

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

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**Vietnam:
The war
the US
lost**

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union
power?**

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Government betrays scheme workers

7,000 jobs slashed

THE COALITION is trying to cut 7,000 part time community jobs to save themselves money.

The number of long term unemployed who were to be hired on the Community Employment Programme was set to rise to 42,000. But now Bruton has insisted on cutting 7,000 places.

The cuts could mean devastation in some community services. Information centres are often staffed by CEP workers. So too are creches and arts centres.

In the Ballyfermot

Theatre Workshop, for example, 33 people were supposed to be hired. But now the management have been told to sack 9 people.

Extension

According to Catherine Heaney of the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed: "Many scheme workers expected that they would get an extension

beyond a year but now they will not. They won't be able to get enough training to get out of long term unemployment."

According to one CEP worker, Joe Carolan:

"It is putting people in a terrible position. They tried to do something for their community by getting a project going. Now they are being told to act like hatchet men for the government and sack people."

The conditions for the CEP workers have never

been great. They only get paid £79 for a 20 hour working week.

The government also decided that this miserly wage should be subject to tax and £5 has been taken off many workers.

Sackings

But real organisation can be built amongst scheme workers to oppose the sackings.

The Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed have called for a work stoppage on May 12th in protest.

Joe explained to Socialist Worker:

"It is important that this protest is not just built from the top down.

"It is not good enough to have 20 people outside the Dail with a coffin to dramatise the jobs lost.

"We need hundreds of people there protesting. CEP workers should elect a rep in every area and start organising.

"And we should go further and start agitating about the conditions we have to work under."

**Support the
work stoppage
at CEP schemes
May 12th
called by the
Irish National
Organisation of
the Unemployed**

Failed washing powder man gets payout

PITY ABOUT those terrible papers like *Socialist Worker*, always giving out about our top people's pay.

Don't they realise our executives are "risk-takers" whose every decision can spell life or death for their company.

But then there's the case of Niall Fitzgerald, the "detergents coordinator" of Unilever, the makers of Persil washing powder.

Poor old Niall had the bright idea of wiping out the competition with a washing powder that was so tough on stains it destroyed clothes as well. Tragically, the powder had to be withdrawn last year.

However, Mr Niall Fitzgerald has just been awarded a £184,000 pay increase taking his salary to £864,240

It's a funny old world, as Thatcher used to say.

BHREATHNACH'S EDUCATION WHITE PAPER: Cowardice in the face of the bishops

NIAMH Bhreathnach's White Paper on education was billed as ending Church control of Irish schools.

In reality it shows the Coalition's cowardice in confronting the Bishops who currently own 90% of primary schools and 60% of secondary schools.

The White Paper proposes that all new schools will be owned by the state, leaving existing Church ownership intact. With the number of primary school students forecast to drop by 13% by the year 2000 few, if any, new schools will be built to be controlled by the state.

A new board of management structure is proposed for primary schools. Currently the patron (the local bishop) controls a majority of board seats.

Under the new proposals the

bishop would nominate two members to the board and indirectly select another. This will still give him the right to veto the appointment of community representatives. The chair of the board would also be appointed by the bishop who would wield the casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

Welcomed

It was therefore little wonder that the hierarchy welcomed the White Paper.

Their spokesperson, Dr Thomas Flynn said that he "did not see anything in it which would be an obstacle to ensuring there would be schools with a Catholic ethos."

In reality, the White Paper is an open attack on teachers' jobs and conditions. It seeks to link pay with increased productivity,

looks for a longer school year and threatens to sack "unsatisfactory teachers".

In order to penalise teachers for demanding early retirement, Bhreathnach is promoting the myth that teachers have easy, well paid jobs with unreasonably long holidays.

The truth was exposed by an OECD report released two days before the White Paper.

It found that Ireland has the highest pupil-teacher ratio in Europe. Irish pupils receive more teaching hours than any other Western country except the US and the Netherlands.

The real problem is not the number of hours that pupils receive—it is the lack of funding for their education. Ireland is virtually bottom of the league for spending on pupils at pre-school, primary and secondary levels.

The state spends four times



more on educating third level graduates, mostly from middle and upper class backgrounds, than on educating primary school pupils.

INTO General Secretary, Joe O'Toole, summed it up: "Is it any wonder that we are below average in literacy?"

"The children being neglected at primary level will never have another chance".

The White Paper didn't even mention funding for education and will do nothing to ensure a decent education, free from church domination.

★ THE government inquiry into the fascist riot at Lansdowne Road has been published.

And there is a strange omission. The learned judge made no reference to the activities of Combat 18, the hit squad of the fascist BNP.

Looks like a case of seeing no evil and using it to get another excuse to give more powers to the Gardai.

Shock horror: Bigots in Sunday Life exposed

THE CONTINUING police harassment of gay men in the North has given the bigots a field day.

The RUC have been staking out public toilets all over the North for the last 18 months, trying to catch gay men in 'acts of gross indecency'.

The RUC have been so enthusiastic in this work that one magistrate warned they were close to acting as 'agents provocateurs'.

A gay man who winks at a plain clothes policeman, or two gay men caught kissing, can be arrested on charges of gross indecency.

Now the press are picking up on these cases to try to ruin lives and perpetuate myths about gays. That's what happened when Belfast's *Sunday Life* discovered that an assistant manager of a leisure centre in Belfast had been convicted of 'gross indecency'.

The paper asked if he should be allowed access to changing areas. It reported that "angry parents demanded that...it never happen again". *Sunday Life* put eight questions to Belfast City Council, all of which implied that the man should

be sacked. Answers are needed—not to those questions but to the anti-gay bigotry which lies behind them. In true tabloid

style, *Socialist Worker* brings you THE FACTS.

■ There is nothing indecent about people kissing, hugging or winking at each other in public.

Gay men have a right to a love life the same as heterosexuals.

■ Lesbians and gay men present no threat to children.

Abused

The majority of sexually abused children are girls abused by members of their

own families, usually heterosexual married men.

Paedophiles like Fr. Brendan Smith are, not gay. They abuse both girls and boys.

■ This case exposes the level of bigotry in Northern society regarding sexual

matters. The fact that police and newspapers in the North can hound a man from his job in a leisure centre while a government minister in the South was able to keep his says it all.

British state implicated in arming loyalists

FOLLOWING the discovery of a loyalist gun factory in Hollywood, Co Down, it has been revealed that one of the key figures involved is a manager of a munitions factory.

This shows how collusion with the loyalist paramilitaries reaches to the top echelons of the British state.

A new report by Relatives for Justice examines loyalist killings between 1990 and 1994 and shows the extent of the involvement of the security forces.

Explained

They highlight the case of Rose Ann Mallon.

She was shot dead a year ago by the UVF in her sister's home near

Dungannon. The RUC never explained the suspicious behaviour of three men (one of them a member of the Royal Irish Regiment) discovered in the area prior to the killing.

Two sophisticated British army surveillance cameras were trained on the house during the killing.

But the army never handed over the film

and no one was charged with the murder.

Seven other Catholics were killed in the early 1990s near surveillance cameras—but no one was arrested.

Next time John Major and Patrick Mayhew talk about 'decommissioning', remember all the guns their agents put into the hands of loyalist assassins.

Death on waste land highlights housing crisis

A 41 year old homeless woman, Eilis Larmour was found dead on wasteland in the grounds of St Brendan's Hospital in Dublin in mid-April.

It is believed that she was refused entry to some of these hostels because she was drunk.

Six months earlier, the battered body of a homeless man was found in the same area outside the Salvation

Army hostel. This hostel was set up two years ago after three homeless people died over two years ago.

Housing minister Liz McManus claims that "the number of homeless people in Dublin is small and manageable by European standards."

Voluntary groups working with the homeless dismiss this as nonsense.

The official figures show 2,667 homeless but Streetwise claims that the real figure of those in need of housing is closer to 80,000.

A Focus Point survey found that 60% of hostel users are long term users.

This is in spite of the fact that hostels were intended for once-off emergency accommodation and survive on a shoestring.

Eastern Health Board spending on B+B accommodation has increased by five times in the last three years.

The largest increase in homelessness has been among women and children.

Over 400 new homeless children were dealt with by the EHB in 1993.

When Liz McManus claims there is no homeless crisis, she means that the lives of those like Eilis Larmour don't matter.

IMO victimises doctor

THE IRISH Medical Organisation has suspended the junior doctors' representative, Dr. Peadar O'Grady because of his stance on abortion rights.

Dr. O'Grady had been outspoken in his condemnation of Noonan's bill on abortion information.

He objects to the terms of the bill which don't allow doctors refer women to abortion clinics, and had tabled a motion for the IMO conference to reverse the organisation's policy on abortion.

The IMO rejects abortion

on all grounds. "IMO policy is quoted as if it were the policy of the Medical Council.

"The Medical Council's line is 'don't break the law', but the IMO position is offensive to both women and doctors.

Excuse

"The organisation's excuse for refusing the junior doctors' resolution was that it was submitted too late.

"But in reality they want to avoid any debate on abortion which may dilute their conservative and backward dogma", Dr

O'Grady told *Socialist Worker*.

"There are 2,500 junior doctors in the health service on temporary contracts.

"They normally work more than 65 hours a week and most will end up emigrating because there are no permanent jobs on offer to them.

"The manpower level in Irish hospitals is half of the EU average.

"But the IMO does nothing about this and instead is a self-interest group that wants to maintain a monopoly on private practice."

Dr. O'Grady was the rep-

resentative for junior doctors on three committees dealing with the most serious aspects of their profession.

He has been suspended from holding office in all three.

