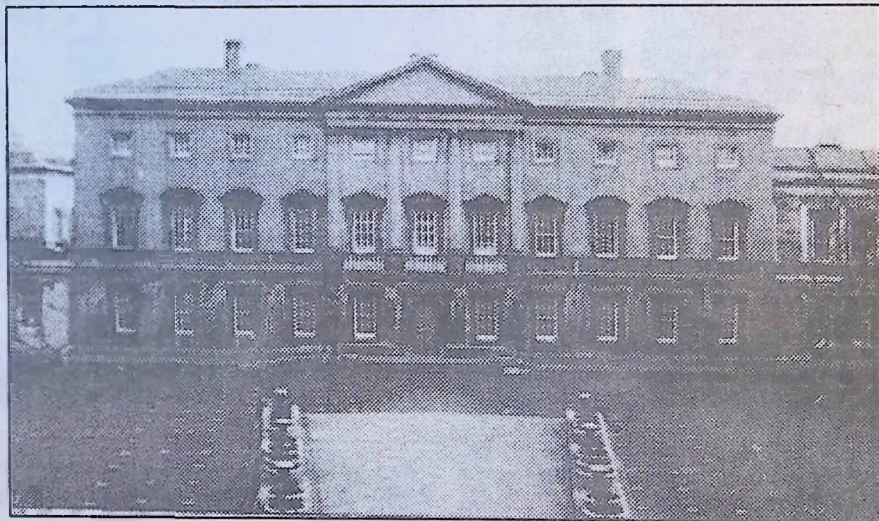


Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

**But they hit
us with tax
on the Dole
and Water
Charges...**

**They
spend
£10m
doing up
the Dail**



**Don't pay the
Water Charges**

Organise against the water rates!

LOCAL authorities around the country are sending out their water rate bills.

But already a mass non-payment campaign is under way.

In Neilstown in North Clondalkin big meetings have been held to protest against the charges.

According to Antoin Stanbridge,

"It is ridiculous. We are just not paying.

"The PAYE workers in this county already pay 89% of all taxation—now they want us to pay on the double.

"They should be chasing after Dunnes Stores who owe £100 million in back taxes rather than us."

In Waterford, the Corporation have re-named the bills 'Development Charges'.

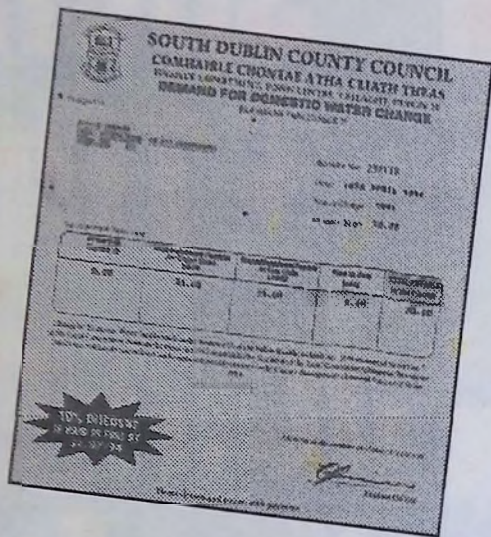
Tactics

They think that this is going to fool people into paying between £120 and £150 a year.

Shamie Power, the former secretary of the Waterford Combined Tenants and Residents Association describes some of the tactics the corporation is using.

"We had a case of a father whose son was paralysed in an accident. He had to build special facilities in the family home to look after his son.

"But when he went into



the corporation looking for a grant, they refused to give one until he paid his charges.

"It's the worse thing I have seen. If the corporation had a row with the father there was no need

to take it out on his paralysed son who had to be looked after at home".

In the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown area, the council is demanding that half the bills be paid up within a month.

They have a sliding charge that goes from £50 to £90.

But they are giving no guarantee of a waiver to the unemployed.

All that spokespersons will say is that you need to get the bills stamped at the labour exchange and then they will see what they will do.

Cheek

But you can be sure that they will also try to see if there are any teenagers in the house working and if there are they will slap on charges.

Deirdre Cronin who has helped set up Ballinteer against the Water Rates said,

"They have some cheek demanding the bills be paid up within a month.

"Wasn't Larry Goodman allowed to get away with paying only 1% of his tax bill for nearly a decade.

"It is one law for the rich—and another for the rest of us."

Even after the rich got a tax amnesty, it is estimated by sources inside the revenue commissioners that there is up to £2.5 billion still outstanding in unpaid taxes.

A fraction of this money could be used to fund the local authorities and do away with the need for service charges.

Now action groups are being set up across Dublin.

Anne Marie Brady from Killinarden explains how it can be done.

"There is no point sitting around waiting for politicians to do something about this.

"We have to get out in our own areas as soon as the bills arrive and tell people to burn them.

"If enough of us stick together they will get nowhere".

HOW TO WIN

THE local authorities can be beaten on this issue.

In the early 1980s, they tried to bring in water charges in Dublin and had to back down before a non-payment campaign.

In Britain, Thatcher brought in a poll tax.

But thousands drove her from office rather than pay them.

In order to win we need to:

■ Get a campaign group set up in your area.

Go around the houses, take up a petition and tell people about a meeting in the

local community hall.

■ Organise a day when people can get together to burn the bills.

■ Get in touch with the local council or corporation workers.

Ask them to refuse to turn off water for non-payers.

Shammie Power

from Waterford says, "This was the key for us. The SIPTU in Waterford Corporation publicly pledged that they would never cut off the water.

"In return we pledged to support them in any battle against privatisation or cuts".

Laughing all the way to the bank

ALBERT Reynolds recently got a whiff of public outrage and demanded from the banks an explanation of why they pay such paltry interest on deposits while raking it in from borrowers.

It's simple Albert, they can get away with it.

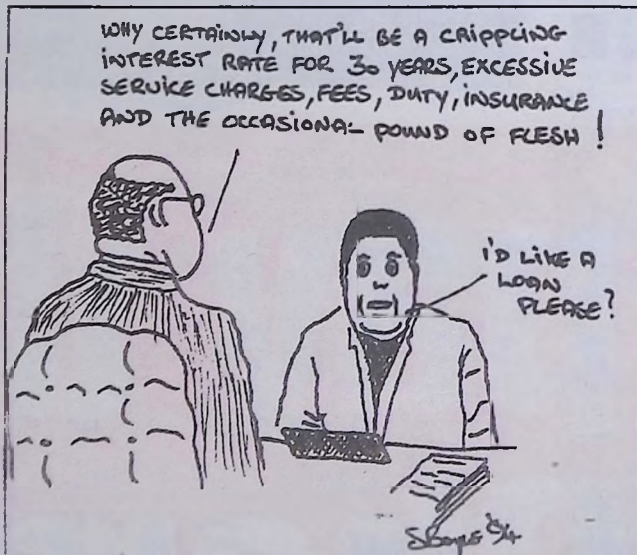
Announcing a doubling of profits to £200 million, the Bank of Ireland's response is that they only make a modest 1% on total assets.

True, but if we dig a little deeper we find why these figures do not represent the experience of most Irish consumers.

Profit Margin

That's because the Bank of Ireland extracts a massive profit of 23.5% from the home market. Not only does this profit margin ensure their annual windfall but also offsets the bank's huge losses in Britain and the U.S.

The associated banks speculate abroad at the expense of Joe Public while our government as-



sists them in excluding any challenge to their favoured status.

Rather than being a vital public service the banks have come to be seen by many as a necessary evil in their lives.

Unfortunately this trend is set to continue as long as we allow our institutions to ride to greater profits on the backs of the people, and even Albert knows that, but he's not saying.

Kilkenny candidate's Nazi record exposed

THE Anti-Nazi League has been on the street and knocking on doors in the Kilkenny area to expose the Nazi record of one of the local election candidates.

Michael McGrath is standing as an independent candidate and is trying to relate to local grievances about unemployment.

But McGrath has a long Nazi record. In 1990, he tried to register a new party the National Socialist Party. The NSP stood for "one Celtic National Socialist State and the supremacy of the Celtic race".

The organising secretary of this party was one Terry Dempster who was pictured in the *Sunday World* dressed up in full Nazi uniform.

Dempster claimed that his mission was 'to spread the gospel of Hitler to nearly every country in the world'.

McGrath was also closely linked to the National Socialist Irish Workers Party. This bunch of Hitler fanatics firebombed Jewish

OCTOPUS DEI

OPUS Dei is a secretive right wing Catholic organisation that tries to recruit the elite in society.

Founded in Spain, it played a major role in propping up Franco's fascist regime.

Opus Dei have been up to some funny antics recently. One of their residences in Dublin is situated beside Shafts gay night club.

The brave knights of the establishment have taken to dropping buckets of water on the customers and calling them names.

