

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

May Day '94
Workers of
the world
unite!

South Africa shows



WORKERS CAN WIN!

PREJUDICE IN DALKEY

A NEWLY employed Dalkey librarian was shocked when she found that Traveller children were treated as second-class citizens by the library.

"These are settled Travellers attending the local school just like any other children," she told *Socialist Worker* "but they have to get special permission to

borrow books or even enter the library.

"Even those who get membership are not given full rights. They can only borrow special books.

"They're not allowed to use the music room and some of the library's games and tapes.

"This is complete discrimination. And it's not just here. It seems to be library policy in many Irish libraries."

An Irish welcome — if you're loaded!

MANY Irish people are rightly sickened by the Irish government's attitude to asylum seekers or refugees.

A spokesman for Amnesty says that "the treatment of refugees here is completely negligent.

There's an on-going risk of human rights being violated or abused because of lack of legislation".

In the early 1990s Ji Yao

Lau fled China because of fear of persecution, only to spend seven months in Mountjoy prison.

Three years ago a Libyan, Marey Gutrane, was also imprisoned.

His asylum application was rejected and only US sanctions on flights into Libya stopped the Irish authorities from deporting him.

How nice to know, then, that our government has got a more sympathetic, caring

side—to those that can afford it, that is.

In 1991 an American millionaire, Robert H. Burns, was given a certificate of Irish citizenship within three weeks when he promised to invest £2.5 million in Dromoland Castle hotel.

Rich Kuwaitis have also benefited from Irish "passport investments".

It appears that the size of your wallet can determine the size of Ireland's welcome.

The real divide

A RECENT study (by Labour MP Alan Milburn) shows that in Northern Ireland the real divide is between rich and poor—and it's getting wider.

Five thousand people making up the local one percent "super rich" earn an average income of £84,200 a year.

By 1991-92 they saw their earnings rocket by £58,000 from an average of £25,400 in 1980-81.

Over the same period the income of the bottom fifty percent went up by £3,034 on average.

The report also proves that NI has the lowest average income—£12,222 compared with £14,627 in the UK.

They estimate that the average NI family faces an extra £500 a year tax bill.

Stuff the Service Charges!

BURN THESE BILLS!



Waterford workers defeated service charges in 1989

THE three new County Councils in the Greater Dublin area have imposed service charges. Dublin Corporation will follow suit next year.

"Stuff the Water Rates!"—Posters and leaflets available from SWM, P.O. Box 1648, Dublin 8. Phone 8722682.

But the charges can be beaten if we all refuse to pay.

Working class action defeated service charges before.

In Cork Corporation, plumbers refused to disconnect the water supply of non-payers.

Waterford Corporation brought in scabs to cut off supplies on Paddy Brown Road. Hundreds of residents—backed up by Waterford Glass workers—ran them out of the area.

The Corporation was forced to admit defeat. Over £1 million in charges was never collected.

Dublin Corporation dropped its plans for water rates in 1985 when faced

with a massive non-payment campaign.

A similar campaign now could crush the County Councils.

Every estate and every street needs people to coordinate activity. Make sure no-one pays the bills when they arrive—burn them publicly instead.

The Councils may threaten us with jail—but they can't lock us all up!

Only a start

PEOPLE in South Dublin County Council areas will have to pay £70 for water. In Fingal it will be £85.

But these water charges are only a start.

Environmental Minister Michael Smith plans to install water meters in all private houses.

These will be similar to the meters currently used for electricity, gas and phones.

Smith wants to bring private companies in to build and maintain public water systems.

This is the first step

towards privatising water supplies.

When this happened in Britain, prices went up by a third.

People who couldn't pay their bills were cut off—over 21,000 in 1991.

The water companies didn't care that this led to a trebling in reported cases of dysentery—their profits went through the roof as well.

Meanwhile, four hundred jobs were axed by Thames Water alone.

Water meters and privatisation will bring similar misery to Irish workers.

They must be opposed.

Bosses get the breaks

TAXING THE NEEDY

The charges add to the crippling tax burden which working class people already suffer. In 1993 the PAYE sector coughed up 84 per cent of all taxes paid.

But the rich have no problem having their tax burden eased.

The Coalition modified the Residential Property Tax when the wealthy kicked up a fuss.

But even in its original form, the property tax was only going to raise £5 million in total.

This is peanuts compared to the £30 million the government plans to raise by taxing social welfare. In addition, they have scrapped pay-related benefit.

While the working class is crucified with extra taxes, the rich get off scot free. The tax amnesty simply wiped millions off the slate—the tax dodgers laughed all the way to the bank.

WHILE workers face service charges, this year's Finance Bill has lots of good news for Irish bosses.

Capital Gains Tax will be cut from forty percent to 27 percent.

Tax allowances for

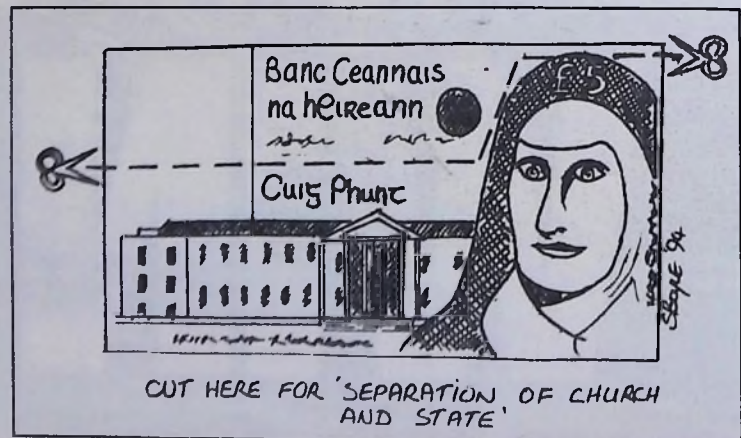
company cars and computers will be increased.

Someone getting a gift or inheritance of a business will have their tax bill cut by up to fifty per cent.

Companies with loans abroad who lose money because of foreign

exchange charges will be able to write off the loss against tax.

But working class people who can't afford to pay the service charges will be threatened with fines and jail.



CUT HERE FOR 'SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE'

ON TAP

THE Home Office has announced that Patrick Mayhew has issued a "substantial increase" in the number of phone taps in Northern Ireland.

Ulster Unionist David Trimble is annoyed not because of the increase but because taped phone calls and opened mail cannot be used in court as evidence.

Shoppers' paradise?

THE Square shopping centre in Tallaght seems to be a no-go area for working class youth.

Anthony Dunne from Tallaght says he was assaulted by a garda last July at the Beat on the Street in the Square.

Anthony is 19 and is mentally handicapped.

When a riot broke out he tried to run but fell to the ground and was badly beaten.

He was in St James's Hospital for two days and received six stitches to the head.

In a previous incident at the Square in February 1993 Joseph Dunbar saw a friend being beaten by two security guards.

Joseph tried to run but two security guards held him while a third hit him in the face with a walkie talkie.

Tallaght gardai refused to charge the security guard but they charged Joseph Dunbar instead.

On his 18th birthday on 6th April he was convicted of assault, fined £50 and ordered to pay £20 "compensation" to the security guard.

The cops' behaviour obviously has nothing to do with the fact that the head of security in the Square is Bill Munn a former superintendent in charge of Tallaght garda station.

Cashing in on Czechs

DUBLIN yuppie Barry Cullen is making a few fast bucks on the Czech property market.

Cullen went to Prague to take advantage of cheap property prices and now owns a block of apartments which he hopes to let at £400 to £500 each a month.

But it seems Cullen had to overcome one or two problems.

The tenants in his block—including a 90-year old—did not seem to want to leave their homes so he "relocated" them.

"It is difficult to move tenants, depending on your moral position," says Barry.

Also building workers in Prague are "painfully slow" according to Cullen. Who would blame them given the lousy wages they receive—what's your moral position on that one Barry?

BLACK SOUTH AFRICA VOTES AT LAST

Shaking off the chains

"I am an old man in the struggle. I remember the 1950s and how hard it was to believe that we could ever have a black person as president, that we could win self-respect. It was a struggle to make us believe in ourselves, and then a bigger battle to turn it into reality. I will be sad remembering our martyrs when I vote. But I will also celebrate what I see as an earthquake of liberation. A slow earthquake, an earthquake that needs to go deep. But still one that has moved so much"
—Les Patel, Johannesburg, trade union organiser.

MILLIONS of black people in South Africa have gone out and voted for Nelson Mandela and the ANC.

It is a victory for everyone who has stood up against racism.

Five years ago, the apartheid regime were boasting that they would "crush the ANC for terrorists that they are". They were supported by people like Thatcher and Reagan.

Companies like Cadbury's, BP and the Irish building bosses Sisks made millions out of apartheid and backed the system.

It was a system of terror and brutality where everything depended on your skin colour. Children were subject to detailed examination to see which racial category

they belonged to. Sexual relations between black and white were forbidden. Black people were not allowed to live in the same cities where they worked.

But all this horror was beaten by the power of the black working class. In 1976, the school students of Soweto rose up because they refused to be taught Afrikaans, the language of the white establishment.

Fought

In the mines and the factories black workers created a huge union federation, COSATU.

Every time, the apartheid regime tried to limit black rights, workers came out and fought for democracy and a decent life. When tin pot dictators like Mangope in Bophuthaswana tried to stop

black people voting, a civil servants strike turned into workers uprising that drove out his allies in the fascist AAVB.

The fight of black workers in South Africa should inspire workers all over the world. If workers can beat apartheid terror, then any government can be overthrown.

But the danger now is that the ANC will try to stop the movement so that a black yuppie class can be formed.

They have promised to share power with the de Klerk who presided over apartheid. In one of the sicker election posters, de Klerk's National Party proclaimed:

"Once we imprisoned you without trial, now we've made the change."

But de Klerk or the National Party will never change

fast enough for millions of black workers. People did not fight and suffer to be able to vote and still live in a hovel.

Millions of black people know that their countries wealth is controlled by companies like De Beers. A tiny handful of the white rich, five percent of the population, control 87% of all the wealth.

