

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 50p Solidarity price £1

**NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION
JAIL THE
CORRUPT
POLITICIANS**

Saturday 13th March 3pm

Parnell Square, Dublin

WANTED



CHARLES J. HAUGHEY

- **STEALING FROM TAXPAYERS**
- **TAKING MILLIONS IN BRIBES**
- **KNOWN TO BE FOND OF HIGH LIVING AND OFFSHORE ISLANDS**

Haughey's rip off of the public sector

WHEN CHARLES J Haughey became Taoiseach in 1987, he brought in a drastic package of cuts in the public sector. But while he was cutting jobs and services, Haughey was taking bribes to give lucrative contracts to his business friends.

These startling facts are the latest revelations to emerge from the Moriarity Tribunal.

Among those who made 'donations' to the Haughey family were:

■ **Guy Snowden:** He put £100,000 into Celtic Helicopters owned by Haughey's son, Ciaran. Snowden's company won the contract to install the on line system for the Lotto in Ireland. Snowden also used bribes to try to win contracts for Britain's lottery system.

■ **Michael Murphy:** Gave £100,000 to Haughey's spendthrift son. Murphy was a close associate of Larry Goodman, who often dropped into Haughey's house in a helicopter. Murphy was given the insurance contract for

EU intervention beef which was stored around Ireland. He also organised huge insurance cover for shipping Goodman's beef to Iraq.

■ **John Byrne:** Gave £47,000 to Celtic Helicopters. This property developer is Haughey's secret partner. Government departments rent many of his office blocks in the city centre of Dublin at exorbitant rents.

■ **Cruse Moss:** After he made his donation, one of his companies won the contract to build Bombardier buses for

CIE. Several hundred jobs were lost in Van Hool when the contract was given to Bombardier. These buses constantly broke down and eventually the company went bankrupt in the late eighties.

In his first few years in office Charles Haughey cut over 25,000 jobs. He got elected on a campaign slogan of 'Health cuts hurt the old sick and handicapped'. But the cynical gangster then slashed hospital wards and beds.

The real tragedy is



that the union leaders collaborated openly with Haughey's cuts in order to get a partnership deal.

It's not just Haughey: —it's the system

CHARLES HAUGHEY was a ruthless gangster who looked after his rich friends while hospital wards were being closed down.

But he wasn't just one rotten apple. The whole system stinks of corruption and bribery.

Haughey is not the only Prime Minister who acted like this. Several Italian Prime Ministers such as Craxi and Andriotti have been before the courts for taking bribes.

The main Japanese right wing party, the Liberal Party, is organised around factions who distribute the proceeds of bribery.

The reality is that all forms of democracy under capitalism are distorted by the power of big business.

Companies no longer operate like gentlemen on a cricket field engaging only in 'fair competition'. They need to win state contracts and get tax concessions to survive.

This is why bribing politicians is the norm.

Right wing parties who offer working people little material improvement need to spend millions on elections to produce advertisements and motivate their supporters. They cannot survive without the 'donations' of big business.

The Tribunals are giving the majority of people a glance at how capitalist democracy really works.

Interests

It has nothing to do with responding to the views of the electorate. It is an elaborate hoax where politicians compete to see who will front the interests of big business.

These undemocratic structures mean that change can never come through parliament. They have to be fought for from below by the revolutionary actions of workers.

Ahern was involved

BERTIE AHERN has been playing the innocent pretending he saw nothing and heard nothing during Haughey's reign.

But this is a lie. New evidence shows that Ahern was deeply involved in Haughey's many schemes.

Here are the facts:

■ **Guy Snowden** invested £100,000 in Celtic Helicopters and was then given a multi-million contract to install Lotto machines for An Post. Ahern, who was Minister for Finance at the time, gave out the contract without putting it out to tender.

■ **Pat Butler** gave £25,000 to Celtic Helicopters and was subsequently

rewarded with a large investment in his firm from Sheikh Mahfouz who was buying an Irish passport. Ray Burke sorted out the passport deal for Haughey. Ahern is supposed to have investigated Burke - but found that everything about the deal was fine.

■ Ahern said he once met property developer Tom Gilmartin in the company of Tim Collins. It now turns out that Collins was paid at least £30,000 in connection with work done for Owen O'Callaghan who was also involved in bribing councillors.

Ahern has never once condemned Haughey. Haughey, Flynn and Ahern all share one thing in common - they all once acted as fund raisers for Fianna Fail.

Stop the racist Immigration Bill

WHILE CRIMINALS like Charles Haughey walk about freely, Justice Minister John O'Donoghue is pushing through a new bill to deport refugees as quickly as possible

The Immigration Bill contains a number of factors which the Minister is supposed to take into account in determining whether or not a person should be deported.

Ultimately though, the Minister will be able to deport any person "whose deportation would, in the opinion of the Minister, be conducive to the common good".

Judging by his record to date, John O'Donoghue appears to be of the opinion that it serves the common good not to have any refugees at all in Ireland. So far he has refused nine out of every ten applications for asylum.

Any non-national who has been imprisoned can also be automatically deported no matter how light the sentence. Someone who has been jailed for a non-payment of a bill could be expelled from Ireland.

If this bill is passed many asylum seekers will be deported without their cases even being considered. This is because, according to the Dublin Convention, people fleeing their homes are supposed to apply for asylum in the first EU country they reach.

Circumstances

Considering that it is almost impossible to get to Ireland from Africa without a stop over in Europe, this will allow thousands to be deported regardless of their circumstances.

The hypocrisy of the bill takes a further twist in the section that deals with

people who resist being deported. Anyone who acts 'in a manner likely to endanger himself or herself' when being deported will be imprisoned for up to twelve months and/or fined up to £1,500.

Amnesty International research shows that 50% of all deportations result in disappearances".

John O'Donoghue's policies have already created a racist atmosphere in Ireland, which has resulted in 78% of Asylum Seekers reporting racial attacks.

It is vital now, that people opposed to racism get organised to stop this latest attack on the most vulnerable people in our society.

Tribunals for the rich — harassment for the unemployed

MARY HARNEY has stepped up her war on welfare recipients by giving her inspectors new powers to stop and harass people in vehicles.

Under a new social welfare act, inspectors will be able to set up checkpoints at working class housing estates.

Anyone leaving the estate can be questioned and told to produce any document 'relating to his or her employment'.

The act also means that the inspectors can raid premises at any time and take away whatever records they feel they need.

Ever since she took office Harney has tried to

scapegoat the unemployed. Now according to the Irish Council for Civil Liberties she is trying to take away basic civil rights.

Yet while Harney is targeting the unemployed little is being done about the real scroungers in Irish society.

Fiddle

During the beef tribunal, it was shown that the accountancy firm Stokes Kennedy Crowley presided over the Goodman company accounts. Two sets of books were kept so that Goodman's could make under the counter payments and fiddle on EU grants.

Yet there are no inspec-

tors outside this major accountancy firm to make sure that no businessman can again cost the Irish state £70 million in EU fines.

Nor have any checkpoints been set up outside the AIB even though they organised a tax scam that cost the state over £100 million.

The reality is that many social welfare recipients do not collect their full entitlements. Instead of snoopers intruding on their lives resources should be put into a proper welfare advice service.

Meanwhile if this government wants to catch a few scroungers they should start looking among their own friends.

Protest against racist laws
NO DEPORTATIONS
STOP THE RACIST
IMMIGRATION BILL
 Tuesday 23rd February 6pm, Dail Eireann
Speakers:
 Pat Guerin (ARC)
 Brendan Howlin (Labour Party)
 John Gormely (Green Party)
 Kieran Allen (SWP)
 Called by Anti-Deportation Committee (ANL)

what we think

Action to jail the corrupt politicians

CAN THE LEFT UNITE?

KEY GROUPS of trade unionists are calling for a national demonstration to demand the jailing of politicians.

They include the Waterford Glass workers who spearheaded a campaign against the unjust tax burden on PAYE workers in the eighties and the Dublin branch of the bricklayers union whose members were recently jailed for demanding direct employment where they would pay taxes.

The demonstration will take place on March 13th in Dublin.

The true scale of Haughey's corruption is only now beginning to leak out.

He lived like an aristocrat in his Kinsealy mansion while he lectured PAYE workers about the need for sacrifices.

Most of Ireland's top businessmen were involved in contributing bribes and they benefited through state contracts and reduced taxes.

Yet no matter what comes out of the Tribunals neither Haughey nor Ray Burke can be touched. Even the evidence that is gathered there cannot be used in a court.

Charade

If Haughey and the wealthy elite get away with this charade, it will only encourage them to be bolder in the future.

Up to now the union leaders have issued words of condemnation - yet they have done nothing to organise their members.

This shows the real price that is being paid for social partnership. In return for small pay increases and 'orderly industrial relations', the union leaders are afraid to rock the boat when the greatest scandal ever hits the Irish state.

Yet action by the unions is the

Workers in Germany strike



ENGINEERING WORKERS in Germany are staging two hour "warning strikes" against car bosses Daimler-Chrysler and Ford.

The powerful engineering union IG Metall is demanding 6.5 percent.

The employers have offered around just 2.5 percent. IG Metall leaders are warning the bosses that they will ballot for all out strike if they do not get a decent settlement.

The SPD government was elected last October with mass support from workers and their unions.

But it now faces calls from Germany's industrialists to attack its own supporters and crack down on the unions and the welfare budget.

key to put a few of the corrupt politicians behind bars.

When corruption scandals occurred in Italy, the unions called a wave of strikes.

As a result one former Prime Minister, Craxi, had to flee to North Africa, while another, Andreotti, was put on trial for his links with the Mafia.

The same thing can happen in Ireland - but this time the initiative will have to come from the rank and file.

This is why the demonstration called by Waterford Glass workers and the Dublin bricklayers is so important.