Then when they took out an application to close the club, a Mr David McDonagh, claimed that they had 'no axe to grind'.

NO PROSECUTIONS IF YOU ARE A CHEMICAL COMPANY

CHEMICAL companies in the Cork area have breached their licences on 1,700 times last year.

And the Cork County Council has decided to do nothing about it.

Remember these are big multi-nationals and we are supposed to be grateful for their efforts.

Next time you are fined for a traffic offence or they want your water rates bill off you, tell them you are related to a chemical company!

MAJORITY DO NOT GET WELFARE RIGHT

LAST year, Social Welfare Minister Michael Woods boasted about a new unit to track down social welfare 'scroungers'.

But now a recent report shows that the main problem is not welfare fraud—but the fact that people on social welfare are not fully claiming their rights.

A survey of 101 local authority flats in Dublin's inner city area found that only 13% of the residents were claiming their full social welfare and health board benefits.

The report of the Inner City Renewal Project and the Ringsend Action project estimated that nearly £1 million in benefits was not being claimed in the inner city.

Maybe Michael Woods should set up another 'special unit' to inform people of their rights.

which host an ANL meeting. But Brid Smith of the ANL said, "He is not going to succeed. We are determined that the people of Kilkenny know the real record of this man. It is by campaigns like this that we will keep Ireland Nazi Free"

IF you are interested in going to Kilkenny to join the ANL campaign, phone (01) 872 2682 for details on transport.

ATHY THORP PETITION

SINEAD Dooley and Paula Harte from Athy in Co. Kildare are an example of how much so called ordinary people can do when they get stuck into an issue.

Following a project on "injustices to the environment" they felt they had to do something to have the THORP plant shut down.

They decided on a petition. They collected over 1200 signatures in local schools and on the streets of the town. They also gave talks to classrooms and sent a letter of protest to Albert Reynolds.

This determination not to accept horrors such as THORP is exactly what is need to ensure that factory of death is closed for once and for all.

We Think

Loyalist violence on the rise

THE bombing of Dublin by the UVF signals a new escalation of loyalist violence.

The bombing followed a spate of random attacks on Catholics. Two workmen, for example, who were repairing buildings in Tiger's Bay were shot in the UDA's particular brand of ethnic cleansing.

These activities have helped to shatter some of the main myths which the rulers of the South have propagated.

Loyalist violence is not just 'reactive' to the IRA. Those who are organising the assassination and the bombings have definite political motives.

They are determined to carve out a stake for themselves in any new political settlement that comes in Ireland.

The UDA and the UVF have only a small support amongst Protestant workers.

When they murdered Margaret Wright in the staunchly loyal Village area in Belfast, 600 local people turned out to insist that their drinking den be closed down.

But the loyalist murder gangs believe that they can repeat the experience of Inkatha in South Africa. They hope to use sectarian terror as a weapon to get to the negotiating table.

And now Unionist politicians like Molyneux and Nationalist politicians like Reynolds are starting to play their game.

They pretend that all paramilitaries are just the same and that the UDA has as much right as Sinn Fein to be involved in negotiating.

This is a complete lie.

Whatever differences which socialists have with the disastrous tactics of Sinn Fein or the IRA, it is

clear that they have built a significant base by fighting back against oppression.

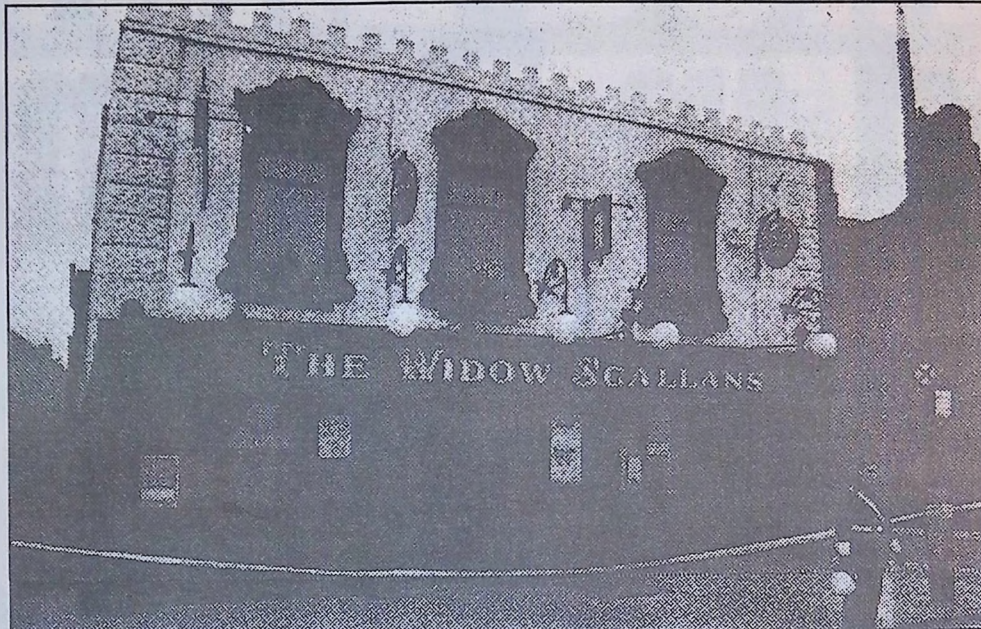
The new talk about involving the far right UDA and UVF will only encourage them to engage in more sectarian murders.

Encouraged

The Dublin bombing also shows why the Irish labour movement has to take a stance on what is happening in Northern Ireland.

For the last twenty years the Southern politicians have encouraged an attitude that working people should ignore the Northern conflict.

They censored the airwaves and revised Irish



The Widow Scallan's in Dublin's Pearse St, scene of loyalist attack in May

history in a futile attempt to cut off the North.

By and large the union leaders went along with this.

They stopped discus-

sion on the North being raised in the unions.

But the South is no longer insulated from the growing tensions in the North.

Unless there is a class voice that cuts through the sectarian bitterness, there are real dangers ahead.

Irish labour desperately needs a policy on North-

ern Ireland that is opposed to the Orange and Green right wingers who run this island.

The voice of labour should break from the idea that the activities of

the British army and the RUC will play any role in bring peace to Ireland.

It should be saying to republican supporters that there is a better way to fight back against harassment and discrimination than the futile tactics of the IRA.

Struggle

These are the methods of mass struggle: of street demonstrations, of union led action.

It should be saying to Protestant workers that Irish labour has no interest in propping up a Catholic dominated state which bans divorce.

That its only interest is in fighting for a society where all workers, Catholic and Protestant, gain in a new Ireland.

Not just saying these things.

But proving to an increasingly desperate working class in Northern Ireland that it is serious about fighting and standing up for their common interests.

On the election trail again

ALONGSIDE the Euro-elections local elections are taking place across the Republic of Ireland.

Disillusionment amongst workers is at an all time high. In 1992, many voted for the Labour Party in the hope of bringing some change.

But the Labour Party turned on its supporters and put Goodman's pal, Albert Reynolds, back into of-

fice.

The FF led government has done everything to protect its rich friends while it has led growing attacks on workers.

It cut the Residential Property Tax bills to the rich by a quarter. But it has pushed through new taxes on unemployment benefit and social welfare.

It has encouraged the bosses at Irish Rail, Aer Lingus and Irish Steel to hammer

workers by looking for wage cuts and redundancies.

The opposition parties in Fine Gael and the Progressive Democrats support all these policies.

Privatisation

If they could get away with it, they would try to increase the pace of privatisation and attacks on social welfare.

Workers should vote

for the Left in these various elections—principally Democratic Left and the Labour Party.

Any advice from Dick Spring to transfer to FF should be treated with the contempt that it deserves.

In Kilkenny the Nazi candidate in the local election, so-called "Independent" Michael McGrath, should be completely shunned.

A left vote offers a signal that we still see

Irish politics as being divided on class lines.

But few will have illusion that people like Spring and Quinn will really stand up for workers interests.

There is a desperate need to build an alternative to the existing Left parties.

What is required in Ireland today is a party which stands for working class interests and not one which wants a Coalition with FF or FG. And it can be done.

Tens of thousands are angry over the water rates bills they have received.

In places like TEAM Aer Lingus where workers voted by 1 75% margin for strike action, people are sick of the message of sacrifice.

The Socialist Workers Movement exists to build that sort of fighting alternative. We invite our readers to get active and join us.

Money for their politics...

The Euro-elections have become a real scam.

Here is what the lucky winner gets:

Annual Salary:£30,100 a year.

Office Expenses:£27,264 a year.

Hotel Allowance:£159.20 a day

Allowance to employ

wife or husband as secretary:£74,268 a year

Trips to Brussels:£800 a go

Conference Expenses:£2,400 a year

■ Plus Full Pensions after 8 years.

