be revoked.

Owen added that it is the job of socialists in the workplace to continually focus such anger on the correct target.

Alan, a teacher, stressed how important it is for individual socialists in the workplace to give a voice to the mood of militancy.

"When I argued against cutbacks in my college I found that it gave other workers the confidence to speak out against the attacks too."

In summing up, Kieran stated that *Socialist Worker* has the best coverage of industrial disputes ever seen on the Irish left with all reports obtained directly from the workers involved.

It is vital to sell *Socialist Worker* in the workplace: the more workers who read it now with its general politics, the more workers will join us in the future.

## The Peace Process

**THE SESSION on the Peace Process was introduced by Jim Larmour from Belfast.**

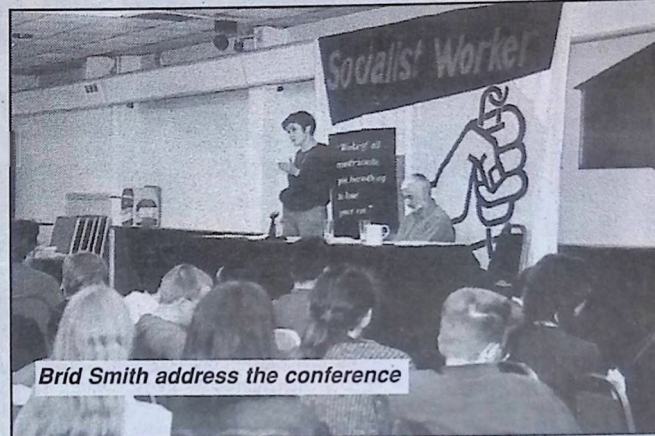
Jim explained that socialists are obviously for peace.

The cease-fire has made it easier to argue for working class unity. But at the same time we are against the "process" that the republicans are engaged in.

They are trying to forge alliances with Fianna Fail and Bill Clinton. These people care nothing for working class people in Northern Ireland.

They are trying to restructure the institutions of the North to create a more stable and less costly environment for business.

These plans will only change the



Brid Smith address the conference

## CHURCH AND STATE

**BRID SMITH** introduced a discussion on Church, State and Women's Rights.

"Women are now an essential and fighting part of the workforce. Even small strikes, such as that at Knightingales and Blooms Hotel in Dublin or the Strand Cinema in Derry, showed women workers taking a leading role.

"Despite the fact that the Catholic

Church has been weakened and that the government has been forced to legislate for gay rights and abortion information, it would be disastrous for socialists to assume that Irish society is automatically going to become progressively more liberal".

#### Divorce

During the discussion which followed, a number of delegates spoke of the importance of the forthcoming di-

## Building the party



Richard Boyd Barrett on building the party

**RICHARD BOYD Barrett** introduced the discussion on building a revolutionary party.

Richard described the tremendous opportunities open to revolutionaries in the 90s.

Two great bastions of Irish society, Fianna Fail and the Catholic Church are in crisis. FF membership in Dublin has plummeted from 12,000 to 2,000. With Labour and Democratic Left in government, there is huge disillusionment with parliamentary politics.

Richard spoke of the significant gains made by the SWM over the past year,

orce referendum.

Mary, a hospital worker, argued that it is not a foregone conclusion that the referendum will be passed.

Laura from Dublin warned that groups like Nora Bennis's Solidarity will get a lot of publicity by feigning concern for the welfare of women and children.

Another delegate pointed out that while the latest IMS poll showed 60% of the population are in favour of divorce, this should not make us complacent.

Polls taken before the last divorce referendum showed 70% in favour and that referendum was defeated.

A number of delegates stressed that it will be left to socialists to lead the fight for divorce. Neither Democratic Left nor Labour can be trusted to take on the Catholic right.

Mervyn Taylor continually placates them by assuring them that even if the referendum is passed it will still be difficult to obtain a divorce.

In summing up, Brid said that many who were in the forefront of the fight for women's rights in the past have since given up hope of using collective strength to effect real changes.

Instead, some have attempted to create a lifestyle for themselves free from the pressures and sexism of society by trying to be confident and assertive in their personal lives.

However it is not possible to escape into such a haven. Socialists know that individual "radicalism" will never achieve gains for women, such as free access to divorce.