"I have spent the last five years involved in committee after committee and banging my head off a brick wall.

"My regret is that I didn't use that time to build union organisation on the ground, in the hospitals and clinics. We could make changes in the health service if we build links with nurses and other health workers."

★ THE SOUTH Korean multi-national Daewoo has informed employees in its Antrim factory that it intends to introduce twelve hour shifts.

But unlike other multi-national firms in the country, such as Seagate and Benelux, Daewoo is refusing to pay its employees a shift allowance to compensate for having to work long, unsociable hours and weekends.

It was revealed in April by Tory minister Richard Needham that the women workers at the Antrim plant are being paid less than their South Korean counterparts.

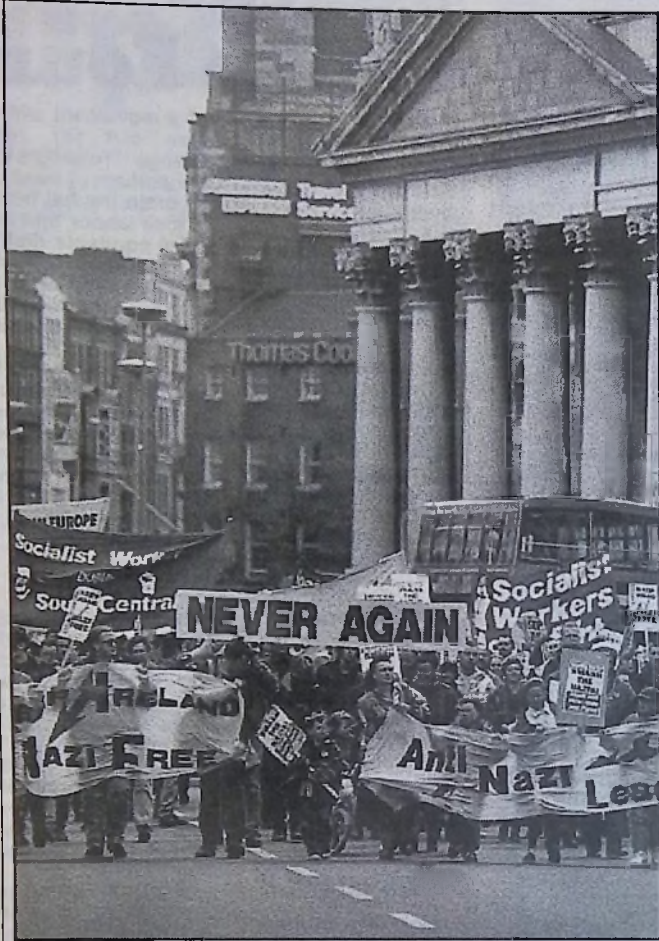
Little wonder that the Daewoo group has expressed an interest in the Harland and Wolff shipyard now that its experience in Antrim has shown it that thanks to sixteen years of Tory misrule there's no limit to the exploitation of local workers.

All the employees at the Antrim factory should back their union representatives who have informed Daewoo management that their members shall refuse to adopt these new shift patterns until a reasonable shift allowance, comparable to that paid by other local companies, is on offer.

what we think

Government hypocrisy over THORP

Marching against fascism



400 people joined an Anti Nazi League march in Dublin against fascism on April 22 PHOTO: JONATHAN PRATSCHKE

THE GOVERNMENT has banned a ship carrying nuclear waste from entering Dublin port. They say that it is a protest against THORP.

But we should not applaud too loudly. They are also engaging in complete hypocrisy when it comes to nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

Dick Spring supported the indefinite extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) at the UN. This is exactly what countries like Britain and the US wanted.

The treaty only contains a general promise about disarmament and allows governments to trade research on nuclear energy.

Environmental groups such as Greenpeace argue that this makes the treaty meaningless.

The nuclear arms race has led to more than 2,000 nuclear weapons tests and the production of over 127,000 nuclear weapons worldwide.

Most of these have been manufactured since the NPT was signed.

The number of countries with nuclear technology has risen from five to forty.

Anti-nuclear campaigners want a definite time limit imposed for countries to get rid of their weapons.

Spring demanded no concessions from the big nuclear powers, including Britain and France. They can continue to pay lip-service to the idea of disarmament,

while doing nothing about it in practice.

Plutonium

So much for the government's demand for the immediate closure of THORP, where plutonium is produced specifically for use in nuclear weapons.

Spring's real intentions were made clear when he assured the Labour Party conference that Ire-

land should not become a "full" member of any military alliance. Part-time membership seems acceptable to him. He's also announced that the government is considering membership of NATO's "Partnership for Peace".

With John Bruton saying that Ireland must be willing to defend the European Union, it remains to be seen whether Spring and de Rossa are willing to defend the principle of neutrality.

Oklahoma: Nazi Outrage

THE Oklahoma bombing was an appalling atrocity.

Across the world millions watched as bodies of young and old were pulled out from a building that seemed to come out of a war zone.

But the bomb had deep roots in American society. For the past few decades Nazis and white supremacists have been able to build up paramilitary armies. The Montana Militia, which the bombers appear to be members of, has 30,000 members.

Bullets

They have never hidden their aims. One of the leaders of these militias stood in the 1992 election under the slogan "Ballots in 1996 and bullets in 1996". When the bombing happened, one of their leaders described the scene as looking like "Rembrandt."

In the past these armed militias were useful to the American state.

They told them to prepare for the final war with Communism.

They organised for Cuban exiles to go on weekend training camps to prepare for a re-invasion of Cuba.

They encouraged white men to be armed to protect their property from black people.

Up to recently, these militias were welcomed into the Democratic and Republican parties for the votes they brought.

After the bombing the deep racism in US society also came to the surface. The press immediately pointed the finger at Islamic fundamentalists.

The first people arrested were innocent Arabs. Some journalists called for the immediate bombing of either Iraq or Libya. The Nazis who carried out the bombing will not be defeated by the FBI which encouraged them in the past. It will take the mobilisation of ordinary Americans to destroy these Nazi terrorists.

Hospital cuts kill Holocaust survivors excluded from Ireland

GERARD McCaffery died two months ago in the most tragic of circumstances. He was aged 37 and when he died his heart was two and a half times its normal size.

Gerard would not have died if our health service was working properly.

In July 1990 he went to a doctor in the Mater and was told he needed a blood test.

Notify

The hospital informed him that they would notify him of the date for the test.

He waited for five years and nothing happened.

His wife used to visit the hospital every fortnight to see if there was any news of the test—until she was told there was no point calling in.

The underfunding of our hospitals meant that a blood test that could have detected the problem was never carried out.

Today his widow is very angry.

And she is still waiting for the appointment card to come through.

Bigot on the bench

LAST WEEK Judge Donal McArdle in the Monaghan court proved beyond a shadow of doubt that he was capable of hearing cases with the impartiality he is paid to show.

The judge accused an unmarried couple of "selfishness" and said there was no commitment between couples who "live in sin".

This same judge is still hearing cases.

If you appear before him, don't forget the ring.



JOHN BRUTON has organised a commemoration ceremony for the victims of the Nazi concentration camp in Belsen.

He should also use the occasion to apologise for the fact that the Irish government refused to allow some of the survivors into Ireland after World War 2.

Recent research has shown that in the summer

of 1946, the Irish state, headed by Taoiseach Eamon de Valera, was asked to grant asylum to 100 orphaned Jewish children, survivors of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

Restrict

On the instructions of Fianna Fail Justice Minister Gerry Boland, the request was refused.

Boland acknowledged that "it has always been the

policy of the Minister for Justice to restrict the admission of Jewish aliens".

This was because, in his opinion, "any substantial increase in our Jewish population might give rise to an anti-semitic problem".

In other words, the Jews themselves were responsible for anti-Semitism and should be excluded for the good of all concerned.

It took months of negotiations for the Department of Justice to concede that the refugee children could

be allowed in temporarily, on condition that they would be removed to another country as soon as possible.

A request to allow some adults in to look after the children was refused.

But they were only too happy to allow entry to notorious Belgian and British fascists, looking for somewhere to hide after the war.

For example, Oswald Mosley, the leader of the British Union of Fascists, was allowed to come to live in Galway without any great outcry.

The Secretary of the Department of Justice was prepared to grant refuge to Leon Degrelle, leader of the Belgian fascist movement, who had been sentenced to death in his absence for collaboration with the Nazis.

The Vatican campaigned for fascists like Degrelle to be allowed into Catholic countries—but even de Valera though this was going too far.

If Bruton does not apologise for this terrible wrong, he is only adding insult to the injury caused by past Irish governments.

COLERAINE VOTES AGAINST PRIVATISATION

THE HOUSING Executive in Coleraine recently attempted to privatise the maintenance of one of its estates by getting a community association to take over.

But council workers mounted a major campaign against it, pointing out that it would mean redundancies and worse services.

When a vote was taken in the area, the council workers won overwhelmingly. In an 80% turn-out on the estate, people voted 5-1 against privatisation.

inside the system

THINGS THEY SAY



"I am fed up talking about the faking peace process"—Our esteemed Taoiseach, John Bruton.

McLibel, McNasty, McCensorship

WHEN McDonald's recently celebrated their 40th anniversary on April 15th, the day was marked by protests around the world.

Mike Love, head of communications in Britain said, "We can't predict why anybody would want to do anything to protest against McDonald's".

He is obviously in need of some help. Here is your *Socialist Worker* guide to the McNasties:

■ The firm is viciously anti-union, boasting that it has never let a union into any of its 14,000 outlets worldwide.

The only place that got near it

was Dublin's O'Connell Street site.

