

THE WORKER

FOR WORKERS POWER AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

£25 across the board

TIME TO STRIKE

The National understanding is gone. Good riddance to bad rubbish is how many workers—including ourselves—will react. Over a decade of National Wage Agreements did not guarantee our living standards, did not reduce the power of business bosses, did not create a more equal and fair society and did not provide better employment

prospects or social services. On the contrary the National Wage Agreement shackled the trade union movement—with the willing acceptance of the Trade Union bosses. Free collective bargaining is an opportunity for workers to get back their power.

But bosses see it as their opportunity too. They hope that in the private sector pay settlements will be flexible

reflecting the declared profit or loss situation of the individual company. But they look to the government in the public sector to enforce the most vicious pay restraint.

Since the summer budget the government has enforced a freeze on new money in the public sector. This has, for example, frozen the new pension scheme in CIE, which the unions had spent years negotiating. The government hope to enforce a pay pause in the semi-state concerns and then later perhaps next year concede 6% increases.

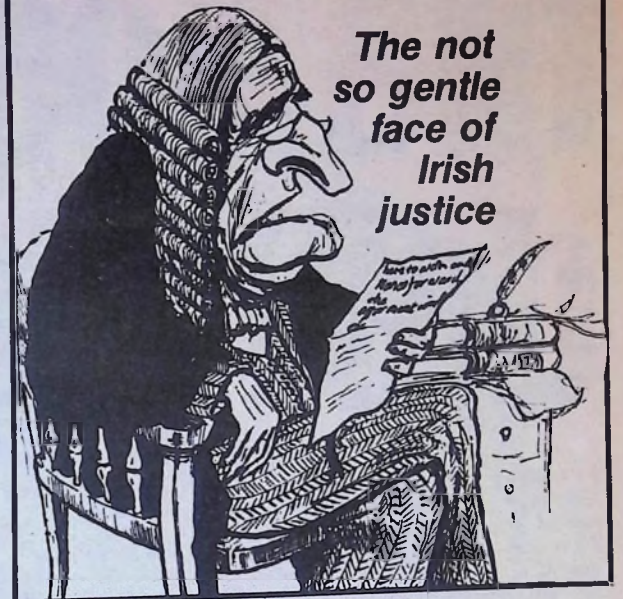
In a situation of divide and rule, solidarity is the only way forward. To maintain

even existing standards workers need £25 across the board.

The pay pause must be broken, and joint claims, blacking tainted goods, and the whole range of rank and file solidarity measures must be put into action.

It is time to rebuild our trade union movement's fighting capacity from the bottom up. Every strike must be supported by other groups of workers—a shop stewards movement needs to be built to organise and spread solidarity. And in every workplace, plant and industry claims for £25 across the board must be backed by strike action.

Inside:



The not so gentle face of Irish justice



Anglo-Irish sham

THE MUCH heralded Anglo Irish summit offers nothing to workers and anti-imperialism.

In fact it clears the way for increased repression. The new Anglo Irish Council is designed to integrate and bring the ruling classes politically closer.

Fitzgerald has made it clear that its main purpose will be to ensure 'regularity of contact' with Thatcher's representative.

However the Coalition is trying to spread the illusion that it represents real progress to a United Ireland.

If anything it is the reverse.

Fitzgerald is now committed to supporting the holding of internal elections for a northern convention.

The Anglo Irish sham is nothing other than an attempt to both strengthen the political arrangements for bosses' rule and to provide some illusions that can bolster the flagging credibility of the SDLP. Thatcher and Fitzgerald need the SDLP as a buffer between the mass of anti-unionists and the British state.

Its more unpublished effects include increased co-operation on repression.

We can expect greater use of the Criminal Jurisdiction Act.

The only reply to Fitzgerald and Thatcher is a major campaign now for British withdrawal.

Inside: Moving minds by Dave Byrne

As the 'National Understanding' ends — the bosses throw down the gauntlet

THURSDAY, October 29th 1981 may well turn out to be one of the most important dates ever in the history of industrial relations in Ireland. On that day, a special conference of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions decided unanimously that, from the end of the present National Understanding, individual unions would be free to pursue their members' interests without any restraint.

In effect, that means that, after eleven years of rigid control of wages and conditions by a handful of union bureaucrats, top employers and government ministers, we have now returned—for the moment at least—to a system of free collective bargaining.

For the hundreds of trade union militants—like us in the SWM—who have been arguing for years that the shackles of National Wage Agreements must be broken, October 29th was truly a red letter day. Now we can really begin the process of building a militant, united union movement controlled by the ordinary rank and file members capable of defending our interests from the attacks of the bosses. That is the heady prospect that October 29th has opened up. But whether it can be realised is a different matter.

There are big problems and we all need to face up to them

In the first place, we have not won free collective bargaining. On the contrary, the union movement has been forced to accept it. The fact of the matter is that the 'monetarists' or 'Thatcherites' amongst both the employers and the government have succeeded in convincing their 'wet' colleagues that the unions can be taken on individually and beaten. That wages can be held down below any compromise figure that a new National Understanding would produce. So they refused to compromise and the union leaders—to whom compromise is a way of life—were forced into free collective bargaining against their wishes.

The confidence of the employers and government is ominous. In essence, they believe that most workers will simply be afraid to fight for wage claims that would keep them abreast of inflation—and that those who do can be isolated and beaten (perhaps even at the cost of allowing some businesses to fold). The reason they think most workers will be afraid to fight is that they believe they have won the propaganda war. That workers accept that the *only* way out of the economic crisis is for us to tighten our belts so that the bosses can sell cheaper on the world markets; so that profits can be restored; so that jobs can be created for us. That's what the 'Three Wise Men' and their 6.5% are all about. That's the kind of crap that will be churned out ad nauseam on the tele and in the papers. They think we

have bought it. That's why they are confident we won't fight. Are they right?

The answer depends, crucially, on two things. Firstly, can we answer the logic of the bosses with a logic of our own? A logic that says 'Fuck your problems with profits, we need at least 25% now to even maintain our shitty living standards. Find the money from the banks, speculators, big farmers whatever to pay us and provide jobs for the unemployed or get the hell out and...'. The logic leads of course to socialism. To organising society in such a way that there is enough for all. That's too big a leap for many. Certainly for the Labour Party who, if they remain in government, will be party to the bosses' logic, not ours. Certainly still to the majority of the union leaders who will persist in claiming that our interests and those of the bosses can be reconciled. And that goes for SFWP also. To the left of these, the forces are small and disorganised, incapable, as yet, of leading the labour movement. But the logic is inescapable. The ideas and forces of socialism will grow in response to the bosses' onslaught.

But it is not necessary to be a socialist in order to fight for a decent living standard. Many will fight simply because what they will be offered is nowhere near enough to satisfy their needs. Whether or not they win will depend *absolutely* on how the trade union movement organises to support them. This is a question of how quickly we can overcome the divisions in our

own movement at grass roots level that have grown up over the years of centralised bargaining. When one section moves into conflict (say the busworkers, oil workers, ESB workers, craftsmen etc) can we unite behind them to ensure victory for them and thereby aid victory for others?

The signs of this sort of organisation to pursue claims are, as yet, patchy. In the absence of guidelines from the top, many officials and stewards seem simply at a loss of how to go about even drawing up the demands—not having had to do so for eleven years! Joint claims uniting craft,

general and white-collar workers throughout an industry are even thinner on the ground. Yet this is essential if weak and small sections of workers are not to be picked off. Similarly, it is obvious that the government will face all its employees with a united front—where are the moves towards a public sector union alliance that could counter this? We need the broadest possible unity across unions, across grades, across sex lines, across firms in the same industry—otherwise we'll be picked off one by one. That sort of thing needs organising and it won't be done by union leaders uncommitted to the whole concept of free collective bargaining. Stewards and activists need to be holding meetings, drawing

up claims and approaching related sections now.