Instead, as Majella from Dun Laoghaire put it, "Socialists look to the fighting spirit of the Packard and Knightingales workers."

with the membership steadily increasing. In January we launched a fortnightly paper which has opened huge possibilities for the creation of a wider network of supporters around the organisation.

There are now eleven branches in Dublin alone and we aim to have branches rooted in every working class community. The profile of the SWM has grown through our work in the Anti-Nazi League, organising the International Women's Day march and our intervention in all the recent industrial disputes.

However, despite our gains, Richard warned against complacency. The SWM is still too small to organise the thousands of working class people who are bitter and disillusioned. Therefore we have to build our party with a sense of urgency.

This will happen if we relate our ideas to the real struggles of working class people on estates, in workplaces and in colleges.

Delegates from different areas spoke of their experiences in building their local branches.

#### Get involved

Conor from Rathmines stressed how important it is to sell *Socialist Worker* in the local estates. He told of how one evening his branch sold over thirty copies of the paper while petitioning against overcrowding in the hospitals.

"It gives you an opportunity to get involved in the local issues as well. We found out about a local campaign for decent housing."

A delegate from the Finglas branch described how after selling *Socialist Worker* outside a local factory, the workers there asked them to help draft a leaflet about a dispute.

"The workplace sales have been a great way of earning respect from workers."

In summarising the discussion Richard emphasised that our task is to be unapologetic about recruiting people. It is the responsibility of socialists in the coming year to build an alternative to the sell-outs of Labour and Democratic Left.



## COMMENT

# Ireland's press baron

A REPORT from the Fair Competition Authority into the activities of Tony O'Reilly has exposed the lie that Ireland has a "free press".

The report found over half the newspapers in this state are already wholly or partially owned by O'Reilly's Independent group.

If O'Reilly is let buy into the *Irish Press* this would rise to 69%.

His company owns outright the *Irish Independent*, *Sunday Independent*, *Evening Herald* and *Sunday World*. It also owns 50% of *The Star* and 29% of the *Sunday Tribune*, ten provincial newspapers are also owned by the group. Together, the five national dailies sell 2.3m copies weekly.

O'Reilly also owns half of Princes Holdings, the second largest multi-channel TV signal distributor in the country.

## Grab

This millionaire, who lives on more than £70,000 a day, is determined to grab as much of the media as he can.

He claims that he exercises no influence over his papers. But the *Irish Independent* always refers to him as Dr A.J.F. O'Reilly.

And that's just the flattery. The briefest glimpse at the *Sunday Independent* reveals how it makes hate figures out of left wing politicians, single parents, and trade unionists.

In recent weeks the paper has mounted a vicious campaign against teachers. In one of the many articles, the smug Fine Gael stockbroker, Shane Ross, slammed teachers for demanding early pensions—even though he will get a pension after a short stint in the Senate.

O'Reilly's business empire does not end at the Irish coastline. Last year, Independent Newspapers spent £23m to take over shares in South Africa's largest newspaper group, Argus Publications. His papers will do everything they can to attack black workers who are determined to re-distribute the wealth of that country.

Despite all the talk about democracy and freedom of speech, O'Reilly's papers censor

left wing ideas. The *Irish Independent* will hardly ever print a letter from a socialist organisation.

When Waterford Glass workers were on strike against a wage cut, it did not carry their statements but it lapped up the points that were made by a PR company for the bosses. One of those bosses was none other than Tony O'Reilly.

The Fair Competition Authority has recommended that the Minister for Enterprise and Employment, Richard Bruton, should take immediate action to preserve the independence of the media.

## Power

Yet it seems that Tony O'Reilly has nothing to fear. His power and privilege are protected by those elected to serve democracy.

Already, Bruton has stated that he needs a month to think about the situation. This delay is hardly surprising, since the Independent group has strong links with the Fine Gael party.

O'Reilly himself issued a defiant challenge to the government, threatening Bruton with a High Court battle if he dares to act on the Authority's recommendations.

He claims that his investment will save the jobs of 600 Press workers. But the Fair Competition Authority reported that Independent Newspapers would be in a position to shut down the *Evening Press* and so give the *Evening Herald* a monopoly of the south coast market for evening papers.