Just as key groups of workers initiated the great PAYE tax revolt in the early eighties, this too can be the start of a major movement that turns the pressure on the rich criminals who need to be locked away.

Profiting from GM food

GENETICALLY MODIFIED food is once again in the news. Last year a scientist Dr. Arpah Pusztai of Aberdeen's Rowett Research Institute claimed that rats fed on genetically modified (GM) foods suffered worrying immune problems.

His research was attacked and he was forced to retire.

But now 20 international scientists have signed a letter condemning Pusztai's employers for mistreating him.

One of his colleagues from Aberdeen in a follow up study has found evidence to support Pusztai's claim.

Scientists are now calling for a moratorium on the growing of gene crops.

Almost every opinion poll has shown that the majority of people are against

the introduction of GM foods but they are having the products forced upon them. So much for Consumer choice.

Monsanto's, the world biggest GM company, insists on exporting soya oil to Europe in shipments that mixed modified and unmodified products.

When Europe objected to the importing of GM foods they were threatened with a trade war.

Many GM foods then appeared unmarked on supermarket shelves.

One of these scientists Dr. Mae Wan Ho said "I am appalled at the level of misinformation on the subject. It is commercially driven and we are like a guinea pig generation.

Rather than capitalism offering people choice, multinationals like Monsanto insist that we eat what they want.

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION JAIL THE CORRUPT POLITICIANS

Saturday 13th March 3 pm
Parnell Square, Dublin

Sponsored by: Waterford Glass ATGWU Branch, Dublin Branch of Bricklayers Union, Education Branch of SIPTU.

Why you should support this march

"If we sit back, nothing will be done about the bribery scandal. But if the trade union movement mobilises we can get some of these crooks sent to jail.

"The ICTU should have called this demonstration long ago. But when they don't act, it is up to the rank and file to move. I call upon every trade unionist to raise support for this demonstration and get their members along."

Jimmy Kelly,
Convener of Waterford Glass factory



news of the world

Kosovo

NATO air strikes are no solution

THE GREAT Powers are once again waving the big stick in former Yugoslavia.

The Contact Group - the United States, Russia, France, Britain, Germany and Italy - are demanding that Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic and the leaders of the ethnic Albanian majority in the Serbian province of Kosovo sit down to peace talks. Behind this call is the threat of force.

NATO is preparing to mount air strikes against the Serbs and is also looking at ways to cut off arms supplies to the nationalist guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army

Enforce

Britain and the US have also said they are willing to send ground troops to Kosovo to enforce a peace agreement. Even before Serb forces slaughtered 45 Albanian civilians at Racak there was strong support for Western military intervention as the only solution to the war in Kosovo. This was true both among Kosovan Albanians and in left liberal circles in the West itself.

A few months ago a shocking piece appeared in the Guardian, where the very well respected journalist Jonathan Steele interviewed some Albanian refugees from Kosovo. He prodded them into calling on NATO to come and rescue them. But it is a criminal deception to portray the Western powers as the saviours of the suffering and oppressed in places like Kosovo.

Of course it is quite true that Milosevic's Serb nationalist regime in



Nato intervention will do nothing for the people of Kosovo

Belgrade bears a very heavy responsibility for the Kosovan tragedy. Milosevic established himself as the dominant figure in Serbian politics in the late 1980s by mounting a successful campaign to scrap the autonomy Kosovo had previously enjoyed.

Although ethnic Albanians make up 85 percent of the population of Kosovo, the province plays a major symbolic role in Serbian nationalist mythology.

Ultimately defeated in the war to carve up former Yugoslavia, Milosevic has skillfully used Kosovo as a means of hanging onto power. The issue has allowed him to defuse any challenge from his fanatically nationalist political rivals.

Powers

But Milosevic has benefited from the complicity of

the Western powers.

They do not support the Kosovan Albanians' demand for independence for fear that it would destabilise the rest of the Balkans.

The Financial Times reported recently, "The West has been willing to connive at a certain level of Serb resistance to the separatists of the KLA because Kosovo is still an internationally recognised part of Serbia and Yugoslavia."

And, it adds, "because an independent KLA state might act as a destabilising magnet for Albanian communities in neighbouring Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania proper."

So, if a peace deal was to emerge, what would it offer the Albanians of Kosovo? The best they could hope for is autonomy within a fiercely nationalist Serbia.

It would be as if Sinn Fein was allowed to run Derry within a Northern Ireland ruled by Ian Paisley. No wonder Washington and London believe that NATO troops would be needed to police such an unstable set up. "And why not?" many will say. After all, Western forces have kept the peace in Bosnia since the 1995

Dayton peace agreement.

But the Dayton agreement followed a four year war to carve up Yugoslavia in which a certain balance on the ground had been established between the Serbs on the one hand and US backed Croat and Bosnian armies on the other.

Secondly, that balance reflected massive ethnic cleansing of both Serbian and Bosnian Muslim communities. The NATO troops in former Yugoslavia are enforcing an unjust peace. The present situation in Kosovo is even uglier. The conflict between the Serb regime and Kosovan nationalists is very far from being resolved.

Western troops that went into Kosovo might well be initially greeted by the Albanian majority as saviours. But they would be there to enforce an agreement one of whose main planks would be to keep Kosovo within Serbia.

Inevitably this would bring them into conflict with the nationalists, who have the support of the mass of the population. From protectors they would rapidly turn into occupiers as brutal as the Serb forces.

This is, after all, precisely what happened in the North of Ireland when British troops were deployed in Belfast and Derry after the Loyalists ran amok in 1969.

Zimbabwe

Workers show their strength

THE STRUGGLE to remove President Mugabe's dictatorship in Zimbabwe shows the potential power of workers but also the need to focus that power.

As the economy moves into ever deeper crisis, large sections of the 12.5 million population have turned against Mugabe.

But it is the workers' stayaways and demonstrations which have proved the most powerful battering ram against the government. The leaders of the ZCTU trade union federation are openly canvassed by newspapers and politicians as the basis of an alternative government.

Other groups in society are also fighting alongside the workers. Students took to the streets last week.

They were protesting over grants but more generally about the lack of democracy in the country and increasing state repres-

sion. Peasants, the majority of Zimbabwe's population, are demanding land reform that takes land from the big estates which are still mainly white owned.

Mugabe has made a series of speeches amounting to virtual death threats against journalists, lawyers and even judges.

Journalists arrested for reporting on a possible coup in the army were tortured.

Mugabe continues to deliver for the local and international rich. In the last few months he has slashed public spending and accelerated privatisation.

Agitation is growing for the ZCTU to form a workers' party. Nicholas Mudzengerere, deputy general secretary of the ZCTU, said recently,

"The politics of the stomach cannot be separated from the politics of the state."

However, union leaders have also helped Mugabe to survive by calling off planned strikes.

United States

Protests at murder by racist cops

HUNDREDS of angry New Yorkers attended the funeral last week of 22 year old Amadou Diallo, who was shot dead by New York police officers.

They pumped 41 bullets into him from a range of 10 feet. West African Amadou was a devout Muslim who worked as a street trader.

The police claim they shot him because he was armed, but Amadou's dead body had only a bunch of keys and a pager on it.

New York's Republican mayor, Rudolph Guiliani, was jeered and jost-

led when he attended the funeral.

"Get outta here!" and, "Why do you treat a black man like a dog?" people shouted.

His family have refused to meet Guiliani because the four officers involved in the shooting have not yet been suspended.

"We need to see those who committed this crime arrested and detained and brought to justice," they say. The day after the funeral Guiliani announced that his police will now use even more deadly bullets.

They are to use hollow pointed bullets that expand on impact.

Threats to union activists

The success of the Bricklayers Union in fighting against the use of sub-contracting on building sites is provoking some unusual reactions among the employers.

Union sources among the Bricklayers are now seriously concerned about threats that have been made to their officials.

On 9 February, one union official visited the Harcourt Development site in Park West, Clondalkin to see if the workers were getting proper PRSI and holiday payments. Shortly after the visit, union sources believe that arrangements were put in place by a sub-contractor to send some 'heavies' to the house of the union official.

The union official concerned took immediate steps to alert the Gardaí to the threat to his family home.

One of the directors of Harcourt Investments is the RTE personality Mike Murphy but he was not personally involved in the threats. But

union sources are now asking if he was aware of threats being made by subcontractors working on his sites.

While he gives away money on the lotto every week, Murphy is a director of a company which is intent on resisting union organisation on its own sites.

The union has good reasons for taking the threats seriously. In an unrelated incident some months ago, the BATU premises was the subject of an arson attack. Building employers also resorted to the law to have two bricklayers jailed for defying the notoriously anti-union Industrial Relations Act.

Despite these threats, BATU is growing on the sites with scores of new members joining up. The union is also pulling out of a long standing registered agreement on the site because it sanctions the use of sub-contractors. As the struggle on the building sites heats up, it looks like the employers will increasingly resort to the dirty tricks department.

Eamonn McCann

No rule of law for Peter McBride

WHILE TONY Blair and Mo Mowlam did their hand-wringing act last month, wearily lamenting the unwillingness of Republicans and Ulster Unionists to compromise on decommissioning and the formation of an Executive, the Peter McBride's case threw a harsh light on the real role of the British Government and British Army in the North.

At the High Court in Belfast on February 10th, the McBride family won the right to apply for a judicial review of a decision by an Army Board to allow the soldiers who killed their son to return to their regiment.

The two men, Scots Guardsmen Mark Wright and James Fisher, had been convicted of murder in 1995 after Belfast Crown Court rejected a claim that they had been in fear of their lives when they shot 18-year-old McBride in the back near his home in the New Lodge Road in September 1992.

The verdict was upheld in the Court of Appeal and then in the House of Lords.

Campaign

An unprecedented campaign was launched for their release. Endorsed by the Daily Mail and Daily Record, it attracted the support of a gallery of British political and military big-wigs, as well as unexpected figures like the Independent MP Martin Bell and writer and long-time campaigner Ludovic Kennedy.