Anyone can enter the race for these wonderful prizes. The only small problem: you need about £25,000 for election expenses.

Money for a socialist paper

We need to raise £10,000 this year to launch Socialist Worker as a fortnightly paper.

We do not have access to the slush funds of the rich or the Euro gravy trail.

Instead we depend on our supporters and readers to dig deep to help us reach this target.

Since we launched the appeal last month we have received £1,157.

This is a good start but to reach our target we need to keep up the momentum.

Thanks to all those who have contributed so far. Send your donations to Socialist Worker Appeal, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8

Why have 250,000 died in Rwanda?

AROUND A quarter of a million people have been butchered in the African state of Rwanda.

Many times that number have fled the country and several rivers are choked with bodies as the war of ethnic cleansing continues.

Rwanda is often portrayed in the press as a barbaric society populated by savage tribes with a history of unending bloodlust.

It is a racist lie.

Rwanda was ripped apart by Western colonial invasion and has been kept on the edge of horror by the poverty caused by capitalism.

Cattle

Its early history was far from barbarism. By the 16th century Rwanda was already highly developed. It did not see the constant warfare that swept Europe at the time.

At the top of society were people from a particular ethnic background known as the Tutsis. They made up around 10 percent of the population and owned the cattle.

Control of the cattle, the most important source of food and clothing, en-

abled them to take over government.

Beneath the Tutsis were people known as Hutus, who made up 85 percent of the population. They were cultivators and cattle rearers.

Finally there were the pygmy Twa group who made pottery and hunted.

This was far from a fair and equal society, but was at least as civilised as the then social structures of Western Europe.

Rwandan society produced many famous poets and musicians.

Colonialism twisted Rwandan society to breaking point. First the Germans invaded in the 1890s, then after the First World War the colony was given to the Belgians.

To divide opposition, both the Germans and Belgians built on the existing divisions between Tutsi and Hutu.

They recruited the Tutsis as agents of colo-



Colonialism and capitalism have orphaned these children

onialism and involved them in repeated bloody repression of the Hutus.

Minor offences against the Belgian authorities were punished by the cutting off of hands and feet—the penalties nor-

mally carried out by Tutsis.

In the 1950s farm workers' revolts forced the Belgians out. A predominantly Hutu party won the elections that followed.

Immediately afterwards

the Tutsis faced vicious repression. Over 20,000 were killed and 160,000 forced into exile.

General Habyarimana took over in 1973. He smashed opposition and forced through "free mar-

ket" capitalism.

The result was increased poverty. Half the population is illiterate the average income less than £3 a week.

Habyarimana's regime got funds from Japan, the

US and France. He spoke of "national unity" but every Rwandan was still forced to carry identity cards which included their ethnic origin.

The latest killing was sparked by Habyarimana's death. He was apparently killed by Rwandan Patriotic Front forces, made up largely of Tutsi exiles.

Unleashed

In response the armed forces unleashed a pogrom against Tutsis.

The tragedy of Rwanda has been caused by capitalism. The blood of those hacked to death is on the hands of those who revel in the glories of empire and who now defend the bosses' system.

Western intervention will not stop the killing. It would be as ineffective and bloody as the US invasion of Somalia.

Western governments and multinationals have bled Africa dry.

It is only when their power, and that of local ruling classes, is destroyed that there will be no more tragedies like Rwanda.

RAN OUT OF TOWN

FEW of us have ever had to listen to a mob howling for our blood, have ever had to contemplate the prospect of being beaten half to death in front of our family or have ever lain awake at night waiting for a brick, a bullet or a petrol bomb to burst through our window.

These are images we associate with the Southern States of America, the Jewish

ghettos of 1930's Europe or the streets of West Belfast.

But the travelling community in Ireland face situations like this all their life. It can happen in any town in any county at any time. It's happening in Navan Co. Meath right now.

The campaign was originally whipped up against travellers camped near the Community College. Although 350 travellers live in Navan,

Meath County Council has provided only one serviced halting site, with room

for just 14 families.

There were the usual complaints; foul language, littering, robberies and trespass. Every traveller there was held responsible.

Bigotry

Foremost in the campaign was the college principle Ciaran Flynn whose statements reeked of barely concealed bigotry.

Racist leaflets were distributed

throughout the town and priests who appealed for compassion saw congregations walk out of church.

One caravan was firebombed early last month. The bomb landed on a gas bottle but was put out before it could do serious damage. Mr Flynn was among those who condemned the attack. Can he honestly stand aside from it?

A High Court order forced the travellers to vacate. They had hardly gone when Council workers moved earth and boulders onto the roadside. Six families



left town. Another attempted to park at Windtown but a crowd made them move.

With nowhere else to go the nine remaining families headed for the official halting site on the Athboy road only to find a mob of 400 waiting for them.

They were threatened and abused and kept prisoner on the site for hours. The situation was so bad it wasn't safe to go into town at night. They had to shop in groups of five or six.

Liam O'Leary, one of those forced to move, told *Socialist Worker*: "The people behind this are all powerful people—councillors, one who own local factories."

Another caravan left near the College was gutted by a second firebomb.

Michael McDonagh of the Navan Travellers Group commented: "The silence of local elected representatives towards the two firebombing incidents is deafening."

One councillor has been anything but silent though. Democratic Left's Christy Gorman was instrumental in orchestrating anti-traveller prejudice in the run-up to local elections.

Gorman received a lot of support from travellers last time round. But, according to Liam O'Leary, "none of the travellers will be giving any votes to any of the councillors this time."

It's about time the ordinary people of this country woke up. It's about time they stopped allowing themselves to be used as pawns, pitched against weaker sections of society.

Travellers are not the enemy. If Co. Councils and pillars of the community put half as much effort into providing halting sites as they do to persecution there wouldn't be a problem in the first place.

TAX TIME BOMB

The FF/Labour Coalition is trying to sneak in new taxes that will make working people suffer. And the press made a huge fuss over the Residential Property Tax is staying silent.

Here *Socialist Worker* reveals the new plans to tax the poor.

TAXING THE DOLE

THE government plans to raise £30 million by taxing unemployment benefit.

■ Most workers used to get a short tax free period if they went back to work after a spell on the dole. It helped them to find their feet and catch up with past debts.

Now this is gone. The amount of money given out in unemployment benefit is going to count as taxable income.

■ If one person in a family is working and the other is getting unemployment benefit, it means that their tax bill will rise.

The arrangements for this new tax are not yet in place. But many workers could find themselves owing the Revenue Commissioners money at the end of this year.

The full effects of these plans will be seen in 1996. By that time the local labour exchanges will be fully computerised and the new taxes will be deducted from unemployment benefit itself.

This will only be the start of a vicious scheme to cut back on social welfare.

DISABILITY BENEFIT

THE government plans to raise £17 million for new taxes on disability benefit.

A community worker in Tallaght explains the devastation it is causing.

"There are a lot of married women on long term sickness.

"They might suffer from back injuries or depression.

"They had paid in stamps all their working lives and were entitled to the £70 they got in disability pay.

"But now they are in a panic.

"Their husbands will have found that their tax bill has jumped by about £20 or £30 a week.

"They cannot understand why no one is drawing attention to this".

Mick is a bus driver. He got a nasty shock when he had to go out sick with a back injury.

"I couldn't believe it.

"I was down about £40 on what I would have been getting last year.

But the bills were the same. I found that I just could not afford to stay out sick.

"I had to go back to work against my doctors advice".

The taxes on disability have been in place since last year but people are only being hit gradually now.



Workers demonstrate for tax reform in 1979

HOW TO FIGHT THE TAX RIP-OFF

IN 1979, PAYE workers in Ireland launched the first general strike to protest at the tax scandal.

The protests started after the government had backed down from imposing a tax levy on the big farmers. The same government kept increasing the tax take on PAYE workers.

Hundreds of thousands took to the streets of most towns in Ireland in what the BBC described as 'one of the biggest post-war protests in Europe'.

Fianna Fail were terrified. They called in the union and made them all sort of promises about a new 'National Understanding'.

In return the ICTU called off the protests. Instead they organised a massive petition drive to influence the politicians.

Fifteen years later, the situation for PAYE workers is getting worse.

PAYE workers are now paying 89% of all taxes. Even when we are unemployed or sick, they want to rip us off.

We need to start fighting back. We should take a lesson from the wealthy. They fought like tigers to have the Residential Property tax cut.

We need to force our unions to fight with the same determination.

■ Take a petition around your workplace to oppose the new taxes.

■ Raise a resolution in your union branch calling for a new set of tax marches.

■ Get your local Trades Council to name a day for a local tax march.

■ Ring *Socialist Worker* (01 872 2682) about any resolutions passed on this issue so that we can start laying the basis for a national campaign.