O'Reilly's managing director at Independent Newspapers, David Palmer, is a butcher of jobs.

In his previous position at the *Financial Times*, he was responsible for cutting production workers' jobs from 650 to 200. In order to back him up, the company have hired another hatchet man, Alf McGrath, who destroyed jobs in Premier Dairies and Dublin Gas by pushing a policy of 'contracting out' work.

If O'Reilly's outfit have their way, jobs will go at both the *Independent* and the *Press*.

What was that about promises not being worth the paper they were written on?

— CATHERINE CURRAN

## FILM

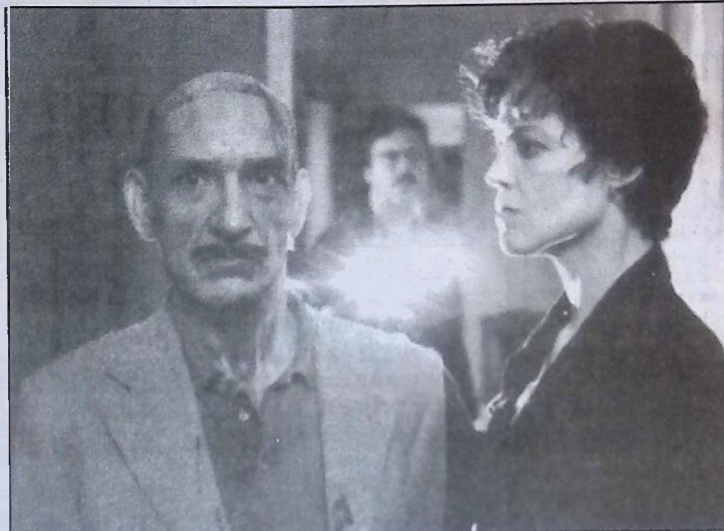
# A torturer confesses

THE FILM, Roman Polanski's first in years, is set in a South American country, which has just rid itself of a military dictatorship; but in the opening minutes the impression that not much is likely to change is conveyed.

It involves just three characters, Paulina, who has been unable to come to terms with the torture she suffered at the hands of the former regime, her lover Gerardo who has been given the job of investigating cases of torture by the new government and Dr. Miranda who supervised many of the torture sessions, including the interrogation of Paulina.

Years after her ordeal the doctor falls into Paulina's hands and this sets up the central theme of the story. In an attempt to make him confess she holds him captive and forces Gerardo to act as his defence.

Although Gerardo is unsure at first as to whether she has the right man or not he



Ben Kingsley, Sigourney Weaver and (background) Stuart Wilson in 'Death and the Maiden'

gradually comes to believe her but still disagrees with her method of extracting justice.

## Truth

Only when the doctor begins to tell the truth about the

torture sessions does Gerardo experience something of the anger and terror she has had to live with for years.

There is never much doubt in the mind of the viewer about the guilt of the doctor and this makes the

film a little too straightforward and even a bit dull.

What is in doubt is exactly what Paulina intends to do with him once he does confess and the messy, unsatisfactory end of the film seems to suggest that the director himself wasn't too sure.

MICK DOYLE  
reviews  
*Death and the Maiden*

The North American accents and slang and the international music pieces that feature rob the film of a sense of place, and you find you are reminding yourself constantly that it is actually supposed to be set in South America.

There are no ideological reasons put forward by either side in defense of their actions and only the vaguest suggestions as to which ends of the political spectrum they stood or stand on.

The acting, particularly from Sigourney Weaver, playing Paulina and Ben Kingsley, playing Dr Miranda is quite strong but even so it the horror of the torture room doesn't really come across.

There are flashes of good dialogue but few if any moments of tension and the plot has its fair share of implausibilities and coincidences that are just too opportune to swallow.

At the end of the day it would be a pretty safe bet that most cinema-goers would have expected more from such a celebrated director and such a strong cast.

## INTERVIEW

# Framed by the music industry

GLEN HANSARD was one of the stars of the film *The Commitments*. At the age of 19 he signed up as a musician with the record label, Island Records.

Today he is the lead singer in The Frames and has just released a new single, *Fitzcarraldo*. Glen spoke to Conor Kostick of *Socialist Worker* about the music industry.

SW: What did you learn about the music industry from your early experiences?

