

# the worker

Paper of the Socialist Workers Movement

IF YOU WANT TO HELP US BEAT INFLATION YOU MUST DO EXACTLY AS WE SAY.



GIVE YOUR PAY BACK TO YOUR EMPLOYER.



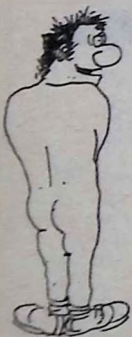
ACCEPT CUTS IN YOUR SOCIAL SERVICES.



GO ON THE DOLE.



HAVE WE BEATEN INFLATION NOW?



**NO! YOU MUST MAKE MORE SACRIFICES TO SAVE THE NATION!!!**



This is Phil Evans' view of wage restraint--SEE Page 3 for an ITGWU member's view of the latest sellout.

## THEY HAVE THEIR SIGHTS ON YOU

THE SOLDIER is not posing for an army advert. He's deadly serious. He's looking down the barrel of his rifle in Green Street, Dublin, with his finger on the trigger. The Irish army have already shot two people. One, shot in the back, is still paralysed. His crime was stealing a car.

They don't usually shoot people for stealing. But things like that happen when they turn the army onto the streets. And the army is coming into the open more often these days. Take too long making a phone call just before Dublin's GPO closes and you might find yourself looking down a gun barrel from the wrong end.

March against unemployment and the Special Branch will be watching. The Branch have a number of cars on constant patrol in Dublin. Republicans are picked up and taken into police station basements. Before their bruises fade they're picked up again. Meanwhile the power of the state is growing in leaps and bounds. The TDs are called back from their holidays to add to that power. The Murrays are left with one foot on the gallows for as long as possible. The Murray Defence Committee is harassed at every turn, stopped while posterine, several Branch cars at every



meeting. A new section of the Branch has been set up with more direct responsibility to the Government.

The republicans are the main enemies of the state just now because they are the biggest force thrown up by the instability in the North. They won't fight repression themselves. They take the biggest hammering but they are too committed to their militarism and playing out their role as the "legitimate government" to attempt to organise resistance. But the force of the state necessary to smash the republicans would be such that would imprison the whole working class in a battery of laws and repression. That is one reason why we must defend the republicans however much we disagree with their methods and aims.

The instability of the whole capitalist system is growing. The state will be called on to protect that system when necessary. When workers rebel against cuts in living standards, or when the 40,000 jobs needed each year don't materialise and there's over a quarter of a million unemployed and looking for solutions,

And that will happen within the next few years. The very fact that the state has so much repressive power can be enough to keep people's heads down. That is why we must oppose repression now.

Any threat to the stability of this lousy system means that the brawny arms of the state will be strengthened. And any strengthening of that state is a threat to the ability of workers to protect themselves.

The state is an armed organisation which is employed to protect the people who benefit from the system. They're looking down the barrel of that gun at anyone who doesn't accept the right of that ruling class to do what they consider necessary and desirable.

Either we accept their right to do that or we organise the only force which can get their finger off the trigger; the working class.

### Chile 3 years after

HIS Holiness the Pope sent his obligatory message of sorrow when the Christian Phalangists carried out their massacre in the Lebanon. (See page 5) At the same time, he was expressing his devotion and affection for the "very excellent and gentle" General Pinochet of Chile.

Three years ago, this month, that excellent and gentle man began his butchery of Chilean work-

ers and socialists.

The Pope was accepting a gift of a series of medals from the butcher, commemorating the three years of terror in Chile.

Meanwhile, His Holiness got rid of an Italian abbot who dares to support the Communist Party in the recent elections. This, said the Pope, tended to "degrade man in his innate dignity."

Holy Mother of Jesus . . .



And so the Pope joins the ranks of those like the CIA and the multi-national ITT who loved democracy so much that their "political destabilisation" meant the death and torture of thousands. There will be meetings and demonstrations to commemorate Sept 11th 1973. Join them.

# After the bank strike

THERE CAN be no doubt that the partial defeat of the bankworkers' strike was helped by the barrage of abuse from the press.

The abuse helped to ensure that the bankworkers were more isolated than any strikers have been for a long time.

Any strikers in service industry can expect this kind of treatment (if the press can't find some old lady who's dying because she can't get cash, they'll invent her.) But they can usually expect a little defence from the trade union movement. Not so the bank workers who bear heavily the stigma of not being in the ICTU. Only one Congress union publicly opposed the legislation freezing bank pay, and that's ASTMS who are trying to organise the non-associated banks.

But the Irish Bank Officials' Association's way of handling the strike certainly made things more difficult for their members. They only speak through General Secretary Job Stott. They didn't

consider it proper to answer the abuse in the press and in the letter columns. They didn't picket, so they had no contact with the public in that way. And, of course, the Association's leadership - although elected every year, and not at all remote from the member - ship - didn't tell the 10,000 plus workers they represent just what is the state of negotiations between the bank and themselves.

There are other ways, too, in which the bankworkers made unnecessary problems for their case. They have limited their organisation to the four banks where they have a closed shop and not tried to organise the others. In Chase & Bank of Ireland (International) Ltd., the Chase Manhattan staff are not in the IBOA and worked through the strike.

It's a bad time for long strikes and all these ways for companies and individual customers (many bigger ones with deposits in Northern Ireland banks since the 1970 bank strike) to carry on without full banking services was certain

## SWM MEETING

"IF they can cut my wages, they can cut yours" was the theme on which a bankworker spoke to a public meeting organised by the Dublin branch of SWM during July. It was the only such meeting called by any political or trade union group since the strike began. SWM speakers at the meeting explained to the audience that they saw it as essential to defend workers in struggle. There was a lively and interesting discussion among the 40 or so who attended.

to make the strike more difficult to win.

The government's tough line with this group of workers is a complement to their efforts to lure the Congress unions into a "social con-trap". The tough line will continue to be tried on any other group of workers who step out of line - and who NEED to step out of line to keep pace with inflation.

The partial defeat of the bankworkers and their acceptance of the interim agreement makes it harder for all of us. And the fact that the bulk of the trade union movement accepts that defeat calmly is a bad omen for the future.

It is all the more reason for trade union militants to increase their efforts to get our unions out of the pockets of our "leaders" - and our leaders out of the pockets of the Government.

## POLITICAL PRISONERS THE HEAVY HAND OF THE STATE

by Brian Corrigan

THE Government has been orchestrating a massive campaign to demoralise and smash the political prisoners in Portlaoise prison.

Statements from the Government Information Bureau are printed without comment in the press indicating that the Gardai "knew" there were explosives concealed in Portlaoise. This cover story is one of the few signs that anything out of the ordinary is going on inside the prison.

over again. There shoes are cut open and their mattresses ripped.

Over ninety political prisoners have been refused visitors over the past few weeks in an attempt to break their spirit and resistance. This also has the effect of stopping information from coming out about the treatment.

But the constant reports and the statements of prisoners brought before the Special Courts leave no doubt about the organised petty viciousness going on behind those walls.

After Marie Murray was sentenced to death she was not allowed visits for forty eight hours. Her husband, Noel, in the Curragh, is under similar pressure. He was on

hunger strike for a week in protest at his treatment, yet the blanket of silence ensured that this was concealed from the public. He is not even allowed to watch TV with the other prisoners. If he is watching it all the other prisoners have to be locked up.

## WAFFLE

There can be no better proof that the state accepts that it is holding political prisoners despite all the legal waffle used to deny this.

## Women's rights... no! But bombs...

CARDINAL Colombo, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Milan, is campaigning to prevent pregnant women affected by the recent release of poisonous gases in Seveso from having abortions. The gases involved, dioxin and trichlorophenol, cause children to be born deformed.

