

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

inside:

Fight the Water disconnections—page four

Can Arab and Jew ever live in peace?—centre pages

WHY SHOULD WE PAY FOR THE BEEF SCANDAL?

Make the Beef Barons pay the fine!

"IRELAND's worst criminals are those who have chosen the beef industry as their area of operation" wrote Gene Kerrigan in the *Sunday Independent*.

He is absolutely right.

Millions have been spent on monitoring the activities of criminals like 'The Monk' or 'The General'.

But if you own a beef plant and live in a fancy house, you can expect the Irish taxpayer to pick up the bill for your crimes.

The European Union is

levying a major fine on Ireland because the beef barons have been committing fraud for years.

Rotten meat

And this government wants PAYE workers to pay up.

But it wasn't PAYE workers who:

- Sold rotten beef into intervention knowing that eventually it might be sold to some poor country in Africa.

- Skimmed off meat from animal carcasses that the EU already paid for.

- Set up tax dodges with the help of major accountancy firms to keep costs down.

Demand

It was Ireland's beef barons who organised all this fraud.

Yet the Gardai have not

been out knocking on their doors to demand that they "come and assist with inquiries."

TURN TO PAGE TWO

Why should we pay for beef barons' fraud?

Panic tactics from shop bosses

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

When one case involving junior managers in a £1 million fraud operation at the Goodman plant Rathkeale, Co Limerick

was brought before the court, the judge said that they had not benefitted. Someone 'unknown' indi-

vidual had gained. But the Gardai never investigated who this might be. Ivan Yeates, the Fine Gael Minister for Agriculture, thinks that he can now pass the EU fine onto PAYE workers and let the beef barons off scott free.

IFA backs the beef barons



THE BIG farmers who dominate the Irish Farmers Association have already taken to the streets in support of the beef barons.

They are opposed to the miserable levy of £4 million which Yeates introduced for extra Department of Agriculture inspectors.

IFA leader John Donnelly denounced "trendy lefties" to a demonstration of 2,000 farmers.

He insisted that farmers would not pay the EU fine. The IFA is one of the most

vicious anti-worker organisations in Ireland.

Organised

It has opposed dairy workers and agricultural labourers getting national pay rises.

If it has started to organise demonstrations already, then it is high time for trade unionists to move.

Protest

He should not be let get away with it.

The only way to stop this scandal is for thousands of workers to get on the streets to protest.

Already shop stewards in many factories and offices around the country are meeting to organise action.

As soon as the fine is imposed, the date of a major demonstration will be announced.

There is no need to lie down and take this filthy hypocrisy from Yeates and the beef barons. People power on the streets of Ireland will wipe the grin off their faces.

'I'm after another £200 million' says Larry Goodman



LARRY Goodman is taking another court case to squeeze £200 million from Irish taxpayers.

He wants the PAYE sector to pay the bill for beef he exported to Iraq because Saddam Hussein has refused to pay.

According to Goodman the case is "moving along, we're happy with the way it's progressing."

The Irish government has sat back and done nothing about the fraud at his plant in Rathkeale.

But Goodman could never be accused on passivity when it comes to his pound of flesh.

A major workers demonstration is now the only way to deal with this farec. The Dail politicians have spent £35 million on a beef tribunal—and then done nothing.

MANAGEMENT of the Cork Early Learning Centre are showing signs of desperation as a strike by seven of their staff continues defiantly.

The women strikers have been mounting a picket since December 6th, but in the last week the British-based multinational stepped up its efforts to break the strike.

They published more full-page adds in the *Cork Examiner* and *Evening Echo*, costing tens of thousands of pounds—and further alienating themselves from the Cork public, who are not taken in.

A flyer went out with one night's *Echo*, announcing a 20% discount in prices, but still hardly anyone crossed the picket line.

In fact the advertisements have served only to remind trade unionists of the need to take collections for the strikers.

On top of the failed publicity offensive, the Early Learning Centre has tried to intimidate the pickets—an ex night club bouncer has been hired to hover by the door.

This bouncer has been taking pictures of the pickets and their supporters.

One picket told *Socialist Worker*, "they may as well have sent us a telegraph saying, girls, you're winning."

WHAT YOU CAN DO

It is vital that rank and file trade unionists move quickly to demand a special law to force the beef barons to pay the EU fine.

Move this resolution in your union or community association:

"This meeting resolutely opposes the notion that PAYE workers should shoulder the bulk of the EU fine because of fraud in the Irish beef industry.

"It calls on Dail Eireann to enact special legislation to force the culprits in the beef industry to pay.

"We call on the ICTU to mount major demonstrations to help enforce this policy and shall support any demonstrations called in the meantime"

Order leaflets for your workplace as soon as the fine is announced.

Get posters up around your area to build the demonstration.

Phone (01) 872 2682 to get the leaflets and posters.

inside the system

Truth provokes

THE POLICE in Birmingham, Alabama, have taken offence at a statue put up to commemorate the US civil rights movement.

As people fought for basic democratic rights, scenes of savage police attacks on peaceful demonstrators in 1963 shocked the world.

Provoke

Appropriately, the statue shows a white policeman in sunglasses holding a black youth by the shirt.

A police dog is snapping at the boy. This is all too much for Bill Odem, president of Birmingham's Fraternal Order of Police.

According to Odem, "My first thought when I looked at it was, 'My God, we don't need to provoke people'."

But asked whether the statue might upset some people, black mayor Richard Arrington's reply was short and sweet--"Good".

New scare tactics from the bigots

ANTI-ABORTION groups in the US have resorted to a new scare tactic.

They are wrongly claiming that having an abortion will give you cancer.

Slogans saying, "Wo-

men who choose abortion suffer more and deadlier breast cancer" have appeared in the US.

Those who have called a free "helpline" number were told that they had a one in two chance of contracting the disease.

Now several states are proposing laws which would require doctors and clinics to warn women seeking abortions that they risk cancer.

Seattle

But there is absolutely no evidence of a link. The study the anti-abortionists claim as "evidence" was conducted in Seattle in 1994 by Janet Daling.

Daling's findings were based on the fact that 20 of her own cancer patients had abortions before they were 18.

But 15 of a similar group without cancer had also had abortions.

A unique opportunity

Socialist Worker invites captains of industry, trade union general secretaries and top civil servants to a £100 a plate chicken in the basket dinner.

This is a unique opportunity to discuss with Kieran Allen, editor of *Socialist Worker*, in a semi informal atmosphere such topics as global warming, the crisis in the IFA and tips for winners at Leopardstown.

Reply only on official government notepaper.

Getting their stories straight

THE BISHOPS are in dire need of some expert help.

First Bishop Comiskey decides that Noel Smyth and half a dozen public relations people are crucial to his story being heard.

And now after all the revelations about child abuse in orphanages and Industrial Schools, the Sisters of Mercy decide they too are not being portrayed sympathetically enough and need a little media

help.

The very imaginative 'media consultant' involved lost no time in issuing a list of named pupils who were prepared to tell 'positive stories about their childhoods in

SAFE UP THERE?

COST CUTTING by airline bosses means many planes are not carrying enough fuel to reach their destinations safely.

Airline bosses are forcing pilots to carry the bare minimum fuel load in order to save money.

This is revealed in a recently uncovered internal bulletin from January 1996, where one pilot complains that "coercion by overzealous management" is creating safety dangers.

Another pilot reports, "I carried excess fuel on one occasion due to severe weather being forecast. I received this bullying letter implying that big brother is watching and how dare I take any extra fuel."

Collectors item

TONY O'REILLY seems nowadays to be collecting houses as fast as he once did businesses. His latest pad is a Georgian monster in Dublin's Fitzwilliam Square.

Locals in Castlemartin in Co Kildare need not fear however.

The good doctor has no plans to deprive them of his presence there, nor indeed does he plan to surrender his holiday home in West Cork or his homes in Pittsburgh, Normandy or the Bahamas.

No, the Fitzwilliam townhouse - a bargain at one million for four stories over a basement - is to be O'Reilly's Dublin base.

It's far more convenient than having to trot 40 miles from Kildare through heavy traffic and then it's so hard to get a good driver these days.

PAY-PER-VIEW

Socialist Worker is glad to see a spirit of democratic equality at work in the new style St Patrick Day's 'festival'.

Don't buy our product

THE Liggett Group of tobacco manufacturers has just lost a lawsuit in the US over the damage caused by smoking.

As part of the settlement the Group has to sponsor a stop smoking programme.

A company paying out money to tell people not to buy its products gives a new meaning to term 'reverse psychology'.

Now any old Tom, Dick or Harry gets to sit on the reviewing stand alongside politicians, bishops, pop singers and TV presenters.

Waving

For just £25 you too could have distanced yourself from the flag-waving hordes, finding a seat next to Gay Byrne maybe or getting to line your shamrock up against the managing director of whatever corporate suit is sponsoring the parade.

You might want to book early for next year however as we hear that the organisers of the parade are considering pay-per-view as the way to go in the 21st century.

we think

DON'T LET THEM FORGET:

Get the Church out of our schools

MARY NORRIS was raised in an orphanage in Killarney in the 1950s. Her mother had entered a second relationship after her father died and Mary and her brothers and sisters were sent into care.

"I believe we were taken away to save our souls on the investigation of a parish priest," she said.

At the age of sixteen she was sent to work for a retired school mistress where she was only allowed one night off to go to the pictures.

Subjected

When she broke the rule she was brought back to the orphanage where she was forcibly subjected to a virginity test. "The girl is intact" were the doctor's words that were imprinted on her brain ever afterwards.

Mary's story is just one of a flood of horrific memories that have been sparked off by the Goldenbridge orphanage scandal.

If ever there was a case for not allowing the religious control of schools or child welfare then it has now been

established.

Many of the individuals who ran these institutions may be retired -- but the same system which preaches obedience and fear of any form of sexuality is still there.

The Bishops are acutely aware of the implications of these scandals for today. This is why they have launched a propaganda campaign to argue it was 'society at large' -- and not just the church-- which was responsible for what happened.

Nobody should be fooled by this. The reality is that the Bishops dominated Irish society in the 1950s and 1960s. They set the moral tone. They used the schools to promote a fanatical form of Catholicism which tried to crush any form of left wing thinking.