GH: When we first signed to Island Records, the label had control the whole way.

After the success of *The Commitments* I was picked up and spun around by the neck for four or five months in the US.

## Pizza

I had to speak to 40 journalists in the morning, appear on television and just to be asked had I ever eaten pizza before!

I needed a year to recover, I've never experienced such trauma.

SW: What pressures does the music industry put on a band?

GH: The music business is very fast. Bands no longer get time to develop, it's "have a hit or be dropped". We were writing three minute songs I didn't believe in, whacking them out because that's what the company demanded.

With our first album we

wanted first and as soon as they had them, they said "thank's, that's it."

They refused to put on the ones our fans see as the highlights when we play live.

SW: How important is it to get signed?

listed the songs we wanted to record, including slow songs.

The record company got us to record the ten that they

GH: It's very rare for a band to survive without a label. There's a lot to carry around.

## Machine

For example, we could be on tour with Jeff Buckley in America, playing to exactly the audiences I'd like to play to, but we can't afford it.

It's nearly impossible to survive outside of the machine. But the machine sucks you dry.

Only one in a thousand can make it so big that they have control and a certain independence.

We're getting somewhere largely through our own initiative.

We put out our own single (just £2) and made a video for £2 which has now been shown on *The End, No*

*Disco*, the *Beat Box* and even MTV's *120 Minutes*.

SW: What is the effect of the music industry on music itself?

GH: They aren't interested in the energy or feel of music, they're looking for hits. They look at the image of a band, even if the music is shite.

Today, because a lot of dance music is done by one person in a bedroom, they skip the band altogether. They recycle hits from their back catalogue as dance mixes because it costs them so little.

The other thing they do is create bands who see music as a job. For example, Boyzone: those lads are under no illusion as to what they're doing and how long they'll last.



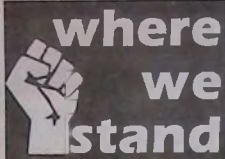
## Teamster Rebellion

by Farrell Dobbs

Inspiring account of how socialists led transport workers' mass strikes in the 1930s, by one of the leaders of the movement

£8.95 plus £1 post from Bookmarks, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8





Workers create all the wealth in capitalist society. A new society can only be constructed when they collectively seize control of that wealth and plan its production and distribution.

**FOR REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM**

The present system cannot be reformed out of existence. Parliament cannot be used to end the system. The courts army and police are there to defend the interests of the capitalist class not to run society in a neutral fashion.

To destroy capitalism, workers need to smash the state and create a workers' state based on workers' councils.

**FOR REAL SOCIALISM, EAST AND WEST:**

The SWP welcomed the break-up of the USSR and the end of the East European dictatorships. These states were not socialist but were run by a state-capitalist class. We are against the domination of the globe by imperialist powers and we oppose their wars. We are for the right of all nations, East and West, to self-determination.

**FOR AN END TO ALL OPPRESSION**

We oppose all forms of oppression which divide and weaken the working class. We are for full social, economic and political equality for women.

We stand for: free contraception and free, legalised abortion and the right to divorce; the complete separation of church and state, an end to church control over schools and hospitals; an end to discrimination against gays and lesbians; an end to racism and anti-traveller bigotry. We argue for working class unity in the fight against oppression.

**FOR WORKERS' UNITY IN THE NORTH:**

Northern Ireland is a sectarian state, propped up by the British Army. Catholic workers are systematically discriminated against by the state. The division between Catholic and Protestant workers weakens the whole working class. Workers' unity can only be won and maintained in a fight to smash both the Northern and Southern states. We stand for the immediate withdrawal of British troops. Violence will only end when workers unite in the fight for a workers' republic.

**FOR A FIGHTING TRADE UNION MOVEMENT:**

Trade unions exist to defend workers' interests. But the union leaders' role is to negotiate with capitalism - not to end it. We support the leaders when they fight but oppose them when they betray workers. We stand for independent rank and file action.

**FOR A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY:**

To win socialism socialists need to organise in a revolutionary party. This party needs to argue against right-wing ideas and for overthrowing the system. The SWP aims to build such a party in Ireland.

news & reports—politics; the unions

# Resist the lay-offs at Packard

**THE MEDIA have been quick to blame the workers at Packard for the 400 lay-offs announced on 5th May.**

They claimed that if the workers had not voted twice against new work practices last December the £20 million Opel Vectra contract would not have been lost.