They also cause heart attacks, lesions of the kidney and brain, and cancer. They also cause many women to have 'spontaneous abortions'.

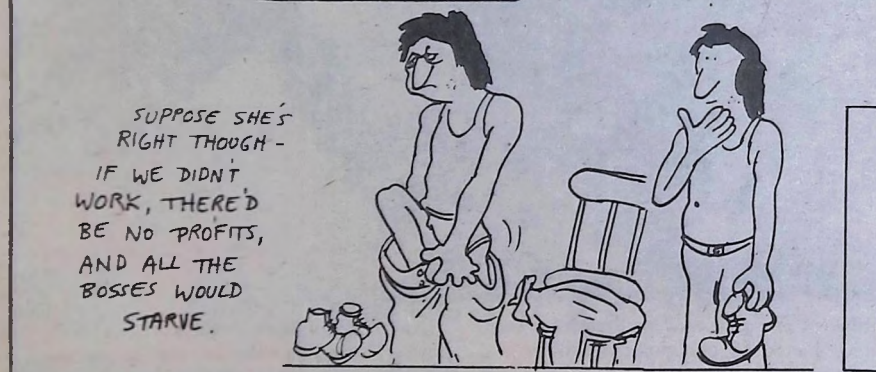
## Poisons

The effects of these poisons are best known by the people of Vietnam. American planes regularly sprayed them over vast areas as 'defoliants'. Innumerable deformed births and spontaneous abortions were caused.

The Roman Catholic Cardinal Spellman of New York used to bless the US bombers before they went to Vietnam.

There is no record of Cardinal Colombo, or of any other dignitaries of the anti-abortion campaigns

protesting at Spellman's actions. They deny a woman's right to choose. But they don't care if governments and chemical firms cause deformed children to be born and women to have unwanted miscarriages.



## Their morals and ours

IF YOU ever read the rubbish that appears as the editorial of, say, the Evening Herald you'll be amazed at the paper's high falutin' sense of moral standards. But then the bosses' papers reflect the bosses' morality. Or at least the way they use morality as a weapon.

So, a recent Herald editorial noted that the terrible subversives were threatening the nation's "moral fibre" - and called on the government to spend more money on soldiers, police and equipment to strengthen the state. It seems there's nothing like a smack of a baton to instil morality in the proles!

People who react against a situation imposed by the system are branded as crazy or immoral - or both - and all we need is a stronger Special Branch. Nothing wrong with the system, oh, dear me no!

You get the picture. Violence or protest against the system is not only wrong but immoral. So viol-

ence by the system is necessary to straighten 'moral fibre'.

The "Evening Herald", of course, does not stand alone in trying to make moral precepts obligatory for all. The Church and its bishops always join in the chant while at the same time throwing their lot in with the State and the ruling class.

## RESPECT

The Church assumes that it speaks for all that is good and moral in Irish Society. Under its influence, young children are indoctrinated at school to have the utmost respect for the Capitalist class and its authority. The same class which as Connolly said, are

## Thinking About Capitalism

by Mary Burns

the parasites in our society, "as useless as any other parasite in the animal or vegetable world". The Church knows who their friends are, their morals like those of the ruling class change to suit themselves. But anyone who challenges their authority or their morals is suspect.

The ruling class really has a sense of morals all to itself, which it makes sure we never stop hearing about through their Press, Television and pulpit thumpers.

So when the airport workers threaten to strike, they're asked to call it off for humanitarian reasons. When the Nationalist population in the North fights naked British imperialism they are asked

do it nice and democratically without upsetting the ruling class's nice sectarian state. When the homeless begin to take real action and look for homes they are asked to count their blessings and think of all the other poor homeless people on the housing list.

You see as the moralists among the ruling class are telling us all these nice things, we should be doing such as putting the nation first, respecting our democratic institutions etc. they are busy making vast profits and lining their pockets through an economic system that causes unemployment and misery for the workers and brings poverty, wars and oppression to all of humanity.

## CLASS

Morality serves social interests and, above all, has a class character. It was moral and just for Liam Cosgrave's daddy to go about shooting republicans. Liam believes it was 'right for the time' but such an immoral act as killing is out 'as regards the present situation'.

At least, half out. Because while he is talking about the nat-

ion's moral fibre, like the rest of his kind he endorses the daily arrests and shootings by the British Army in the North. To protect their interests, he and his ilk will resort to internment, special courts, beatings and even hanging. They have got morality on their side.

They create the conditions under which we live. But when a poor child revolts by throwing stones at an Army patrol in Belfast the condemnations roll fast from the politicians.

A slave-owner will use cunning and violence to shackle a slave in chains. And the slave, through cunning and violence will attempt to break those chains. In capitalist society the ruling class constantly condemns the morals of the slaves. Socialists are on their side.

AND AT about that time... a gentleman by the name of Canon W.C.G.

Proctor, secretary of the Diocesan Temperance Association, who simply had to write to the (Irish) Times and give references from Luke, Timothy and Hebrews that 'bid us to be content with our wages'.

WHAT WE THINK

# They must not hang

MARIE AND NOEL MURRAY still have the threat of hanging over them. In November, the Supreme Court will rule on their application for an appeal. Until then, they sit in their prison cells - Noel receiving few visits, and Marie none - on death row.

Only four states in Western Europe have not done away with the barbaric business of official executions - and the 26 Counties is one of them.

The Coalition government has been screaming blood and thunder against "subversives" and "terrorists", encouraged in their campaign by the assassination of the British ambassador. They have been backing themselves into a corner in which they will appear 'weak' if they DO NOT hang at least one of the Murrays, assuming all legal obstacles are cleared away.

Whether or not it comes to a Cabinet decision, or the courts

give Cosgrave and his friends a way out, it is clear that they have been happy to let the case drag on. The longer it goes on the better they will be able to test public response.

And that response has been very revealing. For the convictions of those members of the government who just over ten years ago called for the total abolition of capital punishment have disappeared without trace. The moral righteousness which brought some of the leading government and opposition politicians into other bodies opposing the death sentence has also disappeared without trace.

The one-time liberals - fewer in number every day - have lost their tongues. The press has largely ignored or stifled the little protest which has been made. The courts have silenced critical commentators. The republican organisations have not been willing to dirty their hands with the Murrays, who were not one of

"theirs".

None of that might seem too surprising. Socialists know not to expect any better from these organisations and institutions. But there is a real reason to be disappointed and angry about the response of the trade union movement.

The unions - through the ICTU - are officially opposed to capital punishment, to the Special Court (by which the Murrays were convicted) and to the Offences Against the State Act (under which the Special Court was set up). But not a squeak of protest has been heard from the unions about the way the state is toying with the lives of two people.

Only one union leader, Michael Mullen, has publicly called for the death sentence to be commuted. And just one union, AGEMOU, responded to the plea for support sent around by the Murray Defence Committee.

The government must be chuckling with delight. They can interpret the response as a go-ahead to take repression to the limits.

But there is still time for workers, and for trade unionists in particular, to prove them wrong. They must rally to the Murray Defence Committee and try to get trade unions to give the committee active support.

The Murray Defence Committee was set up in June to oppose capital punishment and to ensure that the sentence of death is not carried out on the Murrays or anybody else. It also aims to "secure the establishment of an independent commission to enquire into all the circumstances surrounding the arrest, charging and sentencing of the Murrays."

Whatever readers of this paper think of the action the Murrays are convicted of - and we in the Socialist Workers Movement believe it had no justification in the name of revolutionary action - all should see it as their duty to help break the conspiracy of silence around their trial and the death sentence they have received.

We urge readers and supporters to start now by collecting signatures in support of the aims of the Murray Defence Committee at their workplace. Get a resolution passed at your section/branch/ executive and follow that up with a donation to the work of the Murray Defence Committee.