Noel Browne the former

Health Minister in the 1948-51 government recalls that a proposal to allow children from industrial schools to be adopted by caring homes was quashed when one government Minister simply said, "He won't allow it". The 'He' was the Archbishop of Dublin, John Charles McQuaid.

Inmates

It is a scandal that neither Labour nor Democratic Left have acceded to the request of many of the former inmates of the industrial schools and orphanages to press for an inquiry into what happened.

These parties are staying quiet because they believe that the liberal agenda has been completed and they no longer want to take on the Bishops.

But the biggest battle is still to come. The Bishops still control most of the schools in the Republic. They use these schools to promote 'their ethos'. They

insist that even in the teaching of Maths in primary schools the values of the Church, as they see them,

be conveyed.

The religious have shown from their own record that they have no right to run our

schools. The days when unqualified parish priests can dictate what teachers are to be hired should now be ended.

With friends like these...

When Gerry Adams and David Trimble visited Washington before St Patrick's day they agreed on one thing: they should be friends with the US President Clinton and the Irish American establishment.

Both acknowledge that US involvement in the Irish peace process is a 'good thing'.

Yet the rich Irish American establishment have no record or promoting justice or an end to discrimination in any part of the world ... least of all America.

They welcomed Gerry Adams onto the St Patrick's Day parade with open arms. But they banned members of the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organisation who they saw them as an affront to holy, Catholic Ireland.

In the US Congress, they

have signed up Newt Gingrich, the right wing Republican leader, as 'a friend of Ireland'. Yet his infamous "Contract with America" promised to destroy social welfare for US workers.

The vast majority of Irish-American politicians support the Helms-Burton Bill which imposes new sanctions against Cuba and allows even non-American companies to be fined if they trade with Cuba.

They help to preside over a system where there are more young black men are in prison than in university.

In Northern Ireland the

conflict of the past 25 years has been fought mainly in working class areas.

Any involvement by right wing US politicians in the Irish peace process will be built on a strategy that seeks to preserve sectarian divisions.

The rivalry in the US between Democrats and Republicans works on the basis that each politician seeks to build up coalition of 'ethnic groups'.

Workers are divided by race and nationality so that the big companies which bankroll the politicians gain.

After all the re-adjustments and minor changes that emerge from all-party talks, that is the system they would like to keep in Northern Ireland too.

Mayhew sacks RUC reformers

THE MEDIA constantly reassure us that the Royal Ulster Constabulary are no longer the sectarian bigots who baton charged civil rights protesters in the sixties.

But the sacking of David Cook and Chris Ryder from the Police Authority of Northern Ireland shows that the RUC is as sectarian as ever.

Cook and Ryder are no radicals and fully support the RUC's repressive role.

Cook spoke, after he was sacked as PANI chairperson, of his "great respect for the way in which the police have responded in difficult circumstances to the challenge of change which they must face".

This was despite bloody police attacks on nationalist demonstrators in Belfast's Lower Ormeau last August.

But his and Ryder's mild proposals that RUC barracks should not fly the Union Jack on 12th July and that maybe the RUC oath to the queen should be abandoned caused uproar.

Arch-bigot Ian Paisley went into another anti-Catholic rant and a witch hunt was launched against Cook and Ryder. Paisley even accused Cook of making 'Papist propaganda'.

When the two refused to resign they were sacked by the 'impartial' Northern Secretary Patrick Mayhew.

The episode shows how Paisley and the RUC are determined to maintain the unionist monolith and how the Tories are prepared to back them.

The Tories must maintain their loyalty to the RUC heads at all costs. After all the police will be the 'thin blue line' when workers in the North go into struggle against Tory attacks.

Then they won't care whether it's Catholic or Protestant heads that are split open.

STORM OVER CLARE WASTE PLANT



OPPOSITION is growing to plans by the multi-national Syntex plant to build an incinerator for its waste.

Huge meetings have been held in the Clarecastle area to demand that the company use more expensive waste disposal technologies which are now available. Campaigners from Care

for Clare have pointed out that people and animals became ill near a Syntex incinerator at Times Beach in Missouri, USA.

Unfortunately many workers at the plant have been intimidated into writ-

ing a letter to the local press in support of the incinerator. Just like other multi-nationals such as Packard, Syntex is using the blackmail of jobs to get its way. But trade unionists should be demanding that Syntex cut into its profits and invest in decent and safe technology.

Now they give Leaving Cert points for religion

ENTRY to university could now be influenced by how well you perform in a religious exam.

This incredible decision has been made by Labour Minister Niamh Breathnach.

She has agreed to a proposal to make religion a subject for Junior Cert and Leaving Cert exams.

The Bishops are delighted with the idea.

At a time when the

number of priests are declining, lay teachers will be paid by taxpayers to promote their outlook.

In Britain the minority of Catholic schools insist that students who are enrolled in their schools have to take the religion exam.

In Ireland, this could mean that most secondary students will be forced to study religion for exams.

And while few would object to students voluntarily studying the different religions of the world, this is not what is likely to happen here.

According to Fr Dermot Lane, the Catholic Church's representative on the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, there will not be 'a mishmash of everything and anything' on the syllabus.

He ruled out the possibility of non-Christian religions being taught as if they had equal value to Christianity. Instead each school would teach the programme 'according to its own ethos'.

Held hostage for a sandwich

Des Keane and his family got a nasty shock when they took the Stena Lynx to Hollyhead on the 8th of March.

Just after leaving Dun Laoghaire they opened their ham sandwiches. This was enough to send one Mr Olsen, a director of Stena berserk.

Eating their own sandwiches without

paying the for the expensive food on the boat.. think about the profits.

He took their tickets and boarding cards off them.

When they got to Hollyhead they had no

choice but to stay on board.

After a while the tickets were re-marked but they were only allowed to go back on the ferry.

But due to bad weather this was delayed and the family had to stay in the departing lounge for four hours without much pocket money.

Then to add to their horror they were told they could not even go on the ferry but had to wait until the following day.

And all of this for a few small ham sandwiches.

So if you travel Stena beware of prowling managers who will do anything for profit.

WATER CHARGES:**EX-GUINNESS WORKER FACES DISCONNECTION****Residents back local's defiance**

OVER ONE hundred local residents attended a meeting in Walkinstown on Patrick's weekend to organise against the disconnection of water ordered on their neighbour Larry Doran.

Larry Doran appeared in Rathfarnham District Court three weeks ago, his fifth time in Court since just before Christmas.

The judge ordered his water supply to be turned off because he refused to pay service charges.

Stopped

Gregor Kerr of the Anti-Water Charges Campaign said, "Local people in Waterford successfully stopped the council from cutting off water to homes that had not paid the charges."

"Two years ago when contractors were brought in by the council to Hillview estate in Waterford, they were forced to leave again by a mass protest of hundreds of locals who

physically stopped them carrying out the council's orders. That is the way it should be done here."

The meeting enthusiastically pledged to defend Larry's home from any attempt to cut his water supply.

A 'phone tree' was organised so that people could respond quickly if and when the council try to carry out the disconnection.

Larry said, "Workers have to take a day off to go to court. In my case I'm retired and don't lose any earnings but for lots of people it's a real strain and the judges are awarding the costs against ordinary workers."

Larry worked in Guinness brewery for 31 years and has been paying tax for 49 years.



He is determined not to pay the double-taxation of water charges.

"When I pointed out to the judge in Court that I had paid taxes all my life but that the rich get tax amnesties and we don't see any beef barons in Court, the barrister for the Council, Mr. Gallagher jumped up and objected to my remarks about somebody who was not there to defend themselves."

"Gallagher was also

on Larry Goodman's legal team during the beef tribunal. No wonder he objected."

Petition

The local Socialist Workers Party branch has leafleted the Guinness brewery and sent around a petition calling on workers to oppose the charges and join the demonstration on 20th April.

The meeting in Walkinstown called for a

demonstration outside Larry Doran's house in 111, St. Peter's Road to highlight his case in the local community.

Posters urging people to defend Larry from being cut-off are going up around the area and the response to the issue is growing.

While the Government are bailing out a millionaire like Larry Goodman, they are attacking workers like Larry Doran.

Dublin West by-election

The by-election in Dublin West will be a major test for the Fianna Fail leader Bertie Ahern.

Its candidate is Brian Lenehan Junior who has led a life of privilege.

He spent years in upper class debating circles in Trinity before studying law in Cambridge.

Today he makes a fortune both as a Trinity Lecturer and as a barrister.

By contrast, Dublin West shows all the scars of that system that Fianna Fail and Lenehan defend.

Year

The constituency includes areas like Gallanstown which rioted against the police this year and the sprawling area of North Clondalkin.

"The only thing they built around here is ramps and roundabouts -- and that was only after the riots in Neillstown in 1992" said Ginno Kenny, a local socialist in the area.

Drug

Unemployment runs at 65% in some areas and, in its wake, a massive drug problem has developed.

"I personally know 30 or 40 people who are on heroin. It started with the Es and now it is getting more serious. The

politicians don't give a damn."

"They just want the problem moved away from the city centre" said another socialist.

Already a huge swing is emerging against the government and FF.

Many are sick of the fact that working people are hauled before the courts for water charges while the crooks in the beef industry have their fines paid by PAYE workers.

Vote Higgins but build a fight

The main left wing candidate in the constituency is the Militant Labour councillor, Joe Higgins.

He was expelled from the official Labour Party in 1989 as Dick Spring cracked down on leftwingers.

"Perhaps this is a badge of honour for me now," says Higgins.

While the Labour Party invites tax consultants to meet the Minister for Finance, Ruairi Quinn for a £100 a ticket lunch,



■ Joe Higgins

Higgins has stood by a defence of working class interests.

He has played an active role in fighting on water charges and was one of the few councillors to vote against them.

A vote for Higgins would be a resounding mark of disgust at the sell-outs of the Labour Party and

Democratic left.

But a vote does not mean an endorsement of all of Higgins politics.

His election campaign in Dublin West is being built around the single issue campaign with few general socialist arguments being raised.