A year long strike got some recognition for SIPTU—but then McDonald's squeezed the union members out.

■ The company loves censorship.

Barrister

It is employing a top barrister in Britain on £2,000 a day to drag two unemployed animal rights protesters through the courts for a leaflet they issued.

It has also sued the Scottish TUC for comments about low pay.

■ It tries to regiment its workers.

Workers in Paris got the following written instructions:

"Employees are compelled to maintain weight in harmony with their height.

"Men are forbidden to sport beards, moustaches, long hair, or jewellery.

"Women must not wear short skirts or mascara.

"Only one ring per hand and one earring per ear will be allowed, and only appropriate undergarments of a natural colour should be worn under a dress".

Lid blown on Para brutality

WHILST THE campaign to release Private Clegg has subsided, a former Para has blown the lid on the activities of the regiment.

Harry McCallian's book, *Killing Zone*, tells how one Para used the skull of one of their victims as an ashtray.

When they arrived for a tour of duty in Northern Ireland, 120 soldiers organised a sweepstake to see who would get the first kill. As a result one soldier pestered a hospital constantly to see if a man he wounded had died.

This brutality was not just confined to humans. One unit killed a republican dog



Paras had a party after murdering Karen Reilly

and pushed its back legs through a letter box with a note for his owner that he would be next.

The book also throws light on widespread collusion with loyalist paramilitaries. One RUC Superintendent told McCallian

that "we only police the Shankill with the good grace of the UVF."

Now that a few of our peacekeepers are leaving, let's not forget their fine service for democracy and Western civilisation as we know it.

£20 million to restore Stormont

REMEMBER the fire at Stormont which gutted the old Unionist debating hall?

Poor old Peter Robinson cannot accept that it was an accident.

Grandeur

Too many fenians are creeping around the place these days.

But the Tories are doing their best to put

his mind at rest. The old centre of Unionism will not be let die.

Instead a staggering £20 million is to be spent on restoring it to its full grandeur.

We wonder how many hospital beds that might have created.

Socialist Worker welcomes

letters

PO Box 1648, Dublin 8

New RUC no answer

The Northern Ireland Police Authority recently came to Enniskillen to hear suggestions about the future of the RUC.

They heard demands that the failed representatives of partition be disbanded.

There is a lot to be said for it.

But then one of the nationalist councillors present went on to demand "a completely new police force". Thanks, but no thanks.

The North is over-policed. From a force of 2,500 in the late sixties, it has grown to 13,000 and spends £631 million. Of this sum £493m goes on pay.

Factory

Socialists are often asked where the money would come from for our social plans.

Where else but from wasteful expenditure.

The job of policing is largely wasteful spending. We could use the £500 million to buy new medical equipment or open a decent microchip factory.

In a socialist society we would need a workers' mi-

litia but it would be based on the election of the officers by the workers and the neighbourhoods they serve.

They would, of course, only get the same wage as the rest of us.

The sooner we are rid of the murderous and corrupt police force North and South, the better.

JOE MCCARROLL, ENNISKILLEN.

'Drive uninsured'-boss

A FEW weeks ago whilst I was in the job market in Belfast, I saw on the board what I thought was the perfect job:

HGV 11 DRIVER REQUIRED
40 hrs per week
£140
Province wide delivery of Food-stuffs
Clean Licence and 2 years EXP
Age 18+

After gaining an interview date from the clerk I went home to plan on "how to sell myself" to my prospective employer.

The interview itself went very well and I was told to begin the next day. I was delighted.

I went out the next day with another, more senior worker, and we took turns at driving. We got on well and had a bit in common, both of us having been in the Army made a lot of humour and conversation.

The same happened next day but suddenly my colleague turned serious: he told me he had doubts as to

whether or not my boss had insured me for the lorry.

I approached the boss about it and he instantly erupted, telling me I was under 25. I had to remind him that the first question he asked me at my interview was my age.

Paid Off

He told me that to include me in the company insurance policy would be "big money" and that he wasn't prepared to do it. I could carry on driving without insurance or I could work in the warehouse for £2 per hour gross or, thirdly, I could do neither and get paid off the next day.

I took the third option, knowing the penalties for uninsured driving and not seeing how I could live on a wage of £2 an hour.

By the way, the same ad is still up on the Job market. My sympathies are with the applicants rather than the employer.

CONOR, BELFAST.

Discrimination against single parents

I WRITE to complain about the what I consider to be blatant discrimination against single parents by some members of the medical profession.

Recently my daughter developed a high fever. At the time I was not at home. My GP was called for. A day before I had had a similar fever. As I am employed I attended the same doctor for a sick cert. He told me that I hadn't been sick but that I was out on the town enjoying myself, while my daughter was at home sick.

I want to stress that it was much more than his words but the over all tone, sarcasm and disbelief with which they were delivered that surprised me. Needless to say I was upset, but angry too, especially that it came

from someone in a profession that should be, and is generally perceived to be, non-judgmental.

What's even more annoying is that the doctor in question based his opinion purely on his own prejudices, totally overlooking the fact that I was sick and showing scant regard for one of his patients. I feel certain that my married counterparts would not be subjected to similar treatment.

One wonders if a pregnant girl in need of help attended such a doctor what chance she would have of getting information or would she too be treated like a second class citizen?

I should add that despite his suspicions about me he still issued me with a cert—which in itself is unethical.

EILIS NI ANNRACHAIN DUBLIN

behind the headlines

by EAMONN McCANN

Why Blair attacks Clause Four

TO MOST working-class people in Ireland, North and South, the debate over Clause Four of the British Labour Party's constitution hasn't seemed to matter much. But there are two reasons we should pay at least a little attention.

The first is that workers in the North will be directly affected by whatever policies are implemented by an incoming Blair Government—and these policies will be affected in turn by the result of the vote on Clause Four.

A big vote to keep the Clause as it stands will have boosted Left-wingers who are resisting Blair taking on Tory policies on too many issues.

On the other hand, if Blair got his way by a landslide even the mildest pretence at a socialist approach would be dropped.

Argument

More important, perhaps, is the fact that the argument over Clause Four reflects a general debate about the future of socialist ideas which is also going on among Irish trade union activists and in and around the Irish Labour Party.

The "old" Clause Four promised "to secure for the workers by hand or by brain the full fruits of their labour and the most equitable distribution thereof". It proposed public ownership of the means of production as the best way of attaining this ideal.

Clause Four was drawn up in 1918, in the midst of the great wave of militancy which swept Europe in the aftermath of World War One.

For a while party leaders paid lip-service to it. But since the '60s they've given up even on that. Which has been Tony Blair's main argument for ditching the Clause now. We've never really believed in this definition of our aims, he says, especially not recently. So let's get rid of it altogether.

What this missed out on, probably deliberately, is that Clause Four, for all the hypocrisies, betrayals and failures of the Labour Party in office, gave Labour the character

of a movement which was out for real change. "To secure for the workers by hand or by brain the full fruits of their labour, and the most equitable distribution thereof". There is in that a vision of a different sort of society entirely to the one we have now.

It's because Blair and the flurry of vague intellectuals around him have no ambition for a different sort of society entirely that they felt so uncomfortable with the old Clause Four.

Class

Blair wanted to replace the Clause with a succession of marshmallow paragraphs which could mean anything. He talks of "community", of "fairness", of "rights balanced by responsibilities"—phrases which could mean anything, and so in the end mean nothing.

Like Dick Spring in the South, or union officials like John Freeman and Uel Adair in the North, Blair believes that the very idea of class struggle is old hat.

They reckon that the only way working-class people can make progress is to ally themselves with "respectable" and "influential" elements—which means doing nothing and demanding nothing which might alienate respectable, influential people.

Nine times out of ten, that turns out to mean doing nothing at all.

Thus the argument about Clause Four does have a relevance to the day-to-day struggles of working-class people here. It isn't that we should trust the British Labour Party to transform society—with or without the old Clause Four.

The point is to keep alive the spirit which, despite everything, it expressed, and the tradition of struggle which its opponents want to ditch.

In Britain, and in Ireland North and South, that means building a revolutionary party, based unashamedly on working-class struggle and aimed unambiguously at achieving the different sort of society entirely which socialism alone can achieve.

around the world

FRANCE:

Shock for Chirac in poll upset

THE SHOCK results of the first round of the French elections show just how unstable the political scene has become.

Opinion polls had predicted that Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris and leader of the right-wing RPR party, would come first.

Instead, the Socialist Party candidate, Lionel Jospin, came out on top, taking 23.2 per cent of the vote.

Chirac only narrowly beat his fellow-conservative, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, for a place in the second round of voting on May 7th.

Shaken

The two leading candidates, Jospin and Chirac, go forward to the next round in what is billed as a straight contest between the left and the right.

Although Chirac's confidence is badly shaken, he is still the favourite to become president, since the combined right-wing vote is well ahead of the combined left-wing vote.

The first-round results show a fragmentation of support for the traditional parties.

Only 60% of people backed any of the main candidates, while four out of every ten votes went to people identified as being against the political establishment.

The most worrying expression of this was the big vote for the fascist Jean Marie Le Pen. The leader of the National Front gained his best score ever, winning 15.2%, or 5 million votes.

This vote is even more worrying as it came just

weeks after three National Front members shot a young immigrant boy dead in Marseilles.

The total far right vote came to over 20%, with hard right candidate Philippe de Villiers gaining 5% of the votes.

Le Pen was able to claim that without de Villiers' competition, he himself would have been facing Jospin in the second round.

Disillusionment with the established politicians also expressed itself in the large vote for those who attacked the system from the left.

