

# Socialist Worker

inside

**2 million demonstrate in Rome** — Page 4

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For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

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**Bush threatens war on Iraq**

# NO TO WAR

# JUSTICE FOR PALESTINE



**500,000 protest at EU Summit**

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**4,000 march against Ahearn in Waterford**

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**Che Guevara and the Cuba revolution**

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**Refugees on hunger strike**

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**NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION**  
**3pm Saturday 27th April Parnell Sq, Dublin**

## Stop deportations

# Hunger strike against deportation



**ALABI AYIANCE, is on hunger strike in Mountjoy jail against his deportation. But the Irish media is doing little to highlight the terrible injustice that has driven him to this measure.**

Alabi has two children with his partner, including one that was born in Ireland. The couple are also expecting another shortly. This alone should entitle Alabi to remain in Ireland so that he could help raise his children.

His wife is also quite ill during her latest pregnancy

and there are real fears that she may have to spend some time in hospital.

In the absence of a father the other two children could be taken into care.

### Thrown

Despite all this Alabi Ayiance is being thrown out of Ireland by an inhumane government.

The reason is that he committed a minor offence some time ago while staying in Ireland. Under the current refugee law, this gives the Minister for Justice the right to deport him.

Yet Alabi has already served his punishment for this crime by spending 8

months in jail.

Why should he be permanently separated from his own children and not allowed to visit them here - for a minor offence?

Alabi was pulled in by the Gardai and detained in the main part of Mountjoy, pending his deportation to Nigeria. He is locked up 15 hours a day and receives hardly any visits.

His only crime is that he is black - and faces the vindictive Justice Minister, John O'Donoghue.

A loud and vociferous campaign is urgently needed to save his life and stop this country being disgraced by the racist policies of this government.

### Postponed

It is the worst financial crisis to hit the college in years. Courses have been postponed and cleaning staff have been hived off into a private company. That's a blueprint for what could happen to every single school getting into private contracts.

The privatisation of education - and the low overall level of funding - is the real scandal. But that scandal is hidden behind the sectarian bickering of Unionist and republican politicians.

If anyone is wondering why there are once again sectarian tensions in North Belfast - you need look no further than Stormont.

## Free education??

**HUNDREDS OF state schools now demand that children pay fees for classes in PE, science, drama and even foreign languages, placing children from lower income families at a disadvantage.**

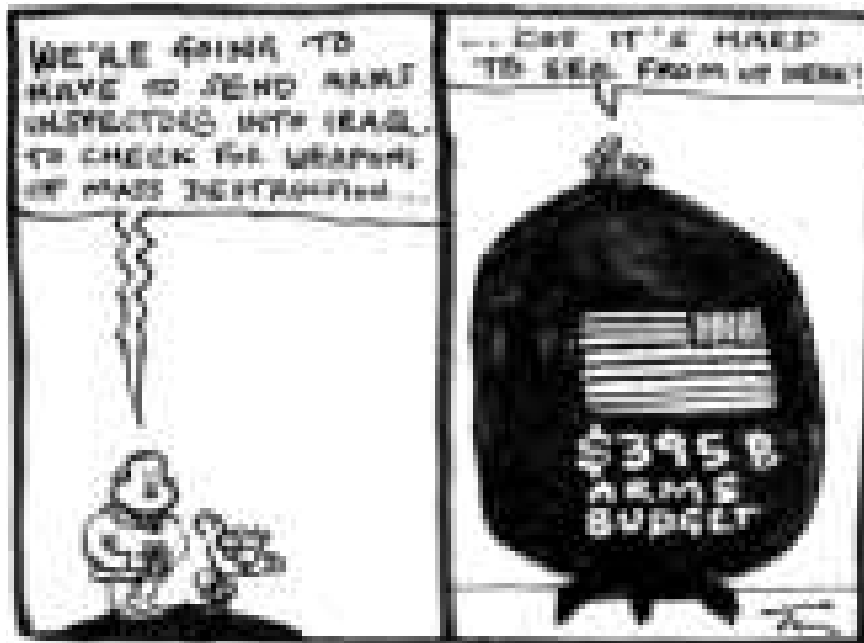
Fionnuala Kilfeather, chief executive of the National Parents Council (Primary) pointed out in March that education was meant to be free

at national school level, but parents were still being asked to fork out for extra classes held during curriculum time.

### Demanding

The Department of Education frequently fails to fund the necessary teacher and the schools levy the fees to pay their wages.

Branches of the Council are demanding the Department of Education abolish the fees.



## McGuinness sells off schools

**Martin McGuinness, the Education Minister, has announced a £107 million**

investment package for schools. The news has hit the headlines for the wrong reasons.

The Unionist parties have turned it into a sectarian slanging match because Catholic schools are getting £58.5 million compared to £26 million for Protestant schools and £21.3 million for integrated schools.

Yet none of the Assembly parties, nationalist or unionist, objects to the fact that half that money will go into the pockets of private business.

McGuinness's announcement is Christmas come early for companies involved in Public Private Partnerships. £52.7 million has been set aside for them to build and refurbish schools. They will also cash in hundreds of thousands of pounds in rent payments every year for the next 25 years.

PPP and the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) are being pursued by every

single government department. They claim that private companies can

take financial pressure off the public sector by bearing the initial

## Time to investigate the Gardai

**THE LABOUR PARTY leader Ruairi Quinn says there has to be greater controls over the gardai. Two recent cases show why.**

\* **Gardai in Donegal used a retarded man to make false statements in order to fit up McBrearty family of Raphoe.**

**Bernard Conlon was found guilty of making false statements to gardai in connection with the McBrearty affair.**

He was "poor, illiterate and mentally retarded" and was "used and abused" in a reprehensible and disgraceful way by two gardai, his defence counsel has said.

A psychologist testified that Conlon was mentally handicapped with an IQ of 50

The court heard that Conlon, prompted by a garda, alleged that two

men called to his home and threatened him with a silver bullet - a statement he now accepted was false.

The gardai also forged documents to get money unlawfully for Conlon for appearances at Letterkenny District Court where he was a State witness against the McBreartys.

### Attempted

No garda has yet been prosecuted arising out of the attempted fit-up of the McBreartys.

\* Finglas man Derek Fairbrother was arrested in the early hours of June 12th, 1988.

He was taken to the Finglas Garda station. During this time Fairbrother suffered a serious assault by gardai during which he became unconscious-

ness. Eventually an ambulance was called and he was later brought to the Mater Hospital.

Derek Fairbrother took a case against the gardai for wrongfully imprisonment and assault. Eventually the state made a settlement for £375,000 (476,500) and paid Fairbrother's costs.

The garda began internal disciplinary action against the officers.

But following a number of legal challenges the Supreme Court last month halted any further disciplinary hearings against the officers because of a "gross and culpable delay" by the Garda Complaints Board in processing the case! So no one is being punished for the serious assault on Derek Fairbrother!

★ While nurses struggle to keep overcrowded A and E department open it's nice to know our politicians are unlikely to die of over work.

The Oireachtas Bulletin reports that last year the Dail sat for just 94 days - less than two days a week.

After all that exertion they need a winter break. One of the trips taken at taxpayers' expense last year was five TDs and two senators, led by the Ceann Comhairle, Seamus Pattison, going to Egypt.

★ Ireland has one of the lowest reported crime rates in Europe, yet sends more people to prison every year than most other European countries.

