

Socialist Worker

DUNNES STRIKE SPECIAL

'We'll stay out until we win!'

Making a decision

This strike is too important to be ended with a rushed deal.

Margaret Heffernan has had over a year to think about a real settlement—we should get more than few hours.

Details

This is why we need details of the deal distributed well in advance of voting. There should be plenty of time for discussion at meetings before voting.

This time we should make sure that we do it right.

DUNNES WORKERS have shown once again how powerful they are.

Margaret Heffernan has had to close her stores down on the second day of the strike.

Our strike, and public support, is rock solid. This time we have to make sure that we win what we want.

There is no point going back if things are going to be let carry on like before.

Every day the stores are shut, Margaret Heffernan loses millions—the longer it goes on the more trouble she is in. This is why we hold the trump card.

Last year she was forced to accept in intervention of the Labour Relations Commission because she needed to get her shops open. This year by fighting on we can force her to give us what we want.



told to take a running jump.

■ *No wages payment to the banks unless there is a productivity bonus included.*

The workers in the Eastern Health Board recently got a £300 bonus for accepting payments into banks.

FAT CAT

In a survey of the richest women in the British Isles, Margaret Heffernan was named as the 18th highest 'earner'.

She made £1.5million in 1995—and remember this was just her earnings, not her personal wealth.

What is socialism?

'SOCIALISM is simple—anyone can understand it if they are not an exploiter'—that is what the German poet Bertolt Brecht said.

■ Socialism means that the wealth and resources that are controlled by a tiny few are owned by society as a whole.

■ Socialism means that we produce for human need—not for profit. We build houses for the homeless and food for the starving not items like the new Eurofighter bomber which costs £40 million each.

■ Socialism means that we have more democracy. Today we are supposed to be able to vote on how our country is run, but we don't get a say on how our job is run. Socialism means workers control of industry.

■ Socialism means that health care is distributed according to need and not wealth. Why should millionaires get immediate access to hip operations while the poor wait in pain for up to two years?

Accepted

When we accepted the LRC deal last year, we believed that Dunnes would implement it. We found out that they cannot be trusted so this time we need to be clear about what we can and cannot accept.

■ *A 3% pay rise that we are due.*

We are due this increase which should be backdated to September 1995.

Our return to work should only happen when there is a guarantee this will be in our first pay packet.

■ *No strings attached on this deal.*

Margaret Heffernan wants to only pay overtime after 39 hours.

If you are sick or let off work, you are not supposed to get the overtime rate until you have first worked 39 hours. She should be

Pensions

Why shouldn't we get the same.

■ *We want a proper pension scheme that is outlined in detail and introduced immediately.*

The pension scheme should be available to part timers as well as full timers. People should not have to wait for five years before they go on this scheme.

■ *More full time jobs on a six day roster. Dunnes should not be let insist that newcomers have to do Sunday work.*

Remember a part-time who becomes a full timer is classified by Dunnes as a new employee.

■ *A proper procedure for deal with grievances.*

Dunnes management are renowned for petty harassment. There has to be an procedure to help put manners on them.

THEY ARE WATCHING

Management at Roches, Penny's and every other store are watching the Dunnes dispute with great interest.

These companies all want to go on the offensive against their workers and boast their huge profits by attacking wages and conditions.

A victory on behalf of Dunnes workers will send out a clear signal on behalf of all workers that we won't be beaten.

Bringing some change

Dunnes Stores made millions profit a year but pay miserly wages. This scenario is repeated everywhere in industry.

Our bosses have never had it so good.

There is now bigger gap than ever before between those at the top and the rest of us. Tony O'Reilly, who owns the *Irish Independent* earns £70,000 a day while many workers in this country get less than £2.50 an hour.

There is a massive need for change. But how do we do it?

The Dunnes strike points the way. It shows how powerful workers can be.

We're always told that we need bosses who are talented and clever in order to run things.

But Dunnes could do nothing without the workers. It gives us an idea of the power we have to change things ourselves.

This is the key to revolutionary socialism.

Promise

Parties like the Labour Party and Democratic Left are only interested in winning votes. They promise you the sun, moon and stars before the election—but then deliver nothing.

They make us pay water charges—while they give Larry Goodman £7 million to pay his legal fees during the beef tribunal.

This happens because parliament has no real control over the wealthy. So when Goodman and O'Reilly telling the politicians to take a running jump, they just ask: how high.

Real change will come

from workers own actions. If workers across industry united and took to the streets, the bosses would be in big trouble.

This is precisely what happened in France last year. 5 Million workers went on strike and forced a government to back down on cuts.

Last week in Zimbabwe in Africa, the whole of the public sector closed down and won a 20% pay increase. Workers action gets results.

But we also need a party. Every time we struggle there are always some who try to divide us and sell us out. This is why the best militants need to be organised to press for a revolution that gets rid of wealth and privilege.

That is what the Socialist Workers party is about.

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