Their vote was almost as large as Le Pen's.

The Communist Party candidate, Robert Hue, gained 8.7% of the vote, while Arlette Laguiller of the Trotskyist group Lutte Ouvriere got 5.3%.



(Above) Chirac and (below) supporters of Arlette Laguiller who is running on a platform of £150 minimum wage

Which way forward for the Left?

The strikes undoubtedly helped the Left candidates. But it is clear that Chirac must push the agenda back to the right in order to win the support of National Front voters.

During the campaign, there were already negotiations between Balladur's supporters and the National Front.

Whoever wins on May 7th, the new president will face a society fractured by a deep bitterness and a simmering anger.

The bitterness can lead to strikes and increased support for the left, or it can lead straight to the door of the fascist National Front.

The stance of the Left can make a crucial difference.

Lutte Ouvriere is a relatively small organisation of a few thousand members, but its vote of over 1.5 million shows that it can have a wider influence.

Unfortunately, Lutte Ouvriere is calling for an abstention in the run-off between Chirac and Jospin.

Mobilise

It is also unfortunate that Lutte Ouvriere, at a national level, does nothing to mobilise against Le Pen's Nazis.

An example of this is that Nazi propaganda, such as Le Pen's posters and stickers, has gone unopposed in recent weeks.

This is a terrible danger. In some places local activists did take things into their own hands, defacing Le Pen posters to make him look like Hitler. It is important to point out that Le Pen is in fact a Nazi, and to tear away the mask of respectability he wears.

Local initiatives to challenge the fascists show what is possible.

A fight will be needed whatever the result of the elections. It's a fight to encourage the strikes and protests of recent weeks and to mobilise the widest possible movement to confront Le Pen's Nazis.

A GROWTH OF STRUGGLE

THE VOTE surprised everyone, but it is no great mystery.

Throughout the campaign, around 40% of people said they did not know who to vote for.

Many of these would have voted for the Socialist Party in the past, bringing Francois Mitterrand to power, but after 14 years of Socialist rule, they feel betrayed and angry.

All the promises made by Mitterrand have

evaporated. Unemployment has soared to over 12%, one of the highest rates in the industrialised world.

Therefore people mistrust the Socialist Party and Lionel Jospin.

Eruption

The biggest factor in why things changed was the eruption of strikes and protests in France in the run up to the election.

Company profits have been rising again as the

economy recovers from a sharp recession.

But wages have not risen and unemployment has not fallen.

Resentment and anger over cutbacks and meagre pay rises erupted in the middle of the election campaign.

Postal workers, Renault car workers, Michelin tyre workers, airport workers and utility workers, bank workers and civil servants, have all struck over pay or jobs in re-

cent weeks.

Some workers, like those at Renault and Alfa-France, have adopted militant tactics, blocking roads and occupying workplaces.

The massive wave of protest pushed the political agenda to the left, as politicians adopted a more radical rhetoric.

Even conservatives like Chirac and Balladur were forced to promise higher wages and to cut working hours to create jobs.

SOUTH KOREA:

REGIME JAILS SOCIALIST

SOUTH KOREAN socialist Choi Il-bung has been sentenced to 18 months imprisonment under the country's vicious National Security Law.

News of his trial and that of other socialists has been difficult to obtain because of continuing repression.

But *Socialist Worker* has learned that Choi Il-bung was found guilty of "benefiting an enemy"—North Korea—and sentenced on 7 April.

The trial was a sham. Choi has done no more than engage in the kind of political activity that is legal

throughout the West.

The evidence against him was that he had spoken at a meeting of the International Socialists of South Korea and had written to other socialists during a previous jail sentence.

He was one of around 360 socialists, trade unionists and student activists charged under the National Security Law last year.

The South Korean gov-



Choi Il-bung

ernment now trades openly with its neighbour and former Cold War enemy North Korea and is even building two

nuclear reactors in the North.

It simply uses the law to suppress its opponents.

The arrests are continuing despite prime minister Kim Young Sam's claim that the era of dictatorship in South Korea is over.

Sentence

Another 18 members of the ISSK are undergoing or awaiting trials at the moment.

Choi Il-bung is 39 years old.

He has already been separated from his wife and children by a previous two year prison sentence for publishing socialist books.

Then he was forced to go on hunger strike simply to be allowed writing materials and uncensored mail.

Choi was released ahead of completing that sentence thanks to an international campaign which saw him adopted by Amnesty as a prisoner of conscience.

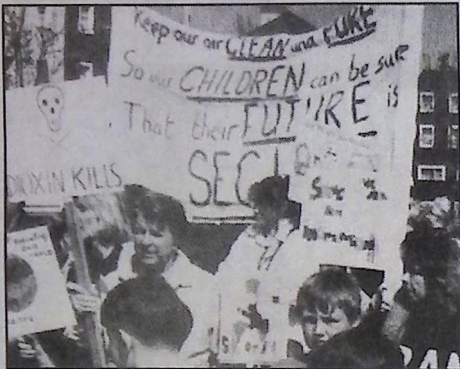
We need the same kind of campaign again.

Last month the public sector Confederation of Trade Unions in Greece (GSFF) unanimously passed a resolution of solidarity with the South Korean socialists.

Socialist Worker will carry further details, along with Choi Il-bung's prison address, as soon as it has them.

■ Campaign info: Committee to Defend South Korean Socialists, c/o PO Box 1648, Dublin 8 (or phone 01 872 2682).

Waste incinerator: Round one to Ringsend



ON THURSDAY April 13th members of the Dublin Bay Action on Health group and residents of Dublin's coastline marched through Ringsend to celebrate a decision by the corporation to refuse planning permission for an incinerator on Pigeon House Road.

The group is a confederation of several residents' associations from the areas concerned.

Iva Pocock from Greenpeace who spoke at the demonstration said that the corporation's decision was very positive but that they would be keeping a close watch on proceedings to see how the situation develops.

Waste To Energy, the company behind the incinerator have said they will appeal the decision to An Bord Pleanála.

They had attempted to get planning permission last summer but met with massive opposition from people living throughout the East of the city.

The monster incinerator would have covered 367 sq. metres and burnt up to twenty four tonnes of hospital waste from the Leinster area every day.

The campaigners are not prepared to twiddle their thumbs in the meantime. Clare Watson of the Sandymount/Merrion residents association said: "We intend to keep up the pressure, holding meetings and more demonstrations."

Amenity

In their campaign the group had cited the dangers of such a project, listing among other points, the proximity of the proposed site to recreational and amenity facilities and the madness of transporting hazardous waste through built up areas.

Big industry is for the most part in favour of incinerators because once the waste has been dissipated to the environment it is almost impossible to legally pin down health and environmental damage to the original waste generator.

Despite attempts by mainstream political parties to jump on the bandwagon many politicians too were initially in favour of the plan, Fianna Fail's Michael Smith, former Minister for the Environment, being one of the most enthusiastic.

Studies have proved that waste burned in these

plants often produces chemicals in the process that are even more dangerous than the original materials; and exposure to them can cause cancer, birth defects, spontaneous abortion and foetal toxicity as well as a host of other illnesses.

This doesn't take into account the dangers of leakages and spillages involved in transportation or in and around the plant itself.

Advocates of waste incineration claim they can install pollution controls such as filters to catch the chemicals produced but organisations like Greenpeace point out that although some chemicals may be trapped they still have to be disposed of.

Nor do they always stick to burning the waste they are contracted to burn.

Carcass

A resident of Ringsend told *Socialist Worker* that his brother approached people manning the existing incinerator in the area and asked them to burn the carcass of a dog.

They agreed to do it for a fiver.

Neither do such plants offer the prospect of employment to the areas they locate in.

There are few jobs created and the ones that are are usually dirty and extremely dangerous; and once it has been set up, an incinerator will inevitably pull in similar toxic-based industries around it.

Ann Carroll, a member of the Dublin Bay Action on Health group summed up the mood of the campaigners: we're over the first hurdle but we're determined to keep on fighting.

One of the most sickening aspects of this whole story is the fact that although almost everybody in the areas concerned, or in the country as a whole for that matter, is opposed to this incinerator the power of big business and the unwillingness of government to tackle it means that they have to fight tooth and nail to have it stopped.

VIETNAM:

The war the US lost

TWENTY YEARS ago this month United States soldiers clambered into helicopters to escape from Saigon, the capital of a country they had dominated for the last 14 years.

The mightiest nation on Earth had been defeated by one of the smallest.

The war in Vietnam sent shockwaves across the globe, sparked a mass movement in opposition to it and gave encouragement to a rebellion on the streets of America.

It tore apart any idea that the US could be a force for peace and stability as the US rained down bombs and sprayed napalm over whole fields and villages.

Whole areas were carpet bombed.

US forces used agent orange, a defoliant, in vast quantities despite the army knowing that it led to foetal malformations and cancer.

Two million Vietnamese, Cambodians and Laotians were slaughtered.

But it resulted in the most serious military defeat for the US this century.

VIETNAM HAD been run by France as a colony but the Vietnamese fought back against its colonial oppressors.

A peace agreement was reached in 1954 which split the country in two—with the North run by Ho Chi Minh and the National Liberation Front and the South run by a dictatorship increasingly dominated by the United States.

Promise

A promise for "free elections" in the South—which US president Eisenhower admitted the liberation forces would win—was forgotten.

Those liberation fighters who had fought the French were persecuted and forced to take up arms again in the late 1950s.

They now found themselves fighting US military "advisers" based across South Vietnam.

At first the US government was unconcerned about Vietnam. "Vietnam ... we have 30 Vietnams",

said the US attorney general Bobby Kennedy.