This is one of the findings of the Law Reform Commission published in "Penalties for Minor Offences", in March.

A person can be jailed for up to a year by a District Court, where there is no jury.

While working class people are banged up in Mountjoy for relatively trivial offences, large companies get away with murder.

The LRC comments that breaches of, for example, health and safety regulations can lead to loss of life. But the district court, which tries these "minor offences", is prevented from imposing fines on companies that would reflect their profit levels.

★ Only 30 per cent of students qualify for the student grant, with only a proportion of those qualify for the maximum of €65 per week.

This means that working class students are frequently denied third level education opportunities because of inability to pay.

Union of Students in Ireland president Richard Hammond commented, "The threshold for qualifying for a grant is so low that two parents working at McDonald's would disqualify their son or daughter from obtaining the grant."

USI's annual congress in Ennis, Co Clare in March, called for an increase to €108.50 per week, in line with social welfare payments.

## what we think

# A real alternative in the general election

# VOTE SOCIALIST

**OPINION POLLS** are indicating that nearly a quarter of Irish voters are looking to candidates outside the political mainstream.

It is a sign of the huge discontent that now exists in Irish society. People are fed up with policies that have been driven by Charlie McCreery to pander to the Cheltenham set who grabbed the wealth of the Celtic Tiger.

Fianna Fail's spin doctors claim that Ahern is rising above all this. He is, they say, a "Teflon Taoiseach" to whom no dirt sticks.

But Ahern has lost two referendums and in two by-elections in Tipperary he saw the FF vote sink to its lowest level since the 1920s.

FF has only stabilised in the polls because Fine Gael is so terrible.

The days when the ruling elite could afford two right wing parties are coming to an end. The agenda of privatisation and tax cuts for the wealthy is being discredited.

The coming election will be the most important election for decades because a fight is now on to give a voice to the discontent.

### Radical

The Labour Party barely offers an alternative. Its most radical proposal is to take £5 billion from the pension fund to pay for the public services.

The Labour Party does not dare on call for taxes on the rich. It might affect bankers like Lochlainn Quinn—Ruairi's brother—who donates to the party!

The terrible record of Labour shows why support for Sinn Fein and the Greens is

growing.

But both these parties want to join a future coalition government. Instead of denouncing the Tweedledum-Tweedlee policies of Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, they claim that either one is "more nationalist" or "cleaner" than the other.

### Mass Action

It is vital that the largest possible number of votes go to openly socialist candidates.

That means principally supporting the candidates of Joe Higgins' Socialist Party and the Socialist Workers Party.

Socialists fight for working class interests with the same determination that McCreery stands up for his class.

And instead of simply manoeuvring in parliament, we organise for mass action to bring change.

This is why socialists are at the head of the fight against the bin charges.

Voting socialist is the surest and clearest way to signal that a real fight against the political establishment is getting underway.



**Nurses from the Accident and Emergency Unit of Waterford Regional Hospital: See report page 11**

## Don't let Ahern drag us into Bush's war

**What a disgusting sight to see Bertie Ahern turn up in Washington with his bowl of shamrock for the mass murderer George Bush!**

No one has any problems with his expression of sympathy for the people who died in the World Trade Centre. Their relatives and friends deserve nothing less.

But what about the estimated 8,000 people who have lost their lives in Afghanistan?

According to the UN,

Afghanistan is still littered with 14,000 unexploded bombs. That means more deaths, more limbless children, more grief.

All Ahern could say was that he would be offering Bush his full support in his next war - this time against Iraq.

He was so bad that even the Progressive Democrat junior minister Liz O'Donnell had to say they would only back Bush after he got permission from the UN.

Of course, this was strictly for home consumption. In any case the people of Iraq have already

suffered terribly because of UN sanctions.

But we can be grateful to Bush for one thing. He publicly thanked Ahern for letting him use Shannon to bomb the people of Afghanistan.

### Report

Up to now there has been no acknowledgement that US troops were using Shannon.

There has been no report made to the Dail on how this

squares with Irish neutrality. The whole affair has been clothed in secrecy.

All of this shows why a huge anti-war mobilisation is needed to stop Ahern dragging us into Bush's new war.

The Irish Anti-War Movement has called a national demonstration on Saturday April 27th in Dublin at 3pm at the Garden of Remembrance.

Every supporter of this paper should do their utmost to build it.

Phone 01 872 2682 to get leaflets and posters

**STOP THE  
DRIVE TO WAR!**  
Say **NO** to Bush's War on  
Iraq & Justice for Pales-  
tine

**Anti-War Demonstration**

**Gathering at  
the Garden of Remem-  
brance Dublin  
Sat April 27th @ 3p.m.**

Organised by the Irish Anti-War Movement  
www.irishantiwar.org - with support from:  
End Sanctions on Iraq Campaign, AFRI and Glob-  
alise Resistance

## Socialist Worker Appeal

### Help us raise €20,000!

The *Socialist Worker Appeal* is aiming to raise 20,000 euros. This money will be used to help *Socialist Worker* become a weekly paper. We don't get any financial backing from big business. We rely solely on our readers and supporters to help us build a revolutionary party with its own paper, independent of the establishment media. Our readers and supporters are responding very enthusiastically to the *Socialist Worker Appeal*. So far we have raised over 10,000 euro.

We would like to thank all our members and readers who have generously donated so far.

The *Socialist Worker Appeal* has launched a national raffle. Tickets are available from your *Socialist Worker* paper seller and cost 1 euro each. There are several money prizes and the draw will take place on Easter Monday, 1st April.

I want to support the *Socialist Worker Appeal* and help keep *Socialist worker* at the centre of the struggle for a better world. Please find enclosed the following donation:

€ \_\_\_\_\_ /£ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Donations in Republic of Ireland should be made payable to: *Socialist Worker*, AIB, 37 O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. Account Number: 85173030 Code: 93 11 36

Donations in Northern Ireland should be made payable to *Socialist Worker*, First Trust Bank, High Street, Belfast Account No: 00812073, Sort Code: 93 80 92 Return Slip to: SW Appeal, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8.



# news of the world

# US prepares for war in Iraq

**US President George W Bush is preparing a huge attack on Iraq in the next few months.**

Following his "Axis of Evil" speech, Bush secured the agreement of Tony Blair for 25,000 British troops to join an American-led invasion.

Writing in Foreign Affairs, former National Security Council director Kenneth Pollack says: "All told, the force should total roughly 200,000-300,000 people: for the

invasion, between four and six divisions plus supporting units, and for the air campaign, 700-1,000 aircraft and anywhere from one to five carrier battle groups."

To pave the way for attacks on Iraq the US government is unleashing a flood of lies. We are told that Iraq threatens the world with weapons of mass destruction. But a US State Department official revealed four weeks ago that the US wants war even if Iraq allows weapons inspectors in. He said of discussions between Iraq and United Nations officials over inspections, "We will not take yes for an answer."

US president George W Bush claims that the 11 September attacks justify his widening "war on terror". There is no evidence that Iraq was in any way involved in the destruction of the World Trade Centre.

An unsourced story appeared in some newspapers last October that

Mohammed Atta, one of the hijackers on 11 September, had met an Iraqi intelligence agent in the Czech Republic.

The Czech police themselves dismissed the story in January.