Given that sort of unity, given that essential element of rank and file organisation, given a willingness by the whole movement to get behind whoever fights first. Given all that then it is by no means certain that the 'Thatcherite' gamble of the bosses and the government will work. They have thrown down the gauntlet, the union leaders have failed to catch it in mid-air. It now lies on the ground at the feet of thousands of rank and file workers. Let's be honest, we have no option but to pick the bloody thing up and throw it back in their faces.

John Cane

Fine Gael's cutbacks hit the schools

HAVE YOU got a four year old who was expected to start school this year? Well, tough luck, the belt-tightening programme has now been extended to her/him.

Yes, of course you can continue to work (if you are lucky enough to have a job) and pay the child minder an average of £1,000 for the extra year your child should have been at school

Now who on earth has taken this right away from your child? The Minister for Education, who consulted nobody, parents, teachers or children, about it. Maybe he had a sneaking suspicion that nobody would agree with him.

We all know however, who holds the purse strings and calls the tune. It is of course the Department of Finance which decided on this cutback—and that is all it can be called, it has absolutely no educational reasoning behind it.

Thatcher

Memories of the first few weeks of Thatcher's Tory government spring to mind when she, too, put the under fives back on their dole queue.

Four year olds aren't unionised, cannot vote and let's face it are pretty easy targets for the wolf. The under fives was but the start of the cutbacks in Britain—since then Thatcher has earned herself among others the name of 'meals and milk snatcher', has been known to bleed the education system dry, then to claim it didn't work and sell schools off to private enterprise.

Garrett cannot snatch school meals which don't exist but he can and is hitting right at the core of the system here. This is but the first of many cuts.

For parents this means having to pay child minders, or give up work to mind the children. For children it will mean missing out the necessary socialisation with children of their own age at the time when it is most essential to their development. Of course, working class people will not be able to afford the private alternatives. At four a child is open to development which will never recur at the same pace. For teachers it means having to teach a year's curriculum to a group of children starting school at two different intake times, September and January, both finishing in June.

The stark reality of unemployment faces those currently in teacher training colleges. Redundancies among those presently employed

loom large as well—because there is no lowering of the 'acceptable' pupil teacher ratio of 1:38 here.

When private nursery schools spring up who is going to staff them?—trained teachers will be forced to move into non-unionised jobs with lower rates of pay—this will pose a lot of problems for us as trade unionists.

Again parallels with Britain must be drawn here. 1976 was the year when the National Union of Teachers (NUT) started to fight the cutbacks—when the government decided to isolate under fives, adopt panic, short term solutions and generally attack the basis of education. The playgroup movement mushroomed there out of frustration with the state in its refusal to provide pre-school education.

The INTO and other teachers' unions are taking a very strong stand on the issue. However they cannot do it alone. Very few teachers or parents would agree that the present system of 38 four year olds in a class is ideal and that is why the fight cannot stop when we regain the 4 year old entry age. We must continue to fight for proper pre-school education which will have a well thought out curriculum, a pupil teacher ratio of 1:10 and every facility required to work progressively with young children.

Knock Airport

In the short term we need to raise the issue of proper pre-schooling in our unions, rescinding of the present decision, start enrolling our four year olds despite the directive. Let's show Garrett and the boys that they cannot rob 4 year olds of their right to education in order to pay for things like Knock Airport and subsidies to multi-national companies.

In the longer term the unions and parents should be fighting for state-funded, local and democratically controlled pre-schools for our children.

Mary Cummins

FitzGerald's 'socialist' friend



Jim Kemmy

DEPUTY Jim Kemmy impressed many people when first elected with his proletarian credentials and a desire for socialism.

Since his election, however, he has shown himself to be a loyal friend of the rich and privileged.

At a special with Garret FitzGerald he called for a mortgage subsidy, which would benefit the better off and especially the very rich who for tax reasons arrange their affairs so as to have massive mortgages.

He has joined forces with the most reactionary elements, North and South, in heaping abuse on the HBlock hunger strikers and the campaign for the five demands.

Now Garret FitzGerald is using him as advanced guard in a diversion of a campaign against Article 2 and 3 of the Constitution.

He is a leading light of 'Socialists Against Natio-

nalism' which is a campaign against Irish nationalism in support of unionist nationalism in the North.

It goes without saying that socialists are aware that nationalism will not solve the problems workers face under capitalism. Indeed we argue that socialism is only possible on an international plane, but that is a different thing from turning your back in the face of imperialism.

2 nations

It was Joseph Stalin who turned socialism on its head by his use of the phrase 'socialism in one country'. Now Deputy Kemmy wants us to accept two nations in one country in order to build socialism in one country!

He makes the job of those arguing the case for genuine socialism very much more hard.

Housing – Speculation and big profits come first

THE CAPITALIST and the landlord have much in common. Under our present system they both feed on workers' basic needs and enrich themselves in the process.

The worker needs money to feed and clothe himself. The only option is to work for the employer. But wages drop in times of recession and workers find it harder and harder to keep up a basic standard of living.

A working class family needs a roof over its head. But with big building firms controlling the housing market and building houses only where they can make huge profits, the struggle for an ordinary working class family to find somewhere to live becomes a nightmare.

Often the only choice is to move in with in-laws or find a flat. That's where the landlord moves in. Feeding on people's needs (the landlord organisation calls it 'providing a service') they charge high rents and after the High Court ruling even higher.

Housing the working class the upholders of capitalism and 'free enterprise' admit is a problem. Now, as the rich get richer workers struggle to maintain living standards the ruling class can buy and sell on the housing market with no major problem, while at the other end of the scale evictions are becoming more prominent. The bureaucrats who control local government housing are usually right wing, and are confined to a strict government budget on what is to be spent on building or repairing new houses.

Evicted

In Dun Laoghaire there is an acute housing shortage. More and more young families are forced to move in with in-laws where overcrowding is the 'norm'.

A recent right wing commercial handout—'Southside'—reports that the Council has run out of land. It's of course not the lack of land that's the problem but rather who owns it. The Catholic Church for instance is a major landowner. From Monkstown to Booterstown vast stretches of land are given over so that the children of the rich who attend the colleges can play rugby football. One house in Killiney recently went on the market for £1,000,000.

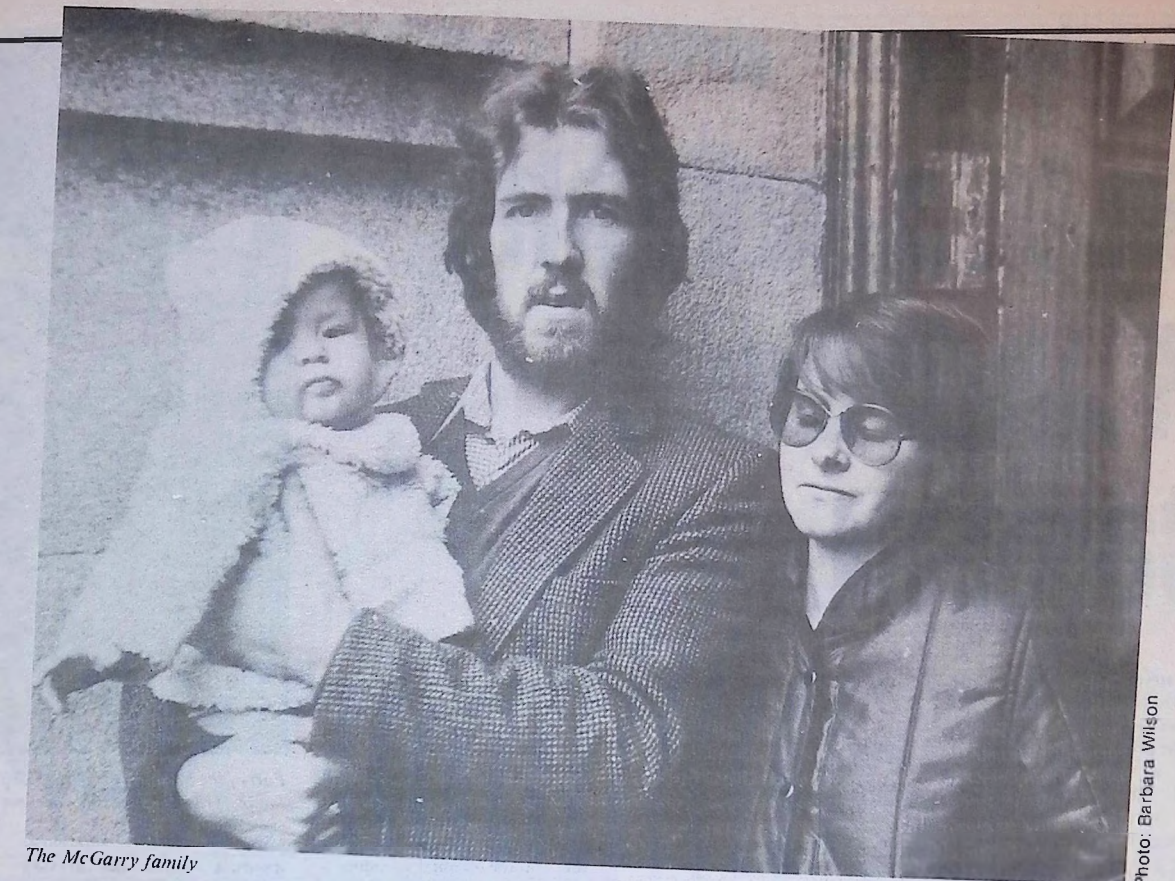
This situation falls like a ton of bricks on young couples getting married. They are patronised by local councillors seeking votes, and treated as inferior by the corporation officials. The only hope for many families is to try and gain points on the waiting list. The notorious points system has forced young couples into having children just in order to get on the waiting list.