But by 1961 the South Vietnamese state was collapsing.

President John F Kennedy responded by increasing the number of US "advisers" in Vietnam from 400 to 18,000.

Kennedy also gave permission for the South Vietnamese army to use chemical warfare against resistance to US rule in the South.

The idea was to separate the peasants from the national liberation forces—called the "Vietcong" by the Americans.

Resistance

But resistance grew, and the South Vietnamese army used artillery and aircraft to force peasants into "strategic hamlets"—virtual concentration camps.

US forces brought in helicopters and gunships.

But they could not break support for the NLF.

By 1964 there were 23,000 advisers in South Vietnam.

The war had become a test of strength for the US.

They were afraid of a "domino effect" weakening US influence elsewhere.

As a general said at the time:

"If we leave Vietnam with our tail between our legs, the consequences of this defeat in the rest of Asia, Africa, and Latin America would be disastrous."

Democrat Lyndon Baines Johnson was now US president.

Business

He gave the go ahead to carpet bomb the North, claiming the war in the South was due to "Northern infiltration".

The US dropped more bombs on

Powerful opp

THE WAR in Vietnam produced massive opposition.

At first the great majority of Americans went along with the war. Protests involved dozens rather than hundreds of people in 1965 and 1966. But all this changed by 1968.

US president Johnson was confronted at every turn by demonstrators chanting, "Hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids have you killed today?"

He had been elected on the promise of a war on poverty, under the banner of making a "great society".

But the money set aside for welfare was diverted to the war. The great society was now dubbed the "sick society".

Older manual workers who had experienced World War Two now saw their sons being

brought back in bodybags.

Blacks wanted no part of the war. The mood was summed up by boxer Muhammad Ali who refused to be drafted and declared, "No Vietnamese ever called me nigger."

In the summer of 1967 a riot erupted in Newark, New Jersey, followed by a mass uprising in Detroit.

Riots

In April 1968 black civil rights leader Martin Luther King was assassinated. It sparked huge riots that set 50 cities alight including Washington.

Students were radicalised by the growing mood. They burnt their draft cards and fought the police. There were "teach ins" at universities

across the US.

At Kent State University, Ohio, the National Guard shot dead four protesting students in 1970. Millions of students occupied their colleges in response.

In Vietnam the US army was falling apart. Twenty per cent were heroin addicts. The command "search and destroy" became "search and evade" alongside the phrase "CYA [cover your ass] and get home!"

Mutinies and insubordination soared, alongside "fragging" - the killing of unpopular and stupid officers. The new president, Nixon, knew that he had to get the troops out.

He began the process of "Vietnamisation", replacing US troops with the South Viet-

what do socialists say?

Socialism and national liberation

by DAVE McDONAGH

NATIONAL liberation movements came to power in several countries in the decades following World War Two. They kicked out colonial powers and dictators who had oppressed the local populations for years.

Castro in Cuba, Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam and the Sandinistas in Nicaragua all became heroes for their stand against oppression—but in the end they all failed to bring liberation to their supporters.

The US still blockades Cuba and has undermined the Sandinistas. Vietnam became a dictatorship along the lines of Russia and is now opening up Free Trade Zones to welcome US multi-nationals back.

The countries of the Third World have not been freed from poverty despite gaining their independence. One quarter of the exports of African countries are used to pay back debts to the Western banks. No wonder more and more countries are pushed to the brink of famine and beyond.

Grip

National liberation movements failed because they could not break the grip of imperialism. They all argued that 'national development' had to come before there could be any talk of class politics.

Even when these movements called themselves 'communist' or 'socialist' their real aim was to pull the whole nation together to build up their local economy.

But they found that they could not break out of the world system.

Cuba was blockaded by the US government which did not want a revolution in Uncle Sam's backyard. But when Castro turned to Russia for aid he found that his country still remained a one crop economy built around the export of sugar.

The only difference was that they were now export-

ing it to Russia instead of America.

The same pattern has been repeated around the world. Now nationalist leaders are cracking down on the very people they claimed to liberate.

The most dramatic case is the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The PLO, which, used to be hounded by Israel, is now ordering its police to shoot at demonstrators in the Gaza strip. The ANC in South Africa have not yet gone that far—but they have used the old apartheid police force to break strikes and arrest workers.

Is there an alternative to these failed strategies of national liberation movements? Here the arguments of the Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky are fantastically relevant.

At the start of the century, Russia was a backward country where peasants were in a majority. Most socialists believed the workers could never win socialism until they were in a majority.

They argued that capitalism had to extend into every area of Russian society before they could go on to the next stage of full liberation.

But Trotsky learned from the Revolution of 1905 that workers had power far beyond their numbers. In that year they set up councils or soviets across the country and came close to toppling the Tsar.

Trotsky argued that workers could lead a revolution in Russia and win the peasantry to their side by offering an end to the tyranny of the landlords.

If workers took power, he said, it would not make sense for them to keep

capitalism in place since they would continue to be exploited by the employers.

Trotsky believed that the working class would fight immediately for socialism.

But socialism could not survive in a backward economy. A victorious workers' revolution would have to adopt a strategy of spreading its example to other countries and of seeking to encourage workers in other parts of the world to foment revolt.

Predicted

Trotsky was right when he predicted that the tiny working class would lead the Russian revolution. But, tragically, Stalin adopted a nationalist strategy of building up the Russian economy by the super-exploitation of workers—rather than encouraging revolt internationally.

Stalin's Russia provided a model for other national liberation movements which followed—but it was a model that was based on state capitalism rather than socialism.

The revolutions in the Third World should be celebrated but they did not go far enough.

If the workers' movement had been at the head of the Nicaraguan revolution, for example, they would have immediately cancelled the country's foreign debt and called openly for revolution throughout Latin America.

They would not have placed their hope in establishing diplomatic links with Europe's social democratic governments.

Vietnam showed how the greatest super-power in the world can be beaten. It also showed why nationalist policies are never enough to carry through the fight to full liberation.



Vietnam, North and South, than it had used during the whole of World War Two.

By the end of 1966 there were

485,000 US troops fighting in Vietnam.

But by then the cost of the war was beginning to worry US big

business.

The cost rose from \$5.8 billion in 1966 to \$20 billion a year later.

But it was 1968 that proved the turning point.

Coinciding with the Vietnamese New Year—Tet—the NLF staged uprisings in all the major cities in the South.

Taking the US by surprise they smashed into the US embassy compound in Saigon, in front of the world's cameras.

Exposed

As an adviser to Johnson ruefully admitted:

"The enemy struck hard and with superb attention to organisation, supply and secrecy".

It was the beginning of the end. The US was revealed as conducting a war, not against a few guerillas, but virtually a whole nation.

The US military was exposed when it "retook" the captured city of Hue by demolishing 80 percent of it and when one colonel explained the shelling of Ben Tre by saying, "We had to destroy the town to save it".

Television pictures showed millions across the world how Vietnamese women and children were being butchered by American GIs.

thetic.

The war was over. The people of Vietnam had paid a terrible price in terms of lives and the devastation of their country.

But for the next two decades the "Vietnam syndrome" - the spectre of being bogged down in another unwinnable war - made the US ruling class wary of direct military intervention elsewhere.

Not until the Gulf War in 1991 did the US army engage in another large scale land war.

Vietnam was a defeat that weakened the hand of US imperialism and strengthened the resolve of anti-imperialist movements everywhere.

Today the photographs, the news reports and the anti-war films remain as a powerful indictment of the horror of war.

Withdrew

A peace agreement was eventually reached in 1973 with North Vietnam whereby the US withdrew all its ground troops and left the puppet army in the South to defend itself.

But by 1975 the South Vietnamese army collapsed in a way that made America, its commitment and power, look supremely impotent and pa-

opposition

US. State University, National Guard shot protesting students millions of students their colleges in re-

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SS

What's happening to union power?

by KIERAN ALLEN

IRELAND'S employers are preparing for a new round of attacks on workers.

They want to cut their costs by pushing down earnings while increasing work loads.

The government and the employers justify these attacks by claiming that they want to create jobs.

But, as the evidence shows, sacrifices from workers do not lead to more employment.

Recent figures show that productivity in Irish industry increased by 50% between 1987 and 1993.

But the numbers of workers employed only grew by 5%. This is a tiny figure considering the huge grants and tax-breaks given to employers.

The bosses' new demands include:

■ **Annual hours:** This is a new buzzword in employer circles. Instead of calculating hours on a weekly basis, they are pushing for a system where you work longer some hours and shorter on others.

The aim is to eliminate overtime and push more workers on to Saturday working.

■ **Utility workers:** This is a term that the ESB management have developed.

Craft workers are told to "blur" the distinction between their trades and take on unskilled work.

The aim is to have workers at the beck and call of management and to slash more jobs.

■ **Low pay grades:** New workers are being put on super-low pay grades.

In the banks, new workers start on £9,000 a year while directors like Jerry Casey are paid £1.2 million.

In Krupps in Limerick, new workers have had their pay cut by £30 a week.

Until now the employers' main strategy has been to work with the ICTU to carry through these cuts.

The leaders of the ICTU and major unions like SIPTU have accepted the argument that workers need to give more in order to be "competitive".

In the state forestry company, Coillte, for example, one union official, Seamus Cody, even claimed that his own members were "underemployed" and part of a "social welfare system".

No wonder that Sylvia Doyle, the spokesperson for the bosses' organisation, IBEC, has called for the ICTU to be "strengthened to enable it to wield substantial influence over constituent unions".

But there is a new mood of resistance among rank and file workers.