## Intimidate

There is no reason for complacency. If the government can get away with leaving the Murrays in death row right to the last moment, or, worse still, if they let the hanging go ahead, it will be the most serious blow in many years to the fast declining democratic rights. It will affect not only the Murrays and their political associates. It will serve to intimidate all those who oppose any part of this rotten system. It will hold back the struggle for socialism, the only possible alternative to this cruel chaos under which we are living. The Murrays must be saved.

THE MURRAY Defence Committee was set up immediately after the Murrays were convicted. It aims to ensure that the death sentence is not carried out and supports the Murray's plea for a re-trial. It started organising a series of public meetings on capital punishment in Dublin at the end of July and is publishing a pamphlet giving all the relevant details about the Murray's, their trial and conviction and the dreadful conditions under which they are being held.

The committee has written to many trade unions seeking support but, unhappily, has only had one or two responses. The trade union movement is officially opposed to capital punishment and to the Special Court which sentenced the Murrays, but trade unionists seem afraid to take a stand on this particular case.

The Murray Defence Committee must extend its activities into working class areas and outside of Dublin if it is to make a real impact.

It will be an uphill struggle to win support. All possible help is needed. Send messages to: Murray Defence Committee, 155 Church Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.

# A good old fashioned sellout

Gene Kerrigan  
I.T.G.W.U. Section Committee

JUST ABOUT the time this paper is coming out I'll be going down to Liberty Hall to vote against the National Wage Agreement. Thousands of other ITGWU members will be doing the same. But we shouldn't have any illusions about this vote.

The union leaders are committed to the idea of a "social contract" with the government and employers and are determined to get it one way or another. This interim agreement is an essential part of the con-trap.

The leaders grip on the union was well demonstrated by the way in which the NEC recommendation clinched the rejection of the previous deal. Their influence is likely to ensure that the deal goes through this time.

The essence of the social contract is the belief of the union leaders that their views on the economy are more humane, logical and progressive than the government's. Their strategy is to use the strength of the trade union movement to get themselves a bigger say in the direction of the economy. They "use" that strength by tying it up as a gesture of their responsibility.

The flaw is that it's not just the government's policies that are cocking up. Nor just the Irish economy. The international economy is heading into deeper trouble than it's been in for decades. So, reforms beneficial to workers are just not on the cards. What is on the cards is a "tightening up" of the economy. That means further attacks on workers' living standards. And our "leaders" are being used - willingly - to carry out those attacks. That's the meaning of the "concessions" (or promises of concessions) to the views of the trade union leadership. They will be given a bigger voice in the running of the economy. And that voice will be used to tell us very loudly "Tighten your belts again!"

Already the commitment of our "leaders" to this strategy - taking the strength of the unions from the shop floor into the pockets of the government - has led to massive cuts in real wages. It has sapped resistance to growing unemployment.

This Agreement offers us an average of 7% stretched over 7 months - at a time when prices are rising at about double that. The chances of it being paid are the same as ever - 120,000 workers were cheated out of the last Agreement.

The "social contract" is simply a good old fashioned sellout dressed up to look plausible. The fact that the union leaders are so strongly entrenched that they can pull off yet another shoddy deal makes it all the more urgent that ITGWU rank and file members begin organising to put a stop to it.

Some of us in the ITGWU have had it up to here with sellouts and the organising is beginning. A rank and file group within the union which can put forward an opposition to the leadership on the basis of fighting for democracy, for militant policies on jobs, wages and independence from government interference, is the first step.



Picture by Eamonn O'Dwyer

The picture says it all. The man on the left, peeping furtively out of the window, is Paddy Keenan, an official of ITGWU No.7 Branch. He's mixing with the bosses, helping to celebrate the opening of a new Dublin cinema, the Cameo. Three days earlier the ITGWU cinema section committee ruled that they would move to stop the place opening unless the owner signed a written agreement on staffing and conditions. He didn't sign.

Inside at the party the chairman of the Section, Mick Hussey, who proposed the clampdown in a passing moment of militancy, was also indulging in the free booze. As was the vice-Chairman. And the Branch Secretary.

The lousy conditions in the Cameo didn't bother these staunch trade unionists enough to boycott the bosses' binge. There's only one usher on duty during late-night shows, going on till the small hours. An usher doing similar duty in another Dublin cinema recently received a kick in the groin from a playful member of the public.

But Paddy and his like-minded bureaucrats wouldn't let a little thing like that spoil their party. Just as the union small fry have a working relationship with hucksters like the owner of the Cameo, so the union big fry have an understanding with the bigger sharks who run this country. When Paddy's kind of collaboration takes place on a higher level it's called a National Wage Agreement.

Incidentally, the film showing at the Cameo is called THE SELLOUT.

## THUMBS UP...OR MAYBE DOWN...OR IS IT SIDEWAYS?

"THINGS LOOKING UP", shouted the headline on the Evening Herald, on 19th August. But are they? Reading the 14-paragraph article gives us no cause for optimism.

Let's follow it paragraph by paragraph:

- (1) Experts predict upswing.
- (2) Valuable exports with Britain collapsing.
- (3) Britain shunning our goods.
- (4) Trade deficit lessened.

So far it's been a draw between optimism and pessimism. The

optimists do well out of the next six rounds, winning three, drawing two and only being floored by paragraph 7.

- (5) Only slender indication of improvement. Draw.
- (6) Trade deficit down £8 million. Win.
- (7) Imports not improving because of dull market. Lose.
- (8) Exporters greet figures with optimism. Win.
- (9) Exports up 24% in first six months. Win.
- (10) Rise in exports to USA show how bad last year was. Draw.

With a series of body blows the pessimists win the last 4 rounds hands down.

- (11) British market hammered.
- (12) Exporters say this is the most important fact in the figures.
- (13) Many markets dried up.
- (14) Lack of competitiveness and depressed state in Britain.

So, the verdict gives a victory to pessimism by 6 paragraphs to 5, and 3 draws.

Just shows you the confusion of the "experts". They can't make up their minds what's happening but they're sure everything will be all right (maybe) as long as those bloody workers tighten their belts.

# Letters

Write to:  
THE WORKER,  
24 Talbot Street,  
Dublin 1.

## Support for the Officials?

I WOULD like to disagree with the writer of the letter in the last issue who criticised THE WORKER for advocating voting for Sinn Fein in the Dublin South-West by-election.

THE WORKER has certainly criticised the policies of the Officials, and rightly so, for their policies will not lead to socialism being brought about in Ireland. But the bulk of the people who voted for Tomas MacGiolla did so believing that this was a vote for socialism, in some sense of the word.

They were rejecting the capitalist Coalition government and the capitalist Fianna Fail. In the by-election the only way of showing opposition to both capitalist alternatives was to vote for Sinn Fein and the I.R.S.P., as THE WORKER advocated.

We have to show Sinn Fein members and supporters that their strategy is incapable of achieving socialism - or, at any rate, what we mean by socialism. We criticise their methods, but we support them against the capitalists.

John Goodwillie

## Conditions in Long Kesh

I HAVE been visiting a friend inside Long Kesh concentration camp for a few years now. He is a young man who was sentenced to a long term of imprisonment (and is a Special Category Prisoner) and is now coming to think of himself as a socialist as opposed to the Republican he was originally. So he is eager to get literature which is relevant to the Socialist struggle, in order to educate himself and his fellow POWs, in the basics of Marxism and the necessity of a Workers struggle.

I have been sending my friend literature for the past four years, none of which was rejected by the censors at Long Kesh. Recently I visited my friend and brought him a selection of literature but I was surprised when some of this was refused in by the

censors. The lit-refused was Mike Farrell's book, Northern Ireland, The Orange State, Robert Dorn's 'Irish Nationalism & British Imperialism' and three recent copies of THE WORKER.