US politicians and the press suggested Iraq was responsible for the spread of anthrax in the US last year.

Now even the FBI agrees it was probably the work of a former US military scientist.

## Evidence

All the evidence also suggests that any capacity for "weapons of mass destruction" Iraq ever had has been destroyed. Until August 1998 Scott Ritter was chief inspector of the United Nations Special Commission, the arms inspectors sent into Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War.

He said in 1999, "From a qualitative standpoint, Iraq has been disarmed. Iraq today possesses no meaningful weapons of mass destruction."

Ritter can in no sense be described as "soft" on the Iraqi regime. He revealed in gung-ho confrontations during his time in Iraq. Another former inspector, Raymond Zilinskis, wrote in February 1998: "Ninety five percent of the inspectors' work

proceeds unhindered. "Although it has been theoretically possible for the Iraqis to regain such weapons since 1991, the duplicity would have been risky and expensive, and the probability of discovery very high."

Any weapons Iraq

does possess are useless without delivery systems such as missile launchers and defence experts doubt that Iraq is equipped with the necessary hardware.

What is certain is that Iraq does not have the kind of chemical, biologi-

cal and nuclear weapons that the US and its allies have. Israel, for example, has over 200 nuclear warheads aimed at Arab cities.

But the country with the biggest arsenal of weapons of mass destruction is the US.

Bush recently raised defence spending by \$48 billion to \$379 billion, the largest increase in two decades.

And influential voices in the US military are now demanding first strike nuclear attacks.

## First Strike

A secret Pentagon assessment concluded the US should be ready to use nuclear weapons against no fewer than seven potential adversaries—China, Russia, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Libya and Syria.

Earlier this year, a prominent former military officer named William Lind, who is now part of the Free Congress Foundation, was asked by the Marine Corps Gazette to comment on warfare post-September 11th. "Within 48 hours we should have wiped Taliban-held Afghanistan off the map, using nuclear weapons."

## US HOLDS MOST BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

**US negotiators effectively torpedoed the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention by vetoing enforcement mechanisms.**

Six months ago the New York Times reported that "the Pentagon has built a germ factory that could make enough lethal microbes to wipe out entire cities".

It was recently revealed that the US military is to test warheads containing live microbes at the Army's Edgewood Chemical Biological Centre in Maryland. Experts believe these experiments are part of a programme to develop new biological weapons.

Genetically engineered fungus has been developed for spraying from the air in Colombia.

In addition US military laboratories have been developing a new range of genetically engineered "materials-eating bacteria", designed to destroy runways, engines and the radar-blocking coatings of warplanes.

## Smallpox

The US government refuses to destroy its stocks of deadly smallpox, and has instead produced new and more lethal varieties of anthrax.

The anthrax attacks in Octo-

ber were of a strain developed by the US Army's medical research institute and were almost certainly launched from within US biological warfare laboratories.

In 1998 Republican congressmen forced through a ban on the removal of chemical samples from the US by international weapons inspectors. They also limited the number of laboratories which the US needs to declare and permitting the United States president to refuse "challenge inspections" of its chemical plants.

This effectively destroyed the Chemical Weapons Convention.

# Mass protests in Spain and Italy

**MASSIVE demonstrations in Italy and Spain have erupted in opposition to the neo-liberal agenda of Europe's bosses.**

In Barcelona half a million people poured onto the streets in March to protest "against a Europe of capital and war". This was even bigger than the anti-capitalist protest in Genoa last year.

It was like a mass festival-joyous and celebratory. It was also political and angry. Everyone was raging at the neo-liberal, pro-market alliance of Tony Blair, Italian prime minister Berlusconi and Spanish prime minister Aznar at the European Union summit.

For three days Barcelona was a festival of protest against capitalism. On the day before the march everywhere you walked you bumped into a demonstration, political street theatre, mural painting and other activities against capitalism.

Students occupied the university building, which became a centre of debate and discussion. Two thousand young people had made costumes to perform theatre outside banks, and the big water and electricity companies.

They had written manifestos condemning privatisation and exploitation of workers in the pursuit of profit.

Thousands of people took part in workshops and debates about building an alternative to capitalism.

Over 100,000 trade unionists marched against the European Union (EU) summit two days before the anti-capitalist demo. The march was organised by the European Federation of Trade Unions. Hundreds of coaches, plus a train and a plane, came



**Two million march in Rome against Berlusconi**

from other areas of Spain. And some 20,000 trade unionists came from France and Italy, with smaller delegations from other countries.

Nearly one in six of the Barcelona's population of three million joined the demo. Others stood on balconies, clapping and cheering on the demonstrators.

Patricia Lopez, a transport worker, had come along with her husband and two children. "I'm proud to be here, to add my voice to those who want to bring the politicians of Europe to account," she says. "This is the people of Barcelona united, with one voice saying no to the fat men of capital."

The police viciously attacked peaceful anti-capitalist and student protests which took place the day before the mass demo. They ran scare stories about being prepared to fire live ammunition at demonstrators.

They stopped thousands of people from France, Italy and elsewhere from crossing the border into Spain to join the demon-

stration.

But according to a TV opinion poll 90 percent of the population of Barcelona supported the demonstration against capital and war.

In Italy two million demonstrated against Silvio Berlusconi's attacks on worker's rights.

The centre of Rome was brought to a standstill as hundreds of thousands of workers converged on the Italian capital before dawn from all over Italy.

Red flags and union banners fluttered in the breeze as marchers converged on the Circus Maximus—where the ancient Romans once held chariot races.

The demonstration was originally called by Italy's biggest trade union, the CGIL, to protest against the abolition of Article 18 the labour law preventing workers from being fired without valid reasons.

Government advisor Marco Biagi, who drafted the measures, was gunned down on four days before the protest.

As a result the union leaders called for the protest to include opposition to terrorism and to take on a sombre tone.

CGIL leader Sergio Cofferati said as well as a march "for democracy and for the affirmation of workers' rights," the rally was a show of force against terrorism.

A group claiming to be connected with the Red Brigades said they killed Marco Biagi.

The 1970s terrorist group has not been heard of for years and is widely believed to be defunct.

Because of this, some within the Social Forum and Disubdients movement, which made up a sixth of the demonstration, doubt the Red Brigades could have been responsible. Instead they suggest the killing was designed to discredit those involved in social struggles.

Eamonn

McCann

## Who says accountants are boring?

**THE FORMER** British Tory leader John Major's parents were once involved in a circus, which gave rise to the joke that Major is the only person ever so boring as to have run away from a circus to become an accountant.

But the joke doesn't work any more. First, nobody can remember who John Major was. Second, accountants have since acquired a more robust image. The accountancy firm which audited the books of Enron, Arthur Andersen, greatly enhanced the profession's new reputation. Clandestine phone-calls, faking documents, fitting the shredder with a silencer in the dead of night. Illegal it might be, and immoral. But you couldn't call it boring.

Or take Ireland's biggest accountancy operation, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). It was they who scrutinised the books of AIB and managed to miss the fact that a sum or more than half a billion dollars had gone awol from the bank's Maryland subsidiary, Allfirst. There must have been tense, exciting times at the Dublin headquarters of PwC once it was realised that John Rusnak's billion-dollar betting spree at Allfirst had been rumbled.

Strangely, though, we haven't heard much about this aspect of the saga.