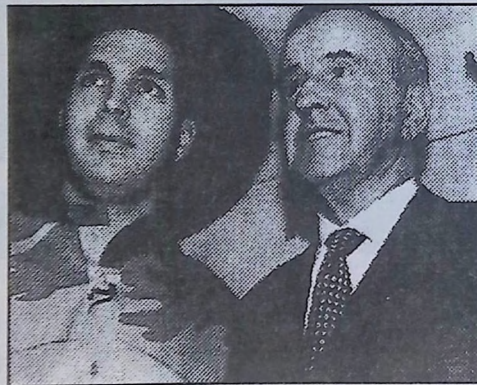
The ANC have promised a crash programme to eliminate poverty. They say that they will build a million homes in the next five years.

But they still promise the international financiers that their money will be safe in South Africa.

They cannot fulfil both promises. What is needed in South Africa is a genuine socialist movement that is committed to taking over the country's wealth and running it democratically in the interests of all.



WHAT A COW-BOY!



ALBERT Reynolds thinks that he has found a solution to the Northern conflict.

In a united Ireland 30% of places in the government would be kept for Unionist and Nationalist politicians from the North.

Top jobs in the public sector would also be dished out on the same basis.

Albert's message is

clear. In a united Ireland, the spoils would be shared out between the right wing politicians who have dominated a partitioned Ireland.

They would add the bigotry of the North to that of the South.

Demanded

It is a proposal that could only have come from a cowboy politician.

Imagine what would happen if Catholic, Protestant or Southern workers demanded more jobs or decent wages from that combination.

Or if working class women started to look for their rights to control their own bodies.

They would be told by Green and Orange Tories that they would have to stay quiet and make more sacrifice.

There is a better

way—there has to be! What is needed in Ireland is a political force that wants to smash both Irish states that Connolly predicted would produce a 'carnival of reaction'.

That is the only way that workers will get a say in this country.

And it is the only way that the likes of Albert Reynolds, Jim Molyneux and Ian Paisley would be sent packing.

Help us produce a fighting socialist paper every fortnight

Socialist Worker £10,000 Appeal

Socialist Worker is winning a growing reputation among workers.

Most of the rest of the press is controlled by big tycoons who put over the bosses side of the story.

One man, Tony O'Reilly, owns a third of all the Irish newspapers. He earns £70,000 a day and uses his papers to put across right wing ideas.

But up to now **Socialist Worker** has only appeared on a monthly basis. This has to change.

Thousands of people are looking for real answers. They know that capitalism is not working. But many are not yet sure what socialism is really about.

As one shop steward in TEAM Aer Lingus, "Two years ago when I talked about a revolution, people said I was

"I am happy to see Socialist Worker go fortnightly. I think we need a variety of socialist debate as never before. Socialist Worker makes an important contribution. I hope that the appeal succeeds"

MICK O'REILLY, General Secretary ATGWU, (personal capacity)

mad. But now they are saying it's not a bad idea—but can we pull it off".

To win over the thousands who feel like this and to bring them together into a fighting

socialist organisation, we need a more regular paper.

That is why from 1995, **Socialist Worker** will appear on a fortnightly basis.

As a first step towards

this, new regular sales are being established in the housing estates. In the Cuffe St flats complex in Dublin, for example, over 20 **Socialist Workers** were sold in less than an hour.

One man came back and ordered six more for his friends and promptly joined the organisation.

Building real roots in working class areas is now one of the main tasks for socialists. A more regular paper will be the key weapon in this.

But to produce a fortnightly we also need money. A lot of money.

In the next few months we need to raise

£10,000. That way we can go a long way to buy a new printing machine.

The only way we can raise the money is from our members and supporters.

That is why we appeal to all our readers to give as generously as possible. We need every donation no matter how small.

Send your money in now to SW Appeal, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8 and help us build.

BOSNIA:

NATO air strikes will not bring peace

THERE are 65,000 people currently besieged in Bosnian town of Gorazde, in the latest horror to overwhelm the people of former Yugoslavia.

In April Serb gunners targeted hospitals and houses in the hope of provoking such terror that the population would flee.

But Gorazde, is only one front in a horrific war which has been whipped up by nationalist warmongers.

In Magli and in Central Bosnia a Muslim offensive has forced many Serbs to flee.

This current suffering in Gorazde has been used by President Clinton to argue that NATO should conduct more air strikes.

"We must make the Serbs pay a higher price for their continued violence." He told a White House press conference.

But NATO will not bring peace to Bosnia. Instead it will mean a huge escalation of the fighting if they decide to carry through their threats.

Lord Owen has predicted that 100,000 extra ground troops would be needed to impose NATO's demand on the area.

The last US initiative in the region was a recipe for disaster. They stitched together an alliance between Croatia and the mainly Muslim Bosnian government.

President Clinton does not care that the Croatian leader Franjo Tudjman has committed atrocities, organised "ethnic cleansing" and run camps every bit as appalling as the Bosnian Serbs.

Promised

The US has promised Tudjman aid in return for allying with the Bosnian government.

Tudjman's regime is currently built on anti-Semitism and pandering to fascist lies. His book *The Wastelands of Historical Reality*, claimed that the Nazi Croatian state of the 1940s did not kill hundreds of thousands of Serbs, Jews and Gypsies at the Jasenovac extermination camp.

This new alignment between Croatia and Bosnia, promoted by the United States, has not only motivated the Bosnian Serbs to further acts of violence, but is the prelude to even greater conflicts in the months ahead.

Professor Adrian Hastings of the Action for Bosnia campaign has revealed:

"The Bosnia government is preparing for a considerable offensive."

Renewed fighting has broken out around the strategic town of Brcko in the north of Bosnia, which threatens to escalate even further.

The new NATO threats to the Serbs are a clear indication that the NATO war machine has decided to take sides in this war.

The former US Ambassador to Yugoslavia, Zimmerman, has claimed that "Bosnia shows that "NATO needs a new role where

of their sphere of influence.

Their response to the rise of nationalism in Russia is to try to win greater control of the region.

But this means that Bosnia can quickly become the front line of a new Cold War.

Even more horrific than the immediate horror of the siege of Gorazde would be an escalating of super-power rivalry in former Yugoslavia.

The indications are grim. But the latest tragedies taking place in Gorazde should not blind anyone to the fact that US and British involvement has nothing to do with saving lives.

it intervenes to protect strategic interests in areas outside its control."

Demonstrate

The NATO generals believe that they have to demonstrate that Eastern Europe is now part

THE COST OF THE WAR DRIVE

THE following lists costs during the 1991 Gulf War of typical Allied expenses:

Item	Cost	Would Buy
58 Patriot missiles	\$50m	12 months of clothes, seeds, pots and storage facilities for 2 million people in Mozambique
228 Tomahawk cruise missiles	\$352m	More than the total food aid needed for Ethiopia for six months
Two USAF F-15E fighters	\$56m	Save the Children's entire overseas budget for 1990-91
One bomb on a B-52	\$11,000	Run a clinic for 4060 patients in Bangladesh for 1 month—180 staff
Cost of bomb dropped in 31 B-52 sorties	\$62m	OXFAM's entire 1990 income
To train one Tornado pilot	£3m	Provides 25,000 Eritrean families with enough seeds and tools to recover from the drought
One Tornado	£21m	Saves the Children's budget for the Sudan over 12 months
Six Tornados	£126m	Enough grain to feed all the 20 million people starving in 1991 for one month (£5 per person)

**RWANDA:**

The bitter fruit of poverty

RWANDA has witnessed appalling violence in the last month, with tens of thousands of people having been butchered.

A brutal war, fuelled by murders carried out by the state security forces, broke out after the country's president, General Habyarimana was killed in an air crash, his plane apparently shot down by opposition forces.

Belgian and French troops hurried to Rwanda to help Europeans escape the killings, but potential African victims were left to their fate.

Angeline Ludakubana is a Rwandan now living and studying in Ireland. *Socialist Worker* asked her what she thought of the way the issue was portrayed in the media.

"Mostly the news reports describe the carnage in Rwanda as being the result of tribal differences between my country's two ethnic groups—the Hutu and the Tutsi.

"The impression is given that Rwanda is yet another trouble spot where tribal differences have suddenly erupted in mindless

violence. "There is no effort to explain that the terrible events of the last week are the result of a very complex and long-running political struggle in Rwanda."

The roots of the conflict are decades of imperialist rule and the poverty that followed in its wake.

Divisions

The original divisions in Rwanda and Burundi between people of Hutu and Tutsi ethnic backgrounds have their roots in the 15th century. But these divisions did not mean continual wars, Angeline explains:

"There are two ethnic groups—Hutu and Tutsi but unlike

other African countries the differences between the two groups are not great.

"We do not occupy separate regions we speak the same language and there is no religious divide between our peoples."

The divisions have been deepened and turned into violent confrontations by colonial invasion.

Germany seized Rwanda and Burundi in the 1890's and ruled with great cruelty. After the First World War both countries were given to Belgium.

In order to divide opposition to foreign control, the Belgian government deliberately set Hutu against Tutsi.

The Tutsi leaders were given privileges and acted alongside the Belgian government to crush the revolts.

A Belgian foreign office official wrote:

"The Tutsi are not, of course, people of the first rank. But they will prove an unlikely ally, a godly aid, in pacifying the continent for the higher race."

In 1959 a farm workers' rebellion sparked a bloody civil war and the Belgian government withdrew. Rwanda-Burundi was divided up and in Rwanda the predominantly Hutu party won the following elections.

Expelled

Leaders of the Hutus, who had previously been the most oppressed, now turned on Tutsis. Around 20,000 were killed and 160,000 expelled.

General Habyarimana took over the presidency in 1973. He ran the country as a virtual dictatorship and forced through "free market" measures.

His regime won widespread support from the West, getting funds from Japan, the US and France. But at the same time the poverty for the mass of people got far worse.

Half the population is illiterate and the average income is less than £3 a week. Under these terrible circumstances created by

capitalism, people's desperation has been turned on one another.

The refusal of Habyarimana to allow elections was the final provocation to the opposition. Following his death, the armed groups at the core of the state are fighting for their survival.

"The roots of the present crisis are not so much the result of conflict between the two ethnic groupings as the consequence of poverty and underdevelopment, the terrible debt-burden and widespread corruption among politicians and government officials," says Angeline.

The terrible suffering in Rwanda is an example of the bloodshed caused by the workings of capitalism. Rwanda does not need more outside intervention, it suffers from the legacy of that intervention. Hutu and Tutsi people can live together peacefully, but only if the power of the local and multinational rulers is broken.