This is a lie. The savings made since January are not being used to restore the viability of the Tallaght plant.

Instead the company has been setting up plants in India and Turkey using local cheap labour to undercut the Tallaght workers.

The workers were right to reject the deal in the first place.

The only mistake they made was to finally accept it in January under pressure from union officials who had swallowed the com-



ny's lies.

They would now be absolutely right to renege on the agreement they made in January.

## Broken

After all the company have already broken their side of the bargain by announcing the lay-offs.

As one worker told *Socialist Worker*, "we have

been completely let down by unions and sleeveen management".

David Schramm and the other managers promise to take back the laid-off workers 'as soon as possible'. But why should we believe this?

The 42 workers laid-off since April of last year know that Schramm's promises are empty.

They were due to get their jobs back after a year - now

they are being left to rot.

The workers have no choice but to stand and fight this time. They should restore the 39 hour week and the overtime ban. Why should they work longer hours to put themselves out of a job?

Real militancy is needed to resist the 400 lay-offs and secure the re-instatement of the 'forgotten 42'. The union leaders' strategy of making a 'strategic retreat' and giving the bosses what they wanted, has failed.

They should now start to give a lead for action.

## Delay

Any delay will mean that the workforce becoming divided over who is going and who is not going.

A stoppage and occupation of the plant would show management that the workforce are prepared to defend themselves against Schramm's blackmail.

## Can the workers win?

MANY Packard workers want to fight the lay-offs but are worried that management are too powerful.

The shop stewards who recommended the deal last January believed that multinationals like Packard could simply uproot and re-locate in some other country.

But setting up new plants takes months and even years of planning. And when a big investment has been made in a locality a company cannot afford to simply move out at the drop of a hat.

In any case accepting flexible work practices does not guarantee a rosy future. Shannon Aerospace operates 'vari-time' where workers are at the beck

and call of management but two years after being set up that company is now running to the government to be bailed out.

## Restore

Even if the economy does pick up the bosses will not willingly restore the holidays and wage rates sacrificed in the hard times. Workers have always had to take action to improve their conditions even when the economy is booming.

The threat to close down if workers refuse to accept change is a form of blackmail by bosses. It is always better to resist that blackmail rather than bend the knee to bullies like General Motors.

# Co. Down hospital fightback

**WORKERS at four hospitals in Co Down have struck for four days.**

The action was called in opposition to 500 threatened job losses in the Down and Lisburn Health Trusts as a result of competitive tendering.

The strike was solid as domestics, catering staff and other workers maintained 24-hour pickets. They were supported throughout by nurses.

At the Lagan Valley Hospital strikers were in defiant mood. In the middle of the

main road entrance they erected a sign naming managers who were scabbing on the strike.

"Support has been fantastic", said one Unison shop steward. "We've had numerous hospitals and nursing homes asking to come out in support. Workers from the Royal, City and Armagh hospitals have turned up to support the picket".

## Computers

The strikers reject the idea that there is no money for jobs and pay rises. One striker pointed out, "The management have spent £2

million on computers—not for saving lives, but for their own business use. They've closed wards and thrown nurses out of accommodation to make way for offices."

Another striker talked about how furniture for the outpatients' ward was being used by management to furnish their administration block.

"We need 50 wheelchairs not 50 swivel chairs," said another.

An ambulance worker talked about politics at work: "Sectarianism that may exist in communities is left at the hospital gate. We realise

we're all the same when the cuts are hitting us."

The strikers called a mass picket on the last day. They were joined by many of the nurses the hospital workers had demonstrated with during the recent nurses' day of action. Up to 200 people joined the picket showing how popular the strike was.

Union officials have taken to the courts to fight the cuts—a strategy that hands the initiative back to the bosses. Instead the marvellous strike action should be built on and widened to other hospitals and public sector workplaces facing cuts.

## Quinnsworth vote to strike

WHEN management at Quinnsworth in Artane proposed that there be late opening on Monday and Tuesday until 7pm they got a reaction they were not bargaining for.

A meeting of Mandate members threw out the proposal and complained about all the deals that the bosses had broken in the past.