Indeed, the "distinguished" "independent" "consultant" called in by AIB to cover up the facts (or "report on the issues which arise", as the press release put it), Gene Ludwig, didn't get around to questioning PwC personnel at all: AIB, which drew up Ludwig's mandate, had taken the view that it wasn't the role of the auditors to detect fraud and that PwC therefore had no questions to answer.

(What a neat arrangement, incidentally, the organisation hit by scandal selecting its own investigator and laying down the rules as to what information he or she might ask for. Who do AIB think they are? The guards?)

Contrast the behaviour of Ludwig with the role of the liquidator of Barings, the bank brought down by the Rusnak-style antics of Nick Leeson seven years ago. When Barings' auditors, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu (DTT) pleaded that it hadn't been their role to detect fraud, the liquidator slapped a writ on them demanding stg.£200 million to help compensate investors. After a bitterly fought hearing, the liquidator has been given the go-ahead by the High Court in London to pursue the case.

It wouldn't do to get carried away about this. If they ever get their hands on it, the first call on the £200 million will come from DTT themselves: it's not unusual for the total fees charged by liquidators to coincide exactly with the amount of loot they have managed to extract from the stricken company.

But at least in the Barings case there was an acknowledgement that the accountants who had passed the books bore some responsibility for the development of the fiasco. Things are done differently in the cosy ambience of Ireland.

1. Half a billion dollars disappears from an AIB subsidiary. The accountancy firm paid millions to check the books on a regular basis hadn't noticed.

2. AIB bosses call in an investigator, who's told not to be bothering the accountants.

3. The investigator reports (a) that nobody at AIB bears any blame, and (b) that there no evidence the accountants did anything wrong either.

4. Er, that's it, really.

Or not quite. PwC audits the accounts of five of the top ten Irish companies.

The other five are audited by either KPMG, or Ernst and Young, or Andersen.

Naturally, the Central Bank, guardian of the public interest in these matters, answerable to the government, intervened in the affair, writing to bank auditors suggesting they draw up new guidelines pronto. A five-person "project group" has been set up to draft the new rules. It consists of: a partner in PwC; two representatives of KPMG; one partner in Ernst and Young; and a partner in Andersen.

So everything's in good hands then. No need for anybody in banking, accountancy or politics to worry. What a great wee country!

# Special Branch Break-In Skeletons in the cabinet

**THE BREAK-IN** in March at the Special Branch offices in east Belfast has all the hallmarks of an undercover operation by British military intelligence forces.

Three men, at least one of whom was reported to have an English accent, broke into the Special Branch offices, deep inside the high-security Castlereagh police base on Sunday 17 March, over-powered a Special Branch officer and took a number of files.

## Claimed

RUC Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan, a former head of Special Branch in the 1980s, claimed that the files removed did not contain the names of RUC informers.

Other reports, however, referring to "RUC sources", said that the men disappeared with Special Branch notebooks detailing times, places, telephone numbers, code-words and information supplied by informers.

## Accused

But all the signs point to the involvement of the Force Research Unit, a secret British military organisation which, along with the RUC Special Branch, has long been accused of deep collusion with loyalist paramilitaries during the 1980s.

The new police ombudsman, Nuala O'Loan, was asked to investigate the break-in but reported the next day that she could only investigate wrong-doing by serving police officers, clearly hinting that other forces were involved.



## The dirty history of the FRU

**THE BREAK-IN** would certainly not be out of character for the Force Research Unit. A report by the London-based British Irish Rights Watch in 2001 stated that the FRU, "broke every rule in the book and committed some of the most serious crimes, including conspiracy to murder, collecting and providing information likely to be of use to terrorists and directing terrorism."

## Organising

During the 1980s and 90s, the FRU was centrally involved in the running of agents in the UDA and organising at least 14 loyalist murders of republicans and innocent Catholics, including the murder of Belfast lawyer Pat Finucane.

The latest police investigation into the Finucane murder, led by London police commissioner John Stevens, is due to produce its report in the near future. The FRU is suspected of burning down an office used by Stevens in a police base in County Antrim, in 1990.

The FRU ran an agent, Brian

Nelson, in the UDA in West Belfast. Nelson was the intelligence officer for the UDA unit that included notorious UFF killer Johnny Adair.

Jack Grantham, a former FRU handler, later described Nelson's role in "using the UFF as an extension of the operational capability of the British Army.

"By that I mean refining their targeting, increasing their operational efficiency by re-arming them and using them to target known subversives which fitted the criteria and other type of person that the FRU wanted eliminating."

The result was that British military set up targets for loyalist death squads. Other prominent UDA figures were Special Branch agents. A mountain of evidence has now emerged that far from investigating loyalist murders, the FRU and Special Branch prevented

killers from being prosecuted.

One former UDA Special Branch informer, William Stobie, went public two years ago about his role in the Pat Finucane murder. Stobie had supplied the guns used in the murder. He claimed that he had told police that a major operation was being planned, but they did nothing.

## Recruited

The two killers, after confessing to the murder, were then recruited as Special Branch agents and all charges were dropped. Stobie was put on trial last year for his role in the Finucane murder. The case collapsed. Two weeks afterwards Stobie was murdered in broad daylight on his doorstep.

A BBC TV *Spotlight* investigation late last year revealed that the

FRU had a representative at weekly meetings of the Tasking and Co-ordination Group, made up of senior police and military commanders for liaison between the RUC, MI5 and different elements of the British Army.

The FRU applied for "restriction orders" at these meetings, to ensure regular police and army patrols would avoid certain areas at specified times. Many of these "restriction orders" are now believed to be aimed at allowing loyalist murder gangs to operate without interference.

Many families of loyalist murder victims reported the presence and sudden disappearance of army and police patrols in their area leading up to the murders.

## Cover-up started with Thatcher

**TWO INQUIRIES** are to be held into the Castlereagh break-in. But all the other inquiries into police collusion have ended without a single police officer being charged.

The reason is that the corruption in the police and military stretched right to the top of the British military establishment and the government.

Margaret Thatcher, for instance, was regularly

informed of Nelson's activities at meetings of the Joint Intelligence Committee in London.

An FRU source who spoke to the Scotland's *Sunday Herald* claimed there was an unbroken chain of command running from FRU handlers, through the military top brass in Northern Ireland, on to the Ministry of Defence Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and finally on to the Prime Minister.

"What was happening may have been occurring outside the law," he said, "but the establishment knew what was happening."

### ZIMBABWE IN CRISIS

# 'We don't want Mugabe — or the IMF!'



**GEORGE W Bush** claimed that the election in Zimbabwe was a "flawed process". He added, "We do not recognise the outcome of this election." This only a year after he stole the US presidential election.

The Commonwealth's condemnation of the Zimbabwean election was read out by Nigeria's Abdulsalam Abubakar.

He was the military dictator of Nigeria from 1998-9. During that time he kept his rival Abiola in prison until he died.

Mugabe is a horrible dictator who has destroyed his country. He has implemented crippling IMF reforms. Poverty is on the increase and the economy in tatters.

In 1985 a second hand car would have cost \$1500. Today that doesn't cover a bus ticket from Harare to Bulawayo.

A quarter of the population has HIV/Aids. But Mugabe told the people of Zimbabwe, "You should be willing to die instead of getting medicines from the UK". Meanwhile 2,500 people die of Aids each week and life expectancy has fallen by ten years in a decade.