Instead of telling people to rely on their own strength to fight, he presents the elections as the focus.

"What I am telling people is that this is the best chance they are going to get to do away with water charges".

Even if Joe Higgins made it to the Dail as a lone socialist voice, that alone would not move the Coalition.

But if working class people come out on the streets in their hundreds and prevented disconnections like those of Larry Doran, that would frighten the TDs more than any election win.

And that is the best chance of getting rid of water charges.

Fianna Fail TD attacks single parents

The Irish Times is the latest newspaper to give a platform to right wing politicians who want to attack single parents. Under the headline "The Rise and Rise of the Welfare Mother" it gave great coverage to Fianna Fail's Eoin Ryan.

The message was that there needed to be an Irish version of Britain's Child Support Agency.

The Child Support Agency relentlessly forces single mothers on welfare to identify the fathers of their children - going so far as to use DNA testing in some cases.

These fathers are then made to pay some level of maintenance, regardless of the woman's wishes.

Nothing is done to improve the lives of these women since welfare benefits are cut in line with the level of maintenance squeezed out.

Today the Child Support Agency takes in an annual £500 million a year. But a woman refusing to name the father loses up to 20 per cent of income support. One woman was told 'violence is no reason for not naming the father'.

Any moves to set up a similar agency in Ireland should be actively opposed.

Marriage

In 1971 there were 2,005 babies born outside marriage in Ireland, equivalent to 2 per cent of all births. But over the past 25 years Ireland has experienced a sea change in attitudes to sex, morality and marriage.

Today the credibility of the Catholic Church is in tatters. Additionally the number of women workers has massively increased as have their demands for economic independence and the right to choose whether and when to have children.

Most people know and support some family member or friend who is bringing up children alone and very little of the old stigma surrounding single mothers remains.

Yet they continue to be used as a scapegoat by those wishing to explain away the failure of Ireland's boom economy to reduce unemployment or improve workers' incomes.

Bigot

One such opportunistic bigot is Fianna Fail TD Eoin Ryan. Ryan is trying to steal the thunder of Nora Bennis' National Party by claiming that single mothers on welfare are dragging themselves and their children into an 'underclass'.

But while the number of single parents is growing, so too is the number not dependant on welfare who currently make up one third of all single mothers.

The rise in expenditure on benefits is due to the increase in lone parents and not to any generous leap in the amount paid to individuals.

A lone parent with one child is expected to survive on £76 a

They turn on single parents because they want to try to divide workers.

week at present.

And though the cost of lone parents' schemes went from £23 million in 1981 to £87 million in 1991, they still represent only 5.1 per cent of all social security expenditure.

Also there is movement both ways - 'in' and 'out' of Social Welfare schemes. From 1990 to 1991 there was an inflow of 8,389 new recipients of the Lone Parents Allowance but an outflow also of 4,436 or 18 per cent of the total.

Obviously then lone parents are not, as one commentator suggested, threatening to become the 'new live register'.

The biggest factor contributing to Ireland's high number of lone parents on welfare is successive governments' failure to provide state funded creches.

Day-care

Ireland is the only EU country to have no day care policy for infants and pre-school children. Only six creches are state funded, forcing any mother who wants to work or return to education to pay on average £35 to £50 a week on childcare.

A 1993 ESRI report says "there would be a significantly higher labour supply if the childcare arrangements preferred by lone mothers - especially in relation to cost - were actually available to them".

Compare the Irish statistics with those of Finland where 90 per cent of single mothers work, 80 per cent of them fulltime.

Cash and nurseries are offered to help women return to or enter the workforce.

Complain

Fianna Fail TDs like Eoin Ryan never complain about the amount of hand-outs given to employers who have failed to create jobs.

That would be to expose the real reason why PAYE taxes are so high.

Instead they turn on single parents because they want to try to divide workers. Their hypocrisy should be rejected.

Patricia McManus



news of the world

Strike shuts down biggest US firm

SOME 125,000 car workers in the US were laid off at the start of this week as part of a fight that has hit the world's biggest vehicle producer and the biggest company in the US.

The dispute has become a national issue. President Bill Clinton urged both sides to settle and Robert Reich, US labour secretary, said last week, "The American public is holding its collective breath."

Talks between the workers' United Auto Workers union and General Motors bosses took place at the start of this week.

GM bosses did not even plan negotiations initially. But it is little wonder they changed their tune.

Business analysts estimate the strike is costing GM between \$38 and \$50 million in profits per day.

The workers are laid off because of a strike by just 3,200 workers at GM's two brake plants in Dayton, Ohio.

They walked out on 5 March over job security when GM announced it was to buy brake parts from an outside supplier rather than hire more workers at its own factories.

Such "outsourcing" is used by the bosses to cut costs.

Workers at independent parts suppliers, most of which are non-union, earn half the pay of UAW members.

Immediate

The workers' action had an immediate effect.

GM plants were closed one by one last week as the supply of brake parts dried up.

Some 24 plants were shut by the end of the week—in the US, Canada and Mexico—and 44 other parts factories were also shut.

The bosses' *Wall Street Journal* described how the dispute was "spinning out of control" and threatening a national "pitched battle".

Dayton workers are picketing round the clock and are

by SAM ASHMAN

amazed by their own power.

One told reporters, "I really didn't believe it. I really had no idea the effect it would have."

They are also angry at being made to work ten hours a day, seven days a week.

Many strikers know that bosses at Boeing were forced to drop similar outsourcing plans after a strike by workers last year.

The laid off workers know the issue affects them too.

US papers quote one saying, "They are protecting their jobs and the job security of future workers. It is not just their battle."

It is an indication of the bitterness and anger of US workers.

The *Financial Times* reports that "the political mood this year has already swung against large companies."

It is that kind of feeling that right wing Republican Pat Buchanan is trying to exploit. He announced last week, "I understand what these workers are going through. GM is selling their jobs out."

Buchanan's rhetoric offers no answers. He wants to use workers' disaffection to boost his own standing.

But GM workers are showing that their power can be a real alternative to job cuts and union busting.

BELGIUM



STUDENTS IN Belgium protest against education cuts

Signs of unrest rattle the bosses

BELGIAN BOSSES and politicians are increasingly nervous in the face of growing unrest.

A wave of strikes and demonstrations by teachers, school students and parents has rattled the government.

Teachers have been striking for several weeks—some all out, others to join specific protests—against plans to cut 3,000 secondary school teaching jobs.

Last week over 15,000

marched in the capital, Brussels, and up to 30,000 in the city of Namur.

The school cuts are part of a government drive to slash public spending and impose austerity measures.

Railway workers have staged a series of wildcat stoppages against planned job cuts.

And last week many cash machines in Brussels ran out of money because of a strike by the security guards who restock them.

The education protests are concentrated in the southern French speaking Wallonia area.

Belgium is divided between the French speaking area and the northern Flemish speaking area.

Each region has its own government, and all major political parties and trade unions are divided into French and Flemish sections.

The education protests have threatened the future of Wallonia's government.

A key element in pushing the cuts, both in Wallonia and nationally, is the Belgian equivalent of Britain's Labour Party.

Hope

The British bosses' *Financial Times* newspaper worried last week, "Belgians are showing distinct signs of unrest." It also noted that divisions between workers are the rulers' biggest hope.

Such divisions can be overcome. There was a sizeable Flemish speaking contingent on a recent demonstration of nearly 70,000 against education cuts in Brussels.

With the government planning more attacks, including an attempt to extend a wage freeze, the discontent could continue.

PALESTINE

Israel's brutal clampdown

WORLD LEADERS, who gathered in Cairo last week for a summit against terrorism, loudly denounced the suicide bombings by the Hamas organisation that claimed the lives of 60 Israelis in ten days.

However, they had nothing to say about Israel's vicious clampdown on the occupied territories which has claimed equally innocent victims.

In the most obscene incident Hanan Mustapha Zayed was forced to give birth at an Israeli army checkpoint where her twins died.

"How can a woman about to deliver threaten the security of the state of Israel?" asked Hanan. "The soldiers stopped us for more than 45 minutes."

"All our pleas and begging did not help. They found the situation extremely funny."

For two weeks Israel has imposed one of the most brutal forms of collective punishment on Palestinians since the 1967 war.

Food supplies ran short and the already inadequate health system was thrown into crisis.

"Primary health services are paralysed and deaths have resulted," said a leading

Palestinian doctor.

Israel's clampdown even hit the dead, with funeral processions halted for "security reasons".

Israeli troops have reintroduced measures last seen during the Intifada, the 1987-92 Palestinian uprising, including stripping curfew breakers and making them walk home naked.

Convenient

At the same time the Israeli authorities have forced Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, to launch mass arrests of Hamas supporters.

This brutal repression is politically convenient for Israel's prime minister Shimon Peres who is fighting for his political life in next month's elections.

But the suffering and humiliation imposed on the Palestinians merely ensure another round of repression and retaliation.

It will only end when there is a democratic state in the whole of Palestine where Arabs and Jews live side by side with political and economic equality.

AUSTRIA

STUDENTS TAKE TO STREETS

FORTY THOUSAND students and lecturers demonstrated in Vienna last Thursday against education cuts.

The following day 20,000 marched in Vienna, 5,000 in Linz and 3,000 in Innsbruck. Thousands also marched in many smaller towns.

The government, a coalition of the Social Democrats and the Tory People's Party, plans huge cuts in the education and welfare budgets.

It aims to halve the budget

deficit to £4 billion in an effort to meet the Maastricht criteria for a single European currency.

Junior lecturers could face pay cuts of 40 percent.

The anger at the cuts is drawing in layers of students who have no previous tradition of militancy.

The wave of demonstrations and strikes started at the main business college in Vienna. It quickly drew in many students influenced by the Social Democratic student federation.

They are angry that the Social

Democrats, who campaigned in defence of the welfare state in elections last December, have agreed the cuts package with the Tories.

In those elections the far right Freedom Party, led by Jörg Haider, won 22 percent of the vote.

The student movement has the potential to tap the wider anger against attacks on welfare—and in doing so it can also undermine the far right.

The protests forced the government into negotiations at the beginning of this week.