How the Disability tax works

Here is a typical case of a husband, wife and three children.

Husband earns £200 a week

Wife on £74.80 a week in disability benefit.

Before: Husband's tax free allowance: ... £120 a week

Total tax: £21 a week

After: Husband's tax free allowance: .. £45.20 a week

Total tax: £41 a week

EXTRA TAXATION: £20 a week.

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT

THE government plans to put 40,000 people on Community Employment schemes by the beginning of next year.

But they have already started to tax these low paid workers in part time employment.

Community Employment workers have found that their pay packet has been cut by £5 a week after tax.

John Mathews from the Dundalk Resource Centre for the Unemployed explains,

"Scheme workers are furious. There is no incentive to come off

the live registrar if you are just going to get an extra £10 for doing a 20 hour week".

Scheme workers have now started to join union like the ATGWU to get organised.

John Mathews told *Socialist Worker*,

"We are telling people to join the INOU and also a trade union. You only get your rights when your are organised and have backing"

But tax cuts for the super rich

THE Irish rich do everything to avoid tax.

And the government let them get away with it.

■ They made huge objections to the Residential Property Tax and forced the government to cut it by a quarter.

Now Bertie Ahern has

promised them that " more money will be raised from VAT on ice cream than the Property Tax".

■ Only one third of all registered companies pay tax.

The majority only pay 10%.

■ Throughout the 1980s, the Goodman company only paid 1% of its tax bills.

The leading accountancy firm in the country Stokes, Kennedy Crowley co-operated in letting it set up all sorts of tax avoidance schemes.

Goodman was rewarded for his efforts by having the Dail pass a special law to stave off his bankruptcy.

Howlin's health plan scam

SHAPING a Healthier Future emerged from the Department of Health at the end of April and promises to mark a new era for our health services.

It is Brendan Howlin's strategic plan for the health services. The Health Strategy follows in a long line of Department of Health publications and reports on individual services over the past couple of decades.

These include: "Health—the Wider Dimensions" (1986), "Report of the Commission on Health Funding" (1989) and "Promoting Health through Public Policy" (1987) which was published following the request by the then Minister for Health, Barry Desmond—a Labour Health Minister in a Coalition Government.

Howlin's plan claims to draw on previous studies in a comprehensive Four-Year Action Plan, which he declares will radically transform the system.

He states that the Health Strategy is based on the key principles of equity, quality of service and accountability.

Equity within the health services would be readily welcomed. But it can never be achieved in the context of the present two-tier system.

At the moment luxurious health services bought by the rich in private hospitals and consultants' rooms are subsidised through the VHI and generous tax breaks.

The higher the VHI plan they take out to cover themselves for private hospitals like Blackrock and the Mater, the bigger the tax break they get.

Howlin has no intention of challenging this system. Instead he claims that "the mix of public and private service providers in the Irish health care system enables each to play a complementary role."

Neither is it clear how Howlin imagines that the obvious health problems that are linked with poverty, unemployment, poor housing and lack of sanitation can be approached.

In 1987 the Department of Health declared in a policy document that it wished to tackle the health problems that arise as a direct result of the type of housing in which we live, and also by the wider community environment in which our housing is situated.

Damp, overcrowded living conditions make hygiene difficult, and increase the spread of infection.

In Ireland, for example, TB is on the rise again. The notification rate for TB has risen to 18 per 1,000 compared to 10.5 for Britain or 7.3 for Italy. Poverty, bad housing and poor diet is taking its toll.

The children of travellers are also admitted over and over again to hospitals for treatment of infectious diseases and diarrhoea, as a direct result of living in over crowded conditions without water or sanitation.

The new health strategy firmly "places the consumer first and sets out proposals for ... ensuring that our health services should help first and foremost those people whose needs are greatest."

Howlin even acknowledges the fact that life expectancy and general health status among the travelling community are considerably lower than the population average, and states that there is "scope" for achieving improvements in the health status of the travelling community through "concerted health promotion" and "care initiatives".

But there is nothing about funding the establishment of serviced halting sites, ending the ghettoisation of travelling communities which promotes ill-health.

Funding

There is nothing about funding safe places for children to play—in fact nothing about funding at all.

The aspirations are many, but the cash advances are few. Most health workers who have read the Health Strategy (and all have been issued with an abridged edition) are asking themselves how on earth Howlin plans to implement the Four Year Action Plan when he is not increasing the money.

A typical example of the gap between the fine aspirations and the poorly funded reality is the Child Care Act of 1991. This called on Health Boards to "promote the welfare of children in its area who are not receiving adequate care and protection".

But because the Department of Health did not increase funding to the Health Boards, the act is still not implemented three years later.

The Kilkenny Incest Report of May 1993 which was commissioned by Brendan Howlin screamed the same message.

It stated that it couldn't "recommend too strongly the urgent need to provide the necessary resources".

Well, maybe Howlin forgot to read the Kilkenny investigation—or maybe he read it, and just laughed, and put it in the bin and got on with the important matter of settling the private consultants' VHI fees, and their 50 per cent salary increase.

"Health policy, I believe, unerringly reveals the values that drive a society and the commitment of governments to social justice" says Howlin. Dream on. □ Dr J.P.

THE screening of Roddy Doyle's 'Family' has brought much controversy.

Right groups like the Christian Principles Party have denounced it as an 'insult' to Irish family life.

Others have claimed that it should not be shown because it gives a 'negative image' of working class areas like Ballymun in Dublin.

But the series was deadly accurate. Women's Aid, the organisation which deals with women who are assaulted in the home, were inundated with calls after the first show.

In the past few weeks they have had to take on extra volunteers to handle all the calls.

But even before 'The Family' was shown Women's Aid was receiving a huge amount of calls. From March 1993 to March 1994, they got 5,717 distressed. Over 400 of the calls were looking for emergency accommodation.

Last year in August alone, the police received 1,000 reports of sexual and domestic violence. In the entire year, there were over 4,000 requests for barring orders.

The bishops and priests who talk about the importance of 'family values' never mention the fact that the family can be the most dangerous place to live.

The police also try to ignore the reality of violence. They see trouble in the home as a 'domestic difficulty'. They have recently set up a special Woman and Child Unit. But it only has one sergeant and four gardai.

This is in sharp contrast to the secret police, the Special Branch, which has hundreds of members.

The truth is that the police are far more interested in harassing groups which pose a threat to the state than in getting involved in cases of domestic violence.

The people who have denounced Roddy Doyle's programme want to hide the reality of what is going on in Ireland.

They want to pretend that it is a country where there are handsome lads and 'comely maidens'. That is the only way they can try to stop the demand for contraception, divorce and abortion.

But Roddy Doyle's 'The Family' has exposed part of the reality of what is going on.

"If your girls do not obey you, if they are not in at the hours appointed, lay the lash upon their backs. That was the good old system, and that should be the system today."— Bishop O'Dcherty of Galway, 1924

"The contraceptive culture ... releases the married couple from all commitment to procreation, it opens the way to the final debasement of marriage."— Dr Desmond Connell, Archbishop of Dublin, 1994

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WHAT CAUSES THE V

IN 'The Family', Charlo is an evil brute who inflicts pain and torture.

Some think that if people like Charlo were locked up for a few years the problem of domestic violence could be solved.

But the reasons go far deeper. Every day we are reminded of the roles that the two sexes are supposed to have in this society.

From the day we are born, boys are dressed in blue and girls in pink.

Men are supposed to be the hunters bringing home a wage to the submissive wife.

These ideas suit capitalist soci-

ety.

They want working class people to be moulded to fit into a family where children are brought up privately at no cost to the employers or the state.

Fostered

The Archbishop of Cashel and Emly gave the game away when he said that the family "saves the public purse enormous sums in the care of the elderly, the mentally ill, the handicapped, the children fostered".

But of course they don't sell us the notion of family values this way.

The family is held out as a source of love and happiness.

It is supposed to be the area where we get some control of our lives and emotional fulfilment.

If work is often a drudge, a form of forced labour, we start to over invest our emotions in the family.

We want our kids to turn out to be better than us; we hope to have an exciting private life to compensate for a public life of being bossed about and put down.

If we are made unemployed, we hope to get some respect and dignity back from the family.

But the reality is often very different.

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Family: A Hell



FIGHT FOR DIVORCE

THE Bishops believe that women should not be allowed to leave relationships with the likes of Charlo.

They think that if a marriage goes wrong, people should have no right to remarry. Women should be legally tied to husbands who beat them for the rest of their lives.

The Bishop of Dublin, Dr O Connell, has denounced divorce as 'anti-social'. But it is he who is anti-social.

He says that he is against the 'contraceptive culture that release the married couple from all commitments to procreation'.

This is fancy language for saying that every time you have sex, you should be willing to have lots and lots of children.