During the election campaign 146 militia camps were set up. The government, known as the "Talibob" have set up "re-education" camps for opposition supporters.

#### Marched

Five thousand people were marched into a school for this treatment in Matabeleland North. Foreigners, mostly Zambians, South Africans, Malawans and Asians have had to re-apply for citizenship, a move that has disenfranchised them.

According to a Zimbabwean lawyer Brian Kagaro, the Talibob regime has murdered, raped, abducted or assaulted more black Zimbabweans in three weeks than the Rhodesian regime did between 1965 and 1973.

104 people were killed between January this year and the election. There has also been well documented interference with the election itself.

The election was clearly unfair, but this does not explain why Mugabe's vote actually went up in the rural areas.

That is a consequence of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) lining

up with white farmers against land redistribution. Mugabe's use of war veterans to occupy white owned farms was populist in the extreme.

Even in Harare, a stronghold of the MDC, its vote fell in many areas as some workers sensed that the opposition had moved catastrophically rightwards.

The main exception was the Highfield constituency in Harare, where the MDC vote rose by 10 percent.

Highfield's MP is Munyaradzi Gwisai. He is a socialist and a member of the International Socialist Organisation, the SWP's sister organisation.

#### Pretended

Mugabe pretended to stand for ordinary people against the IMF, the West and the white landowners. The MDC played into his hands. The right-wing of the MDC advocated a "whisper campaign" instead of strikes and demos lest Mugabe be given the opportunity to declare a state of emergency.

In fact privatisation and hand-outs to the rich have marked Mugabe's rule. He got away with fake left-wing rhetoric because the MDC has so many links to the bosses and Western interests. Mass pressure forced the MDC to call a stayaway strike after the results were declared, but it wants to limit any action.

In a leaflet distributed following the poll the International Socialist Organisation declared: "We cannot accept Mugabe ruling us for another six years. He is already trying to please his real masters, the IMF.

"Price controls on bread, cooking oil and electricity are soon to be lifted. The problem is that the leaders of the opposition and the labour movement are failing to give direction."

But things are beginning to change. Within the MDC the left is starting to be heard.

The youth wing has rejected calls for another election, instead choosing to try a revolutionary path—following the recent example of the people of the Ivory Coast.

According to ISO member Luke Choto, despite all the pressure from the EU and Commonwealth "Mugabe has not moved an inch. The only thing he fears is a movement on the ground." He adds, "Now it is a class issue. We don't need a government of unity—we need mass action against the dictator."

The left in Zimbabwe have an audience now. They deserve our support. Send donations to Zimbabwe Socialist Solidarity Fund c/o PO Box 1648, Dublin 8.

## WATERFORD GLASS FACTORY STOP WORK AT AHERN VISIT

# 4,000 PROTEST: 'GIVE US OUR CANCER UNIT!'

**FOUR THOUSAND** people joined a protest against Bertie Ahern when he visited Waterford recently. The numbers were swelled by a work stoppage by Waterford Glass workers.

The protest was over the fact that the Regional Hospital in Waterford has no radiotherapy unit, even though it is an essential part of the medical care required for the complete treatment of cancer patients.

This means patients who are very weak from their illness and primary treatment have to travel a 200 mile round trip for radiotherapy in Dublin.

Working class people with little financial resources can't afford to bring any of their fami-

ly members with them for moral support.

The consultants in the hospital have issued a public statement saying the Radiotherapy Unit is absolutely essential and that they are being forced to make decisions based on a patient's inability to travel up and down the country rather than their need for the treatment.

#### Leaked

Yet a leaked report from an expert group appointed to investigate the provision of Radiotherapy Units said that Waterford and the South East Region was to be passed over for the Unit and instead one extra Radiotherapy Unit was to be installed in the Western Region.

There was a massive and angry response to this news in Waterford.



## A strike to get radiotherapy

**THE Socialist Workers Party** called for workplace petitions and for a work stoppage and rally so as to force the Fianna Fail-P.D. Government to provide the finance for this cancer care unit.

The SWP also argued that workers should not fall into the trap of competing with the Western Region for a Radiotherapy Unit.

All regions should have this facility because the money is available to the government.

Over the past week the focus for the campaign became the planned visit of the Taoiseach to the Waterford Institute of Technology.

The South East Cancer Care Foundation called for a protest at the WIT, which coincided with their National Daffodil Day for cancer care.

The shop stewards in the Waterford Glass factory recommended to the workforce that there should be a work stoppage and a march to the WIT. The response to this in the factory was great.

#### Angry

The local radio station reported four thousand on the demonstration.

Practically every family in the community has been touched by cancer and that some of those deaths could have been avoided.

The people at the demonstration were very angry at the fact that we have to take to the streets to get our entitlement for proper medical treatment

When the Taoiseach's Merc arrived, Waterford Crystal's chief shop steward Jimmy Kelly, who is also the Socialist Workers Party general election candidate in Waterford, tried to have a word with Bertie Ahern to tell him the feelings of the

workers. Faced with this normal protest—which is supposed to be allowed in a democracy—the police completely over reacted and attempted to prevent it.

The Taoiseach was obviously affected by the strength of the protest and his first reaction was to declare that no decision has been taken by the expert group.

He said he could see the logic of this treatment being available in all regions.

This was a clear political signal that the non-provision of a Radiotherapy Unit unsustainable.

Without the force of anger demonstrated at our protest—coinciding with the coming General Election—we would not have got this shift in the Government's position.

We now need to continue with our demand backed up by direct action to give the final push needed to deliver the full victory that is in sight in this campaign.

## "I know who these people are" — Bertie Ahern

## Which side is Sinn Fein on?

**CERTAIN RIGHT** wing politicians like the PD candidate in Waterford have condemned Jimmy Kelly's confrontation with the Taoiseach at the protest.

#### Disgraceful

That is perfectly understandable because their policies favour the wealthy.

But amazingly the Sinn Fein candidate David Cullinane also joined in the condemnations.

He said that the stopping of the Taoiseach's car by the Socialist Workers Party was disgraceful and that the best tactic was for all the local politicians to come together and lobby for the Unit.

Does this mean that Sinn Fein has given up on the very mildest form of street protest in their desire for a possible future coalition with Fianna Fail?

Do they think that stopping a Taoiseach's car in defence of our health service is going too far?

When workers move into struggle in big numbers, the limits to the radicalism of Sinn Fein is exposed.

## Jimmy Kelly: Vote Socialist

### — and organise to fight

**THE DEMONSTRATION** against Ahern shows the importance of a strong socialist presence in Waterford.

In last General Election thousands of workers in Waterford voted for the Workers Party candidate, Martin O Reagan, because they wanted an alternative to the left of the Labour Party.

Since Martin's tragic death, Jimmy Kelly of the Socialist Workers Party has been campaigning hard to give a voice to people the Labour Party has long left behind.

Alongside the health issue, Jimmy is also focussing on the housing crisis in the city.

Currently there are 1,500 people on the housing list who are waiting for accommodation.

A new pressure group, the Waterford Housing Action Campaign, has been formed to tackle the situation.

Recently the group met with officials from the city council.

But the WHAC committee—which includes Jimmy Kelly and a lone parent who has been on the housing list for ten years—was not satisfied that council has a strategy for coping with the crisis.