LOYALIST MURDER GANGS

Racism exposed by Wright murder



Margaret Wright

THE murder of Margaret Wright is only one incident in the horrific history of loyalist violence.

"THE most horrific case I have ever seen" was how an RUC member described the murder of Margaret Wright recently. The killing shocked millions and revealed the racism of the loyalist paramilitaries.

Margaret Wright, a 31-year-old Protestant, was killed while at a party in South Belfast on 5 April. As many as sixty people watched as she was brutally beaten when she was mistaken for a Catholic.

She was then shot in the head, a fact which could not be confirmed in the first reports of the attack due to the injuries inflicted. A wheelie bin was used to take her body to a nearby empty house, where it was dumped in the garden.

The place of the murder was a loyalist bandhall. The hall had been leased to the "Pride of the Village" flute band.

But it provided a cover for the activities of the loyalist paramilitaries.

The club was used for drug dealing and the funds were used to support the activities of the UVF killer squads. But the RUC have always turned a blind eye to these money making schemes.

Immediately after the killing, there was virtually no condemnation from the Unionist politicians.

Only one DUP councillor came out against the atrocity.

Unionist politicians see the paramilitaries as a useful bargaining counter to help them get a better deal in any settlement that comes out from the Downing St declaration.

That is why they often keep quiet.

But the working class of the area had a very differ-

ent reaction. The Village is a very poor hard line loyalist area. But they turned on the thugs of the UVF. As a woman from the area said, "no-one deserved to die like that".

Condemn

This is best shown in the meeting called by the community to condemn the murders before it emerged that Margaret Wright was a Protestant.

The protest meeting demanded that the club be pulled down.

A few days later when the bulldozers arrived to demolish the building people cheered loudly.

The reaction of the Village to the murder of Margaret Wright shows how Protestant workers can fight the racist thugs of the UVF and UDA.

■ In 1974 Ann Ogilby, a Protestant, was abducted by female members of the UDA, brought to a club and bludgeoned to death while her six-year-old daughter listened in an adjoining room.

■ In 1992 Ann Marie Smyth wound up in a loyalist club.

When it was discovered she was a Catholic she was beaten, her throat was cut and her body dumped on waste ground.

■ In 1993 a young man, who'd suffered brain damage when a concrete block was dropped on his head in an attack years before, strayed into the Lower Shankill area and was beaten to death.

Now according to the *Irish Times* loyalist paramilitaries are responsible for nearly two attempted murders of Catholics every day in the North.

The Loyalist Command issued a statement recently that claimed their violence was not reactive but proactive.

They said that it would not stop even if the IRA laid down its arms.



The Loyalist band hall where Margaret Wright was murdered

This, out of the horse's mouth, puts paid to two of the biggest lies floated since the signing of the Downing Street Declaration—lies the Dublin government helped spread.

Stirred Up

Loyalist violence is not, and never was, reactive. Loyalist paramilitaries are stirred up by Unionist politicians, armed and funded by British Intelligence and often manned from the ranks of the security forces themselves.

It cannot be separated from the northern state but is an essential part of it.

The loyalist paramilitaries

are like the bloodhound of unionism, unleashed on nationalists whenever they're seen to be getting too uppity. But, like any dog, it can sometimes get out of control.

The North has a long history of sectarianism. In the 1790s, when Catholic farmers were agitating for land rights, the Orange Lodge was established. It in turn gave rise to night-riding societies like the Peep-O-Day-Boys.

Their objective was to terrorise those same farmers.

Widespread terror surfaced again and a gain throughout the 1800s and 1900s. It was always fanned by employers and MPs who

feared Catholic and Protestant unity.

During the 1960s and early 1970s, when Catholics were marching for civil rights, loyalists turned on Catholics in Bombay St and drove them out of the area.

Shotguns

Roadblocks, mounted by hooded men toting shotguns, appeared throughout the province and operated with little or no interference from the security forces.

Day after day Protestant estates yielded a grizzly crop of mutilated corpses, the brutality of loyalist gangs personified in the Shankill Butchers. Catholics were

picked up on the streets of Belfast, taken to the "Romper Rooms", horribly tortured and killed.

With the signing of the Downing Street Declaration a new wave of violence flared across the North. Loyalists killed thirty people last year, the nine massacred at Greysteel among them, and opened up the new year with more random attacks on Catholics.

Loyalist paramilitaries have recently attempted to fashion themselves on the republican counterparts but the brutal murder of Margaret Wright proves the lynch-mob element is as central to this generation of killers as it ever was.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY



THE Tories claim that the Child Support Agency was set up to help women and children by forcing "absent" fathers to pay maintenance.

But women in the North have found to their cost that this was another Tory lie.

Of the £530 million the agency was expected to collect in the first year only £50 million will go to mothers and children.

Any maintenance women get is deducted pound by

pound from their benefits.

One woman in Derry told *Socialist Worker*:

"The Child Support Agency is trying to get my ex-husband to pay maintenance for me.

"I don't mind him paying for the kids, he can afford it. But if he is forced to pay, it means I won't get Housing Benefit. So it'll be back to him paying my rent again.

"For sixteen years I put up with him beating me because I was dependent on him economically. He paid the rent. I told them, I'll fight it. I'm not going back to that

again."

One study of 3,500 single parents in Britain carried out by the National Council for One Parent Families reports women suffering a fall in income of £8 to £17.25 a week as a result of getting maintenance paid through the agency.

This is mainly because the majority of men do try to help pay for their children's upbringing, even when they're on low pay or the dole. But they do it by taking the kids at weekends, or buying them winter coats, shoes, presents at Christ-

mas and so on.

Once the Child Support Agency gets onto their case, whatever money they used to give their children goes instead to the Treasury and the children have to do without.

The point is that it is low benefits and lack of childcare that are to blame for the poverty of single parents - not "absent fathers". Meanwhile, the second families of both women and men are losing out.

The CSA is leading to greater poverty all round. It has to be scrapped.

Neilstown: 'The system can no longer contain social grievances'

NEILSTOWN is one of those areas in Dublin which has been rubbished by the media.

It is part of a huge sprawling working class area of about eleven housing estates known as North Clondalkin.

Neilstown itself was built in 1978. Since then it has branched out from being a small community to being a very varied Dublin community.

The only major construction work which has been done in the area in the past two years has been roundabouts and ramps to curb the joyriding problem which at one period sparked

by EUGENE KENNY

off serious disturbances in the area.

After the trouble extra police were drafted into the area and more empty promises were made.

But the idea of sending more footsoldiers didn't last long. The only time there is a cry for more policing now is when the media starts to whip up stories of an area under siege.

The real problem in the area is the lack of jobs. The unemployment rate in North Clondalkin is now running at 65 percent. Thousands have to survive on the meagre dole

or low paid Community Employment schemes.

The facilities shopping are dreadful. The post office, for example, is stuck in the corner of a grocery shop. There is no proper supermarket or leisure complex.

An active socialist who lives in the area described the mood at the moment.

"At the ground level people have lost a lot of hope. They are being exhausted of their fighting spirit and their political vision has been lost in the vacuum of the present system.

"The politicians are totally out of touch, not just in North Clondalkin but with every working class area in Ireland. They have nothing

to offer any more.

"But the divide is getting wider each day. You just have to look at figures for poverty in this country.

"I think the tide and time is changing for a new way forward. The system can no longer contain the social grievances of the general masses".

Projects

It's not all doom and gloom in North Clondalkin. People are making the most of the situation which confronts them. There are numerous community-based projects in the area, which makes a difference.

One community activist

had this to say:

"North Clondalkin has been neglected, its people have been neglected. The area has done its best under extreme conditions.

"As a community based worker in the community for the past three years I know that people are sick and tired of their situation.

"I feel there is growing bewilderment and frustration at the trap people are in. Maybe in the coming year some things may change for the community. It's been a long time coming."

The people, and only the people, make the changes in areas like this. North Clondalkin is a no man's land in the eyes of its politi-

Socialist Worker Public Meeting

WHY WE NEED A REAL SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE TO LABOUR

Speaker: RITCHIE BROWNE
Thursday 5th May, 8.00pm
Rowlagh Community Centre
(Beside Finches Shopping Centre)

cialists who sit idly back in complacency.

But there is a growing feeling for an alternative. As one local socialist puts it,

"It's no good sitting back in your armchair and being

the sitting room revolutionary. It's time for real action, it's time for change.

"It's no use giving out about your conditions to your friends. Things will change, when you change".

THE POLITICS OF AIDS

AS of 1993, the official figure of people who have tested positive to the HIV virus in Ireland is 1,368. To date, 341 people have been diagnosed with AIDS, of whom 150 have died.

It is agreed, however, that this figure represents only a fraction of the actual presence of HIV in the population. A conservative estimation would put the number somewhere nearer to 15,400 Irish people.

Twenty-four percent of all people diagnosed with HIV were heterosexuals who had not used intravenous drugs. AIDS is now a fact of life, Irish life.

The Dublin AIDS Alliance has been responsible for exploding some of the myths that surround the epidemic of AIDS. It helps people come to terms with the unacceptable, a life cut short.

The Alliance was established in 1987 as an umbrella group for the voluntary AIDS organisations. It provides services and support for all people affected by HIV/AIDS and accessible information to the general public. Most of all, it works to crush the stigma faced by people living with HIV/AIDS.

The Alliance also created a Drop-In Centre which provides counselling, support and legal and social welfare information, regardless of background or life style.

But in April, the Dublin AIDS alliance was forced to close its doors for a week after its grant from the government did not come through. It took a public campaign, including a march to Health Minister Howlin's office, to get the money.

The long term planning of Dublin Aids Alliance is still in jeopardy. The government's way of treating the organisation like a political football is typical of its general approach to the disease.

There is a scandalous attitude to the treatment of HIV sufferers in the prisons.

In Ireland 17% of drug users with HIV contracted the disease in Mountjoy prison where the sharing of needles is rife.

Yet even though this is a well known fact, the government has refused to give access to a methadone programme to wean prisoners off heroin or to provide a needle exchange programme in the prison.

Instead the Department of Justice operates a policy of segregating HIV prisoners from others. Yet almost every international study has shown that this is a bad idea. Prisoners who fear segregation will hide the fact that they have HIV.

The resources put into the treatment of HIV sufferers in the health service is also terribly low. In Ireland it is estimated that one consultant and their medical team will deal with nearly 800 HIV sufferers.