The conclusions to be drawn from this is that the Northern Ireland Office is aware that they have potential revolutionaries on their hands and are adamantly refusing any revolutionary literature to the POWs. They are obviously afraid that their prisoners will come out of Long Kesh a BIGGER threat to the state, not because they are potential bombers, but because they will be true revolutionaries with the capability of starting the workers struggle.

One can imagine the horrors of living inside Long Kesh. But relatives and friends also have to go through harassment in order to visit POWs. In order to see a POW for half an hour each week visitors have to undergo four hours of discomfort, including the journey to and from Long Kesh in overcrowded mini buses, the ritual of intimate searches (everyone from babies to elderly people are searched in an intimate way), prolonged waiting in the camp. This is a conscious plan by the authorities to demoralise visitors. Visitors also endure minimal sanitary conditions while 'screws' have their own private toilets, cooking facilities, heat.

Soldiers, UDR and warders are totally unsympathetic to visitors and often provoke visitors into action which denies them their visit. Their methods are over excessive and intimate searching and the interrogation of visitors in the searching cubicle including verbal abuse.

The Northern Ireland office didn't feel secure enough about how they had the prisoners locked up in Long Kesh. They have been re-enforcing the perimeter. Unfortunately there are a number of firms and workers who have no conscience about doing this work. Numerous Belfast workers have refused to work on the concrete perimeter, but rural workers and firms (especially from Portadown and Lisburn) are busily working away earning 'danger money' building the biggest horror prison in Europe.

In spite of all the harassment and concrete walls, the efforts of the Northern Ireland office will be in vain. Literature will reach the POWs even at a few pages a time. The visitors spirits will not be broken be-

cause they have endured bigger hardships on the streets of Belfast, through the raids and beatings of the RUC and BA. And many of the POWs are coming to understand the true nature of the workers struggle.

There is one important issue on which all the readers of this paper can act. That is the issue of Political Status for prisoners.



The authorities have built a concentration camp here. But they have also built a place where prisoners will emerge as true revolutionaries because of their role in the struggle and their experiences and studies inside the camp. We must fight to secure continuing political status for POWs. They are suffering inside, visitors suffer on every trip up there. We all lose with their defeat.

M. Molloy, Belfast

## Tone

THE article on Wolfe Tone was the first to tell the truth about him. Most people around here think Tone was for the workers. But he wasn't a 'man of no property'; he was just a bourgeois nationalist. That was alright then, but we need socialists today.

Belfast reader

# Christian genocide!



## "SOCIALIST" POLAND JAILS STRIKERS

BRIAN TRENCH

It has not come to jailing workers who go on strike or who organise strikes here yet - but it has in "socialist" Poland. During July, workers at the Ursus tractor factory in Warsaw (the same Ursus tractor which is sold here in Ireland) were sent to prison for sentences between four and ten years.

Others, too, have been imprisoned. And all for the terrible anti-socialist crime of organising protests against massive price increases on foodstuffs.

Of course, the truth is that Poland is very far from being a socialist country. The ruling party is not a "workers' party" whatever its name says. It is run by an elite who control the top positions in the state apparatus and in the party leadership and who direct the economy in their own interests.

The strikes and the protests, in which at least one worker was killed, were the real expression of the workers' hopes and needs. The

brutal reaction was the panicky measure of an authoritarian regime. The workers' action forced the government, however, to withdraw the price increases.

Jacek Kuron, himself imprisoned during the 1960's for writing a critical analysis of the Polish regime and of Polish society, risked his freedom again by appealing publicly to the Italian Communist Party to protest against the jailing of the strikers. The Italian communists responded, but we need not expect the Irish Communist Party or its hangers-on, like Official Sinn Fein, to make any protest.

They are too busy telling us all how marvellous state enterprise is (example: Poland) and how much we need to trade with countries outside the EEC (example: Poland) to stop and think about the price increases and the Polish workers' anger. They will have to pretend it just didn't happen.

Unhappily, those people who left the Irish CP partly over a difference on attitudes to democracy under socialism have barely moved forward. While they criticise the mistakes of Stalin and the "defects" of the Eastern European regimes, they haven't begun to deal with events like the recent Polish ones.

## AIMS

In a pamphlet titled "Socialism and Democracy", Paddy Carmody of the Irish Marxist Society, writes that the "existence of the socialist world, with all its defects, is still the basis on which other peoples can build."

Build cemeteries, perhaps. But not a socialist state or workers' control. That must be the aim - and neither Poland nor Russia, neither Cuba nor China, provides us with the guidelines.

## TWO KINDS OF HYPOCRISY



OFFICIAL Sinn Fein and the SDLP are competing to see who can be the biggest hypocrite in the rush to join the peace-wagon. Not that either of them are so fond of peace. The Officials have never condemned such activities as the Official IRA road block (above). And the SDLP never hesitated to use sectarianism when it suited - as in the advert (right). The "We" stands for Catholics. They just see a chance now of screwing their opponents, the Provos.

**S.D.L.P.**  
DRAPERSTOWN BRANCH  
We can control Magherafelt District Council for the first time in 50 years.  
Are you interested?  
A MEETING in A.O.H. HALL  
To-morrow (Tues.) at 8.30 p.m.

MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR COPY EVERY MONTH  
12 ISSUES £1.25 OVERSEAS £2.00  
(including postage)

The fight for equal pay page 3  
EAMONN McCANN  
WOLFE TONE page 4  
WAGE  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subscribe!**

**REMEMBER THIS PICTURE** the next time the papers scream about Palestinians hi-jacking planes or taking hostages. The scene is the Palestinian refugee camp in Tel Al-Zaatar, in the Lebanon. The woman is watching her child leave with relatives just before the camp was over-run by the Christian Phalangists. The woman is probably dead by now.

Thousands died in the 50-day siege of the camp. There was no food or water. The merciless shelling did not even lift to allow the evacuation of the wounded. And in the 24 hours after the Christians over-ran the camp 3,000 men, women and children were put to death. Reporters saw bulldozers dig mass graves. Sixty nurses were taken out two by two and machine-gunned.

And what did the press say? "The opportunities for peace are a little more visible than they have been", said the Irish Times, studying the Middle Eastern power game with detachment. The crushing of thousands of people is seen as an interesting development.

But when these people, driven out of their own land, living in camps for thirty years, take desperate and ruthless actions of terrorism to draw attention to their plight the "liberal" press simply tut-tuts.

### Foreign policy

The Phalangists are the paramilitary representatives of the Christian ruling class. The Syrian rulers entered the fighting to "discipline" the Palestinians as part of a strategy to stabilise their own rule. The USA, Russia, and Israel encourage and depress the struggle in accordance with their "foreign policy needs".

When the oppressed strike back with fury the crocodile tears are shed for the innocent victims and the papers express "sorrow and bewilderment." When the oppressed are trampled further into the ground it is "regrettable", but - says the Irish Times - a result of "terrible logic". Inevitable. Unavoidable. Even understandable. All the victims in this situation are the result of the machinations of the ruling class. And the blood of Tel Al-Zaatar joins the sea of blood fed by this lousy system.

# WHAT'S NATURAL ABOUT THIS ?

by Lynda Hall, Child Care Worker L.G.P.S.U.

Some doctors in this country have found an answer to the nagging little problem of the woman for whom another pregnancy means possible death - hysterectomy! - the complete removal of the womb!

Take the case of the woman who had had 33 pregnancies, many of them miscarriages and the 34th would have meant a serious threat to her life. Her doctor prescribed the pill. But the ears of the church are forever flapping and soon the doctor was treated to a letter from the Bishop reminding him that artificial contraception was contrary to the teaching of the Catholic Church. Having been duly reprimanded, the doctor decided on the only other alternative to disaster - removal of the womb.