One recent example from Dun Laoghaire speaks for itself. Kiaran and Ann McGarry asked members of SWM to help in their fight with the Corporation for a place to live. The timetable of events reads like a nightmare.

22 June Joseph McDonald the landlord of 5 Eden Park, Dun Laoghaire gets a court order for possession of the one room he has rented to Mr and Mrs McGarry who have a six month old baby. The McGarrys are defended in court by Kent and Co, solicitors.

24 Sept John Fitzgerald, the Sheriff for Co Dublin, sends an eviction notice to the McGarrys. The baby has dermatitis and the McGarrys decided not to move in with in-laws who are already living in overcrowded conditions.

9 October John (I'm only doing my job) Fitzgerald arrives to evict



The McGarry family

Photo: Barbara Wilson

the family. Some SWM members go with the family to Dun Laoghaire Corporation. Mr D Watson, section officer of the housing administration says there is nothing he will do. He infers a 'fix-up' between the family and the landlord even though there is absolutely no proof. After arguments the eviction is put off for two weeks.

16 October The Sheriff again arrives to evict them. The family and SWM members insist that they have no place to go and would have to sleep out. Again at the Corporation D Watson shows little concern and is hostile and abusive. The family is finally evicted and leaflets and placards are paraded outside the Housing office highlighting the family's

plight. The chairman of the local council eventually arranges a meeting for the 27th.

The family is given a flat in Barrett Street, Dun Laoghaire.

Fight back

The McGarrys not only had to face the landlord but the bureaucrats in Dun Laoghaire corporation. After months of pressure on

the Corporation and after going through months of torture they were finally given a roof over their heads. It's not a lot to ask but then the whole system is stacked against the working class. As in all other cases where workers bear the brunt, the only answer is to fight.

Dermot and David Byrne

Chile: The reign of terror continues

GENERAL PINOCHET had no difficulty in thinking of a way to commemorate the eighth anniversary of the bloody coup in which he seized power from the Popular Unity Front on 11 September 1973.

He extended the state of emergency for a further six months.

People may be detained in places other than prisons. The right of assembly and access to information are severely restricted.

Within the last few months, the press has been barred from giving news of armed actions against the state and dozens of trade union activists have been arrested. They were associated with a 'National Document' signed by over 300 work-place groups and listing a series of economic, social and trade union demands.

The document was presented to General Pinochet last June in an attempt to exploit the very limited freedom of trade union action which the 'Labour Plan' permits. 'But the real significance of the document,' says the PS-CNR (National Regional Coordinating Committee of the Socialist Party), 'is that it went beyond those limits'.

Pinochet's response was to have the named leaders, and many more, arrested. In the massive copper mines of El Teniente, a strike started earlier this year

within the restrictions of the law (limiting strikes to 60 days), but then went further. Again, the action was repressed brutally.

More recently, mass and military resistance has been developing among the *mapuche* peasants of the southern region. 'There are always pockets of militant opposition,' says the PS-CNR. 'But there is a danger, too, of giving the impression that there is more than there really is.'

Armed Struggle

'With 30,000 killed since the coup,' says Mario, a member of the PS-CNR's European secretariat, 'it is difficult to talk of much else apart from deaths, torture and imprisonment. But we have to be clear about the political perspectives. The parties who made up Popular Unity continue to talk of reconstituting that kind of alliance, including Christian Democrats and "good" military chiefs. But the conditions don't exist. What's more, they say it would require postponing satisfaction of the workers' most urgent demands for possibly five years.'

'Revolutionaries believe that the only way to overthrow the Junta is by armed struggle, in which the working class provides the leadership, in alliance with the peasants.'

Recent indications that the Communist Party might be prepared to support armed actions are not convincing, says Mario. 'Of course, there are members of the party involved in such action. But the official line is still to support Popular Unity.'



The Chilean working class, already strong enough fifty years ago to establish South America's first socialist republic, is bearing the brunt of the Junta's ruthless economic policies—in part the inspiration for Thatcher's in Britain. Protective legislation even going back further than the Popular Unity period—minimum salaries, the 44-hour week—was swept aside in an August decree. But the policies have also hit smaller firms, even a few large ones, like a major sugar enterprise. In spite of the 'success' in holding inflation down to 10 per

cent, the economy has turned sharply downwards and the Junta is feeling sensitive enough about it to have banned the last edition of APSI, a journal of economic analysis.

'But the Junta continues to enjoy and profit from international support from the capitalist world, including from supposedly socialist governments,' says Mario. 'The French have maintained their relations with Chile. The job of international solidarity is to break them.'

Brian Trench

THE WORKER Inside:
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H-BLOCKS: THE CAMPAIGNERS

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After the hunger-strike

On to a British Withdrawal Campaign

'No victors on either side' the press proclaimed at the end of the hunger strike. Those who fought for the prisoners over the months need a more precise balance sheet. The British government were forced to make limited concessions—specifically on clothing and restoration of half of the remission. But none of the concessions came near political status. They were handed down after the hunger strike had ended—as supposed evidence of humanitarianism. However the aim of the British was to impose a decisive defeat through proving that they would not budge under a mass movement. Although they

held the line on H Block, that sense of defeat was not forthcoming. There was no feeling of demoralisation and futility—only a greatly increased sense of bitterness and awareness.

Troops Out

There is a tremendous danger in this situation. It is that the sense of bitterness is translated into passive support for a purely armed struggle. The opening of the bombing campaign in Britain is a major diversion for the mass movement. It is justified in terms of 'publicity'. Yet six months ago, the masses on the streets

guaranteed that publicity—and a lot more. With a correct strategy, there is no doubt that the movement can be rebuilt.

The weak points of British imperialism are not found in the Wimpy Bars or the 'prestige targets' of Oxford Street. And neither will the bombings produce a sense of 'war weariness' in the British population. The Troops Out current in Britain may be weak but it offers far greater hope than a so-called war-weary 'Stuff the Paddies' brigade. The bosses in both Britain and Ireland were frightened by the H Block campaign. In its aftermath, they have moved rapidly



Photo: Barbara Wilson

Part of the Solidarity March in Belfast last month. The tremendous support and enthusiasm that still exists for the prisoners must not become merely passive support for an armed struggle.

with much more determination to impose a solution—one that they may not yet be fully clear about—on the Northern situation. The resumption of the Anglo-Irish Talks make two points clear. British imperialism has nothing in principle against the loosening of the border settlement. But the conclusion for that loosening is to increase their political effectiveness in dealing

with the mass movement against sectarianism and imperialism. An Anglo-Irish Council or an All Ireland Court are just some of the methods they are now considering for undercutting the support from the movement and of heightening repression.