The city council said, for example, that those currently in 'adequate' private, rented accommodation will be given low priority status on the housing list and will have a slim chance of receiving a council house.

But many people do not



want to keep paying exorbitant rents. They want an emergency programme to build local authority accommodation.

#### Refusal

Jimmy Kelly has also been active in support the campaign against refuse charges. Previously he led the fight of Waterford Glass workers against the heavy tax burden PAYE workers have to bear because of the refusal of the wealthy to pay their fair share of tax.

He sees the refuses charges as a new form of double taxation on working class people.

A high vote for Jimmy Kelly will be a sign that workers are organising to get decent public services and to put pressure on the Irish rich to pay for them.

### ISSUES FOR ANTI-CAPITALISTS

## Ireland leads race to bottom

**HEADLINE** of the week carried in one of the newsstand titles must be: "Workers murder bosses in revenge for redundancies".

It was a story about a rising trend in China, where state capitalist industries are being downsized big time to suit foreign private capital.

Apparently, some workers weren't happy with a redundancy package. And they turned on their bosses.

#### Brutal

In today's corporate-dominated media, class war is reported from one side only.

The daily brutal onslaught against millions of workers worldwide barely gets a mention. But when a few bosses are killed and newspaper headlines start screaming.

The skewed view of the world, in which the norms of capital, its bosses and propagandists, become the general norms of society, were illustrated with another headline closer to home: "IT sector warns against tax rise".

This was where some mouthpiece for the "influential hi-tech sector" had no shame in warning the Dublin government not to even think about raising corporation tax from its paltry 12.5 per cent to a figure more in line with other EU states.

The warning was in response to a call from the German and French governments at the Barcelona summit for harmonisation of corporation taxes upwards to their levels of 25-30 per cent.

Understandably, these governments are fed up with years of shovelling German and French taxpayers' money into EU funding of Irish development—only for the Irish

**The low tax policy on big business has been the main reason why Ireland has some of the worst public services in Europe. Child-care costs, for example, are one of the highest in the EU because there is no state provision for the care of children under the age of four.**

decent working conditions for families to feed and clothe themselves.

He pointed to other competitor countries like Estonia and Singapore where corporation tax is zero per cent.

And, presumably, when zero per cent is no longer good enough, capital can then squeeze profits even more by moving to somewhere like China where it can exploit an estimated 100 million unemployed workers.

This amounts to cheer-leading a race to the bottom.

And yet the mainstream media present it as something respectable and sensible.

The logical conclusion of this prescription is a nightmarish world in which workers subsist on sugar-water and sleep in between shifts under a conveyor belt.

Meanwhile, Irish president Mary McAleese was over in New York giving one of her usual fawning vacuous speeches straight out of the Tony Blair Book of Platitudes.

She said St Patrick's Day is an occasion to show the world the "global face of Irishness".

#### Battering

Get real. She would be better contemplating the fact that her beloved little Ireland is being used as a battering ram by powerful corporations to smash the rights of workers here, in Europe and the rest of the world.

Child-care costs, for example, are one of the highest in the EU because there is no state provision for the care of children under the age of four.

#### Decrease

But just to show the chutzpah of capital, the ICT spokesman went on to warn the government that corporation taxation, far from increasing, would have to decrease yet further.

In other words, he was saying forget about more hospital beds for dying people, or better schools to educate children, or

Conversely, however, that is also why this country has a vital role to play in overthrowing capitalism.

By showing solidarity with workers nationally and internationally, we could mortally wound capitalist power.

All the more reason to take inspiration from the hue 500,000 anti-capitalist protest in Barcelona and bring this powerful movement here.

by FINIAN MCCARTHY

## RESISTANCE

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# Che Guevara and the spirit of revolution



by KEVIN WINGFIELD

**The famous picture of Che Guevara has once again become an icon for a new generation of anti-capitalists and anti-imperialists. Dr Aleida Guevara, Che's daughter, attracted huge meetings across Ireland in March.**

Ernesto "Che" Guevara was born in 1928 in Argentina. As a young medical student Che set out on a motorcycle to travel around South America. The poverty and oppression and the impact of imperialism aroused his political awareness.

In 1954 the Guatemalan government of Jacobo Arbenz attempted to nationalise the vast landholdings of the massive US multinational the United Fruit Company. The US government (which included two executive directors of United Fruit) organised an armed coup to overthrow Arbenz.

Guevara who was in Guatemala at the time was appalled. He believed that well organised armed resistance could have defeated the coup and saved the Arbenz government.

## Overthrow

Escaping to Mexico he met a group of Cuban revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro, who were planning the armed overthrow of the Batista dictatorship.

Batista's Cuba was dominated by sugar plantations which left the country's peasants in poverty and without land but provided huge profits for the US interests. In addition, Cuba's capital Havana was a seething cesspool of poverty for the city's poor and a playground for rich Americans with prostitution and gambling.

In November 1956, 82 guerrillas in the Granma landed in Cuba. Batista's army was waiting for them and only 18 escaped with their lives, among them a wounded Guevara.

Castro and Guevara built a guerrilla army in the mountains of the Sierra Maestra. Che's writings from this period record his emphasis on the "iron

will" and "discipline" of dedicated revolutionaries making a revolution for the mass of people.

In the mountains Che personally executed several people and severely punished others for behaviour that failed to live up to these standards.

At the same time Batista's regime was losing the support of nearly all sections of Cuban society and even the US began to abandon his regime.

Within two years, in January 1959, Batista regime collapsed and the columns of revolutionaries marched down from the mountains and entered Havana.

The Cuban Revolution represented a huge blow to the US. With the fall of Peron in Argentina and the crushing of the Arbenz government in Guatemala, the US was hoping to manipulate a whole string of compliant governments across Latin America. But the Cuban revolution inspired millions with the hope that poverty and oppression inflicted by loyal agents of US interests could be rolled back.

After a brief interlude the US government reacted ferociously to the new government in Havana.

**The US government put in place an economic blockade preventing trade with Cuba that has lasted 40 years. It stitched up an alliance of states in the region—the "Alliance for Progress"—with economic aid packages as bribes whose overt aim was to crush the revolution.**

The CIA organised a bunch of Cuban exiles—pimps and gangsters—in the failed Bay of Pigs invasion.

After the immediate task of organising the state security apparatus, G-2, and dealing with the execution of Batista's henchmen, Guevara took a key role in creating the machinery of the new state, heading the National Bank and taking charge of Industrial Development.

Guevara recognised that if Cuba was to maintain its independence it would need to break its dependence on sugar production. Sugar accounted for 95 per cent of its export earnings.

But to develop a range of industries Cuba would need to import industrial equipment, spare parts, oil and other raw materials. How would this be paid for? Its isolation in the world market—intensified by the US blockade—put Cuba in a seemingly hopeless position.

Cuba entered into a close economic relationship with Russia and for a while Che hoped the USSR would provide the kind of economic assistance necessary to resolve some of these problems. It soon became clear that, whatever the fine speeches of the Russian leaders, the USSR had its own agenda.

**Che increasingly saw that it was necessary to spread the revolution to the rest of Latin America and beyond if imperialism was to be broken. At the same time Fidel Castro was inclined to deal pragmatically with the Russians. Che was sickened by these compromises.**

His relations with his former close friend and comrade cooled and secretly Che withdrew from the government. In February 1965 Che's public criticism of the Soviets for their lack of internationalism further widened the gulf between them.