More and more workers are voting for industrial action.

At recent teachers' conference, delegates went further and told their union leaders to organise a more militant campaign than they first proposed.

In the buses, workers have voted overwhelmingly to take action if Bus Eireann tries to use scab contractors



again.

In the Post Office, workers threw out a recommendation from their union leaders to start work earlier.

WHERE THESE votes translate into industrial action, workers have started to get results.

And for all the talk of "public opinion" being against strikes, the reality is that workers often win because of massive solidarity from other workers.

Shop workers in Knightingales and bar staff throughout Dublin won victories because so few people passed their pickets.

It is almost as if thousands saw these strikers as a symbol of the sort of resistance they wanted in their own jobs.

The new mood for a fightback exists North and South of the border.

Derry is one example of the new awareness of class interests.

Despite the fact that union organisation has sometimes been weak at shop floor level, there has been a wave of militancy in the last three months.

In February dockers occupied two ships to stop lay offs; in March, workers at the UTA plant voted three times against the introduction of a new shift system; in April workers at the Strand Cinema scored a victory after nightly

pickets of up to 30 people kept the film-goers away (see page 11).

HOWEVER, it is important not to exaggerate the scale of the shift that is taking place.

There is a recovery of union militancy going on. But like any recovery, it can sometimes be patchy and there are still setbacks.

There is also a huge gap between the votes for action on the one hand and the very low level of strikes on

Shop stewards are very different to union officials.

They work alongside their members, sharing their pay levels and conditions.

The union officials who negotiated an extra two hours work for their members in Packard did not have to spend a minute longer on their own jobs—but the shop stewards did.

SHOP STEWARDS are far more subject to the wishes of their members.

A steward is normally elected, while a union official is almost always appointed.

When they do not carry out their members' wishes stewards can be asked to step down.

In the Shorts factory in Belfast a petition has been signed by 750 workers demanding a new election of the stewards because they are not militant enough.

The shop steward system is therefore potentially highly responsive to the new mood of militancy.

But it also has problems.

For the past years shop stewards have been caught between a quiet and passive membership and a union bureaucracy that has pushed one line: cooperate with your boss.

ICTU courses encourage shop

stewards to be cynical about their own membership, to reject the "old fashioned" approach to building strong shop floor organisation and to seek partnership arrangements with their employers.

Sometimes this can take its toll.

The recent disputes in Packard in Dublin and UTA in Derry are remarkably similar. Both factories are owned by car multi-nationals, General Motors and Ford.

Both companies claimed that they were losing out to rivals. In both cases workers wanted to resist and voted a number of times to do so.

But in both cases the shop stewards accepted the union bureaucracy's line that "there is no alternative" and pushed for acceptance of management's plans.

There is nothing inevitable about this.

The TEAM dispute last summer terrified sections of the press because they saw it as the re-assertion of shop steward influence.

Yet the shop stewards who led the campaign started off the fight believing in the possibility of partnership with their employers.

It was management's constant demand for 'give-backs' which shook them, partially, from this position.

The re-building of a shop stewards organisation is the key to taking workers' struggles forward at the moment.

With a decent lead from serious union reps, the willingness to fight can translate into action.

And that action could start to shake a boss class that is weaker and less confident than it was in the 1980s.

Here socialists have a vital role to play. In the 1960s, rank and file movements emerged from a confidence that grew from years of winning small gains on the shop floor.

In a period of economic boom, the bosses made concessions quickly and the muscles of the labour movement were gradually developed.

Today we are in a very different situation. Even in the brief periods of economic recovery, the attacks never stop. Now politics has become far more crucial to re-building the movement.

Only socialists can supply the ideas that bolster the confidence to fight and show how struggle can win.

This is why it is vital to build a network of people around the paper *Socialist Worker*.

This paper reports directly from shop stewards and workers when they are in struggle. It gives stories about action which are not in other papers and so helps to spread the examples.

Challenging the bosses' arguments and refusing to give in to the fatalistic "new realism" of the ICTU is the essential task of the moment. *Socialist Worker* is central to this task.

All those involved in the fightback should buy it, read it and sell it.

Challenging the bosses' arguments and refusing to give in to the fatalistic "new realism" of the ICTU is the essential task of the moment. Socialist Worker is central to this task.

the other. Unofficial action is comparatively rare.

Workers who want to fight still feel the need for the protection of official sanction—and the union leaders are doing their best to sabotage any possibility of action.

The key to changing all this lies with the shop stewards and union reps.

COMMENT

Caught in the Internet?

THE INTERNET is a vast, sprawling, system that allows people with computers to communicate with each other right around the world.

The great advantage this has over a phone system is that computers can hold enormous amounts of information.

Plugging into the Net currently gives you access to over 12,000 topics each of which subdivides into smaller, more specialised groups. So if you wanted to read about the Zapatistas in Mexico, you could do so in great detail.

But the Net is more than an enormous encyclopaedia: the information in the system has come from the continuous debates and discussions between people linked to one another world wide.

Explosion

Users enter their own ideas, information or conversation for everyone who is interested.

There has recently been an explosion in the numbers who use the Net (often students via their college), with IBM reckoning 130 million people could have access to it.

This growth of the Internet has raised a number of political arguments.

Firstly there is a right-wing view to deal with.

This was put by the *Star* last week. In a sensationalist feature, complete with a semi-nude woman, the *Star* pointed out that you could obtain pornography from the Net as well as information on how to make bombs or pick locks.

This sort of article has helped create a climate where increasing numbers of politicians are calling for censorship.

Socialists are against censorship laws in any medium, mainly because of the power it gives to some unelected person whose morals are then imposed upon us.

In the case of the Net, censorship is like tearing pages from an encyclopaedia. And it is already in place.

UCD is one of the main points through which people in Ireland can get access to the Net.

Some unidentified guardian of public morals has seen fit to prevent Net users reading some of the sex topics.

Just as when cinemas came to Ireland and were

opposed by the bishops, the arrival of the Net has brought a crude and backward looking response.

The other argument in relation to the Net comes from the left. It is such a powerful tool, connecting people world wide, that many of its users hope it will create a revolution.

They see the Net as an answer to the fragmentation and disunity of the world's population—after all, the Net crosses all national boundaries.

Debate

It seems to be a means of communication which, unlike television say, encourages debate and is outside government control.

There have been cases, such as the student rising in Tiananmen Square or Yeltsin's defence against the Russian coup, where users of the Net have been in direct contact with participants of events and have been the first to transmit the reality of what was happening.

But the image of the Net as a subversive tool is wishful thinking.

The reality is that it is very much integrated to capitalism.

It was developed by the American military who wanted to connect their computer sites as a defence against nuclear strikes.

Today, almost every big business has a place in the Net, but the millions that IBM claims are involved in the system are usually reliant on access via a college.

For an individual worker, especially outside areas where phone calls are free, the costs are still too high to join in.

Even when you do join the Net, it is not free from the worse features of society.

The users of the Net include fascists and sexists.

One small study found that as many as 50% of women users had been harassed by being sent unsolicited material, some of it very abusive.

So while the Internet is an exciting development in technology, one that is comparable to the growth of radio or the telephone network, it does not represent an inherent challenge to the system that it has evolved with.

Only in the hands of a revolutionary people will the Net become a revolutionary tool.

— CONOR KOSTICK

PLAY

Standing up to the witch-hunt

Mary Smith reviews *The Crucible* at the Abbey Theatre

IF YOU hardly ever go to the theatre because it's not something you'd think of doing, or because it's expensive, make an exception and go see *The Crucible* at the Abbey.

Written by Arthur Miller, the award winning American playwright, it is based on the grim history of Salem—a town in Massachusetts—in 1692.

This was a time of social upheaval in England, which did not leave her American colonies unaffected.

There, a ruthless, if not unusual, combination of religious fundamentalists and local property barons, whip up and then exploit a wave of hysteria and superstition—a witch hunt of monstrous proportions, which is only checked by the rumble of rebellion.

It is a powerful, moving drama that takes in the universal themes of love, betrayal, vengeance, honour, and is ultimately a testimony to human dignity and decency.

The cast are brilliant, and as a piece of theatre it will shake you to the core.

But the play is more than this. It is a profoundly political piece, and was Miller's protest against the activities of Senator Joe McCarthy's witch-

hunt of socialists in 1950's American society.

American capitalism emerged from the World War 2 as the greatest economic power ever known, producing 60% of the world's goods.

But the boss class were mindful of how American workers had fought and organised before the war, and were determined to guard their superprofits from those who had helped make them.

Blackmailed

McCarthy and his Committee for Un-American Activities were the ideological terrorists who persecuted, blackmailed and hounded thousands from their jobs—anyone they could get at, that might have held socialist or communist views, let alone party cards.

Miller was no Communist, he was a good liberal who understood the intimidation of the McCarthy's "reds under the beds" scare campaign, when many of his friends and colleagues in the entertainment business succumbed.

The Crucible is a brilliant indictment of the ultra-conservatives who hide their vested interests and lust for power, behind moral crusades.