Their reaction though has not simply been confined to the grand political developments. They have systematically unleashed

the political police and the Special Branch in the wake of the H Block campaign. They have also arrested 20 people on charges arising out of the British Embassy demonstration, solely on the basis of photographic evidence. The campaign therefore faces two central tasks. It must defend itself by building a movement to roll back the state's attempt to criminalise it through the Embassy 20 case. Broad support on a simple 'Right to demonstrate' stance must be sought throughout the unions and any other arguments that may support civil liberties.

But the H Block campaign needs also to go on the political offensive. The root cause of the H Blocks, of sectarianism, of repression is the British presence in Northern Ireland. Many already know that—but have not been given an open political vehicle through which to demonstrate their feelings.

Mistake

Many more do not recognise that particularly in the South—still believing that the British army plays a peacekeeping role. The arguments on the role of the troops and the nature of the Northern state need to be brought to much wider numbers. The only effective answer to the current Anglo-Irish moves is an open mass campaign for British Withdrawal. But if it is to be successful it must learn, not only from the strengths but also the weaknesses of the H Block campaign. Essentially those weaknesses could be summarised as an orientation to the wrong class—solely on the basis of their verbal nationalism. It was a mistake to only point to the church, to Fianna Fail, to the SDLP as our enemies—at the end of the campaign. It should have been made clear right from the beginning.

For that reason a British Withdrawal campaign should not be tapered to bringing about any alliance with the verbal nationalists. It should rather be posed as a broad open campaign that mobilises the labour movement on a class basis.

A useful way of launching a British Withdrawal Campaign would be the standing of a non-abstentionist candidate in the Cavan Monaghan bye-election. Such a candidate would be Bernadette McAliskey.

Kieran Allen

with the mass movement against sectarianism and imperialism. An Anglo-Irish Council or an All Ireland Court are just some of the methods they are now considering for undercutting the support from the movement and of heightening repression.

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Gaudy Parade

If there was civil divorce, an acceptable family planning law, a democratic school system and so on in the South, that might possibly have a slightly softening effect on Northern loyalist attitudes. And if so, well and good. But that's not the reason for supporting such measures: they stand to be supported on their own merits and on the understanding that while they might soften some attitudes they will never of themselves dissolve sectarianism.

Meanwhile we should not allow the arrival in town of this gaudy parade of noisy crusaders to divert our attention from the workaday tasks of fighting unemployment and low wages and bad housing and repression and all the other things which Garret FitzGerald really does stand for.

Eamonn McCann

The hidden passion of Dr Fitz

In Northern Ireland Crusaders are a football team which last won a major trophy when shorts were worn beneath the knee and there was such a thing as an inside leg.

Now Garret FitzGerald bids for glory with the new crusaders of Fine Gael, with whom he hopes to win over the Northern Protestants for the Republican team of Tone and Davis.

Home Farm has as much chance of winning the European Cup. In fact more. At least Home Farm would be trying.

FitzGerald's crusade is a fake. On the RTE radio interview last month when he launched his new mission he claimed that the creation in the South of a 'pluralist' society which would attract northern protestants was the very reason he had entered politics in the sixties. And that

this burning belief has been his motivation ever since—to the extent that if his crusade fails he will leave public life altogether.

Opportunist

This is nonsense. In the first place it is absurd for a man of 56 who has been prominently in the public eye for two decades suddenly to suggest that all this time he has been burning fiercely with a motivation never previously apparent. This is the stuff of which B movie melodramas are made ('The Hidden Passion of Dr Fitz') but has nothing to do with political realities.

The reality is that nothing in FitzGerald's history suggests a passion for pluralism. To be sure, he has often—at university debates and the like—proclaimed an abstract belief in

a non-sectarian future. But when it came to the crunch, as often it did, he behaved no differently from any other mainstream Fine Gael opportunist.

When, for example, Liam Cosgrave marched into the lobby to vote against his own government's timid family planning bill in 1975, did Dr FitzGerald rush to lead the long lines of outraged Liberals in elemental protest? Why, no. What he did was nothing. What he said was that Mr Cosgrave obviously felt very strongly on this one. Similarly with divorce. Consider: Dr FitzGerald made more than 150 speeches—FG figures—on his frenetic hithering and thithering around the country on the June election trail, his every word recorded by the media circus which swirled around him. At the same time the Divorce

Action Group was making what efforts it could to intervene and make divorce an issue.

Yet FitzGerald made not one reference—not one—throughout the entire period. And now he claims that of course he believes in the right to civil divorce.

Churchmouse

We could go on. About abortion... clerical control of the schools... church influence on medicine... You name it, FitzGerald's done nothing about it.

And even if he personally did want to take action, there's little chance the hard-necked reactionaries who dominate Fine Gael in the country would let him.

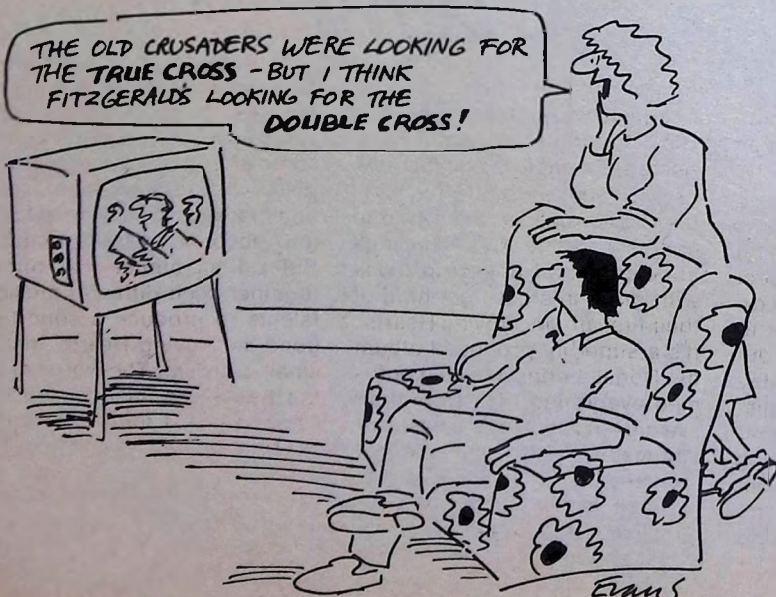
The Party does have a liberal wing and FitzGerald is part of it. But it is as timid as a mouse—as a churchmouse to be exact—and as likely to stand up to the Cooneys and Flanagans as I am to spit in Muhammad Ali's eye.

The other related aspects of the 'crusade' concerns Articles Two and Three and here again FitzGerald is full of flannel.

He says that he wants to drop the claim to the North in the interests of Irish Unity. That Northern Loyalists will be more likely to accept an end to partition if the South stops asserting in its constitution that partition should be ended...

You can read this one back to front, upside down, or inside out, but there's no way it comes out making sense. At least Cruise O'Brien and Jim Kemmy are consistent. They want rid of Articles Two and Three because they don't believe in them. FitzGerald wants rid of them because he does believe in them... like, passionately.