Now the Bishops are trying to relate to the anger that exists against this government and turn it in a right wing direction.

Dr O Connell has started to talk about the 'plight of the poor and unemployed'. In the last divorce referendum, the Church won many votes with the slogan 'Jobs not divorce'.

But there has been no divorce in Ireland for the last decade and unemployment has kept on rising.

The Bishops have done nothing to sell off their vast property to raise funds for the poor.

They shut down Carysfort Teachers training College rather than hand it over to the state—in order to make a fortune in a big property deal.

They should not be let use the plight of the unemployed to swing a vote that locks people into desperately, unhappy relationships.

Supporters of the bishops are doing everything to stop the divorce poll going ahead. The Supreme Court judges, who are mainly Fianna Fail backers, have thrown out a law which would give a wife joint ownership of the family home.

They say that it would undermine the 'authority of the family'.

The tragedy is that the Labour party is going along with this backtracking by FF. The divorce which was supposed to happen in 1993 is now being put back to 1995.

Because many FF TDs campaigned against the last divorce referendum, the government is hiring a PR company to put its case. This only plays into the hands of the bishops.

Roddy Doyle's programme has done more in a few hours to establish why divorce should be a right of the Irish people than all the manoeuvres of the Labour party over the years. It's high time that the bishops were taken on and beaten on this one.

VIOLENCE?

The reality can be one of unhappiness, loneliness, distorted sexual relations and more alienation.

Inequality

We should not be surprised that this results in violence. Because of the inequality it will mean male violence.

Family violence will also be more likely to be concentrated in the poorest sections of the working class.

Here the pressures of poverty and stress on family life is the greatest.

They are also the groups that the police are most likely to pick on.

According to the British based Women Against Rape.

"Women with the least financial security, low paid jobs and low paid partners—stood a far better chance of being abused or assaulted".

A study in Philadelphia, showed that 90% of rapists 'belonged to the lower part of the occupational scale, from skilled workers to unemployed'.

Family violence will exist for so long as capitalism make fake promises about the happiness of family life—and then does everything to drive us into poverty and misery.

The ABC of Socialism

What causes the crisis?

by CHRIS HARMAN

"THE ACCUMULATION of wealth on the one hand, of poverty on the other".

This was how Marx summed up capitalism. Every capitalist fears competition from every other so they work their employees as hard as possible, paying as low wages as he can get away with.

The result is a disproportion between the massive growth of means of production on the one hand, and the limited growth in wages and the number of workers employed on the other.

This, Marx insisted, was the basic cause of economic crisis.

The easiest way to look at this is to ask who buys the greatly expanding quantity of goods?

The low wages of workers mean they cannot afford the goods produced by their own labour. And the capitalists cannot increase wages, because that would destroy profit, the driving force of the system.

But if firms cannot sell the goods they produce, they have to shut down factories and lay off workers.

The total amount of wages falls still more, and yet more firms cannot sell their goods.

A "crisis of overproduction" sets in, with goods piling up throughout the economy that people cannot afford to buy.

This has been a recurrent feature of capitalist society for the past 160 years.

Way out

But any quick-witted apologist for the system will soon point out that there should be an easy way out of the crisis.

All that's needed is that capitalists invest their profit in new factories and machines.

That will provide jobs for workers, who in turn will then be able to buy the unsold goods.

This means that as long as there's new investment, all the goods produced can be sold and the system can provide full employment.

Marx was no fool and realised this. Indeed, he realised that the com-

petitive pressure on capitalism to invest was central to the system.

But, he asked, does this mean the capitalists will invest all their profits, all the time?

Capitalists will only invest if they think they are guaranteed a "reasonable" profit.

If they don't think there is such a profit to be made, they won't risk money in investment. They will put it in the bank and leave it there.

Whether capitalists invest or not depends on how they assess the economic situation.

When it looks right, the capitalists all rush to invest at the same time, falling over each other searching for construction sites, buying up machines, scouring the earth for raw materials, paying more for skilled labour.

This is usually called a "boom". But the frenzied competition for land, raw materials and skilled labour forces up the prices of these things.

And suddenly, a point is reached where some firms discover their costs have risen so much that all their profits have disappeared.

The investment boom all at once gives way to an investment "slump".

No one wants new factories—construction workers are laid off. No one wants new machines—the machine tool industry goes into crisis.

No one wants all the steel that is being produced—the steel industry is suddenly working "below capacity" and becomes "unprofitable". Closures and shutdowns spread from industry to industry destroying jobs—and with them the ability of workers to buy the goods of other industries.

The history of capitalism is a history of such periodic lurches into crisis, into the insanity of unemployed workers going hungry outside empty factories, while stocks of "unwanted" goods rot.

Capitalism produces these crises periodically because there is no planning—so there is no way to stop the stampede of capital into and out of in-

vestment. People used to think that the state could stop this.

By intervening in the economy, increasing state investment when private investment was low, then reducing it when private investment caught up, the state would keep production on an even keel.

But nowadays, state investment, too, is part of the lunacy. Look at the nationalised steel industries of some European countries.

Some years ago, when the firms were still nationalised, steelworkers were told their jobs were being eliminated to make way for vast modern automatic furnaces designed to produce more steel more cheaply. Now those workers still left are facing further attacks on their jobs.

Why? Because the steel industries of other countries—both public and private—embarked on the same massive investment plans.

Now there is a world surplus of steel—a crisis of overproduction—and so state investment is being cut. Steelworkers, of course, suffer both ways.

Privileged

This is the price humanity is still paying for an economic system where the production of massive wealth is controlled by a small privileged group interested only in profit.

It does not matter whether these privileged groups own industry directly or whether they control it through their control of the state.

So long as they use their control to compete with each other for the largest share of the profits, nationally and internationally, it is the workers who suffer. The final lunacy of the system is that the "crisis of overproduction" is not overproduction at all.

All that "surplus" steel, for instance, could help solve world hunger. Peasants around the world have to plow the land with wooden plows, when steel plows would vastly increase food production.

But the peasants have no money anyway so the capitalist system isn't interested in producing for them—there's no profit in it.

PORTUGAL 20 YEARS AGO

How revolution smashed fascism

THE last revolutionary movement in Western Europe took place in Portugal twenty years ago.

In 1974 the country was poor, and like Ireland experienced massive emigration.

For decades Portugal had been ruled by a very repressive fascist dictatorship.

Strikes, demonstrations, public meetings, political parties and trade unions were banned.

Newspapers, music, theatre—every aspect of life—was controlled by the fascist regime with its "greenshirt" and "blueshirt" thugs.

At the same time, the dictatorship was fighting expensive wars in Africa to maintain its colonial rule. 200,000 men were in an army costing half of the states budget.

Defy

However, while the rest of Europe was modernising, Portugal was falling behind.

By the 1970's a growing number of workers were willing to defy the law and undertake strikes.

The employers were also dissatisfied with the way the regime was falling behind the rest of Europe.

The dictatorship was coming under increased strain.

A group of army officers—many of whom were conscripts—set up a clandestine organisation "The Armed Forces Movement".

They had reached the point where they were no longer willing to wage war in Africa on behalf of the dictatorship.

On April 25th a dozen military units rose to take over their headquarters, the radio stations and the airport.

This revolt was immensely popular, and the regime collapsed in overnight.

That morning people found the troops on the streets were on their side.

A day of massive rejoic-

ing began, with tanks giving rides to workers, and flowers being showered upon the soldiers.

Marched

One participant remembers the spontaneous marches.

"For 48 years there had been no such demonstrations in Portugal. Two generations had passed without being able to walk the streets freely.

"People marched up to the top of the avenue, didn't quite believe they'd done it and then marched down again to prove it was really possible."

The revolution had begun.



Workers begin to win their freedom

THE officers in the Armed Forces Movement had risen knowing they wanted an end to the dictatorship, but without a clear idea of the society they wanted.

For workers the revolution meant freedom. Not just the right to vote, but also the right to rid their factories of hated managers and informers.

Within days of the rebellion a strike wave began, demanding higher wages and the purging of fascists from the workplaces. With no hostile army or police the strikes were easily won. Wages rose 30% that year.

As the workers confidence grew, their actions became bolder.

Local people and staff took over a golf course in the Algarve and declared it was now open to all—but the members.

Everywhere there was

overcrowding, workers took over empty buildings for their accommodation.

In Corroios, a luxury hotel was occupied by nearby residents.

A member of the occupation committee commented: "The working people will devote their time to transforming this luxurious hotel complex of the rich into a place for workers to enjoy themselves—into a people's canteen, a child care centre, and an old people's centre.

"The workers want to show their exploiters and prove to themselves that they are capable of solving their own problems."

The ownership of the media by a privileged few was challenged.