Ignoring the fact that four NI judges and five Law Lords had listened and then scornfully rejected the notion that the shooting had happened out of panic or in the heat of the moment, the campaigners painted a touching picture of young soldiers in strange surroundings making hair-trigger decisions even as their lives were at risk.

The campaign triumphed when, last September, Mo Mowlam ordered the two men's release. Then, in November, the McBrides were told by the Ministry of Defence that an Army Board had OK'ed their return to their regiment.

This was, on the face of it, inexplicable. Under Queen's Regulations - the British Army's disciplinary code - a soldier convicted of a custodial offence must be dismissed unless there are "exceptional circumstances", confirmed by the commanding officer and accepted by a Board. Solicitors for the McBrides demanded to know what the 'exceptional circumstances' had been.

The reply from the Ministry of Defence was aptly described by Paul O'Connor of the Derry-based human rights group, the Pat Finucane Centre, as "like something out of Monty Python".

Six "exceptional circumstances" were cited: that the Army was responsible for the men's training; that the security situation in the area had been tense; that the soldiers had admitted to an error of judgement and expressed regret; that they had served a lengthy sentence; that they had remained loyal to the Army; and that they wanted to remain in the regiment.

The commanding officer's submission has now also come to hand. He's Lt. Col. Timothy Spicer, lately in the news as boss of Sandline International, the mercenary outfit which illegally ran guns into Sierra Leone last year.

Good faith

Spicer says bluntly that no heed should be paid to the courts. "I believe these soldiers have been treated grossly unfairly and that the legal system designed to protect people in this country has not come up to scratch. At all times, I believe that these soldiers were acting in good faith..."

Stuff the courts, sod the law, we're the Army...

Spicer's conclusion was accepted not only by an Army Board but also by the British Government.

On January 26, Jean McBride rushed in distress from a meeting with Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson, when he defended the return of the killers to their regiment. It was following this rebuff that the McBrides sought a judicial review to try to open the issue up again.

Whatever the result of the review, it's already clear that the British Army regards itself as being above the civil law in the North, and that Blair's Government isn't going to challenge this view.

We should remember this when next we hear Mowlam prattling about the "rule of law".

Queens' student suspended for fighting fees

QUEEN'S university have prevented a 3rd year anti-tuition fees protester from completing his degree for two extremely minor offences surrounding the violent eviction of the peaceful occupation of the university's administration building last November.

Stuart Simpson has become the first student in many years to be thrown out of a university for a political offence.

He will now be forced to return to Queen's after the summer to complete his degree in the next academic term.

Violence

The suspension ignores the violence used by security guards who evicted the protesters.

It is a blatant attempt by the university to criminalise a legitimate and widely supported protest against the government's unjust attack on students.

Stuart Simpson was ordered by the university to appear before a disciplinary hearing in early February.

He faced three charges, the two minor charges of breaking a window and of spitting at a security guard he openly admitted to.

However the university authorities fabricated a third charge of assaulting a security guard so they could bring about their kangaroo version of justice against a perfectly legitimate protest.

During the 'hearing' security guards who testified repeatedly contradicted each other. Each student who gave evidence cited the brutality of the security guards who evicted the protesters.

However, all of this was blatantly ignored by the disciplinary committee, which included the president of the student's union, Paul McGarrity and the deputy president, John McCauley.

The committee heard how several protesters were dragged out with excessive force; two by the hair and one with a towel wrapped around his neck.

One of the protesters, Anne, recalled her terrifying experience: "they



Stuart Simpson: suspended for protesting

came for me with the towel and I put my arms around my head to protect myself and then one of the security guards shouted 'drag her out by the fucking hair' which they did, I was badly bruised for weeks afterwards."

The violent eviction was directly ordered by vice-chancellor George Bain who was in the administration building while students were being assaulted only yards away.

Protestors

Bain repeatedly refused to meet with the protesters and instead sent in his hired mob to assault students.

Bain is trying to intimidate other students from taking part in future demonstrations which oppose their authority. Unfortunately he has won some support by the President and Vice President of the Students Union who have no mandate for their actions.

Andy one of the protesters said "they [the university] don't want anyone to stand up to them, and if we do they are determined to use everything at their disposal to keep us quiet; whether it's the force of security guards, high

court injunctions or kicking someone out of university. It's like a political witchunt to get the campaign off campus but I can tell you it won't

work. Many students just can't believe that they've gone this far, we're even more determined to fight now."

Messages of support

for Stuart can be sent to United for Free Education, 98 Melrose St Belfast, BT9 7DQ or to stop_the_fees@hotmail.com.

Ken Magennis shows his true colours

ULSTER UNIONIST MP Ken Magennis has been exposed as a friend of big business.

Magennis secretly wrote a letter to Northern Ireland Electricity telling them that their "goodwill payment" of £50 to customers for power failures during the January storms "were too generous".

Every year thousands of people are left without power because the NIE will not invest in the electricity network.

This is yet another example of greed by the bosses at NIE.

Electricity

Since privatisation people have had to pay a 20 percent increase in the cost of electricity.

Recently NIE have been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for overcharging customers who pay 43 percent more for electricity than people in Britain.

Last year NIE profits were up 10 percent to £17 million and the Managing Director of NIE David

McIlhaggard paid himself £223,000.

When NIE's greed leaves thousands without heat or light on the coldest days of the year, all that Ken Magennis can say is that they are being "too generous".

The fact that he made this comment in a private letter (which was later leaked by an employee at NIE) shows Magennis's dishonesty. He is scared of parading his pro-big business views in public.

Over the years Magennis has made statements against the closure of the South Tyrone Hospital Accident and Emergency. But his private support for NIE makes you think about what he has been saying to the government behind closed doors about hospital closures.

The Green and Orange Tory politicians have built careers out of pretending to look after the interests of "their own" community.

The exposure of Magennis shows they are more interested in looking after the interests of NIE director David McIlhaggard.

Death of a tyrant

"A moderate among extremists" was how Newsweek magazine summed up the late King Hussein of Jordan, as world leaders flocked to his funeral.

The media promoted the view the Hussein was a major force for peace in the Middle East.

The fact that both Israeli and Palestinian leaders praised him was held up as proof that he had reached across the political divide between Jew and Arab.

The media reported on his choice of successor without commenting on the fact that the people of Jordan were not allowed to vote on the matter.

To millions of ordinary Jordanians and Palestinians the so-called "plucky little king" was a tyrant and a torturer.

Hussein's secret police hunted down his opponents and there was strict censorship of the press.

Like other dictatorships in the region, Jordan owes its existence to the imperialist powers.

Winston Churchill, the then British colonial secretary, is reputed to have created Jordan while in the back seat of a taxi one Sunday afternoon in 1921.

Officer

Hussein was a member of the Hashemite family whom the British installed as rulers. Hussein was educated at the top British private school of Harrow and later went on to be trained as an officer in Sandhurst.

His son who has taken over has followed the same path and can hardly speak Arabic.

In the 1960s the Palestine Liberation Organisation looked to King Hussein as an ally in the fight against the State of Israel.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians had been driven out of their homeland when Israel was founded in 1948. Many of them fled to Jordan where sixty percent of the population is Palestinian.

But illusions in King Hussein were shattered in 1970, when he brutally crushed a Palestinian uprising in Jordan.

This episode, known as Black September, is now glossed over as a fight against a minority of Palestinian extremists.

But the uprising had mass support among Palestinians and many Jordanians. Hussein stood at the head of a weak ruling class and he relied heavily on his British trained army. One report at the time said that there was widespread disloyalty in the army, even among non-Palestinian officers.

The king began to launch attacks on the PLO, terrified

by Dave McDonagh

that their militancy would spill over into the rest of the population.

Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO, came under pressure within his own movement to sweep Hussein aside and take power in Jordan.

Arafat said such a move would breach the PLO's policy of "non-interference" in the internal affairs of Arab states. But he finally bowed to pressure from below and sanctioned a general strike in Jordan.

Hussein responded by unleashing his army against the Palestinian camps. Arafat desperately appealed for help from the rulers of Iraq, Syria and Egypt but they refused to move against King Hussein.

The Jordanian army brutally suppressed the movement, killing three thousand people and dealing a severe blow to the PLO's infrastructure.

The episode showed that King Hussein was the enemy of the majority of Palestinians.

Black September showed how the radicalism in the Palestinian camps could spill over into the non-Palestinian population and threaten the king. Hussein was more afraid of struggle from below than he was of the Israeli state.

Threaten

But Yasser Arafat used Black September to reinforce his view that the PLO must never again threaten an Arab state.

The recent peace deal in the Middle East is an arrangement that attempts to balance the interests of Israel, the US and the Arab states.

It has left the majority of Arabs facing poverty and injustice. Arafat's PLO are now policing working class Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

The real division in the Middle East, as elsewhere, is between rich and poor, exploiter and exploited.

Yasser Arafat, himself a millionaire, lined up with world rulers to mourn the death of King Hussein.

But real hope lies in the Arab workers of the region rising up to overthrow all the thugs and tyrants who dominate the Middle East.

'Sanctions a policy of

"WE ARE in the process of destroying an entire society. It is as simple and terrifying as that. It is illegal and immoral."

These are the words of Denis Halliday, former UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq.

Halliday resigned from his post last September in protest at the brutal consequences of sanctions and the inadequacy of the UN's oil-for-food programme.

Since then he has continued to speak out, even as US and British forces bomb Iraq. He spoke to *Socialist Worker*.

WHAT ARE the effects of the sanctions against Iraq?

SANCTIONS ARE a massacre. They are killing probably 5,000 to 6,000 Iraqis every month.

What hits you when you go into Baghdad today, or other cities in Iraq, is that the damage of the coalition forces from 1991 is still there.