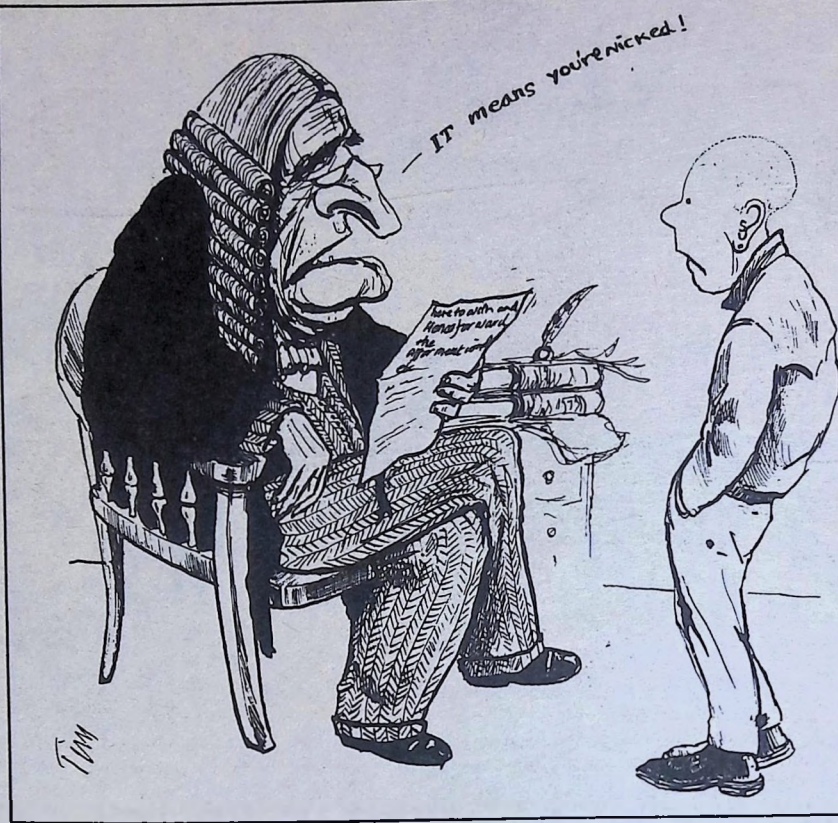
It would be tempting to conclude that the man's a fool, but he isn't. He is just following in



RACISM IN DUBLIN DISCO

For some time black people living in Dublin have complained at the number of places that have refused them admission. Now comes evidence that one of Dublin's newer night clubs, Flamingo's in Parkes Hotel, Stillorgan (formerly the South County Hotel) is refusing entry to black people. On Friday Oct 30th at least on four occasions black people were refused entry. No reason was given. When approached the next day management denied that a colour bar existed but would not give a reason why these people were refused entry. Racism is a poison which is being used to divide people the world over. It is important that racism is not allowed to gain a foothold here. We would like to hear of any other cases like this. Write to us c/o the Worker. We would also ask all our readers to boycott Flamingo's and Parkes Hotel in the future.

Paul O'Brien



Rough justice O'hUadhaigh style

ANYONE WHO has any illusions in Irish justice, particularly as it applies to the lower orders, could spend an instructive couple of hours in the Dublin court of Justice O'hUadhaigh.

This reporter was privileged to be there on one of his good days—he seemed quite a jovial old bastard, cracking jokes with the accused, their lawyers, guards and indeed having the whole court off in peels of merriment until it came to the sentencing.

One man, whose main offence was probably that he had long hair and a beard, was remanded in

custody for allegedly stealing a bicycle. A 17 year old was sent down for 9 months on an equally trifling offence and nobody seemed very surprised when another youth was sent down for one month on a mere charge of obstructing a guarda, although he had no previous convictions.

All this should demonstrate to our readers the importance of a good, clued-up solicitor for even minor charges. We would welcome any information on the despotic maniac (O'hUadhaigh) to add to the considerable file we already possess.

A woman's right to life

SOME TIME ago most homes in Waterford received a leaflet from the Irish Pro-Life movement outlining their aims, methods plus a request for new members.

Now women rarely die in this country as a result of back street abortions. But for that we can thank, not the legislation of abortion but the proximity of England.

However, the leaflet is part of a campaign that argues that women should die rather than be saved by an abortion if their life is threatened by a pregnancy.

The group, not satisfied with an absolute ban on abortion, want an amendment added to the constitution guaranteeing the right to life of the foetus.

Choose

Why bother? They are bothering, because it is possible that a woman whose life is in danger could successfully challenge our anti-abortion legislation. That is what they are afraid of.

The Pro-Life Group is basically a cover for SPUC and has less to do with abortion than with a determined right wing Catholic offensive against women.

It has little to do with abortion because its effects would be negligible—abortions are not being performed as it is and it would not prevent women from going to England to get them.

What it represents is a backlash against the growing confidence to make demands and the developing awareness of and sympathy for the plight of

women with unwanted pregnancies. Our 'Catholic country' has recently been exposed as having as high an abortion rate as England.

What they want is a public national repudiation of the facts—a propaganda victory. Now that the main parties—including the joke Labour Party—support the campaign it is important to expose it for what it is.

A Women's Right to Choose group has been set up to do just that and it should be supported. Many Irish people may not yet accept the right of women to have an abortion but it should be pointed out to them what they are now being asked to do.

Because the only logic to this proposed amendment is to enshrine in the constitution that a woman has less value than a foetus she is carrying. As socialists we believe in the full equality of women. That means full control over their own bodies and the right to choose abortion if they wish to.

From the Worker
Waterford supplement

Hunger-strike social

THE ENDING of the hunger-strike without the complete victory of the 5 demands did not deter a couple of hundred ardent supporters of Finglas H Block/Armagh action group from shouting their defiance with tremendous spirit at a social in the Spinning Wheel. Music came from the Jolly Beggarmen and the Glenriders, who went through a complete repertoire of rebel songs and emigrant Irish workers' songs with tremendous participation from the audience. The feeling was clear that the struggle in support of the republican prisoners will continue.

Moving Hearts Moving Minds



Moving Hearts

The Irish music scene was never the same after the advent of Planxty in 1973. For the first time, players in the traditional genre had come with a winning format, one which was commercially appealing, and yet faithful to the tradition from which it sprang. Their fine rendering of Irish tunes gained the respect of those who prefer their tradition served up straight. But they also received an enthusiastic response from a young generation who were not just hung-up on Irish trad music but were into various forms of music. So it came as no surprise when Christy Moore (a leading member of Planxty) began to do solo spots, which were not confined to traditional Irish songs. He was frowned on by the purists but gained respect from an ever increasing audience for his refusal to stick to non-contentious lyrics but instead spoke of the everyday reality of exploitative capitalist society. It became clear that because of its cultural limitations Irish music finds it hard to break out of its hankering back to the past and usually finds it hard to express social and cultural reality of the present time.

So when I went along to the Project last year to hear Christy Moore and friends in concert I wasn't as surprised as some with the big break (musically) from Planxty. It was the first taste of 'Moving Hearts'. They had an exciting sound which received a great response from the packed crowd. Then again this year at the Castlebar festival they got a great reception. Their refusal to stay in any musical strait jackets blending together many musical forms (Jazz, Rock, Trad) combined with their direct political comment on Nuclear Arms, the H Block struggle, repression etc, left the audience yelling for more of the same—a band that held their musical attention and expressed some of their feelings about the world they live in. It was with great interest I got hold of their first album 'Moving Hearts'. It's a superbly produced album by Donal Lunny which confirmed everything I felt from their live gigs. It is one of the best first albums from any Irish band in a long time.

Amongst the tracks I particularly liked were 'Landlord' by Jim Page, condemning the housing shortage, and Hiroshima Naga-

saki Russian Roulette, saying if we don't do something about changing the system we won't have a world to live in anyway. Other tracks 'No time for Love', 'Irish Ways and Irish laws', 'Faithful Departed', can't be heard without making you think about the political situation in Ireland today. There's not a bad track on the Album. My only criticism is the use of Christy Moore for lead vocal on all the tracks. I thought Declan Sinnott could have carried the vocals on one or two of the quicker songs like 'Landlord'. Moore's voice seemed a little weak in relation to the band on some of the tracks. He has such a plaintive and expressive voice and that should have been taken into account in the arranging. But on an album that brings together such different musical talents to produce a sound as good as 'Moving Hearts' that is small criticism. The words of all the tracks are included on the sleeve which I think shows the importance the band places on them.

I recommend you get this album and I'm sure you won't be disappointed.
David Byrne

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What we stand for

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

The system under which we live, capitalism, is based on production for profit and not for human need. It is a system that leads to poverty and war, racial and sexual oppression. Only the working class can destroy capitalism 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

There is no parliamentary road to socialism as the left in the Dail believe. The system cannot be changed by piecemeal reform. The state machinery—the courts, parliament, the police and army—are used to maintain the dominance of the ruling class. The real power lies in the boardrooms of big business.