It happens quite frequently. Hysterectomies can be performed on very flimsy grounds. Your periods are irregular? Have your womb out! Put an end to it all. It's one of the Catholic church's answers to qualms about contraception. It is also a dangerous operation with nasty side effects. And it is recommended by male gynaecologists who have no thought for the physical or psychological consequences.

It's like having half your brain removed because you're suffering from depression. This is a charming example of the kind of double-think at which the Catholic hierarchy seems to excel.

Another sticky one is the whole business of so-called 'natural' methods of contraception. Even this didn't become acceptable in the Catholic Church until comparatively recently.

On one hand we are told that God invented sex for procreative purposes and any pleasure is just coincidental. On the other, the Catholic Church is freely advocating the use of the rhythm method. This involved not having intercourse when conception is most likely. There's something odd about that.

### FEAR

What is 'natural' anyway? Is it natural to avoid physical contact for days at a time for fear of sexual arousal? Is it natural to deliberately subject ourselves to a frustration that the church says you may not relieve even by masturbation. Let's all join the hair-shirt Brigade!

And what do we get out of all this? Not even the confidence that pregnancy will not occur. A woman may conceive at any time of the month - even when she is menstruating. In short,



there is no safe period! The rhythm method isn't a method at all.

Then of course we have the latest craze - the Billings method. This involves a daily investigation of a woman's vaginal secretions. This is usually clear and of a fairly thin consistency, but changes at the time of ovulation to become cloudier and thicker. Then you know that all's well and there is no further risk of pregnancy that month. Well, that's what they say.

However, there are just a few hitches here and there. Such as the fact that in as many as 30% of women this change goes undetected. Also, there is absolutely no guarantee that any cycle will be the same as the previous one. A recent study of clients of the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council shows that the Billings method had a failure rate of 22%. The report by Prof. John Marshall states that this method adds nothing to the effectiveness in avoiding conception.

Let's face it, the Catholic Church has not come up with any answer to the couple who already have more kids than they can cope with except, grin and bear it.

It's just not good enough. And this is the response of 30,000 people who come to the Family Planning Clinics in Dublin alone. There are an estimated 100,000 women in the country using artificial contraception. Of this number, many will have been prescribed the pill by a consultant gynaecologist. And if you are able to pay the fees you will too. But for the women who are not able to pay what remains? At some maternity hospitals you are offered the pill after you give birth. But this is done in a secretive

fashion. Little information is given about it and no backup service provided.

Meanwhile the Family Planning Association clinics around the country are offering a comprehensive service which should be provided by the Health Board. This is a case of charity subsidising the State. And, as Sally Kehoe, Information and Education officer for the Association says, those who really need these services are not using them.

The necessary information to make a real choice about contraceptive methods must

be made easily and freely available and the back up services provided.

A campaign called the Contraception Action programme has recently been formed to press for changes in the laws on contraception and for provision by the State of proper facilities and information. It is sponsored by such groups as F.P.A., Irish Women United, Women's Labour Council and individuals such as Dr. John O'Connell. They are planning agitation including a petition to which we would urge you give your support.

### SEVESO

THE PANIC-STRICKEN Italian authorities are now pushing contraception and abortion facilities at the women of Seveso since the poison cloud erupted over the area. The fear of a generation of deformed children being born in the area around the town has made them drop the ferocious opposition.

It's amazing how the moral barriers drop when it's politically expedient. Do we need a poison cloud in Ireland before women get the right to choose how and when they give birth?

## The Clinics

IRISH FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION CLINIC  
15 Mountjoy Sq. DUBLIN 1  
Telephone 744133

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC  
6 Cornmarket Row  
LIMERICK

IRISH FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION CLINIC  
59 Synge St. DUBLIN 8  
Telephone 682420

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC  
8 Tuckey Street, CORK  
Telephone 55681

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC  
37 Watergate Street, NAVAN  
Telephone 21143

THE PLANNED PARENT-HOOD CLUB  
1 Brookville Lane SKERRIES

THE family planning clinic due to open in Galway has been held up by the planning authorities. It seems the majority of the planning committee are members of the Knights of St. Columbanus.

The address of the Irish Contraception Action programme mentioned in the article above is, 21 Tempelogue Road, North, Terenure, Dublin

## FIGHTING THE NEW NAZIS

TWENTY years ago Colin Jordan was known as a nazi and condemned as such by the British press when he was convicted for daubing swastikas on Jewish synagogues. But last June when he strutted from a Birmingham courtroom having testified for Robert Relf, another nazi, he was described by the press and the BBC as "that longstanding campaigner against immigration."

There is a new respectability these days for fascists and nazis in Britain. In Deptford, London, the National Front and the National Party polled together 44% at the last local council elections. The Labour Party candidate polled only 43%. In Blackburn two National Party members were elected onto the council.

These are the same people who arrange for their members to have military training with the UVF in Northern Ireland - who assure them of a "kill".

The killing has already started in Britain with the murder of three London youths over the past two months. The new vigour in the racist campaign which led to the killings has come from the respectability given to the ideas of the fascists by such politicians as the MP for South Down, Enoch Powell.

### SIEGE

On his holidays from exploiting sectarianism in the North - where he expounds on the "rights of Loyalism" he is prone to make racist speeches about "rivers of blood" and the "rights of Englishmen".

Many immigrant communities in Britain are under state of siege. The



by Europe Singh

outbursts of Powell, the press, even Labour Party MP's like Bob Mellion coupled with the severity of unemployment and homelessness in Britain have brought bigoted thuggery on to the streets. Attention is drawn away from the real causes of unemployment and cuts in social services - policies of the Labour Government and big business - towards less than 2% of the population who have a different colour of skin. Robert Relf's sign 'house for sale to an English family' is reminiscent of 'no Irish need apply' signs earlier this century. Racism is nothing new, but the viciousness of the attack on working class living standards make its use as a launchpad for fascism once again a reality. The attacks on Irish people in Britain have already begun with the Prevention of Terrorism Act. There is no doubt if the blacks are beaten back by the new nazis the Irish communities are next.

Europe Singh is member of the International Socialists in Britain. He is deeply involved in the struggle against racism.

# 'NO MORE SELLOUTS'

WE ALL know how our own union officials prove their "responsibility" by trying to bridge the gap between our needs and what our bosses want. Their willingness to compromise and sell out in order to end "trouble" is notorious.

That happens at national level too. The union leaders believe their views on the economy are worth hearing. They want the government to take heed of them.

And to get the government's respect they show their "responsibility" by taking every measure to help "the nation" out of the economic mess — and they do it at our expense.

Their responsibility should be to their members but instead they show their responsibility to a system which is against our interests.

Thousands of jobs have been sold out. Wages have been held down. And now the union leaders are waiting to go into a three-way ballet with the politicians and bosses. Tripartite talks on the needs of the bosses' economy.

Translated, that means the union leaders will look for paper concessions in return for helping our rulers to screw us further.

Organised opposition is slight. It's got to be built. SWM is holding a series of public meetings across the country in September to discuss how the fight back can be organised.

Speakers from the Socialist Workers Movement and a speaker from the Right To Work Campaign in Britain will introduce the discussion.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

LIMERICK Tuesday 21st Sep. Mechanics Institute.

WATERFORD Wednesday 22nd Sep ATGWU Hall.

DUBLIN Thursday 23rd Sep.

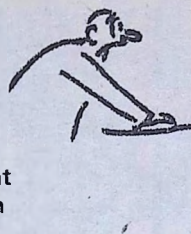
DUNDALK Friday 24th Sep.