Iraq has not had the resources to rebuild.

The coalition forces sought to destroy civilian targets—schools, hospitals, clinics, water treatment plants, bridges, roads, communications—the infrastructure that you need to sustain a people.

That was deliberate and a complete breach of the Geneva Convention which says governments should not target civilians.

Again, it is in total breach of all treaties to expose civilians to radioactive material. But 300 tonnes of depleted uranium was used by the US and the British.

US president George Bush spoke about bombing people "back to the Stone Age".

That is what you see today—the total breakdown of services, of hygiene, of garbage collection.

Baghdad is a mess, a very depressing city, when it used to be a very beautiful place. You are very conscious of malnutrition and death, of children dying.

Sanctions are sustaining malnutrition levels at a rate of 25 to 30 percent throughout the country, including chronic malnutrition with physical and mental effects.

Iraq had a health system that was used by the World Health Organisation as a model, but now the infant mortality rate in Iraq is comparable with Sudan.

The social consequences of the sanctions are very real. Incomes have collapsed. You see the breaking up of families.

Children are being put into crime, into prostitution. Sanctions are creating a youth crisis. Young people are unemployed, angry and alienated against the world. Sanctions are changing the poli-



Sanctions kill thousands of people each year

tics of Iraq. They strengthen Saddam Hussein by making him a hero. At the same time they weaken his people. Sanctions will certainly never produce democracy in Iraq.

HOW DOES the UN's oil-for-food programme work?

THE PROGRAMME was set up as a political solution to the perception that there was a humanitarian crisis in Iraq and something needed to be done.

I say it was political because it was never intended to meet the needs of Iraqi people. It is underfunded, over-politicised and over-controlled.

The Iraqi government is given permission to sell oil to a certain ceiling. Initially it was \$2 billion worth every six months.

The money raised goes into UN accounts. It is then dispersed, directly by the UN, to contractors who deliver wheat or sugar or tea or whatever.

No money goes into Iraqi hands. Out of the money, 40 percent comes off the top straight away. Some 30 percent goes on compensation for the invasion of Kuwait and 10 percent goes to pay the UN's costs before anything can be spent on food.

The money left only buys basic grain, and that's before you start talking about safe water or healthcare or education. There is no money for that. There is no money for antibiotics to save children from dying of diarrhoea.

The UN has increased the threshold now to Iraq to sell \$10.4 billion worth of oil each year. But Iraq can only produce maybe \$6 billion worth because its infrastructure is so damaged.

Nine months ago \$300 million was

COORDINATOR FOR IRAQ SAYS...

on Iraq — of massacre'



Denis Halliday

lances.

The Sanctions Committee wants to screw Iraq, simple as that. They are not interested in helping this country. They want to keep it down.

SOME SAY the reason Iraqis go hungry is that Saddam Hussein creams off the money.

THAT IS rubbish. The oil-for-food money is controlled totally by the United Nations.

It goes into their bank accounts. There is some illegal trade with Turkey and Jordan and that revenue sustains the regime—we estimate maybe \$400 million per year.

But in a country that used to live on \$20 billion a year, that is chicken feed. This underlines the point that sanctions don't hit the leadership in Iraq—they hit ordinary people.

WHAT DO you think about the role of the UN's weapons inspectors?

WASHINGTON HAS admitted it used UNSCOM for spying and intelligence purposes.

The weapons inspectors are tools. Maybe there are lots of good people working for UNSCOM, but the overall theme of their work is intelligence gathering, abuse of power and placement of spies.

Those spies were checking on the communications within Iraq and on the Republican Guard. They were able to locate the more "attractive" targets for military purposes.

Scott Ritter, who used to work for UNSCOM, has admitted he spied for the Israeli intelligence services.

I don't know if Richard Butler's report at the end of last year was a pretext for the military strikes that followed, but it certainly looks that way.

It was written very specifically to allow a military strike, and it was

released to Washington before the secretary general of the UN even saw it. And even while the Security Council were discussing it, the Americans were making their attack.

It made me feel disgusted.

WHAT DO you think Clinton's motives were?

CLINTON WAS determined to strike last year whatever UNSCOM said. Clinton wants to slap down Saddam Hussein, to humiliate him further, to get revenge for the fact that he has not complied with UNSCOM.

There are a whole bunch of reasons, but they always backfire because when Saddam Hussein is attacked he is cheered by the Arab world for snubbing his nose at Clinton. That is a problem.

The Iraqi people would like to get rid of Saddam, but when he is attacked by the US they rally round. There was dreadful anger in the Arab world at the insult of being attacked before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Clinton and Blair risked the lives of their own people and let loose death on Iraqi civilians when what they intended was a mystery. What were they hoping for?

To kill off Saddam? Then what? Replace him with his son? Were they trying to break up the country and have three Iraqs? But that would threaten to destabilise every Arab state. Did they want to set up the Shia in the south?

But last time they rose up they got zapped and the Americans didn't give them any help. The same happened to the Kurds.

But what the strikes did succeed in doing was killing off UNSCOM. It is now utterly discredited.

The attacks continue, however. The most recent strikes are an endeavour to shore up the US's own illegal no-fly zones.

But the zones threaten the integrity of Iraq and so therefore the Iraqis have to make some gesture of protest and retaliation.

WHAT DO you think about the protests against the bombing?

THEY WERE pathetic! Westminster and the White House should have been surrounded by a couple of million people.

The trade unions should be more involved. They are very powerful. There is a lot more that could be done. I interpret sanctions as warfare.

They kill in horrendous numbers. I was a UN assistant secretary general. I felt responsible for what was happening. Sanctions are destroying a whole society.

It is so slow and deliberate with a strong tinge of racism. I could not stand it any longer.

What do socialists say?

Who should pay for childcare?

THE BOOM in the Irish economy has highlighted the catastrophic situation of childcare. For decades married women were pressurised to stay at home to look after children. Where they resisted they were expelled from work through measures like the marriage bar in the civil service.

In the early sixties, only 5 percent of married women in Ireland were in paid employment. This was the lowest in the whole of Europe.

Today the situation has changed dramatically. In the last five years more married women have joined the labour force than in the previous twenty years combined.

Today 42 percent of mothers with children below the age of 15 are working.

Yet Irish society continues to operate with the myth that a nuclear family with a male breadwinner and a married woman at home is the norm.

Crèches

There are only a tiny number of state run crèches and hardly any workplace crèches. The fiction that childcare is entirely a matter for the individual family, and the mother in particular, is being maintained.

Yet this places a terrible stress on parents who try to juggle work and childcare commitments.

There is also an enormous financial cost which has to be borne by individuals.

A recent report by the Expert Working Group on Childcare showed that childcare eats up a fifth of an average workers earnings.

This is the third highest level in the EU. It is the result of childcare being almost entirely privatised.

80 percent of all playgroups are privately owned and are organised in individual houses. The state has turned a blind eye to the growth of a black economy on child care.

Two opposing views are now being offered by conservatives as a solution to the growing problem.

The fundamentalist right wants to turn the clock back. Patricia Casey, a Professor of Psychiatry at UCD and the new respectable face for this lobby argues against 'stigmatising stay-at-home-mothers' and opposes measures that would encourage women to go into paid employment.

But while Casey protests

against market forces and 'consumerism' she has no alternative to a capitalist system which forces married women to join the labour force.

The modernisers, on the other hand, know that they can no longer turn a blind eye to the situation but they do not want to let children interfere with profits and competitiveness.

The Report of the Expert Working Group on Childcare exemplifies this approach. It argues that parents who bear the cost of childcare be given tax credits. It also wants grants to be given to private business to provide childcare facilities.

Yet this discriminates against low paid workers. Tax credits will benefit the highly paid and the low paid will still be left with bills of over £70 a week.

Private business will increase charges when they know that individuals receive a tax credit.

And just as landlords take advantage of growing demand, they will also make parents pay the absolute maximum.

Socialists advocate a different approach. The nuclear family is not a natural institution to which society should aspire.

It was forged during the late nineteenth century when it suited capitalism to have women bring up children at home on the cheap.

But the expansion of capitalism throws up contradictions.

On one hand the traditional family is in decline. Yet on the other hand there are regular 'moral panics' in the media to make parents feel guilty for not giving enough time to their children.

Alternative

The alternative is to demand that society as a whole take responsibility for its greatest asset—children.

Instead of spending money on needless advertising or on weaponry, provision should be made for the care of children. There should be free 24 hour crèches in workplaces and local areas.

No one argues today that four years old should be charged for going to school. Yet why should toddlers be charged for access to a playschool?

Winning these basic rights will demand a fundamental assault on profit making.

by KIERAN ALLEN

Shakespeare:

All the world's a stage

Most of us think of Shakespeare as someone who wrote 400 years ago in a language that no-one can understand.

Shakespeare in Love is the latest film in a series of attempts to brighten up Shakespeare's image.

A recent film version of Romeo and Juliet, transported the events from medieval Italy to an Italian community in New York. It proved enormously popular with young people and encouraged many to go and read Shakespeare for the first time.

Now we have, Shakespeare in Love, a down to earth comedy which imagines how Shakespeare came to write Romeo and Juliet.

But there is a danger that in bringing Shakespeare up to date, the conservative ideas associated with him are not always challenged.

Conservatives have long championed Shakespeare as one of their own.

His plays are used to justify the claims that people are unequal, that hierarchy in society is necessary to maintain order, that one historical period is just the same as another, and that the only things that really count are human emotions.

Shakespeare is supposed to be a universal figure of wisdom who speaks to all peoples in all times.

Even the fascists claim Shakespeare as their own.

Between December 1933 and February 1934, a production of Shakespeare *Coriolanus* by René Louis Piachaud at the Comédie-Française was sponsored by the far right party Action Française.

They sought to represent it as a fascist denunciation of democracy. It provoked riots in the streets of Paris.