Lunch breaks have been cut. Night crews and off licence staff do not get proper overtime rates. The company is bringing in more and more yellowpack part time workers to get around paying proper pay rates.

At the union meeting one worker spontaneously proposed strike action from the floor. A ballot for strike action was conducted and passed overwhelmingly with only a handful against.

The issue is now going through all the various procedures—but workers should put the pressure on for strike notice to be served immediately.

# SWP branch meetings—all welcome

**BELFAST CENTRAL**  
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm—contact SW sellers or national address for details

**BELFAST SOUTH**  
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Queens Students Union.

**CORK**  
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the Anchor Inn, Georges Quay.

**DERRY**  
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Badgers Bar.

**DUBLIN BALLINTEER**  
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Ballinteer House.

**DUBLIN BLANCHARDSTOWN**  
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in the Blakestown Community Centre.

**DUBLIN COOLOCK**  
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the Artane/Beaumont Family Recreation Centre, Kilmore Rd.

**DUBLIN CLONDALKIN**  
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in the Loch and Quay, Clondalkin.

**DUBLIN DRIMNAGH**  
Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in the Halfway House.

**DUBLIN FINGLAS**  
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in The Royal Oak.

**DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL**  
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Conways Pub, Parnell St.

**DUBLIN RATHMINES**  
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Cassidy's pub, Camden Street.

**DUBLIN RINGSEND**  
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in Ringsend Community Centre

**DUBLIN SOUTH CENTRAL**  
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the Trinity Inn, Pearse st

**DUBLIN TALLAGHT**  
Contact 8722682 for details of meetings

**DUN LAOGHAIRE**  
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Smyths Pub, Lower Georges st.

**GALWAY**  
Meets every second Thursday at 8.00pm in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square—contact national address for details.

**LIMERICK**  
Meets every second Wednesday at 7.30pm in Desmonds Bar, Catherine

St—contact national address for details.

8pm—contact national address for venue.

**MAYNOOTH**  
Meets every Thursday in Class Hall B at 6pm.

**NEWRY**  
Meets every Wednesday at

**WATERFORD**  
Meets every Thursday at ATGWU Hall, Keizer St, Waterford.

## OUT NOW!

# THE CASE FOR SOCIALISM

The Politics of the SWP

The best beginner's guide in Ireland to all the basic ideas of Socialism—economics, history, oppression and the class struggle.



There are *Socialist Worker* members in:

ENNISKILLEN; COLERAINE; LURGAN; CAVAN; DONEGAL; NAAS; KILKENNY; DUNDALK; BRAY; ATHLONE; DROGHEDA.

If you would like to get in touch, contact our national office at (01) 872 2682, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8

£2.00 plus 75p postage from Bookmarks, P.O. Box 1648 Dublin 8

send in your reports telephone: (01) 872 2682, fax: (01) 872 3838

## Cork hospital workers strike against suspensions

CATERING AND cleaning workers at Our Lady's psychiatric hospital in Cork city have taken three days' strike action in support of suspended colleagues.

The health board plans to close down Our Lady's in the next couple of years.

They want to redeploy staff to other Cork hospitals.

### Refused

The three suspended workers refused to move to the Regional Hospital in Cork because the health board would give no guarantee over pay and conditions.

50 - 60 workers picketed the hospital for three separate days over the last two weeks and are demanding that the health board give them a decent redeployment plan which



will secure their earnings and hours of work.

■ Nurses at Cork's St. Steven's hospital struck for one day on 1st May in protest over staff short-

ages.

The hospital is desperately understaffed and nurses want the health board to appoint at least another ten permanent

workers.

The staff shortages mean that each nurse is doing the work of two and patients are also suffering as a result.

## Dublin Bus stoppage over assaults

DUBLIN busworkers decided to stop work for two hours last week after growing levels of assaults.

Every week a number of workers are attacked with syringes, hammers, screwdrivers.

These assaults have forced many to leave the job.

The leaders of the NBRU and SIPTU argue

that the solution to the attacks is a law-and-order crackdown.

### Right-wing

They are trying to line up with the right wing anti-union Fine Gaeler Nora Owen to demand changes in the bail laws.

But these changes will do nothing to help busworkers.

A drug addict who is looking for money will

not be deterred by changes in bail laws.