We stand for a workers revolution which produces a different and more democratic society—one based on councils of delegates from workplaces and localities who are democratically elected and subject to recall at any time.

NEITHER WASHINGTON NOR MOSCOW

That kind of socialism does not exist anywhere today. Workers have no control over countries like Russia, China or Poland. They are exploited by a state capitalist class. A workers revolution is required in those countries too.

A SOCIALIST ANSWER TO THE NATIONAL QUESTION

The six county Orange State is propped up by British imperialism. By bribing loyalist workers in the past with privileges in, for example, housing and jobs, Protestant workers have come to see their interests as being served by the British-backed Unionist boss class. This divides the working class and delivers a section of the workers as allies of imperialism. The Northern state is sectarian in essence and must be smashed.

The slow task of building working class unity against imperialism must be begun. However imperialism must be fought in the here and now and we support all forces engaged in that struggle regardless of their difference of programme.

We stand for: Immediate withdrawal of the British Army. Political Status Now.

The Disbandment of the RUC and the UDR.

In the South, the bosses are junior partners with other European and American bosses in world capitalism. The main enemy is the boss at home. Nationalism or a united capitalist Ireland offers nothing to workers. The only republic worth fighting for is a workers republic.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION

We support feminism as being the legitimate progressive and necessary struggle by women against their oppression as women and believe that the self-emancipation of women as a sex is central to the meaning of socialism.

Only through socialism can women achieve full emancipation and therefore the women's struggle must be led by working class women as part of the struggle of the whole working class for socialism.

FOR A RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT

The main area of political action for socialists is the mass organisation of the working class, particularly the trade unions. We fight for the independence of the unions from state interference, democratic control of all union affairs and the election of all union officials.

We oppose all anti-union legislation and all forms of national wage understandings and wage restraint. We oppose all redundancies. We say: Occupy to demand Nationalisation under workers control. Fight for a 35 hour week. We support the building of a rank and file movement which draws together militant trade unionists to oppose the class collaboration of the union leaders.

FOR A REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY

The SWM is a democratic centralist organisation open to all those who accept its principles and objectives. The struggle for a workers republic in Ireland is inseparable from the international struggle. The SWM fights to build a mass party of the working class as part of a revolutionary international of working class parties.

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Bus battle in Cork

IN CORK busworkers are fighting a little publicised battle which has been going on for the past 2½ years.

The background to the simmering dispute rests in the inadequacies and failings of CIE management over the past 20 years in relation to rolling stock—the bus fleet.

The introduction of the private contractor Van Hool-Macardle in the late 1960s into the bus building section proved to be disastrous.

This was not because of bad workmanship but because of the use of low-grade bus materials and parts and a sloppy financial arrangement between CIE and Van Hool. Built with inferior parts and with several deviations from the original design supplied by British Leyland, the manufacturer of the bus-engines, the Van Hool buses started to give endless trouble after a year or two. In 1975 Van Hool terminated its contract with CIE claiming that CIE was delaying and withholding payment for its services. It is also quite probable that Van Hool was overcharging—taking advantage of the bureaucratic methods of the semi-state company. In any case they seized some machinery when they were withdrawing to home base

which was in Belgium. Undaunted by this bad experience with private enterprise, CIE management signed up another contractor in late 1979. This time it is a Canadian Company, Bombardier. The new bus-building factory at Shannon turned out its first rolling stock earlier this year. However, the deterioration in the CIE bus fleet started over a year after Van Hool had pulled out circa 1976. This meant extra work for the maintenance workers in the bus depots. The 1974-1977 Coalition government had also imposed like the present coalition, a ban on recruitment of extra workers. A series of maintenance disputes broke out over poor pay and poor working conditions.

The Van Hool buses continued to disintegrate. The maintenance disputes escalated. A back-log of maintenance work accumulated. On the streets there was a reduced bus service. The situation in Cork was typical. In December 1978 a new bus

time schedule was introduced with the consent of the Trade unions. This was partially due to public pressure and complaint. The new timetable was comprehensive. Within the first quarter of 1979 a new maintenance dispute broke out—mainly over parity with maintenance workers in other sectors of the public service. After the successful conclusion of the dispute the Company then introduced a reduced service supposedly of a temporary nature. Thus the fleet in operation was reduced by 30%. The Company pleaded that this was necessary due to the backlog in maintenance. The reduction in services coupled to a rise in bus fares resulted in a decline in travelling passengers. However the bus service in Cork was never again restored to full strength. What proceeded therefrom was the contorted, twisted thinking on the part of CIE bureaucrats that due to a reduction in passengers and a corresponding reduction in revenue—

A FURTHER REDUCTION in the service was necessary. For the past 2 years CIE management have tried to get this reduction implemented—but both have met with firm resistance by the workforce in Cork. For

busworkers the so-called rationalisation would mean

- loss of earnings and special bonuses.
- an increase in working unsociable hours.

The Company is also trying to reduce its workforce with the enticement of early retirement. However the compensation which it has offered the busworkers in Cork is paltry and consists on average of 2 or 3 weeks' pay. While the majority of bus-crews have overwhelmingly rejected the Company's proposals by democratic ballot, the Company is determined to introduce the new schedule regardless on November 1st.

If this happens the Unions will instruct their members not to operate the new schedules and to operate only their usual ones. It is thought that this will lead to a lock-out situation. The NBU is prepared to negotiate with the Company on the new schedules, one official said only when its claim for increase in the basic rate is granted.

- Solidarity with the busworkers and the NBU in their pursuit of a decent wage
- Fight the cuts in bus services
- Slash bus fares

NBU strike threat

THE NATIONAL Busworkers union has served strike notice on CIE in pursuit of a wage claim.

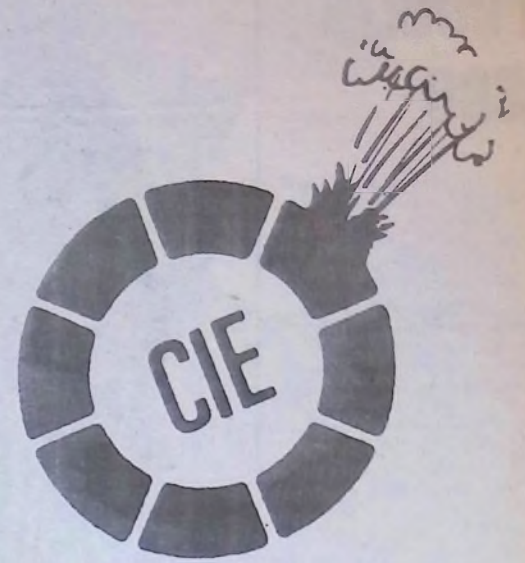
The NBU executive committee arrived at the decision to strike after the Company refused to negotiate meaningfully for a long overdue pay increase.

The general membership of the NBU had previously by secret ballot, overwhelmingly endorsed General Secretary Tom Darby with a strike mandate if nothing was forthcoming from the Company.

Already the Company has stated that it cannot concede as the NBU's wage claim is outside of the terms of the National Understanding. The new Minister responsible for Transport, Mr Cooney, has issued a directive to CIE not to grant any pay increase which is not endorsed by him or entertained by the Company after July 21st. In the face of these two obstacles the NBU strike was planned for November 2nd but deferred after the intervention of the Labour Court.

Busworkers at present are amongst the lowest paid employees in the public sector with an average weekly basic of £90. Their last substantial increase was won 3 years ago in November 78 after a one-week old strike again organised by the NBU. Despite the meagre increases awarded by the Wage Agreements their wages have fallen behind most other categories of workers both inside and outside of the public sector.

Cork NBU member



Accidents are not accidental

Last year twice as many workers died on building sites than in the year before. A total of 17 workers lost their lives. In fact the general number of reported accidents in the industry increased by 41%. The recession in the building industry and the weakening of union organisation is taking its toll on workers's lives.

The recently issued Labour Inspection Report reads like a catalogue of horror tales. Two workers died when trenches collapsed. In neither case was the trench shored up with suitable supports. Blocked visibility from the driver of an overloaded dumper caused another death. In several cases, workers fell from heights as the employers have consistently refused to fit guard rails and toe boards to scaffold platforms.