## Assembled

In April 1965 Che assembled a small group of Cuban guerrillas and went to the Congo. The Congolese resistance at this time consisted of at least 20 different competing groups.

Che didn't understand the language and had little knowledge of the political and social conditions of the country, or of the struggle for power between the opposition groups. Bizarrely he believed his guerrilla group could lead a revolution in the country.

In the event the expedition was a farce. After four months the guerrillas had not engaged the enemy and were finally forced to flee across Lake Tanganyika.

The last few months of his life were spent in Bolivia. Che attempted to create a guerrilla focus on the Argentine-

Bolivian border. Unfortunately this put his forces in one of the most isolated areas of the country, in the most inhospitable conditions.

In his Bolivian Diaries written at the time, Guevara notes that a militant miners' strike had been going on for a month but the guerrillas had no contact with it—or any other group. For months the guerrillas were pursued through the mountains by the government forces. Sick and exhausted they were encircled and captured.

Guevara was murdered in the village of Camiri while CIA officers were in attendance as witnesses so they could report to their bosses back in Washington that Che Guevara was really dead.

Socialists today honour the memory of Che Guevara and his heroism. The Cuban Revolution scored a mighty blow against imperialism.

But it would be quite wrong to treat Che's legacy uncritically. The revolution that is needed today will be in many crucial respects different to the Cuban Revolution and the political strategy different to Che's.

Che's emphasis on the a relatively small, dedicated band of guerrillas making the revolution for the mass of people is a long way from Marx's view that the "emancipation of the working class is the act of the working class".

In the special conditions of Cuba in the late 1950s, when a weak and corrupt regime had lost the support of practically all its backers and had been hollowed out from the inside, a small guerrilla army might hope to take power and hold it.

In the modern industrial states of Latin America and beyond, such a strategy stands no chance of success.

**Immediately after the Cuban Revolution young Latin American revolutionaries came to Cuba to absorb Guevara's strategy in the light of the Cuban experience, and to train briefly for their own attempts to "make the revolution".**

In almost every case they were quickly and decisively wiped out by counter-guerrilla forces in their own country. Yet the lessons of that

experience seemed to make no impact on Che.

The tragedy of Cuba was that it did not manage to break free from the chains of the world system. For all the initial popularity of the regime, and all for its important reforms in the fields of health and education, it was a top-down revolution.

The mass of the workers of Havana played little part in the downfall of Batista and no part in the construction of the post revolutionary state.

**Che argued that development in Cuba would come from the self-sacrifice and enthusiasm of the population. But after four decades of crippling US embargo and the stranglehold of world market, that enthusiasm is exhausted and conditions get worse for the mass of the population.**

## Forge

Tragically corruption, prostitution and poverty once again haunt the streets and tenements of Havana.

We must not make the same mistakes. The revolution must crucially involve the working class if the power to smash the chains of capitalism and forge a genuine socialist and democratic liberation is to be unleashed.

The coming revolution will no doubt begin in one country. But it will have the capacity to spread to many other countries if our movement is linked up ahead of time across borders.

The internationalism of the present day anti-capitalist movement should be our motto—not the radical nationalism which fuelled the Cuban revolution.

In this way we can prevent the international isolation that has crippled the Cuban people's fight to escape impoverishment and degradation. This is the way to turn Che's heroic dream into a reality.

# in my view

## An Irish Conspiracy: Casement was gay!

IT'S NOT often that a figure from Ireland's historical past becomes the central character in a modern "media event". Yet this has been the case with Roger Casement, who was killed by the British Government for his role in the 1916 Rising.

Alan Gilson's RTE documentary "The Ghost of Roger Casement" set out to prove, beyond doubt, the authenticity or otherwise of Casement's famous Black Diaries. The diaries contain passages that show that Casement was probably homosexual and were leaked by the British authorities while he was on trial, to blacken his name.

Nationalist historians have argued that the diaries were in fact forgeries, concocted by the British establishment to turn public opinion against Casement.

An "expert panel" which included historians and forensic scientists hired by the RTE programme, finally declared that the diaries were indeed genuine.

However the question over whether the Black Diaries were really written by Casement is hardly the reason for the historical debate that has raged over the past 80 years.

The real issue lies with the southern Irish state's attitude towards homosexuality. Could nationalist Ireland live with a gay man as one of the brave rebels of 1916?

### Radicalised

Casement was born in Sandycove in Dublin in 1864 and he eventually joined the British Foreign Service. He served time in West Africa, particularly in the Congo, and then in Peru. While in Africa he was sickened at the effects of colonialism on the African people and was radicalised by the poverty he witnessed.

On his return to Ireland he moved closer to the burgeoning Irish republican movement and in 1916 went to Germany to try and raise a force among Irish prisoners of war to take back to Ireland and fight in the 1916 rising.

Landing on the Kerry coast on the eve of the Rising, he was quickly arrested and brought to London, where he was tried for treason.

International opinion was sympathetic towards Casement. The British, fearing this sympathy, leaked transcripts from the Black Diaries, which they had recovered from his home.

Nationalist historians argue that the diaries were a convenient way for the British ruling class to swing opinion against Casement, by showing him to be a homosexual.

Indeed it was not beyond the British ruling class to be involved in forgeries to discredit Irish politicians—only a generation before, the Pigott forgeries were used in an attempt to discredit Parnell.

However, considering the elaborate nature and volume of the diaries themselves, it did seem unlikely that they were forged. Nationalist Ireland crying foul had more to do with its homophobia than anything else.

The new Irish state cherished its heroes, but emptied them of the characteristics that did not fit into the new conservative, Catholic Ireland.

Thus Pearse was worshipped, but his criticisms of the education system as a "murder machine" were forgotten. Connolly was a martyr, but his support for the Marxist movement was hidden and diluted into a vague concern for "social justice".

And Casement was a heroic figure who risked life and limb for Ireland, but of course, he could not have been gay.

Kevin O'Higgins said that both he and the founders of the Irish Free State were the most conservative revolutionaries, ever.

With the radicals within the Irish revolutionary movement mostly dead, conservative, Catholic and capitalist Ireland was created in their absence.

This state adhered to a Catholic morality which preached that homosexuality was a sin.

Thus Casement's homosexuality did not fit into the ruling morality in Ireland, and it was written off as just a British conspiracy.

But we are living in a different Ireland now. When even the combined forces of the Church and Fianna Fail cannot tell the majority of Irish people which way to vote, the truth about Casement's personal life can finally come into the open.

by MARTIN LYNCH

## book

# A bright tale of dark days

by MEGAN  
TRUDELL

IF YOU are looking for an intelligent political novel you should definitely pick up a copy of *In the Blue House* by Meaghan Delahunt. It is a fictional account of the Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky's last years in exile in Mexico.

It is told through the stories of various characters. These include Trotsky himself, his wife Natalia Sedova, Stalin, Frida Kahlo and Ramon Mercador, Trotsky's executioner.

These different voices are used to create a rich and evocative mosaic of historical fact and imagined experience. The novel moves backwards and forwards in time, but leads inexorably to Trotsky's murder in 1940.

### Turmoil

The background to the book is a period of immense political turmoil. There was the Spanish Civil War in 1936, the victory of Stalinism in Russia, and the rise of Hitler.