In Britain the equivalent figure is one consultant to 150 patients.

Nurses who want to take course in the treatment of AIDS often have to pay the cost of the courses from their own money.

HIV sufferers need a lot of care from public health nurses and community care workers. They need regular visits and careful monitoring of their condition.

But the public health care service in Ireland has been completely run down.

All the time the state tries to pretend that HIV and AIDS is not really an Irish problem.

It should not be let get away with simply relying on voluntary organisations to deal with the problem. But when they are used also widely these organisation should not need to get on their knees before they are funded.

How to stop the Nazis

Across Europe Nazi organisation are trying to grow by turning people's anger against poverty onto black people and immigrants.

But the Nazis can be stopped if there are socialist organisations are prepared to build roots in working class areas.

Here *Conor Kostick* looks at the fight to smash the British Nazis, the B.N.P.



BNP councillor Derek Beakon and friends

BRITAIN'S Nazis are hoping to benefit from the hatred people feel against the Tories by standing nearly fifty candidates in the local elections.

They hope to build on the success of Derek Beakon in east London's Isle of Dogs last year.

Their candidates will claim to care about housing and schools. They try to appeal to people who are desperate for jobs and decent housing, and see no other party doing anything to help them.

Micky Fenn, an east London docker has seen how they grow. "Poverty is being used by the fascists like the BNP as an excuse for racial hatred. Before the Bangladeshis it was the blacks. Before the blacks, Mosley attacked the Jews. Before the Jews it was the Irish."

Ted Hutchinson from the Isle of Dogs is a paraplegic whose housing was totally unsuitable for him "I was desperate. I asked members

of the Socialist Workers Party and BNP councillor Derek Beakon to see if they could do something."

"I was shocked to discover that the BNP were Nazis"

"The SWP rang up the council and threatened a demonstration outside their offices if nothing was done. Work on my flat has now started."

"Derek Beakon did come back."

"I said that I knew now that his party would get rid of people like me. I have now joined the SWP"

Although the BNP claim to have an answer to unemployment and poor housing, they stand for racist terror and mass murder.

Racist attacks have trebled in Tower Hamlets since the BNP victory. A vote for the fascists is a vote for more young Asians like Quddus Ali and Muktar Ahmed beaten close to death.

It is also a vote for the preventing any other group from organising.

15 BNP members attacked the home of some those campaigning to stop the M11 link road in east London, shouting "we're going to kill you hippy scum."

But the Nazis can be stopped. Already two massive marches of tens of thousands of black and white people have helped changed the atmosphere since Derek Beakon was elected.

60,000 people marched on the BNP headquarters on October 16th, when the fascists were defended with a vicious assault by the police against the demonstrators.

Another 50,000 came on the TUC march through east London on March 19th.

"It's changed the atmosphere in the area."

"All over east London last Sunday people were plastered in ANL and anti-racist strikers."

That's how one local anti-rac-

ist felt the day after the march. For the Nazi's to be completely smashed not only do black and white people need to march together, but every workplace and community needs to organise against them.

The SWP have been the backbone of organising workplace groups against the Nazis.

"We set up Council Workers against the Nazi's in Nottingham just before Christmas. I went round my department and 75 peo-

ple joined. "In one social service every body signed away and paid £1." Council worker.

A Liverpool postal up a group of Postals against the Nazis:

"I've had people badges and forms to join. People wear the badge. When they change clothes they make sure their badge on. It he

Sack this racist

THE Anti Nazi League in Ireland is stepping up its campaign for the sacking of Richard Lynn, a Professor of Psychology.

Lynn is using the facilities of the National University of Ulster at Coleraine to promote racist research. He is trying to prove that black people are less intelligent than whites.

Lynn's research is being funded by American nazi sympathisers from the Pioneer Fund.

The Pioneer Fund was set up in 1937 by Harry H Loughtin and Fredrick Osborn who wanted to popularise the sterilisation policies of the Third Reich.

The first act of the Pioneer Fund was to provide an English translation of the Nazi propaganda film, *Hereditary Defective*.

The film showed pictures of mentally handicapped people and claimed that there should be selective breeding to eliminate them.

The Pioneer Fund paid for public viewing of the film in America and in particular in schools.

The main financial support for the Pioneer Fund came from a millionaire textile manufacturer, Wickliff Draper, who is for the



repatiation of America Africa.

He provided the m Pioneer Fund campa 1960s against the US Court ruling which de schools.

Reputati

Lynn has been give from this fund for his Coleraine. Lynn had reputation for promo ideas. One article he called "The Sociobiol tionalism".

The prominent hist Hobsbawn claimed thi cle will be read "as ba onstrated scientifi ally bashing is what makes advance". Lynn connections w

Catch the Anti Nazi League coach to
RAGE AGAINST RACISM
London Carnival 28 May

Bands include: ★ The Levellers ★ Anchanak
★ Credit to the Nation ★ The Manic Street Preachers

Coaches leave Liberty Hall, Dublin, 9.00pm Friday 27th. Arrives London Saturday morning for Carnival. Non stop music until 8.30pm. Street parties and accommodation overnight in Brixton. Return Sunday 29th. All in price £35. For ticket Phone: (01) 872 2682 or contact ANL

JOIN THE
ANTI NAZI
LEAGUE
PO Box 4007,
Dublin 1

p

Nazi leader John Tyndall in paramilitary uniform with the swastika badge



BNP FASCISTS IN THEIR OWN WORDS

On the Nazis...

"Mein Kampf is my doctrine." John Tyndall, BNP leader.

"Hitler was a genius." Richard Edmonds, BNP deputy leader.

"The Holocaust? It didn't happen. Maybe a couple of hundred thousand Jews died, but so what?" Derek Beackon, BNP councillor.

"Hitler showed the way to a proper, fair and final solution to the Jewish question." John Tyndall

On Democracy...

"Democracy drives our youth out onto the streets, with limitless spare time to fritter away, the Jew comes forward and seduces them with his cunningly devised amusements, such as comic papers, sex films and rock and roll.

"As democracy tamely allows droves of dark-skinned sub-racials into our country, the Jew cleverly takes advantage of their presence to propagate the lie of racial equality with the ultimate results of intermarriage and race degeneration."

On Women...

"Much of the rampant feminism of our times is due to the general decline among the White Race of real manhood. The real man brings out the best in women, where manhood is in short supply, woman begins to try to ape man."

On their enemies...

"People whose freedom must be curbed are the pressure groups, the media, the trade unions, the City.

WE HAVE BEEN WARNED. IT NEEDS TO BE SAID LOUD AND CLEAR

**Anti Nazi League
SACK RICHARD LYNN!
No Racist Research!
March Saturday May 14th
Assemble 2.00pm
Coleraine Leisure Centre, Railway Road,
March to University of Ulster
For transport details contact ANL PO Box
103, Belfast 15 2AB or PO Box 4007,
Dublin 1**

The ABC of Socialism

Will there always be wars?

by DAVE McDONAGH

THE horrific wars in Bosnia and Rwanda have shocked many. But why are wars like this happening?

Some claim that human beings have always been warlike. It is part of human nature to be selfish and aggressive.

But war has not always existed. The historian Gordon Childe said that the earliest Stone Age people in Europe "seem to have been a peaceful folk—weapons of war as against hunters' tools are absent from their graves. Their villages lacked military defences."

It was only after the first forms of agriculture threw up a new ruling elite that warfare became common. After about 10,000 B.C. history sees the setting up of armed states to plunder other societies.

Others claim that war is a product of "male aggression". The women who protested against Cruise missiles at Greenham Common in England in the 1980s used the slogan "take the toys from the boys."

Forefront

Today some feminists point to the rapes that take place in Bosnia as proof that war is linked specifically to "male violence".

But men have also been to the forefront in campaigning against war. The film *Born on the Fourth of July* shows how male veterans of the Vietnam war eventually turned against the US government and took part in the anti-war movement.

During the Gulf War 10,000 men went AWOL from the US forces and 1,000 declared themselves conscientious objectors.

If war comes from male aggression, then it has to be asked why men have to be conscripted to fight in wars?

It is true that men dominate the governments and armies of the world. But it was a woman—Margaret Thatcher—who led Britain into the Falklands War and defended the sinking of the Argentinian ship the *Belgrano*.

And when there is war both ruling class men and women support the slaughter and working class men and women do the fighting and the suffering.

Present day wars are of-

ten seen as a product of "in-built" national or tribal hatreds. But this ignores the extent to which these hatreds have been whipped up by colonial powers.

In Africa, colonial powers such as Britain and Belgium often promoted the authority of the tribal elders in order to get support for their rule.

They also tried to favour one tribe over the other by recruiting greater numbers from particular tribes to run the colonial machinery.

In other cases the landowners were drawn from a particular religious group. In Bosnia, for example, under the Ottoman empire the landowners were Muslims. When Serbian nationalism first developed it tended to present all Muslims as the enemy.

Modern wars have their real origins in the nature of capitalism itself. These wars are the most bloody and far more civilians are massacred because of the huge advances in technology.

During the Gulf War, the US and its allies killed over 150,000 people in Iraq in the course of a few weeks. Even when there is peace, people go on dying. 200 people are killed each week in 62 countries throughout the world because of mines left over from wars.

Modern capitalism is the most warlike in human history because it is the most competitive society ever known. As capitalist companies grow and dominate their own markets they develop close links with their states in order to protect their interests abroad.

Economic competition can quickly grow over into competition between militarised states. When groups of capitalists want to increase their influence or grab more territory they go to war with each other.

The classic case here is the First World War. German imperialism demanded a re-division of the world at the expense of Britain. Millions died—including 50,000 impoverished Irish soldiers—in this war for profit.

Capitalism also brings with it the potential destruction of particular ruling classes. In this situation, nationalism is used to bind the masses of people to their rulers.

In the former Yugoslavia, the economic crisis of 1988-89 led the ruling elite to split. As people like Milosevic of Serbia and Tudjman of Croatia felt a mounting workers' anger they switched from being communist to rabid nationalists. They hoped to save their position by grabbing more territory.

If war has its origin in the nature of capitalism then this has implications for how it can be stopped.

Clearly, the UN offers no solution. The UN is run by the big powers like the US and Russia who have engaged in brutal wars in Vietnam and Afghanistan.