In every sense of the word, the

workers who died or were injured were 'expendable unit costs'—£10 is the new value put on a building worker's head. That's the fine that one of the employers paid for failing to shore up a collapsed trench. In fact throughout the whole of industry, 14 employers were convicted for offences in relation to deaths or injuries in the workplace. Between them they paid the staggering total of £1,015. Workers' lives come cheap. All of that is only the tip of the iceberg. There are only 43 Industrial Inspectors in total. The figure for those visiting workplaces at any one time is significantly less. The report for example states that this Inspectorate also represented the Government at over 60 EEC meetings. That does not leave much time for digging out the vast numbers of unreported accidents. The number of inspectors doesn't

exactly compare with the numbers of parasites employed in the Special Branch who watch the political activities of ordinary building workers.

Accidents do not occur accidentally. There is a trend behind the numbers. Just as the numbers of suicides increase with the rate of unemployment, the numbers of accidents increase overall with the weakening of union organisation. Industrial safety is not an issue in which employers and unions have a common interest. It is a basic class issue. Safety standards need to be imposed on a reluctant boss class.

The newly formed safety committees in many industries should only be seen as a step towards establishing proper safety reps in the unions. And the safety legislation—weak and all as it is—should be used. But in the end it comes down to a strong union organisation on the job. To take a simple example. In the aftermath of the Stardust horror, new fire regulations were rushed through. Fire alarms are supposed to be checked once every six months in every workplace. But even if the basic minimum is to be achieved it means a shop steward putting the squeeze on to get them.

Much more though is needed. Back to the building industry again. Safety nets need to be provided in all areas where work on old asbestos roofs is going on. Overhead wires should be re-routed to prevent contact with crane gibs or tipper lorries. Safety helmets should be provided for every worker. And none of that will ever be provided on lump sites. It demands 100% union organisation and determined shop stewards.

Keiran Allen

Dunlop strike

AS THE strike at Irish Dunlop Ltd, Cork enters its eleventh week, pickets have been extended to midnight and beyond to prevent strikebreaking lorries transporting essential materials into the plant.

ETU steward Dermot O'Sullivan told *The Worker*: 'The strike, which resulted over the suspension of two union members because of a demarcation dispute, has taken a more sinister turn, with the management refusing any meaningful talk, and

the jobs of the striking craftsmen being taken over by non-skilled workers'.

Is this the introduction of a deskilling programme into the Cork plant?

An injunction was granted by the High Court earlier in the dispute to stop striking workers from picketing the homes of the management. Messages of support to Dermot O'Sullivan (ETU Steward, Irish Dunlop Ltd, Cork, c/o Connolly Hall, Cork).

Vincent Conway

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Is the union being driven out?

In last month's issue of *The Worker* we carried a report on de-unionisation in the Bakery and Dairy Trades, and how the bosses are using the existence of non-union companies to cut back on wages and conditions. Since that story was published Bolands Bakery have announced their intention of sacking 100 of their 500 staff and demanded the introduction of night baking. The Bakers Union must make a stand on this issue if Trade Unionism is not to be destroyed in the industry.

In this the second of our reports on de-unionisation we look at other industries where the same problem is emerging, and at ways of fighting it.

Hackers

It is the very strength of the unions which has prompted the bosses to find ways around the organisation and militancy of workers. Their main weapon has been to subcontract work to outside firms, individuals and in some cases their own employees. In this way they don't have to worry about social welfare contributions, holiday or sick payments, pensions, and particularly, a militant and unionised work force. The Building Trade led the way in the 1960s and others have not been too slow to follow.

Roadstone try not to employ drivers but instead they lend the price of the lorries to drivers and give them guarantees of deliveries, out of which payment they stop a certain amount for repayment of the loan. The drivers accepted this because they could potentially earn a lot more; one driver was rumoured to have earned £20,000 in one year. The problem is that in the current recession in the building trade some drivers are only getting one

load a day instead of the two or three they had in former years. They are hardly able to meet the repayments on that level of business let alone earn a decent wage.

In the oil industry about 40% of deliveries are now made by Authorised Distributors who in most cases are not unionised and pay way below the union rate. A few years ago Malone Oil, a Shell distributor folded after a strike. The drivers bought out their trucks and set up as independent distributors.

Thorn Electrical now use Hackers to deliver their goods where they formerly employed their own drivers. The list is endless, a slow chipping away of jobs that are traditionally unionised.

It must be stated that in some cases workers have helped this process in the interests of short term gains. Productivity deals that have sold jobs for a few pounds; double jobbing; lack of interest in what is happening in their union.

If the trend is to be reversed we must start the fight back now. The Trade Union movement has to be strengthened by the rank and file workers taking control of the union. It is only by greater involvement that the apathy of the last decade or so can be changed. We must be able to prove to other workers that they have more to gain in the union than outside it. This means that every proposed redundancy must be opposed, no selling jobs for money. Instead of moaning about non-union workplaces the trade union movement must start a campaign to unionise them.

This means a political struggle as well as an economic one. We need to build a unified workers movement that takes up all the issues that divide workers. That is the aim of this paper and the Socialist Workers Movement.

P O'Brien

Workers must fight cutbacks

WHEN 150 Dublin Corpo workers in the Environmental Works section were told last June that due to Government cutbacks their department would be closed down and temporary work made available for them they served strike notice.

The Corpo backed down and the men kept their jobs. Similar attempts at cutbacks in other departments followed but again the workers refused to accept it and won their case. The Housing Maintenance Department workforce has been decreasing over the years and has so far only resulted in action from tenants in Corpo Houses who are directly affected also by the cutbacks. Tenants action can help but it alone won't change government policy. The Corpo's already overstretched resources are put under more pressure. Peter is

robbed to pay Paul. Workers are shifted from one department to another and back again in an attempt by the Corpo to deal with the problem.

Trade Union pressure at official level on the Government to end the cutbacks in the public sector is not enough unless it is organised within the industry itself. At a recent seminar of the Trades Councils in Belfast Donal Nevin of the ICTU called for greater public expenditure to provide work and end the terrible waste of human resources which unemployment causes. He called on Trades Councils to mount a massive campaign to highlight 'the scourge of unemployment' by fighting against the cuts. But like the PAYE tax marches it will fail unless it is organised as a campaign in the workplaces with a programme of industrial action and demonstrations to put a stop to the Coalition Monetarists.

Charley Nolan Corpo worker (UCATT)



Unidare workers who returned to work in October after 9 weeks unofficial strike, pictured in a protest march in Dublin's O'Connell Street on September 9

Unidare: New strength must be used

'NOT A complete victory but an advance' is how Unidare Chief Shop Steward Simeon Starrs described the return-to-work formula accepted by 3 to 1 by a meeting of strikers in Liberty Hall on Sunday October 18.

This ended the nine week unofficial strike of 500 odd ITGWU workers at Unidare which began over Security rostering but

quickly spread to include 40 grievances.

ITGWU President John Carroll worked out a document which was to be put to Dan McAuley of the FUE and top management of the company. It proposed an acceptable interim arrangement for security rostering pending negotiations and a lead-in payment of £5. In addition the company would negotiate the other grievances.

With the assurance that official backing would be given if no real progress was made in negotiations, this proved an acceptable return-to-work formula.

In the course of the dispute, the

company had sent a letter to all strikers threatening closure on 12 October unless there was an end to the dispute.

The workers replied with a massive show of strength at a mass picket on that day and the strike remained solid.

It is the view of the section committee that there was a bigger breakthrough with the union than with the company. The Union at the highest level finally took an initiative with the John Carroll document, they have officially tabled all the 40 outstanding issues of the strike and they have taken a forceful and high-level role in the talks since.

By far the greatest achievement of the strike was the unity and solidarity built up among the general workers of Unidare. The 'old hands' say that it's the best they've seen in a lifetime working for Unidare. This must be nurtured by frequent section committee meetings, regular general meetings, full communication with the members and no let-up of pressure on the ITGWU. The new-found strength must be used to fight every important issue that arises on the site so that there will be no back-sliding to the old ways of powerlessness and frustration.