School editions and performances of the play along similar lines were popular in Nazi Germany throughout the 1930's.

NOT ONLY is it important to deflate the right-wing image of Shakespeare, but we must also recognise the differences between his world and ours.

Shakespeare is supposed to be the key figure of the Renaissance and the height of British cultural achievement.

In school we are taught that the Renaissance was one of golden periods of European history.

But while the Renaissance represented a great achievement in the arts, it was the beginning of a colonial expansion where Europe moved from being a backward continent to one that would dominate

the world for the next two centuries.

The Renaissance history that is taught in schools is all about the deeds of great men and women.

However the period was also one of flux, transition and crisis.

Between 1450 and 1700 Western Europe underwent an enormous change from feudalism to mercantile capitalism.

In England the dominance of feudal aristocracy began to give way to the rise of the commercial bourgeoisie who would eventually consolidate their power with the Glorious Revolution of 1640.

Shakespeare was born in 1564 in the midst of this transition and lived during times when an uncertain balance had been struck between the feudal-aristocratic society of medieval England and the emerging bourgeois state.

The old feudal system, which had long been in decay was beginning to collapse. A new aristocracy emerged which had profited from the abolition of the monasteries. It bought large chunks of land and ran them along commercial lines. This new aristocracy had links with the increasingly powerful merchants in the City of London.

Humble farmers were also becoming wealthy traders. Some like Shakespeare's father were able to acquire coats of arms and style themselves as gentlemen.

At the same time the spread of the money economy caused massive social hardship.

Increasing numbers of people were thrown off the land and flocked to the towns.

IN 1485 the Tudor dynasty had seized the throne but it could not rule in the old feudal way. It reformed the state machine in order to strengthen its control.

But it was increasingly dependent on the rising commercial classes for money. All this represented a very unstable society.

Shakespearean theatre reflects this mood of instability.

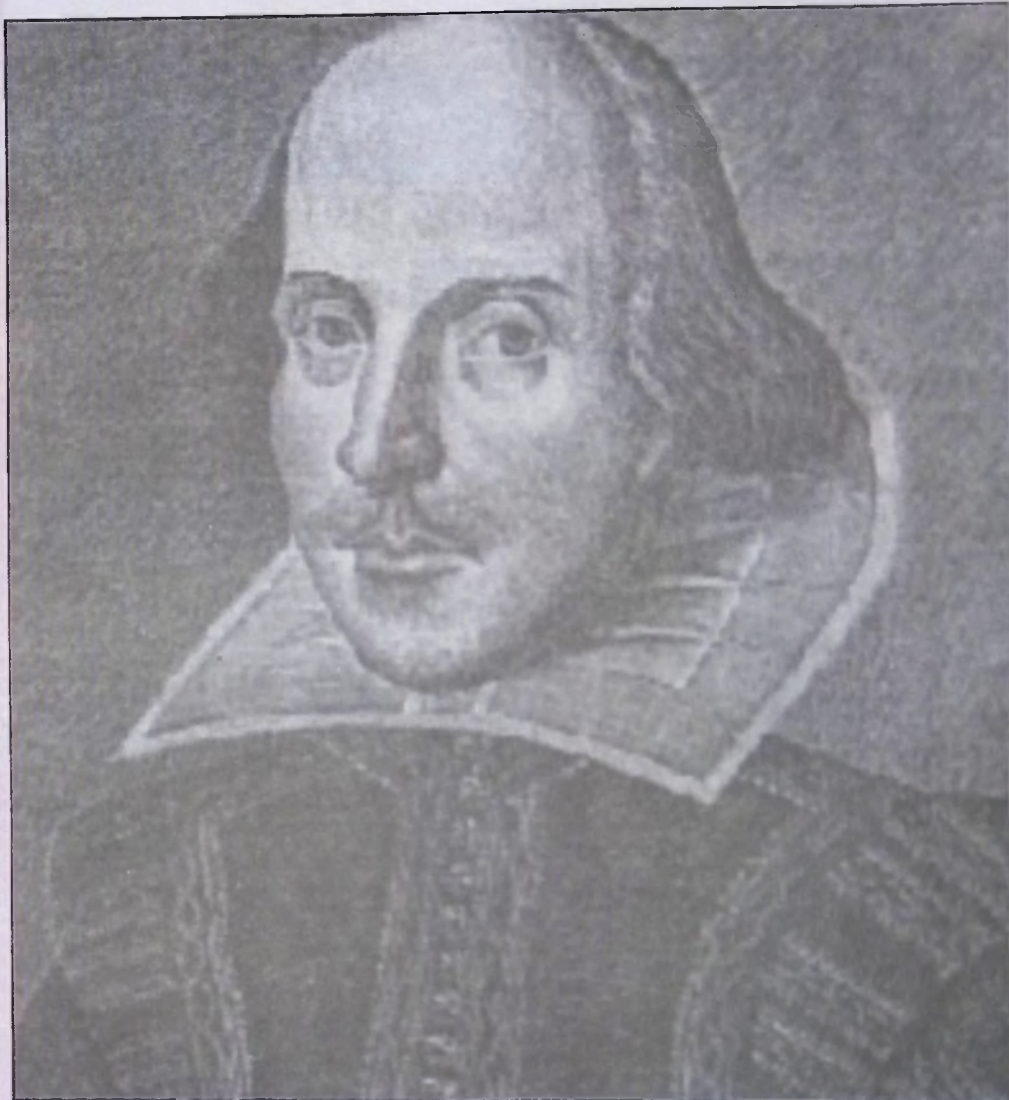
At the end of *Henry IV Part II* Hal comes to synthesise the best qualities of Old England with the new.

His qualities means that he can take the throne as an ideal ruler who heals his countries divisions.

He is a sort of benevolent manipulator with a common touch. He is capable of warlike vigour - as in his defeat of Hotspur - but also of simple good humour with his companions in the tavern.

Yet the fact that the audience remains unconvinced and Hal fails to win our sympathy is evidence of Shakespeare suspicion of the picture.

In his later tragedies *Othello* (1604) and those following,



Shakespeare: A man between two worlds

Shakespeare is no-longer convinced of the possibility of any union between the old and the new, but only of their instinctive opposition of one to the other.

Othello dramatises the effect of this clash on personal relationships as Othello murders his wife Desdemona.

Old ways of thinking were also in decline. Human beings were increasingly viewed as possessing the ability to think and act for themselves.

"I have made myself" became one of the proclamations of the age. Human beings became the measure of things.

No longer was there such an immediate awareness of heaven and hell, which had dominated the medieval period.

Instead the human person began to believe that they could obtain all their desires without divine assistance.

At the same time this new individualism could be used to justify a world where people take care of their own interests at the expense of everyone else's.

In *King Lear*, Lear and Gloucester are racked by the contrast between their immediate perception of man as no more than a

'poor, bare, forked animal' and their longing for intervention by the 'justicers from above', who seem to have withdrawn their care for humankind.

That Lear and Gloucester suffer such a crisis of faith is evident, but it is not just about intellectual doubts.

Their world view is shattered because it is threatened by the other characters in the play, Edmund, Regan and Goneril, who represent the new commercial order.

Shakespeare's Hamlet is also a man of the modern world. He is learned in the science and philosophy that has flourished in this new world. But he too is caught between the old and the new.

As Prince of Denmark he is called to fulfil the primitive code of revenge and kill his uncle Claudius who represents everything disturbing in the new world.

Both Hamlet and Claudius are two sides of the same coin and therefore he is unable to kill his father's murderer.

Shakespeare's theatre attempts to apprehend the crisis in the aristocracy and the decline of feudal-

heroic values.

But then he is unable to reconcile itself with the emerging bourgeois forces.

He either associates their predominance with the tragic decay of the old order or else he looks for a mystical force to oppose the values of the commercial classes.

In *King Lear* it is Cordelia's redemptive grace, in *The Tempest* it is the patriarchal magic of Prospero.

This brings us to the difference between Shakespeare's world and our own.

The working class was only a small developing class in Shakespeare's day and was incapable of seizing power.

Indeed capitalism had to go through a long period of development in order for its gravediggers to be born.

In Shakespeare's world 'the mob' is always crushed as in the play *Coriolanus*.

Revolution in which workers can enter the scene conscious of their own destiny still lies in the future.

But in the writings of Shakespeare we do get a glimpse of how human beings might realise their potential and overthrow the system he saw the early stages of.

by Sinead Kennedy

in my view

Profiting from the Holocaust

LAST MONTH, when the Football Association of Ireland announced their plans for a new national stadium, they said that the project was guaranteed to be a success because it is backed by Deutsche Bank, the biggest bank in Germany.

They omitted to mention that the new stadium will be funded by a company that made millions out of the Holocaust. Deutsche Bank helped to finance the death camp at Auschwitz, where 1.5 million people were murdered during the Second World War.

Deutsche and other German banks, including Dresdner Bank the second largest in Germany, were involved in the forced "Aryanisation" of Jewish businesses and handling stolen gold—including gold taken from the teeth of those murdered in the death camps.

One bank account, established by an SS officer, Bruno Melmer, held up to \$4 million from items stolen from Jews. Documents, which originated at the Deutsche Bank branch office in Katowice, in Poland, show that Gestapo secret police and I G Farben, used this money from Deutsche Bank to build concentration and death camps.

One subsidiary of Deutsche Bank, Degussa AG, used gold and other precious metals that were stolen from Holocaust victims to finance the Nazi war machine. According to Edward Fagan, the lawyer acting for victims of the Holocaust suing the bank, "The Nazis needed money. They needed hard currency. Degussa showed the Nazis how to convert watches, glasses, jewellery and gold fillings to valuable metals." The scale of the trade can be seen in the way the wartime governments of Sweden, Spain, Portugal and Turkey accepted \$300 million in looted Nazi gold, more than \$2.5 billion at today's prices, as payment for war munitions.