They use the UN to promote their own interests. Iraq was bombed to bits because it took over territory in Kuwait—but Israel was rewarded by US aid even though it has conquered territory in Jordan and Lebanon.

But if we cannot rely on the UN, how do we stop war?

Politicians always use wars to deflect workers' anger away from the bosses and onto another "nation" or "tribe". That is what Serb, Croat and Muslim rulers have done in Bosnia.

But war soon brings misery for the working class. In Bosnia workers from all three ethnic groups face death in the war itself or poverty due to having to take wage cuts to pay for the war.

Strikes

War weariness has seen the growth of an anti-war movement in the region as well as strikes by workers against wage cuts. A return to class struggle can overcome the ethnic divisions.

The best example of this happened during the First World War.

First workers in Russia overthrew their rulers in 1917 and ended Russia's participation in the conflict. Then mutinies by German soldiers and sailors along with mass strikes by workers resulted in Germany's surrender in 1918.

The revolution in Germany was defeated and eventually the Russian Revolution was destroyed by Stalin. But the lesson for Bosnia and elsewhere is clear—workers' revolution is the best way to stop a war and the founding of a socialist society can ensure that wars need never happen again.

Friends show their true face

Postal services department signed up straight id £1." Said one postal worker set of Postal Workers zis: people asking for us to join at work. the badges all the they change their take sure they keep n. It helps isolate

anyone who thinks they might be able to get away with racism."

More importantly, the SWP have been out on the estates. Chris, a member from east London explained that socialists have an answer to the issues of unemployment and poverty - which is to organise people against the real enemy.

"The BNP have gone to the estates. We have to challenge them there. We have to ask 'what are the BNP going to do about VAT

on fuel and a whole load of other issues?"

"We should be building VAT action groups on every estate offering real alternatives to the Nazis."

The work of building against the Nazis and building socialist organisation have always gone hand in hand.

Eleven people joined the local SWP branch after the BNP victory. But beyond them Socialist Worker readers were crucial to filling an Islanders Against the Nazis coach to Welling.

Now there is a network of Socialist Worker supporters on every estate and in almost every workplace - from council offices and health centres to supermarkets.

These supporters have been out campaigning against the BNP in the run up to the local election.

"We met a man whose whole family voted for the BNP," said a health worker on the Isle of Dogs.

"He said that he didn't think Beackon would get in again though, because 'you anti-Nazis have been all over this island like a rash.'"

right go very deep. He is also an associate editor for the magazine, *Mankind Quarterly*.

A previous editor of *Mankind Quarterly* was the scientist von Verschuler.

Verschuler was the tutor and mentor of the Nazi experimenter Joseph Mengele. Verschuler advised Mengele to go to Auschwitz as a "unique opportunity for research".

Mengele sent the results of his experiments—including the eyes of all the twins he'd dealt with—to Verschuler.

The present editor of *Mankind Quarterly* is Roger Pearson. Pearson has been the chair of the World Anti Communist League—a group described by the *Washington Post* as "an assembly of all the forces of authoritarianism, neo fascism, race hate and anti Semitism in the US".

Richard Lynn claims to be involved in pure neutral science. But he receives his money from a group set up to popularise Nazi ideas and helps to edit a magazine which includes fascist contributors.

That is why he should be immediately removed from his post where he is lecturing hundreds of students.

Racist Professor



American Blacks to

the money for a campaign in the the US Supreme which desegregated

itation

been given £30,000 for his research in n had already a promoting racist icle he wrote was ociobiology of Na-

ent historian Eric med that the arti- "as having dem- tically that paki makes humanity

sions with the far

THE WAR THE U.S. LOST...

by DAVID
DUNNE

V I E T N A M

LAST MONTH, the former US President Richard Nixon died. One of his main claims to fame was that he lost the Vietnam war.

By the time he pulled the US forces out of Vietnam in 1975, Nixon and the US war machine had dropped more bombs on North Vietnam than all the bombs dropped during the Second World War.

This experience of Vietnam should be remembered when there are new calls for the US to be sent into Bosnia to act as the world's cop.

The origins the Vietnam War go back to the French colonialisation at the end of the last century. The French encountered huge opposition from the nationalist guerillas. In 1954, they decided to make a stand at Diem Bien Phu but were routed by the guerilla army led by General Giap.

As the French withdrew, the Geneva Accords imposed a temporary partition of the country on the 17th parallel. There was to be election within two years to unify the country.

But the US feared that Ho Chi Minh, who they denounced as a communist, would win the elections. So they cancelled the elections and started to back the Saigon regime in South Vietnam.

In 1961 President J.F.Kennedy sent 400 US military advisors to South Vietnam. In the next two years this had increased to 18,000 and by the end of 1967 this figure was 470,000.

By 1968 the war was costing 27 million dollars a year to 'run efficiently' and Lyndon B. Johnson, the then US President, was ignoring his 'Great Society' social welfare programme. The popular anti-war chant rhymed, 'L.B.J. L.B.J. L.B.J. how many kids have you killed today.'

WHEN Nixon came to power he stepped up the bombardment of North Vietnam.

He ordered the dropping of thousands of tons of napalm which was designed to stick to skin and cause severe burns.

US soldiers were encouraged to treat all Vietnamese as 'gooks' who could be butchered at will. The worst case was in My Lai in 1968 when a Lieutenant Calley led a 'Search and Destroy' mission. He lined up 500 unarmed villagers and shot them with automatic weapons. Afterwards Calley claimed that 'it was no big deal'.

The US believed that they could win the war by cutting off the 'Ho Chi Minh trail'—the route by which weapons and soldiers travelled from North Vietnam. Their favourite weapon was a toxic chemical named Agent Orange. This was supposed to wipe out all plant life and leave the guerillas exposed to US bombing.

The US were determined to win the war for many reasons.

The CIA were profiting from the production of heroin and cocaine in Laos and Cambodia. The US wanted to save face during the Cold War after the defeat of Korea. Finally, through winning the war they hoped to achieve the systematic silencing of certain un-



US soldiers were encouraged to treat all Vietnamese as 'gooks' who could be butchered at will. The worst case was in My Lai in 1968 when a Lieutenant Calley led a 'Search and Destroy' mission. He lined up 500 unarmed villagers and shot them with automatic weapons.

desirables and 'subversives.'

ACROSS the world huge protests mounted against US brutality

In Yugoslavia thousands of students were expelled from the League of Communists for anti-war demonstrations, a brave act in a time when civil unrest in Yugoslavia was usually quelled with tanks and machine-guns.

In England the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign carried out many successful marches against the war, including one of 100,000 people in Hyde Park.

In Ireland there were sit-ins on O'Connell Street and outside the American Ambassador's residence.

But the biggest resistance came naturally from the US. In 1965 the famous French philosopher, Jean-Paul Satre, refused to address an anti-war rally saying the anti-war movement in the US had no political weight.

This was a fairly accurate assessment at the time.

But as the war escalated thousands soon came onto the streets to let their voices be heard. 'Teach-ins' were organised in the universities to examine what the Pentagon was doing in Vietnam.

When the Democratic Party held its election convention in 1968 thousands of demonstrators were baton charged by the police and 800 people were injured.

ON THE 31st January 1969, the Vietnamese launched their Tet offensive.

They rose up in 36 major towns and captured Hue, Vietnam's third major city.

In response Nixon widened the theatre of war to include Cambodia which he invaded on Thursday 30th April 1970.

On the Monday after the announce-

ment of war in Cambodia all the colleges went on strike and demonstrated. In the ensuing trouble with the National Guard in Kent State University four students were shot dead with no explanation from authorities.

And on the following Monday and Tuesday 4 million students demonstrated all over the US at the Kent State Killings, the war and the oppressive government of the time.

The anti-war movement in the US soon spilled over into the US army itself. 'Bloods' and 'brothers' realised the real enemy was the White American Capitalist whose war they were forced to fight and not the Vietnamese farming families they were 'napalming' into oblivion.

In 1969 in Fort Bragg, North Carolina 45 black G.I.s faced court martial rather than break up an anti-war demonstration.

A small number of soldiers mutinied rather than invade Cambodia.

Many soldiers bore the motto 'Make love, not war' or 'Fuck the Green Machine' on their helmets or painted on tanks.

On the USS Coral Sea, one quarter of the men signed a petition not to go to Vietnam.

AT THE height of the discontent in the army, there were seventy rank and file anti-war papers circulating among the troops.

In a Whitehouse investigation into drug use amongst the military in 1968, 35% smoked 'pot,' whilst a frightening 10% smoked readily available heroin called 'Scag.'

It was found that 100,000 became addicted to heroin in two years and the delightful phrase 'Fuck the Army, smoke Scag,' appeared with increasing rapidity on toilet walls.

Whilst many soldiers used 'pot' to relax and relieve stress and heroin to stay awake and heighten the senses whilst on long, arduous patrols, the underlying cause was escapism.

Another more violent gesture of defiance was 'fragging' where a fragmentation grenade was tossed into the fox-hole of an unpopular officer who was considered a little too enthusiastic about leading his men to their deaths.

A 'fragging' death was often announced to cheers in mess-halls or cinemas. In 1969 numbers stood at 126 but in 1971 this had risen to 465.

Vietnam destroyed the myth that the US army could never be beaten.

The Vietnamese people who had spend night after night sheltering down in sewers to escape US bombing raids, beat the biggest military power in the world.

For nearly twenty years after Vietnam the US generals and politicians suffered from the 'Vietnam syndrome'.

They were no longer confident that they could hold together their army if they set about invading other countries whose regimes they despised.

If it were not for the US defeat in Vietnam. Reagan, for example, would have sent the US marines into Nicaragua. Instead he had to rely on a slow policy of destabilisation and isolation.

US involvement in South America, Indo-Asia, the Middle-East, Africa and Europe has shaped the world today and the repercussions will live with us for many decades to come.

US brinkmanship has brought us to the edge of World War III on several occasions noticeably in Korea and Cuba.

The nearly redundant US military machine still feels it necessary to play the role of 'World Cop,' ever valiant in its pursuit of evil—well at least when there's oil involved—and fighting for God, Country and 'the American Way.'

Vietnam shows why we should never rely on the generals of the Pentagon to bring peace anywhere.

What's On

Branches of the SWM meet around the country at the following times and venues

Athlone
Meets every Tuesday. For details of time and venue write to the SWM national address.