'Partnership for Peace' threatens neutrality

THE GOVERNMENT'S White Paper on Foreign Policy supports Ireland joining the Partnership for Peace programme.

It also proposes that Ireland plays a bigger role in the EU's military wing, the Western European Union (WEU).

Socialists have to oppose this. Joining the PFP will mean that Ireland is one step closer to playing a full role in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). This was set up after the Second World War to unite the Western powers in their fight against 'communism'.

The new proposals will bring Ireland nearer to abandoning its position of neutrality, something which Fine Gael campaigned for in the 1994 Euro elections.

Dick Spring has appeared on TV and radio since the White Paper was first leaked to give assurances that they will hold a referendum before any change in Ireland's neutrality.

But this promise will mean very little. Involvement with the WEU or the NATO sponsored Partnership for Peace is already a major breach of neutrality.

The founding statement of the PFP, set up in 1994, states that "active participation in PFP will play an important role in the evolutionary process of the expansion of NATO".

One of the stated objectives of the PFP is to "develop cooperative military relations with NATO and to increase members' ability to undertake peacekeeping, humanitarian and other missions."

NATO has been responsible for horrific atrocities in the name of western imperialism. In Iraq during the Gulf War NATO forces have intervened to do the work of the Western powers.

In Bosnia they joined the war against the Serbs and bombed non-military targets including bridges and reservoirs.

The government here is also pushing for closer participation in the Western European Union. Under the Maastricht Treaty, Ireland is committed to "a common defence policy", with the WEU becoming an integral part of the EU.

At present Ireland has observer status at the WEU. But the Inter-Governmental Conference at the end of March is expected to decide on more integration between the EU and the WEU.

Germany, France and the Benelux countries have expressed the desire for the full merger of the two.

And Fine Gael MEPs recently voted in favour of a resolution in the European parliament which said that the WEU and EU will be merged and that all the tasks of the WEU "will be made binding on all EU member states". Under this resolution all EU member states would have to pay for the military operations of the WEU.

Membership of the WEU means that a member state must be prepared to come to the defence of another member if it is attacked.

The former EU supremo, Jacques Delors predicted that the WEU would be used to fight "resource wars" in the next century.

Nuclear Weapons

Just last month the WEU called for an examination of the role of nuclear weapons in the defence of Europe.

It is interesting that the military operations that it is proposed that Ireland gets involved in are the softer peacekeeping ones. But what does this actually mean?

Irish troops have previously been involved in UN "peacekeeping" duties. But the UN operation in the Lebanon which many Irish soldiers have served on is a very biased form of peace keeping.

One of the main purposes of the UN is to stop any attempt by Palestinians to launch attacks on Israel from Lebanon.

But it has also stood by and watched while Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, killing tens of thousands of people.

The new moves on foreign policy are directly connected with the new plans for the army. The Coalition has announced that it wishes to cut the number of soldiers in the Irish army from 13,000 to 11,500. But this is a means of getting rid of older soldiers.

This is in keeping with the move throughout Europe towards a young, professional fighting force which will be capable of fighting the capitalists' wars in future years.

It is important that we oppose any government plans which will mean greater involvement in the wars of the ruling class. Their fight is not our fight.

by ROISIN CRONIN

AS ISRAELI REPRESSION FOLLOWS

Can Arab and Jew ever live in

The "peace process", which was supposed to reconcile the State of Israel with the Palestinians is in tatters.

The recent bombs in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem has been followed by a vicious clampdown on Palestinians by the Israeli authorities who are now proposing to build a security fence that will keep all Arabs away from Jews.

Once again many ask: Why has there been so much bloodshed? Why cannot Arab and Jew live together?

To reach an answer you have to go back to the decision to create a separate Jewish state in Palestine in 1947.

The inspiration for that state came from the Zionist movement which was founded by Theodore Herzl in the 19th century.

The Zionists argued for a separate Jewish homeland to which all the world's Jews would belong.

Socialists

Originally very few working class Jews supported Zionism. More were socialists fighting with their non-Jewish brothers and sisters to improving conditions in the countries where they lived.

But the experience of Nazi Germany greatly increased the numbers of those willing to settle in Palestine.

After the murder of six million in the gas chambers the creation of a homeland that Jews could go to seemed right to both the overwhelming majority of Jews and non Jews.

It seemed the only guarantee against another holocaust.

Tragically, this solution to the "Jewish Problem" could only be at the expense of the Arab population of Palestine.

This was something the leaders of the Jewish settlers had long known.

In 1938 David Ben Gurion, one of Israel's founding fathers, said:

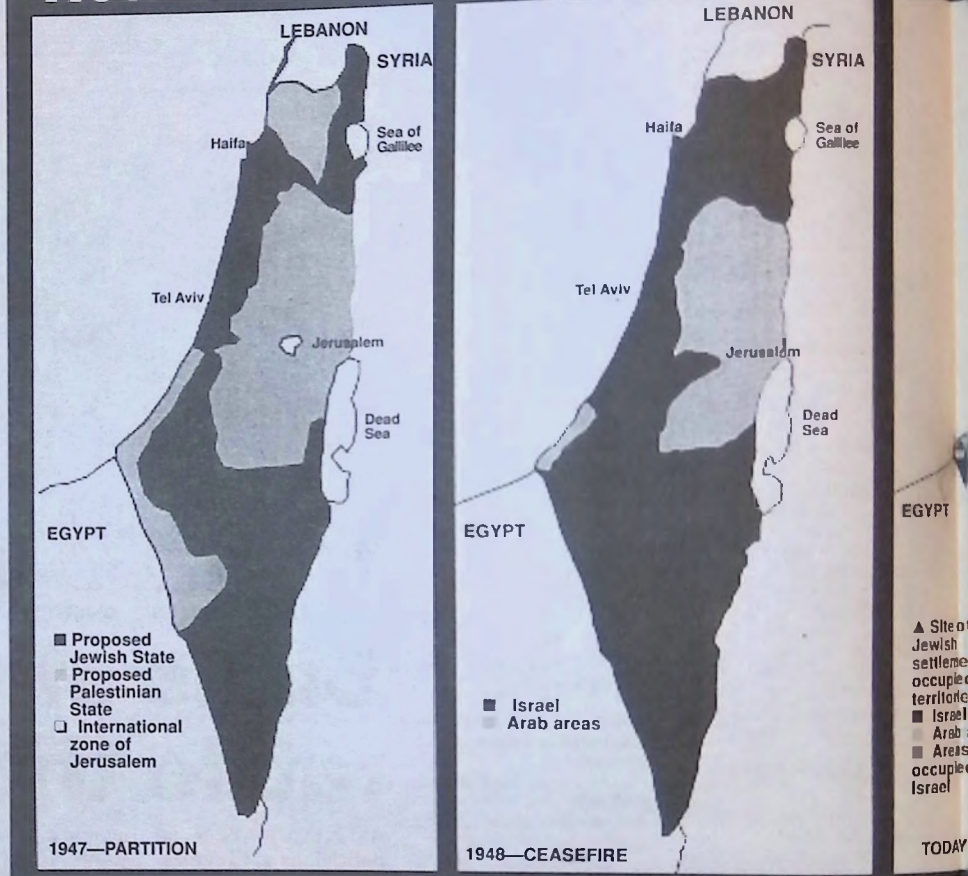
"In our political argument abroad we minimise Arab opposition to us," but he urged, "let us not ignore the truth among our selves."

"Politically we are the aggressors and they defend themselves."

"The country is theirs, because they inhabit it and we want to come here."

The same year Ben Gurion declared, "I am for compulsory transfer (of Ar-

How the Palestinians had their land



abs). There are two central issues, sovereignty and a reduction of the numbers of Arabs in the Jewish state and we must insist on both."

That is exactly what happened when the United Nations drew up a partition plan in 1947.

It gave Jews, who made up just 30 percent of the population and owned just six percent of the land, some 55 percent of Palestine.

The settler leaders, however, were not content with the area assigned them.

They unleashed a terror campaign to win more territory and force Arabs to flee.

On 9 April 1948, a group led by Menachem Begin, a future Israeli Prime Minister, massacred all 253 inhabitants men, women and children in the village of Deir Yassin.

'Justified'

Begin later wrote: "The massacre was not only justified, but there could not have been a State of Israel without the 'victory' at Deir Yassin"

"Peacemaker" Yitzhak Rabin—assassinated last year by a Zionist extremist—boasted in his memoirs of com-

manding an operation that expelled 50,000 Palestinians.

When the fighting ended the new state of Israel occupied over 80 percent of Palestine and up to 1 million Arabs were dispossessed.

Chaim Weizmann, first President of Israel, called the mass exodus of Palestinians "a miraculous simplification of our tasks".

Tragically the creation of such a homeland in Palestine would mean "ethnically cleansing" the Arab population of the area.

Born in aggression and war, Israel went to war every decade since to enlarge its territory—in 1956, 1967, 1973-1982.

ISRAEL: A RACIST STATE

NOT ONLY was the State of Israel founded on the expulsion of the native Palestinians, but its whole operation was based on the racist principle that Jews had all the rights and Arabs none.

Israel's trade union movement until the mid 60s—the Histadruth—was open only to Jews after which a small number of Arabs were allowed in.

In July 1950 the Law of the Return was introduced. Any Jew from anywhere in the world could become a citizen of Israel—but there was no automatic right for the Palestinians who were dispossessed of their land.

Those Arabs who do live in Israel receive special identity cards marked with a "B".

But the most inhumane aspect of Israeli policy is "collective punishment".

In 1953, for example, tracks indicated that the attackers who threw a grenade attack at a Jewish village came from the Jordanian village of Kibya. On the orders of David Ben Gurion, that village was systematically bombed and 53 people were killed.