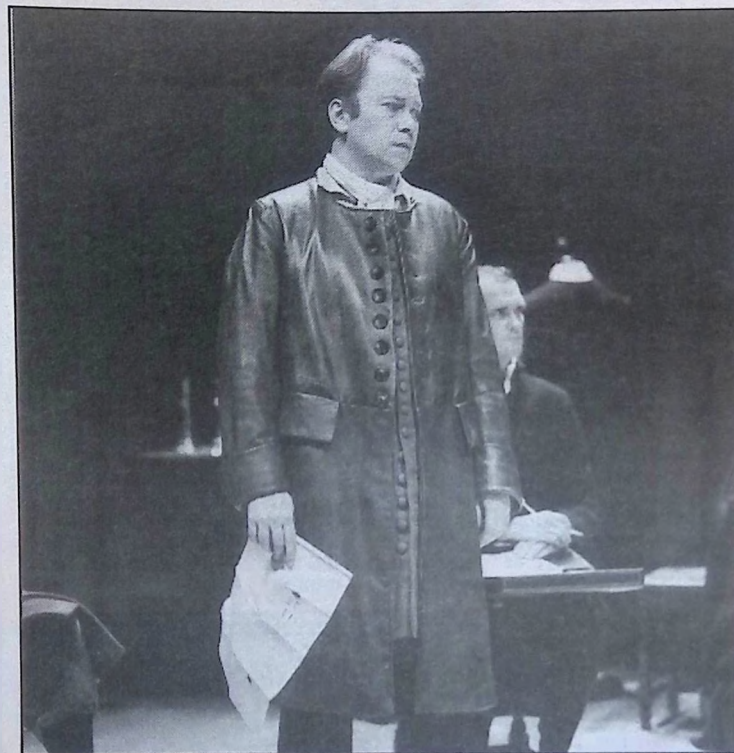
And its not just McCarthyism we see in the Salem witch trials.

You'll see the judges and their flunkies decide who is or who is not a witch.

And you'll also see what even the whiff of rebellion can do to these vile creatures. Miller's play is magnificent, and is as relevant to the 1990's as to the 1690's. Don't miss it. state would still lie and rob their own taxpayers to produce an Irish multinational.

The scandal of the beef industry did not just grow out of the culture of FF but out of a sick system based on lies and greed.

■ *Meanwhile Back at the Ranch: The Politics of Irish Beef*, by Fintan O'Toole, Vintage £6.99



Owen Roe in Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible'

BOOK

How Fianna Fail backed the beef barons

by KIERAN ALLEN

FINTAN O'Toole's new book on the beef industry throws a valuable spotlight on how the Irish political establishment works.

Fianna Fail first grew among small farmers by attacking the ranchers. They promised to break up their farms, turn them over to tillage and keep more people in rural Ireland.

But the rhetoric was dropped when it got in the way of building up Irish capitalism.

By the early 1970s, Fianna Fail and the beef barons were closely linked.

Entry to the EEC brought a bonanza for cattle buyers.

Two main forms of subsidies were put in place.

They could sell meat to "intervention" where it was stored in frozen containers for years or they could export to Third World countries at knock down prices and then recoup subsidies from the EU.

The subsidies gave new power to the political managers of FF. If you wanted to get Export Credit Insurance, you made sure you donated to the party.

But FF did more than dispense EU subsidies—they also turned a blind eye to malpractices.

In 1989, for example, harbour police came

across people putting wrong stamps on meat at the Eirfreeze depot in Dublin.

They were disguising fatty beef as high grade meat and then exporting to it to one of the poorest countries in West Africa.

Sabotaged

When the case came to light, the Department of Agriculture sabotaged their own prosecution's case to ensure the company was only fined £400.

O'Toole details the relationship the FF leaders Reynolds and Haughey had with the beef industry.

He shows how, for example, Goodman could ring up either of them and demand a meeting within 24 hours.

But he tells the story in a way that shows the horrors and cynicism of world capitalism.

In March 1988, 4,000 bodies lay motionless and frozen after being annihi-

lated by Saddam's Hussein's chemical weapons in Halabja.

At the very same time, Goodman was negotiating his contracts with Iraqi authorities.

O'Toole shows that Iraq was included as a country for Export Credit Insurance exactly a month after George Bush was giving orders to back Iraq in its war against Iran.

While Germany, Britain and the US supplied weapons to the tyrant of Baghdad, the Irish supplied beef to his armies.

The Western powers wanted the nationalist regime of Iran destroyed, and for all its pretensions about neutrality, Ireland was part of the same game.

Goodman was only the crook to pick up the profits in a very dirty operation.

There is however one weakness in O'Toole's book.

He blames the scandals on the culture of FF and



■ Larry Goodman

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by Farrell Dobbs

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

FOR REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be reformed out of existence. Parliament cannot be used to end the system.

The courts army and police are there to defend the interests of the capitalist class not to run society in a neutral fashion.

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

FOR REAL SOCIALISM, EAST AND WEST:

The 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. 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.

news & reports—politics; the unions

Teachers:

Militancy on the rise

THE DEMAND for early retirement has galvanised the teachers' unions.

At their recent congresses, all three unions voted overwhelmingly to ballot their members for strike action.

Papers like the *Evening Herald* have tried to whip up a fury against the idea of teachers going on strike.

They claim it will damage the welfare of children.

But the *Evening Herald* devoted little energy to campaigning against the fact that Ireland has one of the highest class sizes in Europe.

It's too worried that its millionaire owner, Tony O'Reilly, might have to pay more taxes to pay for extra teaching posts.

The demands of the teachers' unions should be supported by every worker. The unions are looking for two things:

■ They want to be able to retire at 60 on a full pension if they have done 38 years' work.

Early retirement would allow many older teachers who are 'burnt-out' from the stress of teaching to leave and create more permanent jobs for younger teachers.

■ The teachers also want to be able to retire from the age of 50 upwards on a reduced pension.

They pay millions into their pension fund and are willing to pay a slight amount more.

Gardai are already al-

lowed to retire on a full pension at the age of 50 after 30 years work.

Alert

One teacher explained to *Socialist Worker* why the demand is so important.

"People want a decent education for their children these days and teachers have done their best. Every day you have to be alert and on your toes. You have to prepare your lesson properly and put some enthusi-

asm into the job.

"It is wrong to force people to stay teaching just because they have not accumulated enough years to get a pension."

Today many teachers start work in their mid-twenties and don't have the 40 years service needed for a pension.

If teachers win their battle it will open the way for many other workers to make similar claims.

This is why the Depart-

ment of Finance are trying to stop moves for change. They want to turn other workers against teachers.

But it should be a right of all workers to leave their jobs with dignity when they get older.

This government has plenty of money to give out to subsidise big business. It now has to be forced to treat its own workers with some respect.

Anger on other issues

TEACHERS ARE also up in arms over other issues besides early retirement.

■ **Part time teachers:** Third level institutions are now relying on the cheap labour of part time teachers.

These teachers are put on short term contracts so that they get no rights. Whenever there are cut-backs they are the first to be sacked.

Management are using their part time status to intimidate them and deny their right. TUI delegates have voted to take industrial action on the issue.

■ **Church control:** Teachers in primary schools are forced to teach Catholic religion classes—even if they are not Catholics.

Right wingers who demand a 'conscience clause' for teachers who do not want to teach on sex education programmes never mention

who are in this position. This should be a first step towards opening the whole issue of why the Church insists religion has to be seen as part of all subjects in our schools.

Now the INTO has voted to defend members

NORTHERN TEACHERS THREATEN STRIKE ACTION

TEACHERS in Northern Ireland are up in arms about class sizes.

Nearly 100,000 children in the UK are taught in classes that have more than 35 pupils. And many of these are to be found in Northern Ireland.

The Tories claim that class sizes do not damage children's chances. But frankly enough most of them send their children to private schools.

In Northern Ireland the current pupil teacher ration in private schools is only 10 pupils to 1 teacher.

At the recent NASUWT conference in the North delegates threw out a document from their executive on the issue because it was too weak. One union official later warned that there would be industrial action over class sizes.

Northern teachers should now start organising in NASUWT and INTO to make sure there is a fight on the issue.

HOW TEACHERS CAN WIN:

THE LEADERS of the teachers' unions need to embark on a major campaign of industrial action if they are to win.

Some union leaders think that it will be enough to mount a token campaign and try to lobby a few politicians in Dail Eireann.

But many rank-and-file teachers already see that this will not be enough. At the ASTI secondary school teachers' conference, delegates overturned a campaign strategy outlined by their executive because it was too moderate.

Teachers should also fight to ensure that the demand for early retirement is not used as a trade off for forcing through extra hours and lengthening the school year.

A recent survey by the OECD has shown that Ireland already has one of the longest school years in Europe. The main reason why there are breaks in the school year is that priests insist on closing schools for religious holidays. But this has nothing to do with teachers.

Sackings

The Labour Minister for Education is also trying to whip up a campaign against 'inefficient teachers' and wants to use the threat of sackings. Her counterpart in England, David Blunkett the Labour spokesperson on education, is promising the same if they get into government.

Teachers should resist these attacks and call for proper funding of schools and in-service training. The real problem is not inefficient teachers—it is the conditions which make it impossible to teach properly with huge classes.

This is why delegates to the Teachers Union of Ireland conference were absolutely correct to tell their leaders that they would accept no negotiations on lengthening the school year or possible sackings as a trade off for their right to retire early.

SWM branch meetings—all welcome

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

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

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

DERRY
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Badgers Bar.

DUBLIN BALLINTEER
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Ballintheer House.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DUBLIN TALLAGHT
Contact 8722682 for details of meetings

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

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

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

St—contact national address for details.

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

NEWRY
Meets every Wednesday at

8pm—contact national address for venue.

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

JOIN THE SOCIALISTS

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Bus workers face privatisation threat

A LIVELY conference of the National Bus and Railworkers Union held in Waterford debated the many tough issues facing transport workers.

A speaker from the T&GWU in Britain told delegates how privatisation of bus services has led to worsening conditions for workers and degeneration of services to the public.

Private bus companies all over Britain are forcing drivers to work for over five hours without a break, leading to an increase in stress and fatigue.