BELFAST Saturday 25th Sep.

BROTHERS! YOUR UNION OFFICIAL, WHO LOVES YOU, HAS MANY ENEMIES ... YOU CAN'T GUESS WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ABOUT HIM



rr rr rr rr rr rr rr rr



BUREAUCRAT!

TRAITER!

COMPANY MAN!

TWO-TIMER!

rr rr rr rr rr rr rr rr

YES, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THEY SAY



rr rr rr rr rr rr rr rr  
WOLINSKI



## Fancy a Socialist Weekend?

THE SWM Socialist Weekend advertised in the last issue of THE WORKER is still being planned.

Discussion sessions, practical workshops, entertainment and sport are being arranged. The cost of the weekend is turning out to be in the region of £6 or £7 per head — board and

food included.

The final date has had to be put back a few weeks due to pressure of commitments. Anyone wishing to take an autumn weekend off in the country should let us know in plenty of time — to help with booking, organising etc.

## SWM

There is a newly formed of the Socialist Workers Movement in Limerick. Anyone interested in contacting the SWM there should write to:  
John Ryan, 46 Roxtown Terrace.

Anyone interested contacting the Waterford branch of SWM write to

S.W.M. 114 The Quay, Waterford

Anyone outside of these two areas should write to the national office.

S.W.M. 24 Talbot St. Dublin 1

## SWM What we stand for

THE SOCIALIST Workers' Movement is a revolutionary workers' organisation which aims to organise the working class in the struggle for power and for the overthrow of the existing social order.

Capitalism produces war and poverty, racial and sexual oppression. It is based on the exploitation of those who produce the wealth. It is geared to profit and not to human need. It wastes resources — above all, human resources. It is driven into ever-deeper crises.

Only the working class can destroy it and build a socialist society based on workers' control of production. Our political action to prepare the working class for that is based on the following principles:

### REVOLUTION NOT REFORM:

Capitalism cannot be changed by piecemeal reform. Increasingly it is unable to bring in even those small reforms which some sections of the ruling class think necessary. We support all struggles of workers against capitalism, seeking to co-ordinate them and direct them towards a fight for workers' power.

### CAPITALIST STATE MUST BE SMASHED:

The state machinery — courts, parliament, police, army — is used to maintain the domination of the ruling class. Working class revolution produces a different kind of state — one based on councils of delegates from work-places and localities who are democratically elected and subject to recall at any time.

### SOCIALIST ANSWER TO THE NATIONAL QUESTION:

Imperialism dominates the country, props up the Northern state and keeps the working class divided. But the problem can only be resolved in the working class's struggle for power. Only a united working class can defeat imperialism and capitalism, leading the fight to end repression, to force withdrawal of the British Army and against every aspect of the bosses' system.

### NO SOCIALISM IN ISOLATION:

Capitalism is an international system and can only be overthrown by the working class internationally. Socialism in a single country cannot survive. We work for solidarity with workers in other countries and support the struggles of oppressed peoples against imperialism. Along with revolutionary organisations elsewhere we aim to build an international of working class parties.

### RUSSIA AND CHINA NO MODEL:

The attempts of the Russian working class to build socialism were halted by the failure of their revolution to spread. The Stalinist rulers established a new type of society based on exploitation and oppression. Russia, the countries of Eastern Europe, China and Cuba are not socialist or "communist" — the workers are not in control. We oppose those regimes as we oppose Western capitalism.

The main area of political action for socialists is in the mass organisations of the working class, particularly the trade unions. We fight to make them — independent of all ruling class influence and any state interference and to make them effective organs of struggle for the workers.

In the trade unions, we fight for the right to organise free of restrictions, and against all laws and agreements limiting the right to take industrial action. We fight for democratic control of union affairs and the election of officials.

We oppose all forms of wage control and wage restraint; we oppose unemployment, compulsory and voluntary redundancy, and closures. We fight for shorter hours, five day's work or five days' pay, and demand the nationalisation without compensation and under workers control of companies which cannot guarantee job security.

We fight for a national minimum wage of £45 per week, for equal pay for women, and for the adult rate from 18 years of age. We oppose attempts to lower living standards by cuts in social services, health and education.

### FOR A RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT

which draws together militant trade unionists willing to oppose the class collaboration of the union leaders.

### FOR FULL EQUALITY FOR WOMEN

which can only be won if women themselves are organised to fight for their demands and if that struggle is part of the fight for workers' power. FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE in order to break the hold of reactionary ideas on workers, and remove a principal obstacle to women's equality. We support the demands for contraception and abortion to be made available on request.

FOR DEFENCE OF ANTI-IMPERIALISTS who face the full force of state repression. We fight for the abolition of repressive laws and for the withdrawal of the British Army. We support the self-defence on working class areas against military and sectarian attack. We fight to build a united front of working class and anti-imperialist organisations for those aims.

FOR A REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS' PARTY which can draw the most advanced, class-conscious workers together to fight for the political leadership of the working class. A revolutionary socialist leadership based in the working class can have a decisive influence especially in periods of upheaval.

The Socialist Workers Movement is working to build such a party. It is a democratic centralist organisation open to all those who accept these principles and objectives, who agree to work in one of its units, and recognise its discipline. We urge those who want to fight for the socialist, working class answer to the mess that is capitalism to join us.

# JOIN US IN THE FIGHT

I WANT TO JOIN S.W.M.

PLEASE SEND MORE INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

THE WORKER  
1st Floor,  
24 Talbot Street  
Dublin 1

Join us in the fight **SWM**

# EQUAL PAY: FIGHT TO WIN

THE TELEPHONISTS' fight for equal pay slowed down after union officials ordered the work to rule to end.

In spite of rank and file protests in several buildings, the union leadership gave up for a promise of talks when the telephonists' action was just beginning to have a real effect after their claim was denied by the Labour Court.

"The decision was disgusting," said one telephonist. Once again the Labour Court has proved it is no friend of workers. It certainly can't be counted on to support demands for equal pay or equal opportunity for women workers.

Male and female telephonists do the same exact work. They have the same training, same skills and same requirements for the job. It would seem to be the clearest case of equal pay for equal work. But the men end up with £5.03 per week more in basic pay - Why? - because they are men. The only difference between the men and women is that the men work at night. But they get a 25% night allowance. Also only men get service pay.

Equal pay. That's all the seven year struggle has been about. The Dept. of P&T, the Equal Pay Commissioner and the Labour Court all said no. The leaders of the POWU straggled through negotiations for seven years and has now shown it won't fight.

The Post Office Workers Union argued its case on the basis of the 1972 National Wage Agreement which referred to "jobs ... of equal value in that the demands (for instance in relation to skill, physical or mental effort, responsibility and

By Joan Kelly

working conditions) made on a woman are equal to the demands made on a man". The Equal Pay Commissioner argued that because men are liable to work at night, they should get more (despite the fact that they get more for actually working nights and despite the fact that women are liable to work from 7am to 11pm).

The Labour Court ignored the union's argument. Terry Quinlan, General Secretary of the union, referred to the court's report as "grossly inadequate and inefficient". He said the court had decided the case on the "basis of factors which are irrelevant."

The court actually introduced new criteria for this case. One of these was different pay scales of men and women. In other words, since the men get service pay and the women don't, the women shouldn't get equal pay. And they took seven months to put together that twisted thinking!

This resulted in over 2000 male and female telephonists joining a two week work to rule action. At times they had cut off service in centers like Portlaoise to fight harassment by department officials. The Department of P&T was complaining they were hurting the national interest. The Confederation of Irish Industries said the action would aggravate the problems of industry. They were worried about the effect on exports. After these complaints and the Portlaoise walk-outs Terry Quinlan, General Secretary of the Post Office Workers Union, seeing the rank and file action getting out of hand, came home from his holidays to get the action ended. For the department,

the CII and the union leadership is not really worried about equal pay. The promised talks are about a compromise offer that won't bring women telephonists up to the male rate.