Dublin North Central
Meets every Wednesday 8pm Conway's Pub Parnall St
Wednesday 4th: Why we need a fighting socialist alternative
Wednesday 11th: Will there always be war?
Wednesday 18th: What do socialists say about crime?
Wednesday 25th: May 68: The fire last time

Dublin Northside
Meets every Tuesday 8pm The Old Brogue, Dorset St
Tuesday 3rd: Why we need a fighting alternative to Labour
Tuesday 10th: What do socialists say about war?
Tuesday 17th: May 68: the fire last time
Tuesday 24th: Can Israel and Palestine make peace?

Dublin South Central
Meets every Thursday 8pm Trinity Inn Pearse St

Thursday 5th: Why we need a fighting alternative to Labour
Thursday 12th: May 68: the fire last time
Thursday 19th: The rise of loyalist violence in the North
Thursday 26th: Can Israel and Palestine make peace?

Dublin Southside
Meets every Wednesday 8pm Clarkes Bar, 11 Wexford St
Wednesday 4th: Why we need a fighting socialist alternative
Wednesday 11th: Will there always be war?
Wednesday 18th: What do socialists say about crime?
Wednesday 25th: May 68: The fire last time

Tallaght/Clondalkin
Meets every Wednesday 8pm Tallaght Welfare Society next to Foxes Covert in Tallaght village

Thursday 5th: Why need a fighting alternative to Labour, Rowlagh Community Centre, Clondalkin (note different day/venue)
Wednesday 11th: Vietnam: The war the US lost
Wednesday 18th: What do socialists say about crime?
Wednesday 27th: Israel and the Palestinians

Maynooth
Meets every Wednesday 1pm Maynooth College, Tutorial Room 4

Waterford
Meets every Tuesday 8pm ATGWU Hall, Keyser St
Tuesday 3rd: Can the rise of fascism be stopped?
Tuesday 10th: Where now for South Africa?

Tuesday 17th: Socialism and Womens liberation?
Tuesday 24th: What do socialists say about crime?

Belfast
Meets every Tuesday 8pm See SW sellers for details or contact national office
Tuesday 3rd: From Malcolm X to the Black Panthers: The fight against racism today
Tuesday 10th: Does the working class still exist?
Tuesday 17th: 20 years since the Ulster Workers Strike: Could it happen again?
Tuesday 24th: Why is Trotsky still relevant?

Derry
Meets every Tuesday 8pm Badgers Pub Orchard St
Tuesday 3rd: Does the working class still exist?
Tuesday 10th: From Malcolm X to the Black Panthers: The fight against racism today
Tuesday 17th: Why is Trotsky still relevant?
Tuesday 24th: 20 years since the Ulster Workers Strike: Could it happen again?

Cork
Meets every Thursday 8pm Anchor Inn, Georges Quay
Thursday 4th: Why need a fighting alternative to Labour
Thursday 11st: Trotsky: What did he stand for?
Thursday 18th: Crime: who is to blame?
Thursday 25th: What is socialism?

Dundalk
Meets every Tuesday 8pm McConvilles Pub

To contact the SWM in Bray, Coleraine, Cookstown, Drogheda, Galway, Kilkenny, Limerick & Athy, write to SWM PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Phone (01) 872 2682 or PO Box 103 Belfast 15 2AB

BOOKS ARE WEAPONS
SW Books stocks the most comprehensive selection of socialist books in Ireland.
We have a wide range of books on racism, fascism, women's oppression and trade unionism.
We have most books by Marx, Lenin, Trotsky and Connolly.
For full details write to SW Books, P.O. 1648 Dublin 8

What we stand for

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

FOR REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM
The present system cannot be reformed out of existence. Parliament cannot be used to end the system. It has to be overthrown. The machinery of the capitalist state—parliament, courts, army, police etc.—is there to defend the interests of the capitalist class, not to run society in a 'neutral' fashion. To destroy capitalism, workers need to smash the state and create a workers' state based on workers' councils.

FOR REAL SOCIALISM, EAST AND WEST:
The SWM welcomed the break-up of the USSR and the end of the East European dictatorships. These states were not socialist but were run by a state-capitalist class. Workers' revolutions are needed to win real freedom in the East. We are against the domination of the globe by imperialist powers and we oppose their wars. We are for the right of all nations, East and West, to self-determination.

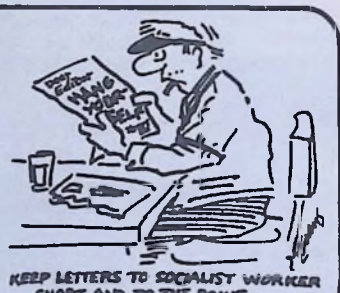
FOR AN END TO ALL OPPRESSION
We oppose all forms of oppression which divide and weaken the working class. We are for full social, economic and political equality for women.
We stand for: free contraception and free, legalised abortion and the right to divorce; the complete separation of church and state, an end to church control over schools and hospitals; an end to discrimination against gays and lesbians; an end to racism and anti-traveller bigotry.
We argue for working class unity in the fight against oppression.

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

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

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

LETTERS to the editor



Agree? Disagree? You can send your letters to: *Socialist Worker*, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8

Irish Rail safety runs into buffers

THE only thing Irish Rail has to offer is safety and comfort, based on old fashioned rules and regulations.
Now the company's policy is economics and danger, an attempt to bring in a practise where the rules will be relaxed, introducing a system that is new to this country and not on a par with any other.
The company points to Britain where one man operated trains operate, but there the system is different. If a driver on BR fails to acknowledge a signal for any reason, the train will automatically come to a stop. This device—"stop a train" cuts power and applies the brakes automatically as on the DART.
Irish Rail wants to bring in a system solely dependent on CAWS or



"Dead Man's Handle"—a system that is presently operated with the second man, the guard.
This system has proved most unreliable and outdated. A train can travel a long distance before coming to a stop.
If a driver fell ill it is possible to activate this equipment without knowing it and run the train into danger.

RAIL WORKER, CO. OFFALY

ICTU misses opportunity on May Day

AS a socialist I am delighted that this year's May Day is at last a public holiday.
It is also good to see it coincide with the ICTU's centenary celebrations.
Plans for this year's May Day rally seem to be getting much more notice, and union eladers seem to be putting

some effort into trying to build for the march.
This is a welcome change, as in previous years union leaders and indeed most unions almost totally ignored this important celebration of workers' rights.
However, the problem this year lies in the fact that Congress seems determined to ensure that there is no politics or class focus to the day.
In my workplace the union is building for the march, but it is billing the event as almost another Patrick's Day parade and is thanking the company for the use of their bus as a float on the march!
This is after a year of constant attacks on our conditions and the introduction of a two-tier work force.
Posters advertising the day's events are also being sponsored by many companies which continue to attack their workers day in day out. Nowhere will we hear of the government's attacks on working class people, or employers' use of cheap youth labour.
For this reason it's important that every socialist attend the day's events and reclaim the real tradition of May Day: International Workers' Day.

LAURA CANNING

DE. MCCORMACK, CRUMLIN.

Tories get nasty on videos

THE Tories have introduced tough new legislation regarding violent films.
This means that video store owners face two years' imprisonment for hiring out videos which could be "psychologically harmful" to children.
The reason for this hysteria is that violent films apparently cause innocent, law-abiding children to be-

come evil sadistic murders. The example is supposed to be the Jamie Bolger case.
But a there is not a shred of evidence for this. A Merseyside police inspector said "if you are going to link this murder with a film, you might as well link it to *Railway Children*"
The Policy Studies Institute found that young offenders watch no more violent films or TV pro-

grammes than other teenagers.
Once again the Tories have sought a convenient and popular myth on which to blame the flaws of society—flaws for which they are themselves responsible.
The campaign against video "nasties", although on a smaller scale, is similar to that against single mothers—that it is they who are responsible for

crime. It would not be surprising if violent videos were also blamed for the recession.
In their failure to acknowledge that crime is a fault of society, not horror films, the Tories have managed to find yet another scapegoat. Anything rather than admit that they themselves might just be to blame.

Book:

Strike of bigotry

Jim Lewis reviews a new book about the loyalist strike of 1974

IN 1974, the Ulster Workers Council strike brought down a Nationalist-Unionist power sharing government.

It was to shape the politics of the North for the next twenty years.

Now a new book by Don Anderson provides fascinating reading on how the strike was organised.

Power sharing itself had come on the back of the civil rights struggle and the events of the early 1970s. The Unionist leader Brian Faulkner joined forces with 'moderate nationalists' led by John Hume and Gerry Fitt.

The civil rights movement had ended forever the old days of "a Protestant state for a Protestant people" and more importantly capitalism itself had long since outgrown the old sectarian structures.

Two things, however, stood in the way: the loyalist terror gangs and Ian Paisley's DUP. In response to power sharing which was seen as a threat to Protestantism and the union with Britain, the Ulster Workers Council was formed with one primary function - to bring down Stormont by means of a general strike.

It is here that Anderson destroys the greatest myth about the strike. Contrary to loyalist legend, the strike was far from solid from the start.

One of the main reasons for this was a failed UDA-organised strike the year before. The one-day strike in 1973 had been a complete disaster for the UDA. In a 24-hour period five people had been shot dead and seven wounded.

One of those killed had been a fireman tackling a fire in the Protestant heartland of Sandy Row. He had been deliberately shot dead to prevent the fire being put out.

This killing, and others like it, had totally disgusted the ordinary Protestant workers upon whose support the strike organisers were depending and had driven many workers away from the UDA.

The 1974 general strike was led in name by Harry Murray, a loyalist shop steward in the almost completely Protestant shipyard, but the real people pulling the strings were the loyalist paramilitaries of the UDA and the Vanguard Unionist Party led by people like Andy Tyrre and Glen Barr.

Intimidation

The strike itself began on Wednesday 15 May and the response to it was poor. It was estimated that on the first day less than ten percent of Protestant workers were on strike. What was needed, the UCW agreed, was a mass campaign of intimidation by the UDA to kickstart the strike.

No better indication of this was Belfast's shipyard. A meeting was called by the hardliners for 10 a.m. which was sparsely attended, the majority of workers choosing to continue working.

In response to this another meeting was called for lunchtime whilst the UDA leaders patrolled the shipyard demanding support. This time the meeting was better attended!