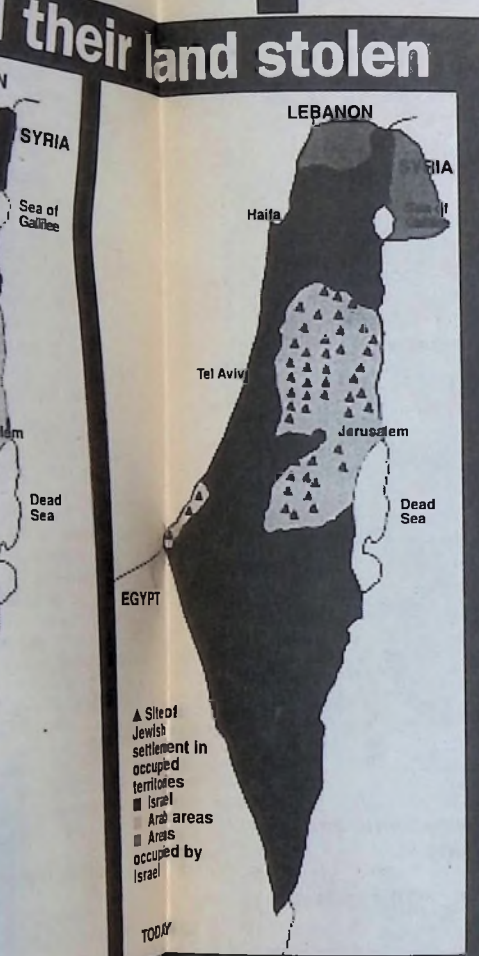
Today the Israeli army still bulldozes down houses of the family and friends of Palestinian militants. This brutal policy is built on the racist idea that Arabs are inferior to Jews and are collectively to blame for any bombing.



by KEVIN WINGFIELD

FOLLOWS HAMAS BOMBS...

Can we have peace and Jew in their land stolen?



"WHO ARE we that we should argue against their [Palestinian] hatred?"
 "They sit in their refugee camps in Gaza and before their eyes we turn into "our" homeland the land and the villages in which they and their forefathers lived."
 "We are a generation of settlers and without the steel helmet and the cannon, we cannot plant a tree and build a home."
 "Let us not shrink back, let us not avert our gaze. This is the fate of our generation, the choice of our life—to be prepared, armed, strong and tough."



■ Moshe Dayan, Israeli hero of the 1967 war

The alternative

SOCIALISTS fight discrimination and prejudice. Anti-semitism, like all racism, is a product of capitalism.
 The way to eliminate racism is for working class people of all religions and races to stand together and to fight for equal rights for all.
 Zionists believed that Jews will always be persecuted and so must separate into their own country.
 The result of building the Jewish state of Israel in Palestine has not been peace but oppression and poverty for the native Arabs, constant war for the Jews and violence for all.
 Just as in former Yugoslavia, the attempt to build ethnically pure states leads inevitably to ethnic cleansing, and violence between ethnic groups.

A peace process that failed

MANY BELIEVED that the "peace process" between Israel and the PLO would bring some justice for the Palestinians.
 But the Israelis entered it only because they could not crush the uprising or Intifada of the Palestinian Youth in the West Banks and Gaza areas.
 Under the terms of the peace process, armed Jewish settlers in occupied territories still encroach on Palestinian land and live under their own separate laws.
 There are now 20,000 more settlers in Arab areas than before the peace process began.
 Networks of roads are built that both connect the settlers to Israel and isolate existing Arab settlements.
 No development of the desperately poor refugee camps can take place without the permission of the Israelis.
 Israeli Defence Forces have withdrawn from some areas but still exercise control over who can enter and leave Gaza.
 It is now Arafat's police who are harassing the poor unemployed of the Gaza and Jericho, enforcing laws enacted by the Israelis.
 Hamas, a Islamic fundamentalist movement, rejected the peace process.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- ISRAEL RECEIVES £4 billion a year in aid and loan guarantees from the United States alone.
- Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority has been promised a total of £1.5 billion aid from all donors for the five years from 1994-99. Just £330 million has been paid so far.
- Israel's average income per head is almost £11,000 a year, in the Palestinian Authority areas it is £1,350.
- Israelis enjoy western European living standards while unemployment among Palestinians in the Gaza Strip is 65 percent and in the West Bank it is over 30 percent.
- Conflict is the inevitable result of such economic inequality.

Over the past year Palestinian young men have joined their military wing in large numbers.
Promoted
 Ironically, Israeli governments promoted the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas in the early 1980s. They saw it as a counterweight to the PLO and subsidised its mosques

and welfare bodies.
 Today the Israelis are pushing Yasser Arafat to close down its schools, arrest its members and "eliminate" its leaders.
 But repression won't solve the problem.
 So long as such enormous injustice exists desperate young men will join Hamas or Islamic Jihad and the suicide bombs will continue.

what do socialists say? The force for change

PART TWO of Socialist Worker's look at Marx and Engels' classic pamphlet the Communist Manifesto.
"THE HISTORY of all hitherto existing societies is the history of class struggle!"

Prominent individuals become prominent precisely in so far as they represent and focus the interests of social classes.
 In the top down view it is always conflicts within ruling circles, between royal dynasties, leaders of nations, opposing political factions that are seen as crucial.
 In the Marxist view it is conflict between classes, between exploiters and exploited, oppressors and oppressed that is really decisive.
 This is because class struggles are about who controls production and how it is organised.
 It is the organisation of production—how people obtain food, clothing, shelter and the necessities of life—that shapes everything else in society from politics and law to art and religion.
 Using this approach the Manifesto provides a brief but brilliant overview of the whole development of modern society from the middle ages to the 19th century.
 In this overview events such as the "discovery" of the Americas, the Protestant Reformation, the English Civil War and the French Revolution, which are normally seen as just a sequence of unconnected historical facts, are shown to be episodes in the rise to power of a single class.
 This class is the bourgeoisie or capitalists, and with it emerged a single world economic system, capitalism.
 Thus the Manifesto provides a basis not just for learning history but for understanding it.
 Its single most important idea is the identification of the working class as the social force that can overthrow capitalism and build a classless society.
 "In proportion as the bourgeoisie, ie capital, is developed, in the same proportion is the proletariat, the modern working class, developed... What the bourgeoisie therefore produces, above all, are its own gravediggers."

With this famous opening line the Communist Manifesto proclaimed a new and revolutionary view of history. Prior to Marx history was seen as first and foremost the deeds of great men.
 Kings, emperors, generals, presidents and the like played the key roles, and battles, treaties, acts of parliament were the main events.
 The mass of "ordinary" people were merely the extras, doing menial work in the background and providing cannon fodder for the wars.

Exploited and degraded by capitalism, the workers are locked in conflict with the bosses from the beginning.
 Capitalist society tries always to set worker against worker and this competition between workers holds the working class back.
 To resist they must combine their efforts, first in trade unions then in a political party.
 TO complete its struggle the working class must take political power. It must "organise itself as the ruling class" and use its position "to wrest all capital from the bourgeoisie". It has to take all the instruments of production into collective ownership.
 Every time the class struggle goes through a lull or a low period all the pundits, from Oxford professors to Labour MPs, announce that Marx was wrong and the working class is dead.
 Yet sooner or later the fundamental conflict in the system between boss and worker, profit and human need, reasserts itself.
 Then we see the working class move, showing yet again its potential to challenge capitalism as it did in Russia in 1917, in Spain in 1936, and on so many other occasions down to France in the last months of 1995.

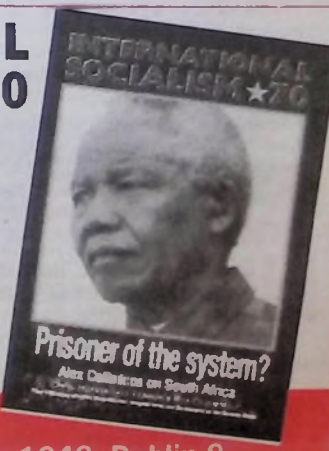
Players
 In both these approaches, however, history was viewed from the top down.
 Marx turned this view on its head or more accurately, stood it on its feet.
 In the Communist Manifesto the main players are not individual leaders but social classes—broad layers of people formed by the economic life of society.

Struggle
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by JOHN MOLYNEUX

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM ★ 70

- Alex Callinicos on South Africa after apartheid
- Analysis of France's hot December
- The 1926 British General Strike
- PLUS: The English Revolution, Huey Newton and the Black Panthers



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Palestinians: no right to return

THE 1930's IN NORTHERN IRELAND WAS A FIGHT FOR...

'Work and wages — not charity'

by MARK HEWITT

THE sectarian divide is accepted by all players and parties involved in the politics of Northern Ireland.

Major, Clinton, Trimble, and even Adams never claim to want to end sectarianism.

To them religious division is as permanent as the Great Wall of China.

Even though thousands of Catholic and Protestants joined together in peace marches, the organisers only talk of co-existence, living side-by-side in peace. There is no mention of a complete end to sectarianism.

But there have been times when Catholic and Protestant workers have fought together side by side. They united for a clear goal where sectarian ideas had been undermined and forced to retreat.

The 1932 Outdoor Relief riots is one marvellous example.

In the 1930s almost 100,000 people were unemployed. They received "relief" -- a pittance which they had to work for by resurfacing roads and pavements three days a week.

You could only get benefit after a harsh "Means test" carried out by a panel of businessmen backed up by the Unionist establishment.

They decided if you were poor enough to receive relief. The work-fare scheme the Tories aim to bring in is based on the Outdoor Relief system. Not surprisingly, thousands lived in immense poverty.

In 1932 the Revolutionary Workers Group began to agitate on the issue and alongside other socialist helped to set up an Outdoor Workers Relief Committee.

They decided to call a strike on 3rd October 1932. Their demands were for an increase in benefit and to scrap the means test.

Pickets ensured that all 600 workers on the first shift struck. Flying pickets visited site after site to make the strike 100 percent solid. That evening 60,000 marched through the centre of Belfast in support of the strikers.

For the rest of the week thousands join protests throughout the whole of Belfast. One of the main slogans was 'work and wages, not charity'. In one incident hundreds sat down on the tram lines while the Board of Guardians were meeting in the City Hospital.

The Newsletter screamed that "an admittedly serious state of affairs is being seized on by socialist and nationalist orators... in the hope... of paving the way to revolutionary change"

Pressure on the Unionist establishment was stepped up and a monster rally was called for Tuesday 11th October. In response, the RUC banned the march and outlawed any meeting called to build for it.