From the beginning it was clear that the POWU leadership was not organising an effective fight. The first week the women took action was during the holiday period, when they would be least effective. The union announced that the action was not official and that they had no strike fund. That made it harder to convince workers to get ready to carry out work stoppages. And although men did support the women's claims, the union did not organise for that support earlier. The union didn't organise to make sure that other P&T workers would not be used to replace telephonists.

The telephonists case is crucial for all workers. The court's answer so far to women workers has been NO to equal pay. They want to defeat all the equal pay claims that are being processed by women. Women have been served notice that they can only win by counting on their own strength and the strength of their fellow workers. The Labour Court's attack on women must be smashed. And the union leadership won't do it. Rank and file women workers must begin to organise to fight and to convince the men they work with to support that fight.

## Stewards Committee needed

THE NEED is now stronger than ever for the considerable number of Unidare shop stewards who oppose wage restraint and redundancies to get together and give a lead.

The Joint Works Council, the committee that previously linked up all the unions in Unidare, can no longer do the job. When the ITGWU pulled out recently, the Council lost its links with the thousand clerical and general workers.

In one destructive move, the moderate leaders of the ITGWU Branches 2 and 14 rid themselves of the more militant craft shop stewards and reduced the Joint Works Council in importance. The JWC now represents a minority of the Unidare workers.

The task facing those who see the need for regular contact between the craft and general workers is to find some form of link-up committee to replace the now isolated Council.

One lesson to be learnt from the old JWC is that it didn't communicate between the members of the different unions - but only between certain officials and representatives of these members. Very little was reported back to the members; so little that many Unidare workers don't even know what the JWC is.

When the JWC proposed a mass meeting in support of its claims for staff status, the proposal was rejected by the ITGWU No. 14 head shop steward without referring it to his members.

What we need is a Shop Stewards Committee that really bases itself on the ordinary union members, and that links up the different sections of workers at a rank and file level.

in town where you have a chance of getting a job when you leave school. The bosses know this and constantly tell the workers that business is bad, "we'll go under". That's easy to believe with all the factories that are closing in the north.

Lately they have even had weekly meetings of all the workers to explain how bad things are. They even offer to open the books to prove it. Workers have found, though, that only a supervisor or trade union rep can see the books. But it doesn't matter. As the workers said, "They'd only change the books to suit themselves. We know they are making a profit. Why else would they stay here."

## GONE LIKE A LIGHT!

STRABANE CANDLES is one of the many factories which closed down in the last few months. One of the items that didn't get into the reports of the closure was that the manager went back to Holland - and took all the workers' wage packets, including holiday pay, with him.

Meanwhile, in the South, the Dept. of Social Welfare has had to put special markings on insurance stamps. It seems the bosses have

been buying hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of stolen stamps at cut prices.

Do you think Cosgrave is thinking of these types when he bleats about Law 'n' Order ... ?

## Skinned for £28 a week

ADRIAN! They make hosiery for Marks & Spencers and other British firms. They're also the largest factory in Strabane.

Over the past year the British management has been trying to increase productivity. They even brought in French consultants to figure out how to get more out of the workers (and still keep wages at about £28). They doubled the production targets. Flat lockers now had a target of 56 dozen per day. If they didn't make the target, they wouldn't be able to collect the top level of pay due them.

This year the productivity experts outdid themselves. They decided that if the workers didn't make their doubled targets, they would be suspended for three days. But after the workers threatened to strike, this idea was given up.

A few weeks ago the packers had their target increased to 200. This is so fast that they are cutting their hands. The packing material "is pulling their skin off."

The bosses take advantage of the bad economic conditions to get more out of the workers. They hire mostly women whom they pay at low rates. Strabane usually has an unemployment rate of 26%, one of the highest in the north. Adrian is one of the only places

# STRIKERS WIN £13

THE AUGUST issue of Liberty -- official journal of the ITGWU -- carried a front page report of how Massey Ferguson clerical workers in the Dublin head office recently gained increases averaging £13 per week backdated to April.

Indeed they did and the victory is very significant.

This was a good, old-fashioned parity claim - with Blackwood Hodge the pace setters in the tractor business. The large increases gained - one worker more than doubled her pay - were over and above the 1975 National Wage Agreement, incorporated full equal pay and had no productivity strings attached. Who knows - it may even keep them up with inflation!

How did they manage it? Well, "following a 3-day strike" of course - that's the Liberty explanation. Not quite. As usual, the truth is just a little different.

Management conceded the claim back in early June under the threat of strike notice but immediately welched on the deal by inventing a 'new grade' - lower than those a-

by John Cane, I.T.G.W.U.

greed and containing most of the women. The workers came out.

Maybe they were naive, but they assumed that the union would honour the strike notice and make it official. They soon learned otherwise. The union - without consulting the workers - had withdrawn the notice thinking the dispute had been settled. Now they insisted that normal work be resumed while strike notice was served all over again. Rules are rules. The workers weren't convinced. It was peak business time - they needed to hit hard

and fast. They stayed out.

Nothing moved in or out of the offices. The strike was respected 100% by their fellow workers in A.G.E.M.O.U. and in I.T.G.W.U. No. 14 - despite orders from Branch secretary Arthur Kelly to

pass the pickets. But the pressures can be great. Faced with a 'no talks' ultimatum from management, the union was able to persuade them to return after two weeks. They gambled that management would be unable to move the backlog of machinery while they were back.

Luckily they couldn't - maybe the unofficial go-slow had something to do with that!

Anyway, by this time management had obviously had enough. Top brass from the Massey Ferguson HQ in Coventry were brought over, and after a short, sharp 3-day official strike the issue was settled and the workers had won.

Just like Liberty said - "Following a three day strike"!

What's happening in your workplace and in your union..Write and let us know.

Picture by Eamonn O'Dwyer



SURE A MAN has to take a rest now and then. Fighting for the working class really takes it out of you. And here's Mick McEvoy, ITGWU No.7 Branch Secretary (the one with his arms folded) realising at a bosses' party. The same party we refer to on page 3.

The man he's laughing with is Kevin Anderson owner of the Green Group of cinemas. When this photo was taken some of McEvoy's members were in the third week of a strike against Anderson. The strike ended in defeat. The workers came out after a threat of lay-offs. They were promised the support of the rest of the section in blacking the rest of Anderson's operations. He has dozens of other cinemas, film renters etc, and it was obvious that these had to be hit if the strike was to be successful.

The other workers in the section - film despatch and projectionists - indicated their solidarity, but one of the section officers (no one will say who) told them they weren't needed. As a result the workers had to agree to a productivity deal to get back to work. Four jobs are gone and four more will go through "natural wastage".

"The strikers were isolated", a member of the section committee told us. "You couldn't blame them for going back after five weeks on their own. The committee had just one routine meeting during the strike. The officers of the committee were bound by the rules to call a meeting but they didn't. Some of the best trade unionists are being driven into inactivity by the way the committee is shackled to the officials. It's like a toy they give us to humour us. It will need rank and file activity to break this stranglehold, fighting for more general meetings instead of the single meeting a year we now have. And that's just for starters."

Meanwhile, Anderson is about to squeeze the Lyric Cinema in Limerick out of business by his monopoly of films. Then he aims to reduce staff in his own Limerick cinemas. It will take more than the bureaucratic rule-breaking incompetence of the ITGWU hacks to stop Anderson's gallop.

## Waterford strikers double their wages (With a little help from their friends)

by Declan Cheasty

HOW do you get a 100% wage increase, the reinstatement of 3 victimised women, and a closed shop on the premises. The answer was supplied by Waterford workers in the ATGWU last month.