ITGWU Steward

AIB: Dirty dealings at the bank

The hearing of the Employment Appeals Tribunal, in which Mr Niall Murphy is appealing against his sacking continues in Dublin. Over the last couple of issues, the Worker has carried reports of the efforts of Niall Murphy and John Lupton, who was sacked with him, to regain their jobs. The dispute has its origins in the attempt by Mr Hegarty the Rush Branch manager to allow after hours banking to favoured clients. This is against the policy of both the Allied Irish Banks and the IBOA (Irish Bank Officers Association). In May 1979, when a customer knocked on the door asking to make a late lodgement John Lupton refused to allow the customer in. In the ensuing row Mr Hegarty threatened that 'if they were not prepared to do the job the

way he wanted it done, he would get someone who would'. From then on Mr Hegarty did all in his power to get rid of Lupton and Murphy. During 1980 both of them were transferred, Murphy to Head Office in Ballsbridge, Lupton to Drogheda. In head office Murphy was given the job of 'Filing Clerk, bag opener and dirty note-sorter' while Lupton was told of a further transfer this time to Kildare.

It was at this point they both decided that they had to fight the attempted victimisations and placed a picket on the bank, at first in Drogheda and later at AIB Head Office in Dublin. The Bank responded by sacking them.

This was the background to the evidence presented by the AIB to the Appeals Tribunal in October. What is at stake for the Bank is the issue of the transfer system as a means of disciplining workers who are prepared to fight for their rights. This perhaps explains the lengths the bank has gone to in order to win their case.

Their witnesses have contradicted themselves and denied statements made at earlier meetings. Jim Denvir, Manager Corporate Banking, denied in evidence having threatened to 'close the Rush Branch and scatter the staff the length and breadth of Ireland.'

At a meeting in July 79 he said 'he would never allow a manager to



John Lupton

apologise to a staff member'. Suddenly in evidence, 'he would never instruct the manager to apologise to anybody'.

Mr Hegarty, Rush branch manager, denied having threatened to transfer Niall Murphy to Raphol in Donegal, but in subsequent cross-examination admitted that he had. What also came out during cross-examination is the existence of a memorandum written by Mr Hegarty in Sept 79 recommending their dismissal. This was never shown to either Murphy or Lupton as it should have been. It is the relationship between Hegarty and Niall Murphy and John Lupton which is at the centre of this dispute, and the determination to get rid of them after the events of May and Septem-

ber 1979. The banks case is weakened by the admission by Mr Havendon, Drogheda Regional Manager, that they 'were within their rights to refuse lodgements after 3.00pm'. Also Patrick Dawling, Acting General Manager Banking Services, who was called as a witness by the bank had nothing but good to say of Mr Murphy's work. What emerges from this is a clear vendetta against Niall Murphy and John Lupton. Though a small struggle it is an important one and we are glad to report that Drogheda Trades Council are showing renewed interest in the case. During November Niall Murphy will be presenting his evidence which no doubt will show the AIB in their true light.



JS Denvir

THE WORKER

FOR WORKERS POWER AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

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KEEP THE WORKER ROLLING OFF THE PRESSES EVERY MONTH. SEND A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR FIGHTING FUND.



Jailed for occupying their factory

Waterford fight back

A SPECTRE is haunting Waterford. Unfortunately it is that of unemployment. A series of redundancies, lay-offs and short time working is causing serious concern, amongst others to the local Trades Council. Over the

recent past the record runs like this:
 * Siekman's closed with the loss of over 100 jobs
 * Fismar: 20 workers have been let go
 * Performance Sail Craft have gone on short time

* Clover Meats 40 workers laid off

* Waterford Iron Founders; 'The Company is considering closing for a month'. The Waterford Trades Council has one of the best records on fighting unemployment. It organised the massive demonstration of support when the Paper Mills were threatened with closure. This time around it has won a resolution at the ICTU Conference which

* Commits the ICTU to a National Official Campaign Against Unemployment

* For the establishment of unemployed centres in local areas

* For the rights of the unemployed to remain in unions with full rights and reduced dues

Trade unionists all around the country should press to make sure that these demands do not just stay on paper but are carried into action.

A local Unemployed Action Group has now been established. One of its priorities will be getting an unemployed centre off the ground. But it is also committed to firmly organising to fight back. One proposal it should seriously consider is pressing the Trades Council to march on Dublin against unemployment.

DURING THE week ending 26 September, 19 factory workers employed by Ault & Wyborg Paint & Furniture manufacturers, left the ITGWU and were accepted into AGE & MOU. Some of the men explained to *The Worker* why they felt it necessary to leave the ITGWU.

'We use a lot of very dangerous chemicals here, for example anidine dye mix, which is a particular health hazard.'

The safety of the workers when using this kind of chemical was called into question. But safety was not the only grievance. The general conditions of the factory and a low rate of pay were all brought to the attention of the ITGWU but got no response.

to attend talks in the Labour Court.

The Company has maintained that the dispute is an inter-union affair. This is denied by both ITGWU and AGE&MOU.

Scabs

But the boss still had his scabs. Every night a small number of scabs would load up the van and supply the shops. The men had no choice but to occupy.

On the 4 November a section of the workers took over the premises. Morale was high and practical problems were soon sorted out. An injunction was served on 6 of the workers—at 8pm on the 4th and 7am on the fifth. At this point, things started to go bad. They decided to accept as a mediator a well-known priest. It was at this stage that pressure was put on the workers. They were informed that the judge had instructed the local police to use the Forcible Entry Act and if they did

not vacate the factory they would be locked up that night.

All this was indeed very true. The police has the law on their side and were on the way but instead of using this information to get the men out, the mediator and others should have fought tooth and nail to keep the men in the factory, because no matter what was promised it was fear of what would happen when the police came that eventually got the men to come out.

Jailed

The men were jailed on the 9th and only released when they had given assurances that they would not occupy or picket their factory. They also had to pay £300 damages to the company. This is the first time trade unionists have been jailed since 1966. It is an ominous sign when workers are defending their right to join a union that they are attacked by the bosses, the law, and the police.

Inter-Union

The men felt they had no option but to join AGE&MOU. On Tuesday 29 September the shop steward wanted to discuss a safety matter with the plant manager. The plant manager informed him that he was under instructions from the Managing Director, Alan Grainger, not to recognise their union or their right to change to the union of their choice. They then withdrew their labour and placed a picket on the Company. Six members of the office staff—already members of AGE&MOU—and four laboratory staff supported them. The strike is now in its 6th week and the Managing Director has ignored all requests

Defend the Embassy 20

On the 18th July thousands of H Block Campaign Supporters marched to the British Embassy in what was planned as a peaceful demonstration. In Merrion Rd, the march was stopped by a massive concentration of Gardi equipped with riot gear. A riot took place in which the gardi ran amok, throwing bricks into the crowd and batoning men, women and children in a display of brutality which even the establishment papers were forced to comment on, but no arrests were made. Over a month later, police swooped and rounded up 20 people, seemingly at random—

some were political activists, some were not—and charged them under Section 7 of the Offences Against the State Act, with 'Obstructing the police with violence'.

There is no question that these people will have a trial by jury—they are all to face the political 'Special Criminal Court'.

This case affects us all. If we are to be able to have the right to demonstrate, this politically motivated attack on the 20 must be defeated. Raise the matter at your Trade Union Branch and workplace.

- Drop the charges!
- Defend the Embassy 20!

HARD TIMES

DUBLIN UNEMPLOYED ACTION GROUP

ISSUE NUMBER ONE NOVEMBER 1981 DUAG c/o ATGWU, 112 Marlborough St., Dublin 1.

3% - AN INSULT!

Hard Times is a paper for unemployed people produced by Dublin Unemployed Action Group. For more information contact them at ATGWU offices, 112 Marlborough St. from 2.30 - 4.00.

To 'celebrate' the increase the DUAG decided to picket the Dail and hand out 1000 leaflets to the public.