As well as the acquisition and "aryanization" of Jewish-owned companies and the use of forced labour, Deutsche Bank held a holding interest in Degesch, the company which produced Zyklon-B—the gas used in the death camps.

Deutsche Bank, is just one of hundreds of companies that made huge profits by backing the Nazis. Some of the companies directly involved in the concentration and death camps were: Shell, AGFA, Siemens, Daimler Benz, AEG, BMW, Volkswagen, Krupps, Heinkel, Ford, and I.G. Farben.

For instance, Volkswagen, AEG and Siemens, all employed millions of slave labourers during the Nazi era. Volkswagen has

Since the end of the war big business has tried to cover up its role in the Nazi regime.

been forced to pay over £4,100 to Jewish people who were forced to work as slaves in the death camps—but they are still refusing to acknowledge liability.

Since the end of the war big business has tried to cover up its role in the Nazi regime. To frustrate the discovery of their past, several companies have hired their own researchers and then kept the information confidential until the research is complete. A process which in the case of BMW has so far taken 10 years, and is not yet complete.

The Swiss banks, that hoarded all the stolen profits for the Nazis, only agreed to pay compensations when it became clear they would lose billions in court cases. The German banks are only agreeing to discuss compensation with Holocaust survivors and their victims because revelations about the banks' Nazi past are holding up Deutsche Bank's planned \$10 billion take-over of a US bank.

In the 1950's German industry opposed a reparations law to compensate Nazi concentration camp survivors to the tune of five deutschmarks for each day of their imprisonment. This was despite the fact that the awards could not be inherited and survivors' pensions were paid only to German victims or those who lived in Germany after the end of the war.

In Germany in the 1930's the bosses backed Hitler as a means of destroying the German working class movement. Once the Nazis set about their regime of terror, companies were happy to make as much profit as possible. Now they are trying to cover up and deny that the reason some of the biggest companies in the world are so profitable is because they made fortunes from the murder of millions.

SIMON BASKETTER

book

Dr Finlay's spin book

FERGUS FINLAY was a spin doctor for Dick Spring from the early eighties until the end of the Rainbow government.

He handled the press, attempting to ensure that what was written in the papers and reported on television depicted Labour in the best light.

He boasts that in fifteen years of active politics, "I never once knocked on a door to ask anyone to vote for the party."

His recollections touch on the impact of governments only indirectly through the gossip of the political insiders.

He saw how Tony O'Reilly, boss of Independent newspapers and Atlantic Resources assembled a group of Fine Gael TD's to lobby for more advantageous terms for offshore exploration.

Taoiseach Garret Fitzgerald phoned Spring, who was Energy Minister, before a dinner he was having with O'Reilly to get something done.

Finlay gives the impression of Spring manfully withstanding the pressure and holding out for principle.

In fact concessions to O'Reilly were made in a couple of weeks.

Jitters

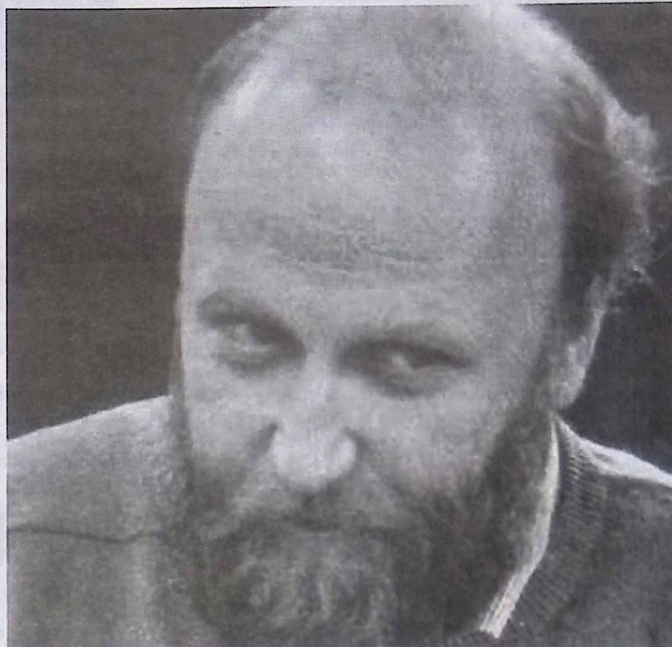
He recounts how the 1982-87 Fine Gael-Labour Coalition abolished £40 million of food subsidies in the face of jitters in the money markets.

He has no concern with the effect this had on the unemployed or low paid.

Instead he reports only that it was Spring's bad luck to have to make the announcement because other Ministers were on holiday.

After the Haughey years and the beginnings of the Goodman scandal, Fianna Fail was on the ropes.

For the first time a



Fergus Finlay: "I never once knocked on a door"

Fianna Fail backed presidential candidate was defeated. Typically, Finlay doesn't look at the deep changes taking place in Irish society which gave rise to the Robinson victory

Clothes.

Instead he discusses her £5,000 clothes allowance and how Eoghan Harris's television skills transformed

party political broadcasts into inspiring adverts by clever editing.

When Labour won an unprecedented 33 seats in 1992 many working class people looked to them to defend their interests in the Dail.

Finlay reports that the lines of communication with Fine Gael were not good, so a deal was concluded with Fianna Fail.

Within a few hours Labour ministers were caving in once again.

Split

Albert Reynolds demanded a tax amnesty for rich evaders. Even Fianna Fail ministers were split on the wisdom of the move and Labour could have turned over the proposals.

But for 'tactical'

reasons Spring decided not to fight and the amnesty went through.

Then the story broke that Pdraig Flynn (yes him again) authorised the issue of passports to the rich Masri family in return for investing in Albert Reynolds's dog food factory.

Improper

Spring was happy to take the word of all concerned that nothing improper had happened.

One thing Fergus Finlay's book cannot hide is that Labour betrayed the hopes of those who voted for it in 1992.

Instead it gave a helping hand to Fianna Fail at a time when it was on the ropes.

The book is worth reading as a warning to those who might once again look to Labour to do something about the 'golden circle' which links big business to the political establishment.

Snakes and Ladders, by Fergus Finlay, New Island Books, £9.99

-KEVIN WINGFIELD

TV

Oh my god! It's not funny

SOUTH PARK is a phenomena. A simply drawn cartoon show late at night has turned into a marketing mans dream.

T-shirt sales are rocketing, the dire "Taste my chocolate salty balls" was number one in the charts, and parents are being brow-beaten into buying soft toys whose major selling point is that they swear when they are squeezed.

While the marketing would put Disney to shame, South Park is deliberately cool. Every article from the *NME* to the *Irish Times* refers to it as a cult programme. But just like a religious cult, South Park is vaguely fascinating but ultimately false and

unpleasant.

Four small kids — Cartman the fat kid, Kyle the Jewish kid who obviously is the butt of most of the jokes, Stan with his gay dog and Kenny (who is responsible for the most irritating catch phrase of the decade) — wander through plots that the series' defenders refer to as satire.

Taboo

In fact, the devil may care approach, with no subject seen as taboo, is what is really wrong with the series. What is supposed to be daring is just a stream of stereotypes and offensive right wing rubbish, hiding beneath

a knowing post modern grin.

Okay, so there is the occasional attack on the right and jibes at hypocrisy, but most of all it is an assault on political correctness.

The series doesn't play with right wing notions about race, sex and gender - it wallows in them. The humour is that of the playground run by the far right, the sex is all double entendre and cheap smut straight out of carry on movies.

The response to this criticism is usually that I haven't got the joke. Unfortunately I did but it wasn't funny. It's not irony, it's not cool, the joke's on us and the right wing are laughing all the way to the bank.

-SIMON BASKETTER



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.

Education

No to teacher bashing

—Yes to action

IN THE past fortnight New Labour has thrown down the gauntlet to teachers.

After years of below inflation pay increases, they announced an insulting 3.5percent pay increase while at the same time giving head teachers 6 percent.

Failing

Then they allowed Chief Schools Inspector Chris Woodhead (£126,000 a year) to once again bash teachers and peddle the lie that there are 15,000 failing teach-

ers. Meanwhile they released a 'working document' declaring that the Government is intending to tie teachers pay to results and the opinions of headteachers.

This is more than simply an attack on pay and conditions. Performance related pay (PRP) like the different pay awards are about dividing teachers, destroying teamwork and increasing competition within and between schools.

Education Secretary David Blunkett and Tony Blair are itching to take on teaching unions and break them like the Tories did to the miners. The Government refer to

them as the '1980's dinosaurs'.

They see the unions as the last obstacle to letting the market rip through the education system. Already in England the running of state schools has begun to be handed over to private companies.

Brought

Typically changes in England and Wales are brought in 2 years before they are introduced in the North.

There is still a possibility the running of education might be in the hands of the new Assembly.

As a result union leaders in Northern Ireland have adopted a wait and see approach to resistance to Blair's plans.

This is a major mistake. All the parties in the Assembly have refused to give an undertaking that when in power they will reverse the New Labour decision to close the maternity ward in Tyrone.

Likewise they should not be trusted when it comes to education.

At the very least union leaders should be calling large open meetings over pay and PRP, like those that have taken place in Manchester, London, Cardiff and Scotland.

Mackies

Fight the threat of redundancies

IN 1995, the US president Bill Clinton visited the Springvale site of the Mackies plant.

He argued that if Catholic and Protestant workers showed 'goodwill' and supported the peace process, there would be major international investment in jobs.

Today Mackies has become a symbol of broken promises as 200 workers face redundancy.

Workers at ATC Temperature controls also face an uncertain future after a management buy out has left 40 workers redundant.

Mackies workers are the latest victims of a recession that is sweeping through Northern Ireland.

The company

recently purchased a new foundry but then found that their order books from Asia dried up.

Up to last year they tried to compensate for this by buying up other companies and their order books.