In June Molloy a jeweller in Waterford sacked 2 women for joining the union and for telling the truth about his refusal to pay stamps for his workers insurance cards. It was not long before pickets were placed on his premises.

All the ATGWU workers active in the 3 local branches felt that this was their strike and that it had to be won. Dockers, clerical workers and militants from the Glass factory picketed the shops.

Every Tuesday night there were meetings giving progress reports on the effects of their action. There was a leaflet written up for all members of the 3 branch members in the area. Once the official pickets were set up the

pickers argued the case with everybody about to enter the shops. The response was by and large sympathetic, meanwhile Molloy hovered over an emptying till.

He had to give in. The splendid solidarity shown by the local trade union movement was just too strong. At the end of the 6 week dispute the women who before the strike were paid £17 returned to a job now paying £34 a week-- A total victory. Again the rank and file have shown that when the case is clear, when the solidarity is strong then there is nothing that can stand in their way.

# the worker

Paper of the Socialist Workers Movement

NO HANGING  
HERE

see page 3

## THEY'LL LET YOU MARCH FOR THEIR KIND OF PEACE

HALF A DOZEN Belfast people face prosecution for taking part in a demonstration to mark the anniversary of internment. But the peace marchers have had the whole-hearted welcome of the British government.

If they had invented the women's peace movement they could not be more pleased. For as long as it exists, the movement provides a perfect cover for turning the screws of repression against the Provisionals even tighter.

Everybody knows that the Peace People are not going to protest against the increased arrests. They have had nothing to say about the killing of 12-year-old Majella O'Hare in Co. Armagh.

And the arrests and the raids are on the increase again. Rory Brady is barred from the North. Maire Drumm is held for days without charge. And there is no sign that Merlyn Rees is changing his mind on the removal of political status from republican prisoners.

The sad truth is that, however little the women's peace movement is concerned with all these things, they are not an invention of the British government. Of course, the establishment press thinks they are the greatest thing that ever happened and gives them acres of space.

But the movement which started in Andersonstown is a genuine indication of the weariness which many people in the North feel after seven years of continuing conflict - and 1500 dead.

There are cynical hypocrites in the governments of London and Dublin, in the middle class parties, and in the press,

who will try to use the peace movement. Paddy Devlin was quick to point out that the peace movement needed a 'political follow-up'.

But the women who have formed this movement are neither cynical nor hypocrites. They are tired, and misguided. Many of them would have supported the popular movement against internment, maybe even given cover to the Provisionals in the past.

If they cared once about defeating state repression and imperialism, they no longer do so. They have had no further part in the struggle, told like so many others to wait until the freedom fighters have done the job. Whether they like it or not, their call for peace would, if successful, pave the way for a new administration based on the Northern state.

The existence of that state,



with its in-built sectarianism and violence, protected by British troops, is at the root of the trouble. So long as it remains, the repression, and the counter-violence will continue.

### CAT-CALL

For the Provos to hope that abuse and cat-calls will make the peace movement go away, is madness. For not only does the movement reflect a completely genuine feeling, it is also a monument to their own failure of political organisation and leadership.

Nearly everything the Provos do adds to their own isolation. They have continued the bombing campaign in its very worst aspects - attacking Portrush and Castleterragh, two defenceless Protestant towns, and trying to pretend that this represents a blow to British economic interests in the North.

Their retaliation against loyalists for sectarian attacks has gone far beyond what any claim to provide defence against murder gangs could justify.

In organising for the retention of political status they have manipulated and dominated the committees. They refuse to allow free expression of different political viewpoints.

Indeed, there are many who live in fear where 'Provos Rule' - not because they are informers or in some other way in league with the British Army or the government. But because they have dared challenge the Provos' authority on some occasion. Political dissent

## Troops stealing as well as killing

SOLDIERS from the Royal Light Artillery recently received £140 for stolen copper and brass scrap from a local dealer in the Markets area of Belfast. Troops in the same area also stole an extremely valuable bracelet from a woman during a search in Catherine St.

### LOOTING

The British Army has made a profitable business out of the searches, bombings and fires in the north. When shops are blown up, they are the first on the scene to carry off undamaged goods. The RUC and security staff also join in the looting. When C&A's was blown up they brought their cars around to the back to load up with leather coats and other loot before the shop was opened up for the public sale.

The soldiers are able to easily unload their goods on local traders - like the scrap deal in the Markets. If a trader or a pub owner refused to pay the soldiers for the stolen goods, they are open to nightly raids by the BA with the usual damage they cause.

No wonder the army likes it here so much!



THERE are a lot of people in Ireland, North and South, locked away because they took to the gun when they, their families or friends were under attack. How come Gerry Fitt isn't one of them?

### TROOPS OUT!

CONSTRUCTION workers in Newry went on strike and forced the British troops to withdraw from a new hospital building. Soldiers from the Third Para Regiment had taken over the ninth floor of the hospital and were spying on the local Catholic housing estates. The Brits claimed they wanted to prevent hijackings. When the workers found the soldiers installed on the site, they went on strike. The troops left a few hours later.

## T.U. delegates to visit Belfast, Dublin

ON 17th September, over 60 trade unionists from Britain - delegates from union branches, trade councils, and other bodies in the labour movement - will arrive in Ireland on a three day visit. They want to discuss with Irish trade unionists and with representatives of political groups the best contribution which the British labour movement can make towards Irish independence. They will spend one day in Dublin and two days in Belfast.

All very welcome. You would think, too, all very uncontroversial, especially when you see the list of a dozen Labour MPs supporting the delegation. You would expect that activists, and particularly left-wingers, in the Irish trade union movement would welcome the chance for meetings and discussions with colleagues from Britain.

Certainly, we in THE WORKER and in SWM do welcome this move. We believe any opportunity should be used to strengthen the many links there are between workers in Ireland and Britain into links of real solidarity. It seemed, too, for the last few months that there were a couple of dozen leading

trade unionists who thought something the same. They signed a statement of 'sponsorship' or had indicated in some other way they supported the delegation. They included Michael Mullen, Matt Merrigan, Phil Flynn, shop stewards, executive members, branch committee reps, etc. from half a dozen unions.

Recently, however, some have withdrawn their support and have put their names to a statement "dissociating themselves from the whole thing. That would be regrettable if it was based on some kind of misunderstanding. It is scandalous that the efforts being made to get these statements of dissociation is being made - anonymously - on the strength of the grossest misrepresentation.

The organisers of this sabotage effort claim in their statement that the delegation is coming to teach us in Ireland what to do and to insist that we should call for "troops out NOW"

The delegation is, indeed, organised by the Troops Out Movement (TOM) which does, indeed, call for "troops out now". But TOM has not insisted that members of the delegation should agree with that demand.

In a statement issued early in August Joan Maynard, a British Labour MP supporting the delega-

tion said the only commitment of the delegation's members was to Irish "self-determination". The delegates want to learn and to find out. Contrary to what the counter-statement says, supporting the visit will not run against support for the six points of the Better Life for All campaign, if that is what trade unionists feel is the best means to make real advances for Irish life.

The delegates coming here in September will face enough opposition from trade unionists in Britain who believe that Ireland is no concern of theirs at all. It would be a disgrace if a clique within the Irish trade union movement (not unconnected with the Communist Party of Ireland - Official Sinn Fein axis) put more obstacles in their way. We urge readers and supporters not to let this happen and to show their support of the Labour Movement delegation by meeting them at the various conferences, workshops and socials.

If you need more information and documentation, write to TOM at 1 North end Road, London W 14, or to 30 Sandville Avenue, North Strand, Dublin 3.