The British army and the police did nothing to attempt to end the strike. Barricades were rarely removed and the army's only role was a token gesture of manning the gas stations towards the end of the strike which they managed to botch up.

The Labour government itself was completely at a loss about what to do. At one stage the Home Secretary Merlyn Rees had to be taken from Stormont Castle to be shown barricades which he had argued had not existed!

The main opposition to the strike came from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, which organised two "back to work" marches. The main march at the entrance to the shipyard was led by the TUC leader Len Murray.

But it numbered less than two hundred, mainly union officials, church leaders and other "well to do" individuals. This tiny courageous bunch were met with a barrage of eggs and verbal abuse. At one stage Len Murray was punched in the face.

Why the ICTU was isolated is simple: they had built an organisation that totally confined itself to industrial issues. Any mention of radical politics had always been taboo, and at every point concessions had been made to the state.

Now, faced with a political strike, they were at a loss - they had not built a movement that could challenge sectarianism.

From its stumbling beginnings the UDA-led Ulster Workers Council found itself in a strong position. Quite simply, the state had handed victory to them on a plate.

The beginning of the end was prime minister Harold Wilson's speech on 24 May when, in a fury, he refused to deal with "people who spend their lives sponging on Westminster and then systematically assault democratic methods. Who do these people think they are?"

This was the final nail in the coffin of the Executive. Within days it fell, to the jubilation of the loyalists.

The one central weakness in the book is that the working class itself seems to be non-existent. While we are told of massive intimidation, it would certainly have been more constructive with a more in-depth look at the mood within the Protestant working class as a whole.

The tragedy of the UWC strike was that there was no sizeable socialist alternative to the reactionary ideas of the UDA. The vacuum on the left had already been filled by the IRA, who could provide no strategy for class unity. Those Protestants who resisted the strike had no effective class-based politics to turn to.

The importance of this has never been clearer than today, with loyalism in terminal decline.

This is a book that should be read by all those on the left—a testament to the failure to build a socialist organisation to challenge the state, with vital lessons for the class struggle ahead.

Fourteen May Days: The Inside story of the Loyalist strike of 1974, by Don Anderson (Gill & Macmillan)

Classic:

A terrible state of chassis

Kieran Glennon reviews Sean O'Casey's *Juno and the Paycock*

"JUNO and the Paycock", which is running at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin until May 29th, is one of Sean O'Casey's best plays.

It is set in a tenement in Dublin in 1922. O'Casey wanted to portray the misery and injustice suffered by Dublin workers.

At the time, Dublin had the highest rates in Europe for TB, prostitution and meths drinking.

These rotten conditions force themselves into every corner of his characters' lives.

The main character, Juno Boyle, is a rock of a woman.

The men in her life are weak and pathetic: her husband, Captain Boyle, is a workshy chancer, concerned only with conning the price of a pint.

Her son, Johnny, mopes around the house, haunted by memories of the War of Independence and the Civil War.

Juno's family is all she has and throughout the play she has to battle to hold it together in the face of all that life can throw at her.

At the start of the play, Juno's daughter Mary is gaily tying ribbons in her hair before going on a picket line.

But she dumps her boyfriend, a union organiser, for a nice respectable schoolteacher.

He, however, leaves her in the lurch when she becomes pregnant.

The events of the world outside also burst in on the Boyles.



John Kavanagh as Joxer Daly and Brendan Gleeson as Capt Boyle in *Juno and the Paycock*

Johnny is killed by his former comrades in the anti-Treaty IRA.

Juno is united in grief with her neighbour Mrs. Tancred, whose son was killed fighting for the Free State army.

Repossessed

Both women have given their sons for Ireland—but that doesn't stop Juno's furniture being repossessed.

Nationalism and the achievement of nationalist goals have done nothing to improve the lot of working class people—if anything, their position has got worse.

In the famous words of Captain Boyle, "the whole

world's in a terrible state of chassis!"

O'Casey's message is that for workers to escape this state of chassis, they have to stick together.

Lady Luck, Mother Ireland and the middle class will all let them down—they can rely only on themselves.

This message still holds today.

Sean O'Casey was born in the slums of Dublin in 1880.

He went to work at an early age as a manual labourer.

It was these experiences that coloured his politics and his writing.

He went on to become a founder and first secretary of the Irish Citizen Army.

In the Civil War, he took the anti-Treaty side.

However, he could see the limitations of republicanism.

Heavily influenced by the ideas of Jim Larkin, he felt that nationalism could not really improve the lot of working class people.

Rejection

O'Casey's rejection of republicanism, and in particular his portrayal of the IRA in "The Plough and the Stars", led to the republicans orchestrating riots outside the Abbey Theatre when the play opened.

The tragedy of O'Casey was that while his gut instincts were socialist, his

political thinking never developed to a level where he could see workers bringing about their own liberation.

In his later years, O'Casey was drawn by Stalinism—even to the extent that he backed the Russian invasion of Hungary in 1956.

In recent years, O'Casey has been used by revisionists to push an simple anti-republican message.

But O'Casey's hostility to republicanism was not of a reactionary nature.

He remains a radical who never quite found the politics to really express his loathing of capitalism. Go and see this play.

Radio:

A dose of the runs

Mick Doyle reviews 'Riverrun'

RTE's daily radio serial Riverrun would, as my granny used to say, put years on you.

Set in the mythical village of Drumselby, a sort of middle class homeland, it's meant to reflect the trials and tribulations of ordinary people.

Numbered among those ordinary people are a sexist barrister, a sherry-tipping parish priest, a terribly posh playwright, a manageress with a "fiersh" Cavan accent, a super-clean rock star who lives in a castle and a psychiatrist

whose capable tones would drive you into St Brendan's.

There are two ordinary people alright.

Both of them have working class Dublin accents, although at least one, Billy, is supposed to have roots in the area that go back yonks.

Chancer

To listen to him you'd swear he was born in the Coombe, a few doors down from Biddy Mulligan.

He's a bit of a daw really and is generally treated as such by the other inhabitants.

The second wookin class character, Terry, actually owns a shop.

But he's a bit of a chancer and always on the look out for a fast buck.

Sure doesn't everyone know working class people are either stupid, criminal or both. Most of the problems faced by Drumselbyites are fairly mundane; cats running away from home and stuff like that. But there was a major dilemma recently.

Maria, spoilt child and offspring of the barrister and psychiatrist, discovered she was pregnant.

After much moral to-ing and fro-ing she decided to do the right thing and have the kid.

Her aul fella bought her a car to celebrate. Her ma wasn't too happy though.

She'd hinted at alternatives but couldn't bring herself to utter that awful word.

Yes, the equal opportunities employer has done it again. But then what could you expect from a network whose presenters affect a working class accent whenever they wish to convey stupidity or criminality?

Whose advertisements constantly portray working class people as either one or the other?

And whose dramas, when they condescend to include working class people, do the same thing?

Oh yeah, Riverrun is broadcast twice a day, around 12.45 and 6.05, so be out of the house if you can manage it at all.

If you have a story from your workplace phone (01) 872 2682

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Scheme Workers

THE Community Employment Programme (CEP) is Bertie Ahern's new name for Social Employment Schemes (SES) and Community Employment Development Projects (CEDP).

The way most scheme workers discovered the change was when they got their pay cheques. Under the CEP the government is taxing the scheme workers, bringing their wages down from an already dismal £77 to £72 or £72.50.

It was the non-taxation of community employment income which previously en-

couraged many unemployed workers to take up scheme work.

Now they're left feeling betrayed and very angry. But the Labour Party have no qualms about attacking some of the most unprotected and hard up workers.

A conservative estimate of the yield from the CEP tax is in the region of £5,600,000.

Mary Murphy of the INOU said: "a reduction in the meagre wages of the scheme workers can only be described as a despicable act of injustice on the part of the government".

The cost of travel, lunch money and social expenses ensured that scheme workers were never much better off financially than on the dole. This tax now means that for twenty hours' work most people are getting only £9 more

than on unemployment assistance.

According to Mary Murphy "the imposition of this tax reflects the government's apathy towards unemployed people and their families".

Scheme workers are infuriated by the tax. At Dublin's City Arts Centre they have launched Scheme Workers' Action to get the tax revoked and to demonstrate their anger.

An Arts Centre scheme worker told Socialist Worker: "A lot of community employment is cosmetic anyway, a way for the government to reduce the live register. We hadn't much choice as it took us off the dole, but now there's nearly forty thousand scheme workers and this tax is the last straw for most of us."

Scheme Workers' Action and the ATGWU are prepared to fight for the tax to be removed. The ATGWU's Mick O'Reilly says: "Scheme workers will only get more of the same unless they start organising now."

Each scheme worker needs to take on the fight in their own workplace to show Ahern and his cronies that they will not be walked on.

CPSU

The Civil and Public Service Union conference takes place in Galway from 19-21 May.

Motion 50 from the Social Welfare Dublin North branch calls for a £35 a week increase and proposes a ballot on industrial action if this claim is not conceded by September.

Clerical Assistants in the Civil Service take home between £125 and £160 each a week while some higher grade civil servants are being offered a £22 a week increase.

RAIL WORKERS - TIME TO FIGHT

The first national rail strike since 1951 was called off five minutes before the expiry of strike notice at the end of April.

At the time of going to press, Irish Rail workers were awaiting a Labour Court recommendation on the dispute.

Depending on what the Court says and how the workers react to it, management could yet find their plans to attack conditions derailed.

Irish Rail planned to introduce new rolling stock, as well as changing work practices in a number of areas. In return for 170 job losses they were offering a 3 per cent productivity increase plus £4.85 a week.

They intended implementing the changes, with or without union agreement, on

April 18th. But SIPTU members had voted 3 to 1 against the plan. The NBRU vote was 7 to 1 against.

Workers who refused to train for the new work practices were suspended. SIPTU and NBRU balloted their members for strike action to stop the plan being forced through - over 90 per cent voted to strike.

Response

Faced with this militant response, the company was forced to defer implementation of the plan. However it still wants to push the changes through.

Instead of calling the action that could have smashed the plans completely, union officials have given management a breathing space.

Train drivers are to lose the mileage allowance paid after 140 miles; this could mean

losses of up to £100 in pay per week for some drivers.

Drivers and others will lose overtime as well, as weekend working will be treated as ordinary days.