Assets

Now the most valuable assets and most profitable parts of the company are being sold off to pay huge debts.

But there is little help for the workers who actually made the profits.

The unions at Mackie should be calling special protest meetings to pressurise Blair to take the firm into public ownership and save the jobs.

Council Workers

'We deserve a 5% pay rise'

Over 1.4 million council workers in Northern Ireland and Britain have turned down a measly 2 per cent pay offer. They want a 5 percent rise or £500, whichever is the greater.

This was only an opening offer and further talks are scheduled for February 23, but the anger on the ground means that there is a good chance workers would vote for industrial action if the council bosses don't budge.

Joe Doran, a Transport and General Workers Union shop steward in Derry's cleaning depot, says: "Council workers feel they're underpaid and a big push needs to be made to raise our low wages.

But we're moving from a 39-hour-week to a 37-hour-week soon and the employers are using this as an excuse to offer us only 2 per cent."

Council workers have seen a sharp deterioration in their working conditions since sub-contracting, or compulsory competitive tendering was introduced in the early 1990s.

Services

Effectively, council services had to compete with private sub-contractors who save money by cutting corners, paying terrible wages and pushing workers ever harder.

Blair has done away with the internal market in the NHS, he can

do the same for the councils

Sadie Curley works for Belfast city council. Her division won back the contract for work it used to do directly for the council.

She says: "It's much harsher to work in this place now. They've now got to show they're making profits so we're doing the same job as before but on a much tighter budget.

"There used to be 68 of us, but now there's only eight of us left. We deserve a 5 per cent pay rise and the trade unions should push it. It's a long time since we got a decent pay rise."

The unions involved in the pay claim are the T&G, NIPSA, UNISON and the GMB.

SWP Branch meetings - all welcome

ATHLONE: Contact 01- 872 2682 for details
BRAY Contact 01 -872 2682 for details
BELFAST CENTRAL: Meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm in the Garrick Bar, Chichester St. Feb.23rd: Kosovo: Why the West cannot bring peace? Mar.2nd :The Spanish Civil War.
BELFAST EAST:

Contact 01- 8722682 for details
BELFAST SOUTH: Meets every Wednesday at 8.00pm in Queens University Students Union Club Room
BELFAST QUEENS UNIVERSITY: Meets every Thursday 1.00pm Mature Students Room
CORK CENTRAL: Meets every Thursday at 8.00pm in Dennehy's pub, Cornmarket
CORK SOUTH: Meets every Monday at 8.00pm in Scellig, UCC
DERRY: Meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm in Sandinos Bar, Water St.
DUNDALK: Contact 01 - 872 2682 for details
DUN LAOGHAIRE: Meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm in the Christian Institute Public Meeting
BOYLAN COMMUNITY CENTRE at 8pm
Feb. 23rd: Can Socialist Planning work?
DUBLIN ARTANE-COOLOCK:

Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in Artane/Beaumont Recreational Centre opp.Artane Castle
Feb. 23rd: Marxism and Religion
Mar. 2nd: Market Madness or Socialist Planning?
DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL: Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Conways, Parnell St.
DUBLIN NORTH WEST: Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in the Snug, Dorset St.
Feb. 25th: Trotskyism after Trotsky
Speaker: Dave McDonagh
Mar. 4th: The Roots of Reformism
Speaker: Kieran Allen
DUBLIN RANELAGH: Meets every Thursday at 8pm in Tom Kelly Flats, Charlemont St
Community Centre
Feb. 25th: The Black Panthers.
Mar. 4th: Is human nature a barrier to socialism?
DUBLIN RIALTO: Meets every Tuesday at 8pm St. Andrews Community Centre,

SCR, Rialto
Public Meeting Feb. 23rd : Can Socialist Planning Work?
Speaker: Richard Boyd Barrett
Mar. 2nd: Trotsky's Legacy
Speaker: Kevin Wingfield
DUBLIN RATHMINES: Meets every Wednesday at 8.00pm in O'Connell's Pub, Richmond St.
Feb.24th: Trotskyism after Trotsky
Mar.3rd : Socialism and Women's Liberation
DUBLIN SOUTH CENTRAL: Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in Trinity Inn, Pearse St.
Feb.25th :Are Women Liberated?
Speaker: Nuala McNamee
Public Meeting Mar. 4th: Fighting Fascism in Europe Today
DUBLIN TALLAGHT: Meets every Thursday at 8.00pm in Jobstown Community Centre
Feb. 25th: Crime: A socialist analysis
Speaker: Joe Tully

Mar. 4th: Socialists and the Environment
Speaker: Owen McCormack
GALWAY: Meets every Thursday in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square 7.30pm
LIMERICK: Contact 01 - 872 2682 for details
MAYNOOTH: Meets every Wednesday in Classhall D,Arts Block, Maynooth College
UCD Meets every Tuesday at 1pm (See posters for room no.)
Feb. 23rd: What do we mean by Revolution?
Mar. 2nd: Who was Leon Trotsky?
Speaker: Terry Connolly
TRINITY COLLEGE Meets every Thursday at 7.00pm (See posters for room no.)
WATERFORD: Meets every Thursday in at 8.00pm ATGWU Hall, Keizer St.



OBITUARY

On the 10th of February Niall Meagher tragically took his own life.

Niall, aged 35, was a member of the Socialist Workers Party since the early nineties.

He was an active member of the North Central branch of the party, and its secretary for almost three years until he became ill at the end of last year.

Niall was a very kind and gentle person with a great sense of humour, characteristics that endeared him to anyone who knew him and made him many friends both inside and outside the party.

He put huge energy and enthusiasm into the many and varied interests he pursued.

He was an accomplished musician and spent a number of years as lead singer for the band Bunny Hoover

He also took a great interest in the world of art and culture generally, speaking on the subject at the party's major annual Marxism event on a number of occasions.

Niall had an incredibly inquisitive and critical mind which led him to read extensively into areas as diverse as science, philosophy and economics, and then debate the ideas vigorously with fellow comrades and friends.

It was his passion for ideas, along side an instinctive opposition to injustice of any kind, that led him to get involved in socialist politics.

He injected that passion, commitment and dedication into every area of his work for the party and his own branch.

As a friend and a comrade he will be sorely missed but not forgotten. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family.

Join the socialists

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

Name

Address.....

Phone.....

Union:.....

Public Meetings After the split in the Front National...

THE FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM IN EUROPE

Speaker: Florent Vigier (French socialist)
Thursday 25th February 8.00pm Trinity Inn
Pearse St. Dublin

CAN SOCIALIST PLANNING WORK?

WATERFORD: Thursday 25th February ATGWU Hall Keizer St
CORK: Thursday 25th February 8.00pm Moores Hotel

news/reports/politics/industry/unions (01)8722682; fax (01) 8723838;
email: swp@clubi.ie web: www.clubi.ie/swp

Building Workers

Fighting against Subcontracting

JOHN SISK has become the latest company to retreat before a union offensive over direct labour.

Sisks had been using McNamaras', an Achill Island based sub-contractor, to force workers to accept pay that did not include any provision of holidays or wet time.

The particular sub-contractor who employed bricklayers was also engaged by other major building companies.

But after a series of brief phone calls from BATU

officials, the sub-contract withdrew and the workers were hired directly by Sisks.

It seems that BATU tactics of militant struggle has struck fear into the heart of the boss class.

Voting

BATU has followed up its picketline successes by voting at a special conference to pull out of the registered agreement for the construction industry.

Eighty delegates from all over Ireland voted unanimously to recommend withdrawal in a ballot of all BATU members.

The registered agree-

ment forces workers to go through lengthy procedures involving the Labour Court, the Rights Commissioner and the building bosses' union the CIF.

In its place the union is

demanding a fast track system for resolving disputes. Workers and management would each appoint a mediator and the dispute would be resolved on site within ten days.

Action on the sites spreads

THE CAMPAIGN against subcontracting in the building industry is now spreading beyond the ranks of the bricklayers.

Three carpenters at the Walls site in Townsend Street in Dublin have been on picket duty to demand a payment of £15 an hour and the right to direct labour.

They have won support from the bricklayers on the site and solidarity collections have also been taken up for them across sites in Dublin.

Meanwhile plasterers at the John Paul site at the International Financial Services Centre have also taken strike action against being forced to work as sub-

contractors.

The strike which is unofficial is particularly important because the General Secretary of the OPATSI union is Niall Irwin who also chairs the Construction Committee of the ICTU.

Irwin has argued that his members want to work subcontracting and even attacked the two builders who were jailed during the O'Connor's dispute in November. Now Irwin's own members are taking up the fight against subcontracting.

As one union activist said, "Niall Irwin's support for subcontracting is ringing hollow in the ears of his own members".

Nurses

Nurses get a raw deal

NURSES HAVE again been told that they cannot have the increases and improved career structures that they have been fighting for since 1997.

The recent Labour Court recommendations offer little or nothing to the majority of nurses. Instead yet more talks are proposed.

The response of nurses has been one of anger. One nurse told *Socialist Worker* "We can't be expected to wait any longer.

Nurses are leaving the profession everyday because the money and conditions just don't make it worthwhile. It makes more sense to go abroad to nurse now and that's a disgraceful situation".

Prospect

The nursing unions have agreed to immediate talks with a May 1 deadline. However even the union leadership is pessimistic about the prospect of making any headway.

Many nurses on the ground see no point in more discussions and according to a PNA member "we expect to be on strike by June anyway".

The talks are just a delaying tactic. The government is very nervous about the prospect of a nurses strike as they know it would have huge support from the public. However they are not prepared to abandon their public sector pay policy which wants to

keep increases at the miserly levels agreed under P2000.

Nurses deserve decent increases and their overwhelming vote last year for strike action if the government fails to deliver shows that they are prepared to fight.

The sooner action is taken and the endless and meaningless talks are abandoned the sooner they will win.