However workers defied the state and met at four assembly points.

In East and North Belfast the RUC baton charged the protesters and prevented the march.

On the Falls Road the thuggish actions of the police were met by riots.



The 30's was not just a time of deprivation but a time of struggle like protestant workers marching at Bodestown. The banner reads 'Break the connection with capitalism'

The RUC strategy was to concentrate their forces in the Falls to give the impression that it was a republican inspired revolt.

But it did not work. Word was sent to the Shankill, who backed up and repeated the actions of the Catholics in the Falls.

In both areas barricades were built and paving stones dug up for ammunition against the RUC who were shooting at the protesters.

Samuel Baxter, a Protestant and John Kennan, a Catholic, were shot dead and 14 others suffered gunshot wounds.

The Unionist Party was terrified about the scale of workers unity. The chair of the Pottinger Unionist Association said that

"it was a shame to see their own Protestant people being driven by hirelings from Dublin, Glasgow(!) and from Moscow. They had Ulster forces able to deal with these people who had no love for the Union Jack"

Throughout Wednesday the barricades were still up. By now the state introduced curfews and arrested strike leaders. Nearly one hundred people were jailed on charges of rioting.

This gave the opportunity to moderate union leaders who had to step in and call an end to the strike. The relief rates were increased by 100 per-

cent. But single men made few gains.

After the settlement, the Unionist leader Craigavon said of their union leaders,

"I publicly thank them for coming to meet the ministry because I am a great believer in the trade unions if they are properly led"

Thousands attended the funerals of the two men killed by the police and hundreds of thousands lined the streets.

The strikes had lasted for two weeks. Catholic and Protestant workers had taken on the Unionist state and obtained real improvements in their lives.

The Outdoor Relief strike helped increase the confidence and militancy inside the workers' movement and politicised whole layers of workers.

After the strike the Revolutionary Workers Group leader, Tommy Geehan, said:

"What we have achieved is in contradiction to those who said that the workers could not unite and could not fight and the past fortnight will be recorded as a glorious two weeks in the history of working class struggle"

Socialist and Republican clubs sprang up in the Shankill and Sandy Row -- Protestant areas of Belfast.

In 1933 workers on the railways in the North struck against cuts in wages. Thousands of workers in other jobs in Belfast and the South took solidarity strike action.

In 1934 200 Protestant workers marched to Connolly's grave in Dublin and pledged to fight against Unionism and Irish capitalism.

Throughout all these struggles the Northern Ireland Labour Party said the same thing: We recognise your anger and despair but be patient and elect us.

The NILP leader Harry Midgely even opposed the call to abolish the means test. The NILP vociferously opposed the strikes and denounced the strike leaders.

It was because of the arguments and meetings of a small group of socialists in the Revolutionary Workers Groups that the 1932 strike took place.

To succeed they had to be independent of the rotten traditions of the Labour Party.

Even though the Unionist establishment and the Catholic Church denounced socialists and communists, they won the argument for workers' unity.

The 1930s were not unique in workers' struggles against the sectarian state.

Neither is it the case that workers

only fought in the old days and won't fight today.

Unemployment, wage cuts and attacks by Tories are becoming more and more severe.

Workers, on the whole, have better living standards now compared to then.

What's more, the other side -- the Tories and their Unionist backers -- are not as strong. Their ideas have been undermined.

In 1930 the Orange order had real power to grant jobs.

The Unionist Party had influence in British power structures and they had control over the most armed state in Europe.

Likewise the Catholic Church was much stronger and had the active support of nearly all Catholic workers. The consistently could whip up a red scare.

Today the Unionist "movement" is divided and weak and the Catholic Church has been severely weakened with recent scandals.

Today workers unity need no longer be a distant dream in Belfast. The medicine dealt to the bosses in the 1930s is just the sort of thing required today.

Behind the headlines

The Sky's the limit!

The Tyson-Bruno fight for the World Heavyweight Boxing championship was billed as the "greatest ever 24 hours of sports". Personally, I am not sure that beating the head off another human being has much to do with sport.

But forget that for a moment. In fact forget the fight itself and look at how Sky handled it. If you wanted to watch Iron Mike beat the shit out of Bruno, it would have cost you dear.

Sky charged £14.95 to Irish viewers for the privilege of viewing. If you had Sky Sports you had to ring in to be automatically decoded and you paid later. This is on top of charges which have jumped from £96 a year in 1991 to £190 a year at present.

The 'greatest fight ever' only lasted until the third round with just six minutes and thirty seconds of boxing. Now in my calculation that works out at over £2 a minute to watch.

When it was first launched satellite television a promise to bring more choice, more information, more events to more viewers.

The big fight between Frank Bruno and Mike Tyson showed what a lie this is.

Placing control of satellite broadcasting in the hands of gold-diggers like Murdoch, whose News Corp owns BSkyB, is a licence for them to make money by limiting, not expanding, viewers choice.

In Britain and in Ireland, the dismantling of public service broadcasting has been justified on the grounds that if the new technologies are placed in the hands of private entrepreneurs like Rupert Murdoch, the viewers would get more choice.

By signing large cheques over the past few years, Murdoch has grabbed up the rights to a whole range of sporting events, - the F.A. Premier League, the Ryder Cup, the cricket world cup - events of which the vast majority of viewers will see absolutely nothing.

Murdoch's strategy of screwing the viewers is paying off. BSkyB is raking in profits at the rate of £4 million per week on the back of its growing range of exclusive sports contracts.

Highlights

As the money rolls in, Sky is becoming even more aggressive. It wants to keep not just the rights to sporting events but also rights to all associated transmissions.

While the BBC was able to broadcast edited highlights of the last Bruno-Tyson fight, this time there will be no such option for those viewers who are left out in the cold.

And if Sky has its way, even TV news bulletins won't be allowed to show 60-second clips until days after the event.

The idea that everyone has a right to watch television and that programmes should be accessible to all is being cast aside in the rush to make profits.

Murdoch claims that hard work has got him where he is today.

In fact, it is only by already being a multimillionaire that Murdoch has been able to dominate satellite television. His NewsCorp organisation is the third largest media corporation in the world.

Last year it had revenues of \$9 billion - behind Disney and Time Warner but well ahead of the rest.

News Corporation already owns the most profitable British daily newspapers, including the Sun. From his newspaper interests he need \$626M in profits last year.

From television and film interests - including over a dozen cable channels in the US and the film studio Twentieth Century Fox, - he made around \$450 million last year.

In fact, it was the profits from these ventures that allowed Murdoch to establish dominance in satellite broadcasting. When Sky was losing £3m a week, it was the profits from the box office hit Home Alone that allowed Murdoch to stay afloat.

All of these advantages means that our ability to watch television - whether for sports, news, films, or anything else, depends on whether we can pay the increasingly large charges slapped on by Murdoch.

The promise that the market will bring us more choice and better programmes has been shown up for what it always was - hollow rhetoric to cover up the greed of the ruling classes.

Catherine Curran

film:

Nixon: He was a crook not a victim

AMERICAN LIBERALS are always keen to show how the office of US President bestows greatness on it's holder. So it is that Oliver Stone casts a sympathetic eye on Richard Nixon.

Nixon has been much maligned since his disgrace in 1974, but in the light of this film a kinder picture has emerged.

Nixon began his rise to prominence as a leading figure in Joseph McCarthy's anti-Communist witch-hunts in the 1950s.

Repression

He played a leading role in the anti-Cuba campaigns in the early 1960s and went on as President to oversee the massive repression of student demonstrators and the Black Panthers.

He stepped up the US involvement in Vietnam and secretly ordered the dropping of hundreds of thousands of tonnes of bombs on Cambodia.

He was finally driven out of office when the Watergate scandal revealed him to have ille-

Reviewed by
**RICHARD
WILLMSEN**

gally bugged the Democratic Party Convention.

A wonderful and liberal career!

The film doesn't actually ignore this. Instead it paints it into a much broader character study and makes a case for Nixon as a misunderstood tragic hero.

What we are shown is another spin through the American dream - an outsider to the political establishment who clambers up from ignoble beginnings to claim the highest office in the land.

Misguided

The film even claims Nixon as a misguided revolutionary; when he visits the Lincoln memo-



rial in the dead of night to debate with some photogenic counter-culture types about Vietnam, he realises that the whole system is at fault and that even as President he is still an outsider.

There is an important point to be made here about the thin veneer of American democracy cov-

ering up the real forces at work.

But Richard Nixon is not someone who can convincingly be portrayed

as a victim of the system. The film focuses in on his guilt at the early deaths of his brothers from TB, and his devotion to his mother.

It may be that Richard Nixon loved his mother but this does not explain or excuse the fact that the state over which he presided pursued a nasty imperialist policy.

Inferiority

Suggesting that Nixon's political life was driven by an inferiority complex is as facile and unhelpful as explaining the Nazi Holocaust in terms of Hitler's abuse as a child.

The end of the film is particularly obnoxious.

It shows other world terrorists like Thatcher and Reagan paying tribute to the man Eric Hobsbawm rightly called 'the most unpleasant of postwar US Presidents'.

Don't believe the hype - give Nixon a miss.

play

The Hostage

WHEN BRENDAN BEHAN wrote *The Hostage* originally as an Irish play, calling it *An Giall*, he declared that Irish was "more direct than English, more bitter". This bitter spirit, a frustration and anger still underlines much of the action in the Abbey's *Hostage*.

Behan, the son of a committed republican, spent his early years in prison for I.R.A. activities.

His experience inside various British prisons gave him an insight into the lives of working class British people and allowed him to move beyond the narrow viewpoint of the Irish nationalist movement in the 1950s.

The Hostage is set in 1962 when many republicans were disillusioned after the failure of the 1956 campaign.

Reviewed by
GINO KENNY

Monsewer—an Anglo-Irish patriot who has turned his back on Queen and Country and reverted to Gaelic mythology.

Eventually the captured soldier, Leslie, builds up a rapport with the brothel's characters. A tragic comedy then emerges and politics starts to come to the fore.

Unity

Pat and Leslie—who holds no loyalty to his country -- develop a relationship which holds promising seeds of working class unity in the face of Monsewer who sees 'the Brits' as having no class divide.