More repressive laws will be used against trade unionists.

The last government brought in a Public Order Act saying it was to be used against street crime.

But TEAM workers and Dunnes Stores pickets have been threatened with the Act.

The real solution to assaults is to introduce cashless buses.

If there is no money on the buses, there is no reason for the attacks.

Dublin busworkers deserve better.

That is why the campaign against assaults should be linked to their overall campaign for decent conditions.

## Premier to strike against job cuts

SIX MECHANICS employed by Premier Dairies in Rathfarnham are going out on strike on Thursday 18th May.

The company which also has a plant in Finglas, plans to build a "State of the art" dairy in

Rathfarnham and close down the Finglas outlet.

Workers in both plants are facing attacks on their jobs and conditions.

The mechanics who maintain all the dairy's trucks, were told that their jobs would be contracted out and the Rathfarnham garage would be closed.

"We know we will get the support of other workers because all our jobs are being messed around", one of the six told Socialist Worker.

Pickets will be placed on both plants.

Workers should stand united behind the mechanics action.

If they win it will give strength to the rest who will have a battle to fight in the near future.

## Dublin Corpo plans attacks on conditions and jobs

DUBLIN Corporation wants to cut more jobs while increasing bin-men's runs, making drivers help out on jobs and hiring contract labour.

Already 1,750 jobs have gone since 1987!

Housing and Waterworks will see some of the most vicious measures.

In maintenance the Corpo claim "there is currently scope to reduce the workforce by as many as 50 operatives."

Bin-men's route are to be extended: "700 lifts per day is to be raised to in excess of 1,000"

Protective clothing may not be provided any more and "eating-on-site will no longer be automatically payable"—saving a measly £1.20 per worker per day.

### Buzzwords

The personnel manager Kelly's buzzwords of "multi-functioning" and "multi-skilling" will bring the worst attacks on Corpo workers.

Every worker will have to do the work of any others on the same wages if asked to do so.

This "flexibility" deal will throw workers from one job to the other.

Worse still, it will pave the way for the Corpo's plans to hire contract labour.

Sub-contracting has been threatened in all departments from the architects to waterworks where Kelly

has already promised the introduction of contract labour unless Corpo workers are "competitive".

But competing with contract labour means competing with bosses who pay wages from £2.50 an hour upwards.

A Corporation painter told Socialist Worker:

"So far they've given contractors indoor paint jobs in the winter and we were left outside.

"Let them do the outside jobs and see if they're still competitive!"

"All this talk about flexibility means they want to make us handymen and bring in yellow-pack labour."

With all this talk about saving money it's worth remembering that the Corpo is doing up City Hall to the tune of £245,000 at the moment—which would pay two dozen operators' wages for a year.

All the unions in the Corpo have to pull together

now. A strike will nip these vicious cuts in the bud.

### Strike

Workers and shop stewards should force union leaders to call a Corporation-wide strike.

Workers have a proud

record of stopping the Corpo from steamrolling them, such as the strike last November or the architects' action earlier this year.

Fighting these cutbacks is the only thing that'll guarantee better wages and decent services in the future.

## Teachers angry over early retirement

IN 1885 it was decided that teachers complete 40 years of service before retirement.

One hundred years later teachers are still asking for that service to be reduced by two years to 38 years - surely a moderate demand.

Teachers are even prepared to fund the costings involved by raising their pension contributions.

The government has never said these costings are defective, they just keep saying No!

The teachers have been met with a barrage of hypocrisy.

One of their greatest critics Senator Shane Ross, for example, can retire on half his Oireachtas salary after 20 years.

As one staff rep said: "The government wanted to make an example of craft workers in TEAM, now it's the teachers' turn."

The government are terrified that if the teachers win, it will give confidence to groups such as the nurses and others to escalate their own demands.

## Dunnes try to force in Sunday trading

DUNNES STORES, Ireland's notoriously rotten employer, are pushing ahead with Sunday trading all over the country.

They are using young, part-time workers to keep their stores trading at a lousy rate of pay.

Traditional payment for Sunday working in the retail trade is treble time. Marks & Spencer, for example, pay their Sunday workers this rate.

After a series of strikes late last year, an agreement was made with the shopworkers union MANDATE that Sunday working would secure double time payment. They also agreed that Sunday working would be voluntary.