The Labour Court recommendations do not offer nurses what they deserve.

■ On the issue of allowances for extra skills, allowances of up to £1500 have been recommended but for those with specialist skills only.

■ Increased differentials for ward sisters and the issue of annual leave have been referred back for more talks.

■ Long service increments for staff nurses have been ruled out.

Nurses reach the maximum of their pay scale after ten years.

This means that the highest rate a staff nurse can reach is £22,009 no matter how many years he or she works for.

In contrast teachers get regular long service increments, 75 percent of nurses remain at the level of staff nurses. They deserve a long term increment to stay in the job.

Limerick Shop Stewards

NEARLY ONE hundred SIPTU shop stewards have signed a letter calling on their union to restore the credentials of their Limerick Corporation shop stewards.

The Limerick shop stewards have been the target of a special Labour Relations Commission which attacked them for being too determined to represent the interests of their members.

Limerick Corporation have tried to privatise services and cut back on direct labour.

Shop stewards who have resisted this policy have been repeatedly bullied and victimised.

Instead of defending their own shop stewards, SIPTU officials have unfortunately colluded in the attacks. Extra officials were drafted into the area to try to persuade workers not to sign the solidarity petition.

Supporters of the Limerick shop stewards are now planning to lobby the National Executive Council on the issue.

Apple

THE APPLE computer plant in Cork has become the latest multinational to lay off workers. This follows the layoffs at Krupps in Limerick and Fruit of the Loom in Donegal last year.

When production began on the new 'Imac' computer 12 months ago, the Apple workers in Cork were assured by management if it was successful, their jobs would be secure for the near future.

The success of the new computer meant that the Cork plant alone made a profit of £180 million pounds last year.

Cheaper

But the high productivity of the Cork plant made no difference to the mega-rich bosses of Apple who want to move production to areas where tax incentives are greater and labour cheaper. A shop floor worker in the Apple plant told *Socialist Worker* that workers were "angered and disgusted at the news of the layoffs".

Most of the lay-offs will affect so called temporary workers. Since it opened in the early 1980s Apple Cork has employed up to half of its work-

force on a part-time or temporary basis, refusing to give permanent contracts to those who had served less than two years with the company.

The SIPTU union officials failed to register any protest against this. Neither did they organise any action against the management practice of laying off handfuls of workers at a time at brief intervals.

Harry Carroll, the SIPTU branch secretary at the factory, made no mention of any action to resist the cutbacks but accepted the redundancies as cut and dried.

The layoffs at Apple sound a clear warning now to workers at other multinationals around the country. A slowdown in the international economy means that further closures and redundancies are inevitable unless workers organise to fightback.

Strong shop floor organisation and unity between full and part time worker is essential. Any attempt at closure or mass redundancies should be met with strike action and occupation of the plant.

Save

This is what workers at Clondalkin Mills did in the early 1980s and they managed to save their jobs for several years.

Multinationals are given millions of pounds in machinery, facilities and tax incentives by the Irish Government. Where they declare mass closures, they should be taken into public ownership to save jobs.

Bewleys

BEWLEYS' WORKERS are going on strike for a basic rate of £5 an hour.

If they win it will encourage other workers to take action to break low pay.

The vote in favour of strike action was carried despite scare stories from management and an attempt to get workers to accept £4 an hour.

Bewleys' offer of £4—up from £3.50 for many workers—was the result of the threat of action. It shows that going ahead with the pickets can force the bosses to concede the full £5.

Managers tried to scare workers away from strike action by saying they would have to survive on £35 a week strike pay from SIPTU. But they have rejected this attempt at blackmail.

However, to win the strike the workers will have to get organised. This means:

*Electing a strike committee in each branch who are accountable to the workers themselves. Bewleys' workers should make sure the union is doing their bidding;

*Involving every striker in regular picket duty and having weekly meetings in each branch to report back on developments;

*Going around other shops and restaurants to raise collections. There will be huge support for a fight against low pay and collections will boost morale and alleviate hardship.

This strike has been provoked by Patrick Campbell's complaint on a radio programme that he could not get enough people to work for poverty pay.

But Campbell Bewley is a profitable company which has expanded its business to include numerous restaurants and hotels both here and abroad.

The picket lines outside his restaurants will make Patrick Campbell think again about insulting the workers who create his wealth.

Partnership Committees

Representation not co-option

PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEES are the latest development that is being pushed in the civil service, local government, the health service.

The committees are being sold to workers as a way of giving them a greater say in the workplace. But the reality behind them is something different. They are just a new means of forcing more productivity and flexibility on workers.

According to the glossy brochures partnership committees "mean going beyond the traditional adversarial approach to management-union-employee relations."

These committees start off from the assumption that that both bosses and workers have a common aim, the "we're all in this together" approach.

Workers are told that they have to make sacrifices to make the company successful.

In the civil service these forums are used to get workers to take on increased responsibility, usually the work of management with-

out any extra pay. "If you object," one worker told *Socialist Worker*, "you're accused of not being a team player".

A worker from Telecom, explained how they are being used to reduce workers' holidays.

"These forums only allow you to argue within commercial terms. Workers can no longer object to something purely on the grounds of their conditions being undermined.

"If change makes the company more competitive you are supposed to accept it."

This means that Telecom

workers now face losing two days holidays a year, the so-called "privilege days" at Christmas and Easter.

"Telecom's main competitor is Esat whose offices are open on those two days, so if you accept the logic of partnership you have to concede.

"But where will it end? They tell us the privilege days must go because they are an 'anachronism'. Will they tell us next that having Sundays off is an 'anachronism'?"

Partnership forums are made up of representatives from management and trade unions.

The result is that the union representatives have to sell management proposals to workers. In Telecom, this means bosses and union reps issuing joint communications and appearing side by side to push the company line.

Against these new schemes socialists argue that workers should be allowed the right to proper industrial representation.

Any representative must accept a mandate from workers and not just impose the will of management on them.

There should be no blank cheque given to these committees to impose "modernisation" and competitiveness on workers.

Tallaght hospital

Vote to defend jobs

WORKERS AT Tallaght Hospital have voted overwhelmingly to take industrial action over job cuts at the hospital. Nearly every grade of worker from junior doctor to the non-nursing personnel are backing the fight.

The Fianna Fail Health Minister Brian Cowen has done nothing to relieve the financial crisis in the hospital.

Now over 100 workers whose contracts come to an end at the end of February are due to be laid off.

"They want to get rid of porters and household duty staff. It mainly affects staff who were taken on directly by Tallaght Hospital. But all hospital staff are hopping mad about it.

There is absolutely no need to let workers go from this brand new hospital" one shop steward told *Socialist Worker*.

The hospital needs at least an extra £4 million to operate properly.

But Cowen is refusing to put up the money. Fianna Fail have a policy of cutting tax on big business. Now Tallaght Hospital is suffering directly as a result.

If Cowen does not fund the hospital, strike action should be spread across the Dublin health service.

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 50p Solidarity price £1

**JOIN THE LOW
PAY PROTEST
GET TO
NEWCASTLE ON
APRIL 10TH**

Blair's Minimum Wage:

We need £5 an hour!

**Build on
leadership
call**

NEW LABOUR'S minimum wage will come into force on 1 April.

But Blair has bowed to the bosses and set the minimum wage at just £3.60 an hour or £3.20 for 18 to 21 year olds.

Scandalously, workers under 18 will not get a minimum wage.

This is a far cry from the £4.60 an hour, no strings attached claim, trade unions were hoping for. Thousands of working people are disgusted at how low Blair is setting the minimum wage.

The North already has one of the lowest average rates of pay across Europe.

The Northern Ireland Anti-Poverty Network estimates that 131,000 workers here would benefit from a wage of £4 an hour — a miserable take home pay of £140 per week.

Wages

Already many people have to apply for family credit to top up their wages.

This means that bosses are being

subsidised by up to £65 million a year.

Such is the bitterness over low pay that the trade unions have called a march on 10th April in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.

This is the first national trade union demonstration since Blair came to power.

"I felt totally betrayed when I heard what the minimum wage was going to be.

"It felt like another kick in the teeth. But at least we now have a chance on the 10 April to show Blair what we think of his Tory policies"

Brenda, who works in the Royal Hospital and a member of Unison thought the march was a fantastic opportunity.

Protest

"Everybody in Belfast is either on a lousy wage or knows someone - a friend, somebody in their family who is. I know young girls who sweat for £2 an hour in the local shops. It makes me angry. People at work are talking about the protest and would love to get a delegation on the march."

OVER 20 national unions representing over 4 million workers are backing the demonstration. Union leaders are urging everyone to be there.

"An end to wage discrimination and a higher rate is UNISON's demand. Join us in Newcastle", declared Rodney Bickerstaffe, UNISON's general secretary.

Disgrace

GMB leader John Edmonds says "It is a disgrace that young people will have less protection than anyone else in our country. If people are old enough to work, then they are old enough to get the same pay. I'd urge everyone to go Newcastle on 10 April."

This call from the union leaders is a breath of fresh air which should encourage everyone.

But we cannot rely on the union leaders to build 10 April to its full potential.

That will take work on the ground.

The Rank and File Solidarity Network are organising a bus from Belfast to Newcastle.

Across Northern Ireland trade unionists and community and youth groups should sponsor delegations to go on the bus.

Ring 01232-799204 for details.

**DEMONSTRATE
'Demand a Living Wage'
Saturday 10 April
Newcastle upon Tyne
(officially called by UNISON)**

Supported by the TUC, ASLEF, AMO, AUTT, BFAW, BECTU, BIFU, Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, CWU, Community and Youth Council, Equity, FBU, GMB, GPMU, MSF, MU, NAPO, NATFHE, RMT, NUJ, PCS, Society of Radiographers, TSSA, UCATT and NUS.

RING 01232-799204 FOR DETAILS OF BELFAST BUS