Workers running the papers *Jornal do Comercio* and *Republica* took them over. Radio *Renasca* was occupied and a workers committee formed to ensure it was not used to put out right wing propaganda.

When the Provisional Government tried to hand the radio station back to its owners, the Catholic Church, massive demonstrations took place which resulted in victory for the workers.

Factories were also taken over by their workers. Firms that were weak and threatening to close or engage in mass sackings were the first to

be run by workers committees.

Invited

After a year 300 enterprises were run by their workers.

In one hospital the workers took over from the nuns, and invited them to come and vote at the mass meetings.

On the land workers took over their estates and

gave their communes names such as "Red Star" and "Dictatorship of the Proletariat".

Because the bank owners were allowing big business to sabotage the financial system, bank workers occupied the buildings on March 12th 1975 with instructions from their union to "watch the telex and the telephones."

Two days later the government gave in to their de-

mand that the banks be nationalised.

This fantastic wave of popular initiative proved that the working class had solutions to all the problems created by capitalism.

For their achievements to be consolidated and built on, the working class had to take over all of society. Workers had gone some way towards this by forming a variety of committees across districts and whole

towns. But the capitalist class was equally trying to reimpose its rule over the workers.

Twice, a coup was attempted, in order to put an end to the working class revolt.

Both times the coup failed miserably, serving only to deepen the revolution and strengthen the ties between rank and file soldiers and the working class.

Bosses turn to deception

WHEN they found that they could not set up a new dictatorship, Portugal's rulers turned to deception.

The anniversary of the revolution was the date set for elections to a new government. Interest was massive, with over 90% of the electorate voting.

The main victors of the election were the Socialist Party with 37.8% of the vote.

The Socialist Party presented a different face in different parts of the country. In the conservative North they told small farmers that they would stop the 'communist take-over'. But in the capital, Lisbon, they said they were for workers control and genuine socialism.

Unlike the situation in Ireland today, nobody in

Portugal had any idea what the Socialist Party would be like in Government.

The party had only been formed for a year, from people who had been exiles whilst the fascist dictatorship existed. It has been massively funded by the German Labour Party who were terrified of the idea of revolution in Europe.

Disappointed

Many workers sincerely believed that it would help bring about Socialism.

They were to be bitterly disappointed. The Socialist Party was to be the key Party in the government that ended the revolution.

Tension between the ruling classes and the working class had been growing.

The army was in-

creasingly divided between the upper class officers and the rank and file. One soldier remembers wanting to hold a minutes silence in remembrance of the Chilean revolution put down by a coup two years earlier.

"The officers said no. We put bullets in our guns—and held our minutes silence."

The leader of the Socialist Party, Soares, met with right-wing officers to discuss how to re-establish discipline throughout Portugal.

They decided on a provocation and on the 24th November sacked a popular military leader, *Olelo de Carvalho*.

A section of the soldiers rose up in protest, and were promptly attacked by the government.

Most workers were confused by these

events. Very few factories struck in support of the left wing soldiers. They were held back by their faith in the Socialist Party.

Of the many revolutionary groups that had blossomed during the revolution, none were big enough, or clear enough in what they wanted, to provide an alternative to the Socialist Party.

Once the government had control over the army, it could then, bit by bit regain control over the workplaces.

The revolution was turned around, and gradually subsided.

Twenty years after these stormy events, socialists should celebrate the power and inspiration of the Portuguese revolution, and be reminded of the importance of building a genuinely revolutionary party.



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 Parnell St
Wednesday 1st: The family: haven or Hell?
Wednesday 8th: Where does racism come from?
Wednesday 15th: The rise of Loyalist violence in the North
Wednesday 22nd: Rosa Luxemburg
Wednesday 29th: Can Israel and Palestine make peace?

Dublin Northside
Meets every Tuesday 8pm The Old Brogue, Dorset St
Tuesday 31st: The family: haven or Hell?
Tuesday 7th: The rise of Loyalist violence in the North
Tuesday 14th: Is marxism finished?

Tuesday 24th: Can the be peace in the Middle East?

Dublin South Central
Meets every Thursday 8pm Trinity Inn Pearse St
Thursday 26th: The North: How do we stop the killings?
Thursday 2nd: Crime: Who is to blame?
Thursday 9th: The family: haven or Hell?
Thursday 16th: Fascism
Thursday 23rd: Socialism: Democracy or Tyranny?

Dublin Southside
Meets every Wednesday 8pm Clarkes Bar, 11 Wexford St
Wednesday 1st: Israel and the Palestinians
Wednesday 8th: Will revolution be violent?

Wednesday 15th: The North: How do we stop the killings?
Wednesday 22nd: The family: haven or Hell?

Tallaght/Clondalkin
Meets every Wednesday 8pm Tallaght Welfare Society next to Foxes Covert in Tallaght village
Wednesday 1st: Why do we sell *Socialist Worker*?
Wednesday 8th: Socialism: Democracy or Tyranny?
Wednesday 15th: The North: How do we stop the killings?
Wednesday 22nd: Crime: Lock 'em all up?

Maynooth
For details of time and venue write to the SWM national address.

Waterford
Meets every Tuesday 8pm ATGWU Hall, Keyser St
Tuesday 31st: Socialism and Democracy
Tuesday 7th: Crime: Who is to blame?
Tuesday 14th: The family: haven or Hell?
Tuesday 21st: The North: How do we stop the killings?

Belfast
Meets every Tuesday 8pm See SW sellers for details or contact national office
Tuesday 31st: Crime: Who is to blame?
Tuesday 7th: The North: How do we stop the violence?
Tuesday 14th: The Middle East: Can there be peace?
Tuesday 21st: The revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx

Barry
Meets every Tuesday 8pm Badgers Pub Orchard St
Tuesday 31st: Gay Liberation and Socialism
Tuesday 7th: How do we get peace in the North?
Tuesday 14th: Do all revolutions end in tyranny?
Tuesday 21st: Crime: Who is to blame?

Cork
Meets every Thursday 8pm Anchor Inn, Georges Quay
Thursday 2nd: Build a revolutionary alternative in the 90s
Thursday 9th: Two years on from the X case: What's changed for women's rights?
Thursday 16th: Will there always be war?
Thursday 23rd: Socialism: Democracy or Tyranny?

Dundalk
For details of time and venue write to the SWM national address.

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

Nazi thugs attack march against racist professor

AN Anti Nazi League march through Coleraine town centre in May was attacked by National Front members.

Ten thugs shouting National Front slogans and giving the Nazi salute assaulted marchers carrying anti-Nazi banners.

They threw bottles and tried to beat up some of the marchers, who included a number of young children.

But the Nazis were quickly driven back to a pub where the police had to intervene to save them.

Over seventy ANL demonstrators were protesting at the University of Ulster's resources being used for racist research and demanding the sacking of Richard Lynn, a Professor of Psychology at Coleraine.

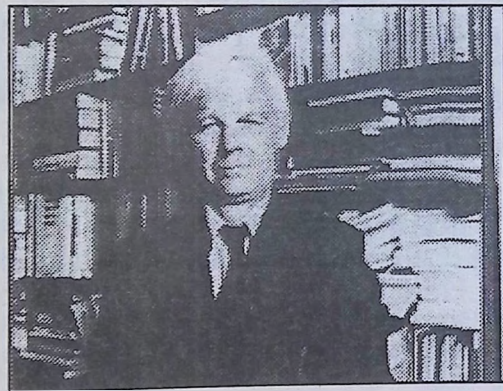
Spokesperson for the Anti Nazi League, Richard Boyd Barrett said

"This was intended as a peaceful march—the presence of children and babies should have been clear evidence of our peaceful intentions."

"This attack demonstrates the link between so-called 'respectable' racists like Lynn and hard core Nazi thugs", said Richard Boyd Barrett.

"Lynn's research gives a spurious 'scientific' respectability to the sort of ideas that led to the Holocaust."

"The ANL will not rest until these people are ex-



Racist Professor Lynn

posed and defeated."

Lynn's research has claimed to prove that black people have IQs 15 points lower than those of whites.

He an honorary associate editor of Mankind Quarterly, a magazine which describes itself as "dedicated to racial science".

A previous associate editor of Mankind Quarterly

was Otmar, Baron von Verschauer.

It was Verschauer who was Dr. Mengele's mentor and head of the Nazis eugenics programme during World War Two.

Details of Prof. Lynn's 'research' were first exposed by the London newspaper The Independent on Sunday in May 1990.

PUBLIC ORDER BILL CLAIMS FIRST VICTIM

Ireland's new draconian Public Order Bill is being implemented by the police force.

The second person arrested under the Bill was taken to a Garda station in Tralee, Co Kerry last month.

He was pulled into the police station late at night for disorderly behaviour.