The critic Declan Kiberd wrote that the IRA man Pat, like Behan himself, represents "all those disappointed radicals of the republican movement who were told that 'labour must wait' -- that the social question was secondary to the national question. For Behan this was the moment that liberation was missed."

The Abbey production is well dramatised but it is a bit subuded by the musical content. At a time when republicanism has once again turned

music

The Saw Doctors: Cutting through the hypocrisy

Reviewed by
KIERAN ALLEN

THE Saw Doctor's are not political... they just sing about the things they see around them. Happy go lucky lads that are not into anything heavy.

That's the message that their publicity manager wanted me to get across.

Still, their new album contains a few surprises. The first song is about 'a sham' who meets a former school class mate in a Melbourne bar.

A 'sham' was the local Tuam word for a traveller and the town itself was sometimes known as 'Shantown'—which was a testimony to the high level of integration between travellers and settled people.

Of course the better class of citizen never liked the mixture too much.

As the song goes,
"In the class room the nuns had a desk for us all,
And a row for the tinkers



along the wall."

And then there is the song *Everyday*, probably the first song from a major Irish band about the women—now numbering 13 every day—who have to travel to Britain for an abortion.

The song is so devastating because it brings out some of the contradictions of the new Ireland.

Throughout the album there are songs like *Share the darkness* that convey the new openness about sex that is found in every small town today.

But the old language of guilt and gossip have not gone away. A character from the Ireland of the 1950s

could have written this line in *Everyday* about pregnancy.

"There's a rumour that she's in trouble, she's all mixed up inside?"

The Sawdoctor's don't express a great anger at the situation. You get the impression there is both a liking for 'their roots' and a cynicism about some of its hypocrisy.

And anyway being too political might lose a few sales, as I am sure that manager has warned.

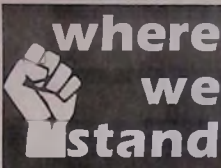
But they are a million miles ahead of those groups like the *Cranberries* who could happily be card carrying members of Youth De-

Melodrama

Set in a Dublin brothel, it is a peculiar melodrama with a chaotic and anarchic style about it.

The main plot is about the capture of a young British soldier who becomes the hostage of the title. He is brought to the brothel to be used as a reprisal for an IRA man to be hung in Belfast the next morning.

One of the republican characters is the caretaker of the brothel. He is 'the ole cause' type while the kidnappers are more headline nationalists with the exception of Pat who resembles Behan himself as someone who has grown cynical of republican rhetoric.



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 SWP 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 SWP aims to build such a party in Ireland.

news & reports—politics; the unions—

ESB

Ballot on the CCR: Vote to oppose the deal

ESB workers are finally being asked to ballot on a deal that has been over two years in the making.

Preparations for the deal began after the ESB strike in 1991 when management linked up with ICTU leaders like Peter Cassells to break the power of the workers.

Although high redundancy payments are being offered, management know that if the goes through ESB workers will be in a very weak position. They are willing to pay up now to destroy the power of key group of Irish workers.

The deal will mean over 2,000 decent well paid jobs will be slashed. The workers who are left behind will have to accept drastic changes in work practices and conditions.

New workers who are brought in will be placed on much worse conditions. This will be used to create divisions between the workers in

the ESB.

The deal also breaks down demarcation divisions between skilled workers.

In reality, it will mean skilled workers doing work normally undertaken by general workers. This is one of the ways in which the ESB management hopes to decimate the SIPTU membership in the ESB.

The proposals also compel workers to provide 7 day overtime cover when the company is undertaking an overhaul.

But there is nothing to stop management defining a lot of work as an 'overhaul'.

THE UNION LEADERS WHO SELL OUT

Instead of representing the workers, the ICTU leader Peter Cassells acted as a 'mediator' during crucial parts of the negotiations.

It was a sad reflection of where today's union leaders think their real position should be. Although they are paid by the members, they want to act as referees.

Throughout the last few years workers have been subjected to a barrage of propaganda -- with the connivance of the ICTU leaders like Cassells.

There is even a rumour going around the ESB that in return for supporting the deal, some unions will be compensated for the loss of union dues that will follow from redundancies.

working out its fine print. At Moneypoint, for example, workers were only given one hour to discuss a 45 page document that took two years to produce.

But growing numbers of workers are standing up against these underhand tactics. The union leaders could yet be in for a surprise when the ballot results come in.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Members and supporters of the SWP in the ESB have produced a special bulletin that counters the management arguments.

Order copies now. £1 for 100 leaflets.

Privatisation: The real issue

The management say that the new deal is necessary because the ESB is uncompetitive. This is nonsense.

Already the ESB provides the cheapest consumer service in Europe. But if this deal is accepted, ESB prices are to go up every year for the next three years!

The real purpose of the

deal is to help make way for greater privatisation.

Already the company is making greater use of contractors. In one case the contracting company includes an ESB supervisor and manager among its

shareholders.

Under the new deal ESB management will have the right to make use of unlimited contract staff.

The government is also pushing through new arrangements to open up the electricity supply industry to competition. They want to let some of their rich friends 'cherry pick' lucrative operations like supplying big companies with electricity -- while they do not bear the social cost of supplying isolated areas.

In Britain privatisation led to huge salary increases for the former managers of the nationalised firms. This is why the sharks who run the ESB today are so enthusiastic about going down this road.

THE REWARDS CON-TRICK

Management are offering lump sum payments as sweeteners to encourage acceptance of the deal.

But in the small print, they say that they will 'take into account the pace of introduction of work practice changes'.

On this basis they can withhold the rewards to 'any or all staff'. This means that workers will be under constant threat of losing money if they do not do what management tell them.

As one ESB worker put it:

"Within four years the company will have gotten all their reward money back anyway in extra hours and flexibility."

SWP branch meetings—all welcome

BELFAST
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm Penny Farthing Bar Central Belfast 3rd April: The Crisis of Republicanism; 10th April: Do we need violence to change society?

CORK
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in Dennehy's Pub, Cornmarket St. 4th April: The Crisis of Republicanism; 11th April: Building the revolutionary party today.

DERRY
Meets every Tuesday in Badgers Bar at 8pm April 2nd: Building the revolutionary party today; 9th April: The politics of Aids.

BRAY
Meets every Monday at 8pm in Mayfair Hotel. 1st April: The Crisis of Republicanism; 8th April: Building the revolutionary party today.

DUBLIN NORTH-WEST
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in The Old Brogue, Dorset St. 2nd April: The Crisis of Republicanism; 9th April: Building the revolutionary party today.

DUBLIN ARTANE/COOLOCK
Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in the Artane/Beaumont Family Recreation Centre, Kilmore

Rd.4th April: Public Meeting: The Case for Socialism; 11th April: Building the revolutionary party today.

DUBLIN DRIMNAGH
Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in the Bentley Pub, Drimnagh Road 2nd April: The Crisis of Republicanism; 9th April: Building the revolutionary party today.

DUBLIN NTH CENTRAL
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Conways, Parnell St. Feb 3rd April: The Crisis of Republicanism; 10th April: Building the revolutionary party today.

DUBLIN RATHMINES
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in O'Connell's Pub, Richmond Street. 3rd April: The Crisis of Republicanism; 10th April: Building the revolutionary party today.

DUBLIN STH CENTRAL
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in Trinity Inn, Pearse St. 4th April: Building the revolutionary party today; 11th April: The Crisis of Republicanism.

DUBLIN TALLAGHT/CLONDALKIN
Meets every Wednesday at 8.00pm. Clondalkin Sports & Leisure centre, 3rd April: The Communist Manifesto: A manifesto for today; 10th April: Building the revolutionary party today.

DUN LAOGHAIRE
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm

in Smyths Pub. 2nd April: The Crisis of Republicanism; 9th April: Building the revolutionary party today.

GALWAY
Meets every Thursday at 6pm in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square 4th April: Building the revolutionary party today; 11th April: The Crisis of Republicanism.

MAYNOOTH
Meets every Thursday at 6pm in Class Hall D, Arts Block, Maynooth College, 4th April: Building the revolutionary party today; 11th April: The Crisis of Republicanism.

WATERFORD
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in ATGWU Hall, Keyser St. 4th April: Building the revolutionary party today; 11th April: The Crisis of Republicanism.

★ There are Socialist Worker members in: ENNISKILLEN; COLERAINE; LURGAN; CAVAN; DONEGAN; NAAS; LIMERICK; KILKENNY; DUNDALK; ATHLONE; DROGHEDA. If you would like to get in touch, contact our national office at (01) 872 2682, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8

JOIN THE SOCIALISTS

If you want to join *Socialist Worker*, fill in this form and send it to: PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Tel: (01) 872 2682

Name

Address.....

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May Day Rally

Why we need a revolution in Ireland

Speakers: Eamonn McCann and Richard Boyd Barrett

Wednesday 1st May 8pm ATGWU Hall Middle Abbey St. Dublin

Bookstall opens 7pm

May Day Rally

send in your reports telephone: (01) 872 2682, fax: (01) 872 3838

Packard Electric

Bitter reality of bosses' worthless promises

PACKARD ELECTRIC showed in March how it treats workers who accept sacrifices for the good of the company.

Last year workers in the Tallaght plant were finally browbeaten into accepting a survival plan involving 400 indefinite lay-offs, a longer working week and shorter holidays.

Secure

The company said these sacrifices would secure the trading position of the company—a subsidiary of the multi-billion dollar General Motors Corp.

But on the 15th March the

company issued a leaflet to its workers saying there would be redundancies but the number and extent will not be announced for another month.

The company letter further threatened more lay-offs.

A Packard worker told *Socialist Worker*:

"People were half expecting something like this. In three years employment has dropped from 1200 down to 380.

"We've taken a wage cut, we've taken five years of no pay

rise, we've worked two extra hours a week, we've made all the sacrifices under the sun and at the end of the day the likelihood is place is going to go".

Socialist Worker supporters and others in the factory had pointed out last year that the company couldn't be trusted, but union leaders had backed the deal.

Fought

"Union leaders should not have supported the deal last year—we should have fought it.