Bus companies are ignoring the safety of both drivers and passengers.

In Manchester a spot check on buses led to 100 vehicles being taken off the road because of de-

fects.

Profits are put before the lives of workers and the public.

"This gives us a taste of what's ahead if Bus Eireann or Dublin Bus push through privatisation", one delegate told *Socialist Worker*.

Abolition

Delegates voted on resolutions calling for the abolition of tax on short term social welfare payments, full retirement benefits for workers at 60 years of age, the extension of company privileges to common-law wives and the children of both partners, and the extension of an "assault scheme" for all transport workers.

The union has called for a review of the Industrial Relations Act which can severely limit the power



Cops attack pickets in Cork earlier in the year

of workers to strike to defend their pay and conditions.

But it did not prevent busworkers in Cork and Galway from taking mili-

tant action to defend their colleagues and oppose the use of scabs by the company.

Every time workers stand together to fight for

better conditions the bosses will try to scare them off by threatening them with the law.

The courts themselves are on the side of the bosses.

The real strength of a union is the ability and willingness of its members to fight.

Support

Instead of being discouraged against militant action they should always be given full support by their union leaders.

The way to win is to build a strong union from below through the sort of action taken by the Cork busworkers in recent months.

The NBRU will be weakened by caving into anti-union laws instead of standing against them.

A.I.B. part timers win concession

PERMANENT part-time workers at Allied Irish Banks have voted to accept a new pay deal that will allow them work full-time hours.

The bank employs 600 workers in this grade and 460 of them are union members.

This "yellow pack" grade was created in 1990 and they earn as little as £7,000 a year.

Most of them work their day off at flat rate to try to earn a little more.

"The standing joke in here is to try to break the tax A bracket by next year, we earn so little," one shop steward told *Socialist Worker*.

The new arrangements will allow workers to opt for full-time hours and to bring their pay from a five year to a twelve year scale. They are glad of the opportunity to earn more money.

Interview

But AIB have a different view of the deal.

They have begun to interview temporary part-time workers for the permanent positions.

If they recruit the temps to the full-time jobs they will save some more profits for their executives.

Temporary workers are all on the lowest point of the scale but permanent part-timers will have worked up as far as point 5.

"We are for the temps getting permanent jobs. But the issue is that the bank will try to cheap-skate as far as they can get away with it."

The deal was enthusiastically received by all permanent part-timers but in reality the bank is organising a new low paid grade of experienced staff.

"If the bank try to renege on this deal by recruiting the lower paid temps first, there will be war in here."

"The most militant workers during the strike three years ago were the permanent part-timers and we had massive attendances at the general meetings leading up to this deal."

UTA workers demand union takes lead

ALMOST 500 workers at the United Technologies Automotive (UTA) plant in Derry have signed a petition demanding that the AEEU call a general meeting.

The meeting is needed for the workforce to discuss union representation in the plant. AEEU members want the union to honour the three votes they have taken against the introduction of shift work.

Instead of standing up for the right of the workforce not to work shifts, the union has allowed line managers to intimidate and harass individual workers into agreeing to them.

Stand Up

While some shop stewards stand up for the workers, they are in a minority on the shop stewards' committee.

Now workers fear the union leadership will play management's game and allow the shift question to be included in the pay negotiations, possibly with a sweetener of a once-off bonus just when they're trying to get the money together for holidays etc.

But the extent of resistance is massive.

Most of the workforce have done a couple of weeks' night shifts at some stage. They know how they disrupt family life and end the possibility of normal social life for younger people.

The tremendous response to the petition for a general meeting is an indication of the bitterness among UTA workers. The feeling that "we've had enough and we need the

union to fight" is immense. Some workers not in the union signed the petition, saying they would join a union which stood up for them.

These workers should be persuaded to join the AEEU immediately.

A fighting union can only be built from the bottom up and it needs rank and file workers who are willing to fight.

Meanwhile, those militants who have been circulating the petitions and arguing for the AEEU to fight should stand as shop stewards and encourage other militants to stand.

This is the only way to ensure that the shop stewards' committee and the convenor hold regular section and general meetings. Regular meetings would mean the shop stewards would have to represent the views of their members or be replaced.

THEY WON'T INVEST!

THE SPANISH government has decided to invest £650 million in Iberia Airlines.

This is the second major investment they have made in the company since 1992.

But by stark contrast the Irish Government's investment of £175 million in Aer Lingus was subjected to an investigation by the EU Commission.

The Spanish Minister is confi-

dent that the investment will win approval at EU level.

Meanwhile workers in TEAM and elsewhere in Aer Lingus are told to tighten their belts and work harder for less.

The Irish government has no intention of putting in extra cash to secure jobs.

It prefers to throw our money at millionaires like Goodman and bank executives.

Strand cleaners victory

THE FIVE women cleaners at the Strand Multiplex cinema in Derry have won their jobs back.

This marvellous victory provides a valuable lesson for workers throughout Ireland.

The practice of contracting out services such as cleaning, catering, security etc. has become widespread.

Choice

It mainly affects lower-paid workers and results in even worse pay and conditions.

Many trade union officials argue that nothing can be done about it, that workers have no choice but to accept it and hope that their 'in-house' bid will be the cheapest option.



Socialist Worker organised a support picket on the company's Dublin head office

The Multiplex Five have shown everybody that this isn't so.

They took a stand and maintained their picket for 35 nights, with the backing of other trade unionists and socialists.

The picket broke all the Tory anti-union laws.

There were often over 20 people on the picket line. Workers from British Telecom, Wellworths and United Technologies took up collections in solidarity with the women.

The cinema lost tens of thousands of pounds as most film-goers

refused to pass the picket.

Management were forced to give the women their jobs back.

The message to all workers who find themselves in a similar situation is obvious—we can win when we fight back and when we do fight back there is more support out there than we might imagine.

Stand

One of the re-instated workers told *Socialist Worker* "even a week after we've been back at work, people are still coming up to me and saying 'good on you for making a stand'."

"They say it's about time more people, especially women, took a stand against low pay and privatisation."

Health workers reject Paypath

PROPOSALS on the introduction of Paypath for Health Board workers were rejected in a national ballot.

This took place at the same time as local authority workers voted on an analogue payment of £6.81 per week.

The payment is due from April 1st but management are withholding the money on the basis that both proposals, Paypath for the Health Boards and productivity for the local authorities, had to be accepted.

But local authority workers are entitled to the analogue payment which has been paid out since 1979.

There is massive opposition in the local authorities to the plans for productivity which will result in job losses and the worsening of conditions.

Workers are entitled to their analogue payment without conditions attached and should demand management pay up now.

Waterford students organise

MILITANCY in the Waterford RTC is growing. Art students are angry about the terrible conditions they are forced to work in.

One student told *Socialist Worker*: "We are sick and fed up of the conditions in Newgate St which is an old furniture factory."

"We are not being selfish but something will have to be done."

The building has an asbestos roof, poor ventilation, no natural light and high levels of noise pollution.

Inspired

The art students have been inspired by the action of other students in the main building.

They held protests over canteen and pub prices.

Another student said: "We protested because we want to elect the bar committee, consisting of a majority of students, who will run the bar in the interests of the members instead of mercenaries who are running it to line their own pockets."

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FIGHT FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS

EIGHT months into the ceasefire in Northern Ireland, there is a new mood of class anger.

While the politicians of the North try to encourage us to stick in our ghettos and wonder about our identities, Catholic and Protestant workers are starting to fight for workers' rights.

Nurses who are campaigning for a decent pay rise have got tremendous support from other workers.

In Derry, there has been a wave of militancy as dockers occupied ships and cinema workers fought for and saved their jobs.

In Shorts, workers have thrown out a miserable pay offer of 2%.

They saw that their bosses

are wallowing in greed.

While Shorts management called for restraint by workers, their boss Roy McNulty managed to double his salary to £395,000 a year.

And there is much to fight about.

Despite the Tory talk about low inflation, prices are being pushed up all the time.

Bus Fares

Electricity prices have jumped by 6%; bus fares are

going up by 3%; prescription charges have been pushed up to £5.50 per item.

Meanwhile one third of households in Northern Ireland are living on an income of less than £108 a week.

But while this new mood

of class anger is building up there has been little response from our union leaders.

The ICTU leaders seem more interested in wining and dining with the bosses than giving any lead in this fightback.

Defeat

But what is needed in the North is more militancy to break the Tory pay freeze and solidarity with those workers who stand up for their rights.

There is a lot at stake.

Class struggle can defeat the attempts by the British and Irish governments to pit Catholic and Protestant workers against each other in the North.

They want workers to compete against each other for grants and for jobs from US multi-nationals.

They want us to outbid each other so that they can get a low wage economy here.

We should not fall for these tricks.

We need a strong socialist party here that stands up for workers' rights.

That party has to oppose every sign of sectarianism.

It has to oppose both Irish states which were built from partition.

These states have allowed the politics of Ireland to be dominated by right wing bigots who are mirror images of each other.

FIGHT PRIVATISATION

A HUNDRED hospital workers have voted to come out on strike against a threat to sell off their jobs to private contractors.

The porters, telephonists and caterers are members of UNISON in Lagan Valley, Downshire and Down hospital and they are angry at the Tory policy of slashing jobs.

The strike began on Tuesday

midnight and 24 hour pickets are being mounted.

One shop steward told *Socialist Worker*, "They are trying to put our jobs at risk—but we are not going to take it lying down".

These workers should be given full support. The Tories are trying to wreck the NHS. They want every service provided on the cheap—and they do not care about the quality of the service that is offered.