Within hours he was found dead in police custody. The scandal is that none of the press have dared to investigate what happened.

This is a terrible reminder of the new powers which this Coalition has given to the police.

Dundalk sees red

DUNDALK RTC has had its first real experience with socialism.

The Socialist Workers Movement stood three candidates in the student union elections there.

Alan Goode stood for president, Mike Martin for vice president and Brenda Hammant for women's rights officer.

The three campaigned under the slogan "For a fighting Students Union".

The college was completely polarised. Soon after the posters were put up graffiti such as "Better Dead than Red" appeared.

Alan Goode said: "This is great—it's a straight fight between left and right, between action and inaction. The college is in a buzz. There's a red scare."

Warning

None of the candidates were elected however Brenda Hammant commented:

"To get our politics across and to recruit five new members—that's got to be a success."

Mike Martin said: "This is a warning to the college authorities that a section of students are no longer prepared to be pushed around by them, they know were going to fight!"

One of the five new members said: "The SWM candidates offered a direction, a fightback against the shit grant, lousy food and canteen prices and sexism in the college. I joined to get organised to fight for student rights."

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.

JOIN US!

If you would like to join the SWM or receive more details, send this slip to: SWM, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Tel: (01) 872 2682 or PO Box 103 Belfast 15 2AB

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Exhibition:

Labour in Art

Conor Kostick reviews two exhibitions in Dublin's Kilmainham

THE Irish Museum of Modern Art has got two interesting exhibitions on at the moment.

At *Work* is a collection of photographs by the award winning photo-journalist, Derek Spiers.

This is a brilliant record of many of the struggles which Irish workers have fought since the mid seventies.

One of the best is a photo of the Confexim factory occupation in Drogheda in 1979 where a young woman holds a placard on which are written the immortal words, "We are tired and weary but we are sitting-in".

There are pictures of the Dunnes strike where workers walked out because they refused to handle South African goods and of the Clondalkin paper mills where workers sat in for over a year to defend their jobs.

If you ever had any doubt about how Irish workers can fight, then this exhibition is a must.



Labour in Art is a collection of paintings about the Irish working class.

Despite the fact that the best intellectuals in Irish history such as William Orpen and AE Russell took the side of the labour movement in 1913, there actually few visual representations of Southern labour.

Two of the artists exhibited—Sean Keating and the sculptor Gabriel Hayes—use a style that is close to "socialist realism".

This was a type of art which showed heroic hand-some workers wining the battle of production.

Keating has a picture of the building of ESB power station in 1926 where an engineer faces into the wind with his red scarf flowing against a background of machinery.

It is sickening to think the same ESB power station was built by half starved scab labour who took up the jobs of trade unionists who were sacked for looking for a decent wage.

Book:

Black voice who sang the blues

BILLIE HOLIDAY was one of the greatest jazz and blues singers of all time.

Her biography by Donald Clarke begins with the background to her art.

"An African-American culture has been developing on American soil for over 350 years, first shaped by slavery and then by naked racism; and it is from this culture that the subject of our story comes."

Clarke uses a series of previously unpublished interviews with people who knew Billie to tell the story of her life. She was one of many black women who began life hustling the streets to stay alive.

From her childhood days in Baltimore frequenting "good time houses" to the early period of her success in Harlem, Clarke shows that wider forces than music shaped her life.

He writes about Harlem in the 1920s where, "It seemed as though black music and literature were bursting out of their confines".

But at the same time he uncompromisingly details the racism which affected Billie Holiday and every black artist.

When she toured with the 1930s big bands, fronted by Count Basie and Artie Shaw, she had to endure constant humiliation.

Hotels and restaurants closed their doors to blacks.

In one instance a Southern redneck demanded that Billie sing again, while describing her as a "nigger wench". In response a fracas broke out with Artie Shaw reportedly smashing his clarinet over the offender's head.

Billie Holiday was denied access to a mass audience and never became the mainstream performer that she longed to be.

Racism and the

by JULIE HUNT

"shock" of her innovative singing style meant that establishment producers were wary of promoting her.

It was at this point, Clarke suggests, that, "For better or worse her life and career took a turn to the left in more ways than one".

First she agreed to be the first female performer to play the "Cafe Society", a club set up by liberal jazz fans in reaction to segregation.

Gem

It was also during this period that she made the record which would become the pivotal song of her career, the anti-lynching "Strange Fruit".

Clarke maintains that Holiday was non-political and that her first reaction to the song was non-committal.

But eye witnesses say the song had a fantastic impact on her when she was in front of an audience.

This book is a gem for jazz fans, but don't be put off if you know nothing about the music of the period.

By the end of it you will not only have gained a wealth of knowledge, you will be itching to sample the music.

■ *Wishing on the moon: the Life and times of Billie Holiday*, by Donald Clarke, Viking, £16.99.



Billie Holiday—sample the music

Strange fruit

Southern trees bear a strange fruit,
Blood on the trees and blood at the root,
Black bodies swaying in the Southern breeze,
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees.
Pastoral scene of the gallant South,
The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth,
Scent of magnolias, sweet and fresh,
Then the sudden smell of burning flesh.
Here is a fruit for the crows to pluck,
For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck
For the sun to rot, for the trees to drop,
Here is a strange and bitter fruit.

■ A poem by Lewis Allan sung by Billie Holiday

Film:

The fifth Beatle

David Dunne reviews 'Backbeat'

BACKBEAT is a new film based on the sparsely documented years before the Beatles meteoric rise to fame. It centres mainly around the fifth Beatle Stuart Sutcliffe who died in 1962.

The film starts in a Liverpool club where Lennon and his best mate Stuart get into a

nasty fight with a couple of burly dockers, Lennon stands back while Sutcliffe gets stuck in and gets badly beaten.

Soon the band, including Sutcliffe, go to Hamburg in search of fame.

It is in these sleazy Beerkellers that the band first experiment with drugs to keep them playing seven nights a week.

The music is mainly rock'n'roll played by the presently touring Backbeat Band, who were formed for the purpose of the film, it's raunchy and aggressive typifying the bands rebellious sentiments.

There are some crazy scenes where they play semi-dressed in womens clothing and were they first do 'uppers' and with eyeballs out on storks can't understand why they can't sleep at five in the morning.

Ambition

The dry Liverpoolian wit of Lennon is hilarious and actor Ian Hart belts out the crude one-liners quite well.

Hart easily outshines co-actor Stephen Dorff who plays Sutcliffe.

Sutcliffe eventually leaves the band for art, his first ambition and

real talent lie in painting.

Soon after the Beatles play their first big gig in the Cavern and fame comes their way.

Sutcliffe, living with his German girlfriend, gets accepted to an art college in Hamburg, but soon starts having blackouts which are attributed to too much drugs and an earlier blow on the head.

Eventually the band return to Hamburg to find Stuart has died of a brain haemorrhage and Lennon is devastated.

You don't have to be a die-hard fan to enjoy this funny and well directed film.



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

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Post Office: Strike to stop sell-off

THE Tories want to privatise the Royal Mail and Parcelforce sections of the post office.

It will mean the loss of tens of thousands of jobs, the closure of offices and higher charges for everyone throughout Britain and Northern Ireland.

Things will be even worse in the North, because privatisation would mean that the extra air and shipping costs would be passed on to the public.

The Post Office already charges higher costs for Datapost Services in Northern Ireland and the Scottish islands.

The second delivery is already under threat and privatisation would certainly mean the end of it.

The Tories want to sell the Post Office off to their cronies because it makes huge profits.

Last year, it made more than £250 million and this year is expected to announce profits of over £300 million, according to postal workers' unions.

But privatisation can be prevented if postal work-

ers strike to stop the sell off.

Already there has been action in defiance of the government's anti-union laws at offices including Swindon, Bristol, Cardiff, Liverpool, Southend, Whitby, Kilburn and Glasgow.

In April, an unofficial strike by 2,000 workers in Liverpool forced bosses to back off from sacking a worker who was alleged to have hit a manager.

In Bristol and illegal strike won extra jobs and stopped the use of casuals without agreement.

Sacking

In mid-May, a walkout at the NWDO sorting office in London made bosses review the sacking of a driver.

When hundreds of workers at WDO sorting office in London walked out the following week, they won a promise from

management to review several matters.

Royal Mail wants to fine the UCW £27,000 for not denouncing the Bristol strike quickly enough.

The problem is that the UCW leadership has not supported its members. Instead it has deliberately tried to stop strikes.

But UCW members CAN stop the Tories—and get a lot of public support in the process.

This privatisation will

be as unpopular as the sell off of electricity and the closure of the coalmines.

Strike action would hit the Post Office's profits.

An all out strike would bring the Tories to their knees within days.

Postal workers need a real fightback.