This is why it is so vital that teachers pressurise the INTO to make connections with other unions to fight together on such issues and fend off the government's strategy of divide and conquer.

Teachers must seek a commitment from their un-

ion to offer no concessions in relation to working conditions.

### Ballot

If the ballot is carried they should follow through on industrial action immediately to gain a stronger bar-

gaining position.

Escalating the action will be the key to winning.

Otherwise the union leaders could stitch together a deal which pushes teachers on to a longer working year in return for early retirement.

As another staff rep said:

## Another £12m for Shannon Aerospace

THE COALITION is putting £12 million into the aircraft maintenance company Shannon Aerospace. This comes on top of £21 million handed to the company when it was set up two years ago.

Workers at TEAM Aer Lingus are furious that this money is being given to a private company that is competing directly with TEAM.

Shannon Aerospace is 35 per cent owned by Lufthansa of Germany, 35 per cent by Swissair and 30 per cent by Guinness Peat Aviation.

Lufthansa said they chose Ireland because of its lower wages and now Lufthansa wants to shift more work from Germany to Shannon. Aircraft maintenance workers in Germany are opposing this move because it undermines their jobs.

They are quite right to do so. Workers in both Ireland and Germany will lose out if jobs are transferred to a lower-wage economy. We should all be fighting for secure well-paid jobs for workers in every country.

"If we lie down on this one, they'll keep coming back at us on working conditions.

"We must win this well and then we can continue to fight other anti-teacher elements in the White Paper".

A victory for the teachers would put pressure on

the government to invest more money into providing desperately-needed resources in areas such as education and health.

It would make a change from giving hand-outs to beef barons whose illegal scams have cost the taxpayers millions!

# Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

inside

Was World War Two fought for democracy?  
—centre pages

Chirac gains from Left's broken promises  
—page 8

## FIGHT SECTARIANISM

# STOP THIS MAD RUSH TO PRIVATISATION

**FEARS ARE growing in the North that the street violence of the start of the month could be the beginning of a summer of sectarian unrest.**

As a result, some people are saying there should be no more street protests.

The feeling that absolutely nothing should be done to disturb the peace we've enjoyed for over eight months is understandable.

But there are many good reasons for people to be on the streets of the North—reasons which would bring Catholic and Protestant to-

gether.

Most of the reasons to take to the streets relate in some way to Tory privatisation plans.

■ The government plans to privatise water by the backdoor by turning the Dept. of the Environment into a number of 'Agencies'.

This puts thousands of jobs in danger.

■ The Tories are insisting that all health and social services in Northern Ireland are to become privately run 'Trusts' by April of next year.

Already, health workers in hospitals from Antrim to Enniskillen have seen their working conditions attacked

in preparation for Trust status. Services will suffer as wards are closed and profits put before patients.

■ 'Market Testing' of Social Security Agency jobs threatens thousands of workers in the DHSS.

### Dole

This will mean the dole run by some private company.

The Tories say their friends will do it more efficiently—we can only guess what this means for those signing on!

■ Leisure centres right across Belfast are being closed down.

The Tories plan to contract

out the running of the centres and shut down 10 of 13 centres.

These were built during "the troubles".

Now they want to take them away from everybody.

We ought to be on the streets fighting to stop these threats to the living and working conditions of every working class person in the North.

We tend to think of street politics here as communal politics, because most of the marches, demonstrations and protests that take place are communal.

They usually involve one of the two communities demanding something for their

community in opposition to 'the other side'.

But what's needed is a different kind of street politics, one which unites Protestant and Catholic workers in demanding an end to privatisation and a better deal for the entire working class.

### Flares

That kind of fightback would go a long way to undermining the sectarianism which bubbles away under the surface of Northern society and flares out into violence every now and then.

There's nothing utopian about this idea. On the May

Day, over 4,000 NIPSA members, Catholic and Protestant alike, went on strike against privatisation of the Social Security Agency.

That was just a week after the four day strike of health workers in the North Down and Ards Trust.

But to end sectarianism altogether, we need to go beyond trade union politics.

We need to end the system that breeds sectarianism.

That means uniting the fight for workers' rights North and South, disbanding the RUC and getting rid of the two sectarian states on this island.