Some groups of workers will be expected to do the work of other grades. A train guard based at Dublin's Heuston station told *Socialist Worker*: "After twenty years, the company could make me go back from being a guard to being a depot man."

Management showed how it intended this flexibility to work in practice when on April 15th, it sent 37 workers to Rosslare to man the port's train station; none of them had been trained for this.

The company was not concerned that their action could put passengers' safety at risk.

Freight trains will change to One Person Operation. As well as doing away with guards' jobs, this will increase the chances of accidents happening.

Nor are management worried about staff safety. Ticket checkers will have to carry ticket issuing machines and carry money, thus increasing the risk of assault.

Workers are also angry over petty humiliations such as having to clock on instead of signing on as in the past.

As one NBRU member said, "There's no way we will accept this deal."

The threat of strike action has stopped management in its tracks for the time being.

However, workers should not put too much hope in the Labour Court. Previous recommendations, such as LCR13366 in 1992, have backed up the company position.

Instead the workers should take the lessons of the stand-off.

A willingness to fight made management back off. If this spirit is kept up the company's attacks on workers can be beaten off.

WATERFORD GLASS

The workers of Waterford Glass have another fight on their hands to stop compulsory redundancies being imposed by Tony O'Reilly.

The factories are now in profit due the horrific wage cuts and job losses of the last number of years.

The latest plan is to introduce a tank furnace, the newest form of technology for the glass industry. This

will cause 200 job losses in the blower section.

The shop stewards' position has been accepted by the workforce, that now negotiations will take place until the threat of compulsory redundancies is removed.

Every worker should hold this position or they will be picket off one by one.

UFF THUGS

Last month UFF thugs attacked postal workers in the Royal Mail sorting office in Rathcoole.

The gunmen forced 60 workers to lie face down while they looked for a Catholic target. Fortunately they did not find their intended victim and left firing shots in the air.

Workers were shocked and many were unable to drive home after the incident.

The SWM in Belfast produced a leaflet arguing for meetings of Royal Mail work-

ers in every depot to organise against the bigots.

There is a tradition among some groups of workers of taking action against sectarian thugs.

DHSS workers have a policy of walking out whenever there is a threat. And in 1992 Citybus workers held three citywide stoppages in one week when bus drivers were attacked by the UVF.

The SWM argued for similar walkouts by postal workers and a demo in Belfast.

Issues for the Labour Movement

by CONOR KOSTICK

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF THE ICTU

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions is celebrating one hundred years of existence this May Day.

Workers in Ireland, both North and South, have greater levels of Union organisation today than almost anywhere in the world.

This is certainly worth celebrating.

Many unions a hundred years ago had to fight hard against repression in order to establish themselves.

The origins of the ICTU are very different. When it was formed in 1894, it was an organisation for the "very respectable and responsible" leaders of the skilled workers unions. Their theme was how to

help the country's trades, rather than how to organise for workers' rights. As a result "industrialists and business people contributed substantially to the expenses of the first conference."

For years it remained an organisation that did not challenge the employers. For example, the 1907 congress had a day out to the Hill of Howth, with free travel courtesy of the Dublin United Tramways Co.

This respectability was broken when the trade union leaders were swept up in the great wave of militancy, most clearly represented by the figure of Jim Larkin.

Larkin was out to organise the mass of unskilled workers. He believed in the sympathetic strike; solidarity at all times between workers and no trust in the bosses. He founded the Irish

Transport and General Workers Union in 1909, and led it into the bitter conflict of 1913 against William Martin Murphy and the Dublin employers.

The defeat of the 1913 lockout, and the outbreak of World War One, checked the worker's movement, only for a flood of struggles to break out in the years following the Russian Revolution.

General Strike

So militant were Irish workers that in each of the years 1918, 1919 and 1920 the leaders of Congress called massive general strikes, each more powerful than the last.

The first was against conscription to Britain's armies; the second was for international socialism, May Day; and the third for the release of hunger striking prisoners in the

Mountjoy.

This last general strike led to "soviets" or workers' committees running most towns in Ireland for two or three days.

However there were limits to how far the Congress leaders would go. They never stood for the overthrow of capitalism, always believing an agreement could be found with the bosses.

They did everything they could after 1920 to hold the movement back. But at a time when the Irish bosses were split between those who wanted Independence for Ireland, and those who wanted to stay in the Empire, this was a disaster.

Workers' were divided by partition and the unions suffered as a result.

Larkin returned from his imprisonment in an American jail too late to stop the retreat, and the situation

of Irish workers worsened when the Worker's Union broke away from the Transport Union.

By 1929, the Transport Union had collapsed from its high point of 100,000 members to just 25,000. The Irish Congress of Trades Unions' affiliates fell from 189,000 to 92,000.

It took decades for Irish workers organisations to recover. But when they did so, the top officials were very conservative once more, and willing to work closely with the rulers of the two states.

Division

The implicit division between the officials North and South came to the fore at the time of the Second World War, when the Irish ruling class went in different directions and the union leaders followed them.

The Congress of Irish

Unions was formed as a more nationalist rival to the Irish Trades Union Congress.

The Fifties and the Sixties saw a strong revival in working class organisation, especially at the rank and file level. It was this that helped reunite the CIU and ITUC in 1959, to create the ICTU in the form it takes today.

In 1994, more than half the workforce of Ireland, North and South, are members of trade unions. This is a far higher proportion than during the last great workers' struggles.

But the current leadership of the ICTU is reminiscent of its predecessors a hundred years ago.

They have gained sponsorship for the May Day festival from the Lotto which has been at the cost of the fighting socialist message the day should represent.

This is symbolic of their

whole emphasis on partnership with business.

Partnership with the employers means betraying the aspirations of those workers who are prepared to stand up for union rights.

Pat the Baker workers could have won union recognition if the Congress had organised the solidarity that other shop workers offered.

It is a disgrace that the Nolans strikers have been left to fight alone for well over a year. Their determined stand has been in the face of massive intimidation, including being shot at with an air rifle.

Trade Unionists who are organising with their workmates at the shopfloor level should celebrate the strength of Irish unions - but then prepare to use that strength independently of the leaders of Congress.

Socialist Worker

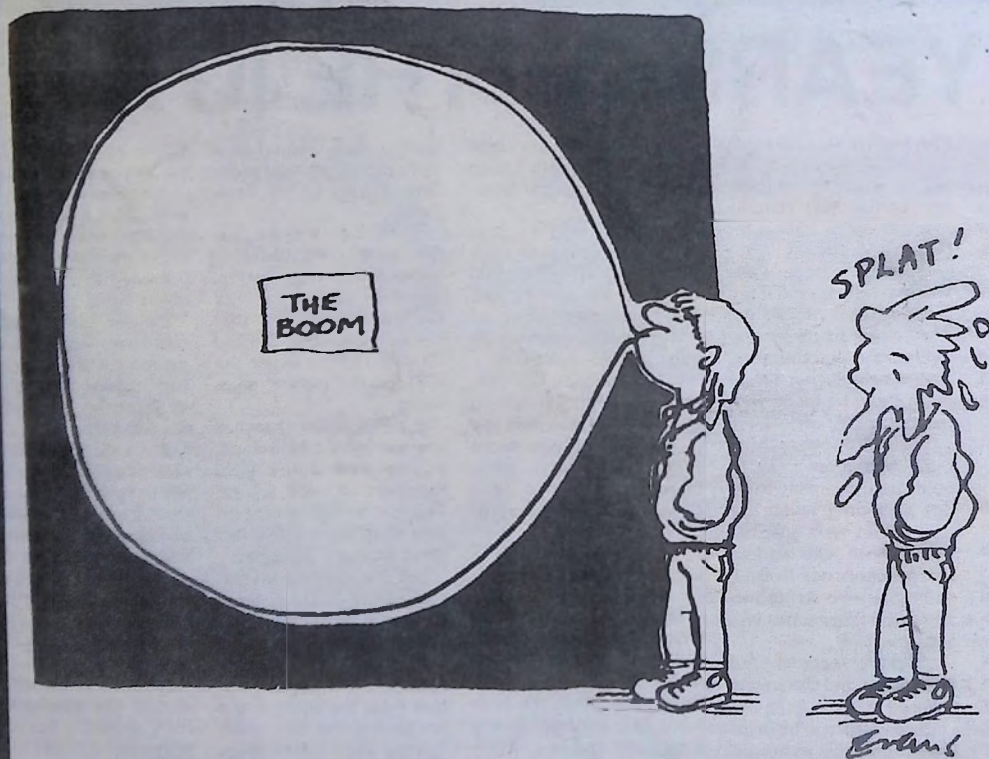
For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

Inside:

How to stop
the Nazis

PAGES SIX AND SEVEN

What sort of recovery is this?



POLITICIANS in both parts of Ireland have discovered a recovery in their economies.

They claim that the recession has come to an end and the good times are coming.

It is a sick joke.

There has certainly been a recovery in the fortunes of the rich.

Seven executive directors of the Allied Irish Banks have paid themselves a whopping £526,666 each last year.

These same greedy bosses have the cheek to lecture us about the need for restraint and sacrifice.

But for working people it is a very different story. In the North the average household stands to lose £12.50 because of the Tory tax hikes. Their pay packets are shrinking and they have to pay VAT on fuel.

In the South, the Coalition government has started to tax welfare benefits and workers on low paid FAS schemes.

One bus workers told *Socialist Worker*, "I was out sick for a couple of weeks. But when I looked at my pay packet, I couldn't believe it.

"I was about £40 down on the sick benefit I would have got last year. You cannot afford to be sick in this country now"

The top economic institute in the South, the ESRI, predicts that the Southern economy will grow by 7% next year and that the dole

queues will be cut.

The Tories in Britain have started to make similar claims.

But if there is a recovery, it is shallow and will be short-lived. Two of the biggest economies in the world, Germany and Japan are stuck deep in recession.

In the US, where the economy is growing faster than anywhere else, there has been no return to prosperity for workers.

Real wages are still one fifth lower than they were in the 1970s. A huge number of the new jobs that have been created come from 'temp' agencies where workers are denied holiday pay and basic rights.

The talk of the politicians should not fool us.

Their system can no longer give us any sort of decent living standards. In the past working people had to fight to win the smallest gains.

Now we are going to have to start fighting even harder.

Instead of sitting back quietly and talking about 'partnership', our unions should be fighting.