If union leaders do not do it, local activists must start the fight, link their struggles together and demand the union backs them.



B+I workers sold down the river

WORKERS at B+I shipping company have taken one day strike action against the failure of their company to live up to promises it made to the workforce.

B+I was privatised by the last Fianna Fail/Progressive Democrat government. The company which took over the ferries was the small Irish Continental Group.

One of its directors was Eamonn Rothwell, who worked closely with Dermot Desmond in the stockbroking company NCB. Desmond had close relations with Charles Haughey and it is no accident that FF sold off B+I on the cheap.

The government wrote off a £40 million debt and indemnified the company against legal action.

Irish Continental made two clear promises to the workforce—which they have broken.

They said that they would keep up all existing lines. But now they are planning to close the Dublin Liverpool line with the loss of 120 jobs.

They said they would replace the B+I Container fleet. But they have sold off the MV Wicklow and instead of replacing the MV Kilkenny which was involved in a crash, they bought the ship which caused the crash, the MV Hasselwerder.

As one worker put it "it is like spitting on the graves of those who lost their lives".

When workers took strike action, they offered to leave one or two workers behind to keep the engine room serviced.

But the management demanded that they pay a £50 Bed and Breakfast charge.

It was typical of the attitude of a company that the workers have come to despise.

One of the B+I workers told *Socialist Worker* "This is just the start of our campaign. We are going to keep on organising until the company meets the promises it made to us".

TEAM-Aer Lingus workers to fight lay offs

WORKERS at TEAM Air Lingus have voted overwhelmingly to take strike action if management try to impose new working arrangements.

The vote for action was 75 per cent.

Management at TEAM are threatening vicious attacks on wages and conditions.

They want to lay off up to 600 workers for the summer.

They are demanding a pay freeze in 1995 and have also started to look for pay cuts on overtime and shift allowance.

Demands

They want workers to do more 12 hour shifts and to work a 48 hour week over six days in the peak winter season.

All of these demands come after workers accepted a previous restructuring and survival plan in March of this year.

The company has already got £15 million in savings.

As one shop steward put it:

"They should be handing over the company to us after about five years—as we would have given so much in savings".

The top manager for Human Resources in TEAM is John Behan, better known as Jelly Bean to most of the staff.

Behan is a hatchet man who was involved in the banks and Waterford Glass.

When he tried to tear up the March agreement, he claimed that an agreement is only an agreement when it suits both parties.

In other words, what is agreed today can be torn up to-morrow if it does not suit us.

One worker told *Socialist Worker*:

"We are going to have to fight this one. It is all

about defending our jobs.

"Workers in Irish Steel, Aer Lingus, Irish Rail -- we've all had it in the neck for the last 18 months. We've had enough.

"Shop stewards throughout the transport and semi-state industries should get together and call a national stoppage to protest at the jobs massacre. It's time we had our say"

TEAM Aer Lingus can be beaten.

Last year Air France workers shows that militant action can get results.

Runways

When their management tried to push through redundancies they took to the runways and won support of other workers.

Not only did management back down, but their chief hatchet man got the sack.

It is time that TEAM workers took some French lessons.

Irish Steel jobs threat



Dineen: bowling out jobs

IRISH Steel workers are being hauled over the coals once again.

In 1993, they were asked to give up their 3.5% PESP increase in order to save jobs.

But now the bosses are after them for more sacrifice. They are demanding over £8 million in savings—and they want the workers to cough up.

Irish Steel wants one hundred and fifty redundancies out of the five hundred and fifty strong workforce. They want a 28% cut in wages. As if that was not bad enough, they want a pay freeze for three years

afterwards.

Lots of reports have been done on Irish Steel. The Simpson Xavier report actually demanded 231 redundancies.

Another report was drawn up by a former manager, Diarmuid Quirke. But Quirke found he could not carry out his job as manager because of 'other business commitments'.

Cricket

The new supremo at Irish Steel is one Pat Dineen. Dineen knows nothing about the Steel business. He was a former chairman of Irish Pensions and an Irish Cricket International.

The steel industry in Europe is in crisis at the moment. But this stems from the recession.

Construction sites all over Ireland and Europe still need steel. The Third World needs tractors and ploughs. In any decent rational society there would be no need to close down a steel plant.

Irish steel has in fact been massively modernised. It had a huge facelift in the 1980s. In 1993, the workers were congratulated for the new beam bar technique which saves time and energy.

A cast of 120 tonnes of steel which previously took two hours now only takes one hour and twenty minutes.

The only reason why there is a threat to close this modern steel plant is the anarchy of capitalism. This crazy system is all about destroying and wasting decent industries.

Workers need to fight to defend their jobs. But they will do so more effectively when they realise that they also have to combat the logic of this rotten system.

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

Inside:

The Family:
haven or hell?
PAGES SIX AND SEVEN

Why do these sectarian killings go on?

THE murder of Gavin McShane and Shane McArdle, two teenage Catholics who were playing a video game in an Armagh taxi office, brought to five the number of Catholics who were killed in one week in May.

The confidence of the gunmen is growing. The murderers of Gavin and Shane were able to walk unmasked from the car park to the taxi office to carry out their murders.

The media have condemned these killings as 'mindless'.

But this ignores the horrific logic that lies behind the rise in loyalist sectarian shootings.

These groupings know that some sort of peace deal could be in the offing.

They have no electoral support among the Protestant population.

But they think that they can follow groups like Inkatha in South Africa in using terror against random Catholics to get a place at the negotiating table.

Sections of the Unionist establishment are willing to

Turning a blind eye

THE RUC and British Army try to deny collusion in the loyalist terror campaign.

Yet Amnesty International's Annual Report for 1993 expressed 'serious concern' at the evidence they found for collusion.

The British government has also admitted to Amnesty that "given the situation [it] would be impossible to prevent collusion".

Recent cases show that the charge of collusion is no exaggeration.

■ On Thursday 28th April, Paul Thompson was killed by the UVF at Springfield Park in West Belfast.

People there knew a loyalist murder gang was working in area.

A hole had appeared in the fence that forms the 'peaceline' between Catholic and Protestant West Belfast.

They rang the RUC and told them of their fears. A 'community relations officer' assured them he would do something about it.

Did Nothing

The RUC did nothing—until after Paul Thompson had been killed.

■ On Saturday 8th May, 76 year old Rose Ann Mallon was shot while watching TV.

The previous day, the RUC had been contacted by the parents of two boys who had seen men in combat gear moving guns from a nearby empty building. Again, the RUC did nothing.

After Ms. Mallon's murder, the police tried to dismiss what the boys had seen. But a Protestant man went to the local paper to say that he too had seen these men in combat gear.

■ Another recent victim of the UVF, Martin Bradley, who was killed on 12th May had his life threatened by the security forces on a number of occasions.

In January 1988, a British intelligence agent Brian Nelson helped to organise the smuggling from South Africa of a huge consignment of arms and ammunition, including 200 AK47 automatic rifles to the UDA.

Between the arrival of the arms and the IRA's Shankill bomb last November, 147 Catholics were killed by loyalist paramilitaries. That death toll is now more than 200.

play with murder gangs game.

Sammy Wilson the former DUP Mayor of Belfast has claimed that the crazy plan of the UDA for 'ethnic cleansing' was "realistic".

The Belfast Telegraph has revealed that top Unionist politicians are having talks the loyalist killer squads.

These same hypocrites have called on the British government not to have any talks with the IRA.

Murder

Albert Reynolds claims that he has been told by 'good solid Unionists' that

"the traditional way to break out of the siege is to go out and murder a few Catholics".

The Unionist upper class are turning a blind eye to the activities of the sectarian assassins.

They hope to use them to carve out more privileges for themselves in any future settlement.

HOW TO STOP THE KILLINGS

THROUGHOUT the North, but especially in Belfast, people of all religions and none are living in fear. No one knows who is going to be next in the random killings.

The problem is that fear is driving people apart, sending working class people back to their ghettos for safety.

But the only way to stop the killings is for working class people to come together.

Coming together does not just mean holding hands across the peacelines but also fighting for our common interests as workers.

It would be far harder for the sectarian bigots to present themselves as protectors if Catholic and Protestant workers were on the streets together fight against the Tories attacks on VAT or Post Office privatisation.

But we also need to start build a set of politics that can overcome the sectarian divide.

Inside the Protestant working class there is a need to build a socialist force which stands up to the bigotry which Unionism has spawned.

Catholic workers also need to move beyond republicanism. The republicans emerged to fight back against oppression.

But today they offer no way of winning and can only tell Protestant workers that they need a 'de Klerk type figure to lead them.'

Their tactic of shooting, for example, cleaners who work for the RUC plays into the hands of the sectarian thugs.

What is needed is an organisation that calls on Catholic and Protestant workers to unite against the sectarian state