"Last year union officials Brendan Byrne and Mick O'Reilly got acceptance for the

deal on the basis that if any of the 400 workers on lay-off were not back by 15th March then they would negotiate the same deal as 42 previously laid-off workers: Redundancy with five weeks for every year's service. This was what swung the vote.

"Now the company won't tell us how many redundancies there will be. And it wants us to fight among ourselves for any redundancies going".

The bitter lesson is that any company looking for sacrifices from workers will promise the earth.

But their promises are worthless.

Firefighters

Kildare firefighters protest at cuts



FIREFIGHTERS in Kildare have been protesting against plans to cut back on crews in the county's retainer fire service.

Kildare County Council want to save £100,000 by introducing rosters. In big towns like Leixlip, with a present crew of nine, and Maynooth with a crew of eight, fires would now be dealt with by only six.

Three out of each crew would

be off work one week in three and would only be called in the event of a second emergency. They would still carry their bleepers even while 'off duty'.

The cuts could result in deaths. Maynooth fire brigade have to deal with places like the local

college which has 3,500 students as well as assisting when accidents happen on the nearby motorway. Leixlip includes the huge Intel computer factory.

The cuts would also result in wages being reduced by a third. This would affect firefighters who are on less than £6,000 a year but the Chief Fire Officer's salary of £51,000 a year is safe.

Management have in their own words 'declared war' on the firefighters since the issue was taken to the media. But there was a great response to a recent demonstration in Leixlip.

One firefighter told *Socialist Worker*. "It is a sad day when a chance to save a few pounds by management can put the lives of firemen and the public at risk".

Quinnsworth workers reject Dunnes deal

QUINNSWORTH workers have overwhelmingly rejected a company plan for Sunday opening. Last June Dunnes Stores workers struck for three weeks against their company's attempts to impose Sunday trading at flat rate and other grievances.

They were eventually persuaded to accept a Labour Court giving them time and a half for new staff and double time for longer serving staff.

A large number of Dunnes workers were unhappy about their union, Mandate, recommending those terms and pointed out that the other supermarket chains would follow suit and force Sunday trading at poor pay on their workers.

Now Quinnsworth has followed suit and got a Labour Court recommendation insisting its workers

should accept essentially the same conditions.

On this occasion Mandate officials recommended rejection. Mandate represents the bulk of the 7,000 Quinnsworth workers in its 72 shops.

Rejection

The ballot returned 95 percent rejection of the recommendation.

Quinnsworth workers need to make sure that their union does not agree a slightly repackaged version of time and a half Sunday opening.

Galway Junior doctors victory

JUNIOR doctors in University College Hospital in Galway won a victory in early March on the issue of staffing.

The Irish Medical Organisation took action because there was no-one available to deal with patients at the Casualty Department between the hours of 3am and 9am.

It was up to the Surgical House Officers to attend to patients, even though the SHO might be in theatre at the time.

It was only a matter of time before a tragedy occurred.

The doctors withdrew service from the outpatient clinic on Tuesday 5th

March and the issue was resolved by Friday 8th March. As a result two new SHO posts were created for casualty.

There was also a guarantee given that locum cover would be provided if a doctor was on sick or study leave.

Allan Molloy of the IMO told *Socialist Worker* that the victory was

"a major boost for people in Galway who can now be guaranteed a properly staffed casualty department 24 hours a day."

SIPTU leaders forced to cut expense accounts

THE SCANDAL OF THE SIPTU expense account has blown up in the faces of the union bureaucrats.

Last year the SIPTU leaders were forced by pressure from their members to reveal details of how much was being spent on expenses.

It turned out to be more than the amount of money spent on strike pay for some years. Some individuals on the National Executive Committee were claiming expenses of as high as £20,000 a year.

This gravy train suited the Labour Party leaders of the union because it ate away at the real spirit of trade union organisation. Getting on the NEC was seen as a perk—rather

than as a way of advancing the interests of the members.

Now SIPTU members on the NEC are to get a 'stipend' of £4,000 a year for expenses. But they can still get more if they have the receipts.

This is still far too high. The members money should be used for a defence fund—rather than a bureaucratic machine that the top leaders control.

Teachers

Opposition to retirement deal grows

MAJOR OPPOSITION has built up in the teachers union to the early retirement deal with Niamh Breatnach. Many of the Dublin branches of the three main unions, ASTI, INTO and TUI have recommended against the deal.

The opposition has come as a surprise to the union leaders who were boasting that the deal was a result of their 'sophisticated' negotiating strategy.

One union leader, Joe O'Toole, even went so far as to attack the nurses for demanding salary increases which are 'a thing of the past' and called on them to follow the lead to the teachers.

Under the deal teachers are being offered minor pay rises in return for a change in their control.

ditions.

The original campaign, which saw a march of 15,000 teachers through Dublin, started off with a demand for early retirement—but under this deal the vast majority of teachers still have to wait 40 years for a full pension.

To get retirement at 55 on a reduced rate, teachers will have to declare themselves incompetent and even then they will have to have 35 years service.

The increases in pay will mainly benefit the already

highly paid principals.

The executive of unions like the INTO are still dominated by principal teachers.

Teachers in their early years receive virtually nothing from the deal.

To pay for these increases teachers have to remain on after school hours to attend staff meetings. They have to cover for teachers who are absent.

Up to now these classes in second level schools were often given to part-time teachers as a way of increasing their hours and earnings.

Students and staff will both lose out from the new arrangement that will add to the stress

levels.

More parent meetings with no extra pay for teachers are also to be set up.

Teachers will also have to attend courses on their own time—for no extra pay.

The rotten deal has been pushed by teachers union leaders who no longer work in the classrooms. INTO General Secretary, Joe O'Toole, for example is a former left winger who has completely embraced the ideas of social partnership.

The deal shows why a rank and file opposition has to be established across the three main unions.

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

Tories wreck the NHS

TORY Health Minister Stephen Dorrell pretends that he is the caring face of the Tory Party.

But when it comes to the NHS, he is as hard faced and callous as the rest.

Despite the growing crisis in the health service he has not added one penny extra for beds, facilities or staff.

The Tories try to blame the crisis on "rising demand" for health care.

They have a real nerve. Their cuts have made it impossible for people to get the treatment they need.

FACT: One third of all Accident and Emergency wards have been slashed since 1988.

Doctors now say that the shortage of beds results in at least 5,000 deaths each year.

■ On March 12th an ambulance could not be found for Armagh man Patrick Gallagher. In the early morning he began having severe pains, shaking and fever. His GP was called and said he

should be hospitalised.

The doctor contacted Patrick's family at noon to say he was unable to arrange an ambulance to take Patrick to Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital.

Blankets

An ambulance would not be available until later that evening.

Patrick was given last rites and his parents drove him the 35 miles to hospital wrapped in blankets and sleeping bag.

FACT: Armagh has just one ambulance for a population of 15,000.

■ Cash strapped Ulster Hospital at Dundonald faces a deficit of £3.7 million and is planning to charge for car parking.

TORY CUTS OF LAST TWO MONTHS

- £35 million cuts and 900 beds to go;
- To close: Royal Maternity, Bambridge; Roe Valley in Limavady; Mourne; Strabane hospitals; Accident and Emergency departments in Armagh and City hospitals.
- Health Centre in Armagh cancelled,
- Prescription charges up to £5.50

Demonstration:

STOP THE HEALTH CUTS!

**Wednesday 27th March
Assemble 12.30 Royal
Victoria Hospital,
Grosvenor Road and City
Hospital**

Called by Health Unions

It recently cancelled all non-emergency operations. Chief Executive Colin Orr Burns said: "The fundamental reason for introducing parking fees is that we can save ten hospital beds on this site"—this amounts to running the NHS on petty cash.

■ Sir George Quigley recently resigned as Chairman of Royal Group of hospitals.

He oversaw the RVH becoming a trust in 1993 and massive cuts since then.

Last year the RVH "underspent" its allocated budget, so Quigley returned one and half million pounds to the Tories.

FACT: Quigley is also a di-

rector of Shorts.

Now the unions in Belfast are moving on the issue.

Huge protest demonstrations are planned to voice workers anger at what is happening.

It is a good opportunity to bring Catholic and Protestant workers together to fight a common enemy.

By contrast all the sectarian politicians only want to talk about saving the hospitals on "their side".

But on the health service, like most other issues in Northern Ireland, workers unity is required to defend basic rights and living standards.

Shorts workers sacrificed on the altar of profits

THE announcement that 1,000 highly skilled jobs are to go at Shorts is a devastating blow to working class families in Belfast.

As Joe Bowers of the Federation of Shipbuilding and Engineering unions put it, "we are being carved up on the altar of profitability."

Shorts supplied Fokker with parts for planes. This company went bankrupt despite having orders for 40 planes.

Jobs in the aerospace industry across the world are being slashed because of the madness of the capitalist market.

Although air travel has increased and more planes are needed, the ruthless form of cannibalism that dominates the airline market means that the bosses keep slashing jobs to be 'competitive'.

Two years ago in the Republic hundreds of redundancies were forced through at TEAM Aer Lingus and Shannon Aerospace. When it comes to job cuts, borders are irrelevant.

Shorts management have used the crisis in the airline industry to put workers under tremendous pressure. Their aim has been to push up their profit levels. Last year Shorts made £29 million in profit.

The main reason that the workers are being sacked today is because the privatised firm wants to keep those profit margins up.

This is something that hypocritical politicians like Peter Robinson of the Democratic Unionist Party try to hide.

Abstained

Robinson pretends to be a friend of the Shorts workers. But a few weeks before his party sat back in the House of Commons and abstained on the vote on the Scott Inquiry in order to save the Tory government.

And it was the Tories who insisted that Shorts be privatised.

While the terrible redundancies go through Shorts managers will continue to enjoy super-salaries.

The President and Vice Presidents, of the company McNulty and Bundel, will continue to earn a staggering half a million between them.

This did not stop them demanding that workers accept only a 2% pay rise for the next three years to help save jobs!

If these salaries were slashed and the profit levels cut, hundreds of Shorts workers could be kept on.

And if the airline industry was organised through public ownership and proper planning thousands of jobs would be created.