Delahunt doesn't simply tell the story of these events. She searches for the political and personal motives of the participants. So Jordi Marr, Trotsky's secretary, tells of his experience fighting Franco (and Stalin) in Spain.

Rosita Moreno, a Mexican woman who makes models for festivals, describes her Communist husband's life. *In the Blue House* contrasts the crushing of individuality and spirit under Stalin with the colour and vitality of life in Mexico.

### Despair

Mexico is shown through lush landscapes, colourful markets, and especially through Frida Kahlo's paintings. In Russia, Delahunt movingly describes the despair of old Bolsheviks, workers and artists forced into submission or suicide.

She also imagines how the exiled Trotsky responded to the death of his children, friends and comrades. Delahunt illustrates the importance of Trotsky's fight against Stalin without heavy-handed rhetoric, and with a real vision of socialism. Delahunt was a Trotskyist in Australia. She came to



The climax of a lifetime spent fighting tyranny

feel that the party stifled her individuality.

### Frustrations

In places she seems to vent her frustrations on her characters.

This is especially true in the case of Trotsky, who appears mechanical and one-dimensional.

Speculating about the emotional life of real historical figures is a difficult trick to pull off, and Delahunt does hit a few wrong notes.

But overall this is a beautifully written book. It is utterly damning of Stalinism, showing the intimate effects of political brutality.

The novel shows how individuals cope with the crushing of their revolutionary hope.

*In the Blue House* is available from Bookmarks for £6.99 sterling. Go to <http://www.bookmarks.uk.com>.

## music

# Riotous rhythms

by ADAM  
DI CHIARA

THE LATEST album by Nigerian musician Femi Kuti and his band Positive Force has it all—politically and musically.

The title track is a rallying cry all socialists will applaud. "Fight To Win" addresses the endless suffering of the African masses, and Femi sees the struggles of the people as a positive action.

His message is simple without being preachy.

Songs like "Stop AIDS" is a pan-African public service announcement with humour, style and a driving funk beat.

"One Day Someday" speaks of African freedom through the unity of its peoples, against the corruption of their leaders.

### Emotion

Unfortunately Femi thinks he can appeal to the humanity of the corrupt leaders, but this song has the emotion and power of US soul classics. It is full of hope in the possibility of change.

He sees revolution as a stated fact, not pie in the sky, as our leaders would have us believe. The music is roof-raising. It has soulful pumping funk bass-lines mixed with traditional African roots and lyrically superb hip-hop.

It has a delicate yet frenetic Nigerian Afro-beat fused with a wall of sound horn section that would make Phil Spector spin in appreciation. If this album isn't in the top ten by next week there is something definitely very wrong with the music industry!

## film

# Boring Tenenbaums

THE ROYAL Tenenbaums is a much-hyped arty American film. Its subject is an upper class dysfunctional family.

One of the sons (Danny Glover) makes a fortune on real estate and then gets his father disbarred as a corporate lawyer for raiding his savings box.

Just the sort of real-life problems that affects the modern parent.

### Arty

The arty element comes in because the film does not follow a conventional storyline, but cuts back and forth between the various siblings and shifts from adulthood to

childhood.

But the storyline is as old as Hollywood. Pop (Gene Hackman) has been so busy with money-making that he has been left out of the family and wants to get back in.

The family seems to have gone dysfunctional because the steady, wise male hand of authority has been missing.

The main difference between this and *The Homecomingers* is that the action is all speeded up and slightly wacky.

Aside from a few good one-liners, it is just plain boring.

—KIERAN ALLEN





**where  
we  
stand**

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.

**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 here.

# Gardaí case dismissed in Anti-capitalist protest trial

**THE PROSECUTION of Globalise Resistance activist Rory Hearne by Gardaí collapsed last month.**

Globalise Resistance organised a protest at the Second Annual Global Summit on Public-Private Partnerships on the 10th October 2001.

Groups attending the protest included Aer Lingus workers, SIPTU representatives from Ballymore Eustace Water Works, Dublin Bus workers, Dublin Council of Trade Unions, Union of Students of Ireland and the Campaign Against the Bin Tax.

It was a lively display with young students dressed up in costume mimicking Presidents of the World Bank. The demonstration continued until the Gardaí baton-charged the protestors.

Fifteen people were arrested when Garda "snatch squads" tore into the protest to grab alleged "ring-leaders". As people were leaving the protest Gardaí arrested Rory Hearne.

Rory Hearne was charged with breach of the peace under the Public Order Act.

But the case against him was deeply flawed:

● **The arresting officer Garda Brendan O'Halloran alleged that he arrested Rory Hearne for interfering with the arrest of another man.**

He claimed, "The defendant [Rory Hearne], was pulling at a Detective Garda that had one prisoner arrested. I asked the defendant to stop but he became more violent. He was then arrested under Section 6 of the Public Order Act."

But he was unable to identify the Detective Garda who Rory Hearne was alleged to be pulling at. There was no sign of this detective at the trial.

● **Four months after the initial hearing of the cases the arresting Garda placed a new charge, Section 8, against Rory Hearne.**

Section 8 gives the police virtually unlimited powers to move people on who are "loitering" or who use "threatening, abusive or insulting words".

The intention was to make a more general case against Rory Hearne by accusing him of being "in control of the entire protest from start to finish" (Sergeant Liam Landers, Donnybrook Garda Station) and that he was directed to "leave the grounds of the hotel and bring his mob with him."

Refusing this change of charge Judge Gerard Haughton commented, "I'm of the view that this is a material amendment being sought at the last minute."

● **The evidence of Sergeant Liam Landers and Inspector Comisky contradicted each other. Landers claimed that Comisky directed the crowd to leave specifically under Section 8 and that he outlined the penalties for failing to do so — yet Comisky gave a different version.**

Significantly, Landers was also involved in the arrest of anti-war activist Kieran Allen. His evidence was contradicted by three civilian witnesses and Kieran Allen himself. Despite this his word was accept-



**Gardaí attack the peaceful protest**

ed—with no explanation given for the conflict of evidence—by a Justice Pat Brady, whom the *Phoenix* magazine described as an ex-priest and a nominee of Mary Harney.

● **The evidence of the seven garda witnesses showed important signs of collusion.**

A number of them claimed the protestors had chanted, absurdly, "water is a public resort" instead of "resource".

They all stated that Joe Higgins was a member of the Socialist Workers Party, even though he was clearly introduced at the demonstration as a member of the Socialist Party.

● **Unusually, all 14 arrested defendants were held overnight. Garda Inspector Pat Comisky denied any central decision to do this has been taken. He claimed it was a "coincidence" that the Sergeants in the different stations decided to hold them over-night.**

However one garda gave evidence that the order came from above to hold the defendants, contradicting the evidence of the Inspector.

● **Video footage showed the gardaí baton charge was completely unprovoked and digital photos were produced in evidence showing a police officer with a stick torn from placards attacking the protest-**

ers.

As one guard said in evidence "Garda Inspector gave the command to draw batons and pointed out to other Gardaí the main ringleaders of the group".

After his acquittal Rory Hearne said "The arrests at the demonstration are part of a general clamp down on civil liberties since September 11th. Governments are using the pretext of fighting terrorism to clamp down on opposition movements.

"I was arrested while leaving the demonstration and was singled out simply because I am a prominent spokesperson for Globalise Resistance," he said.

"The charges against the other defendants should now be dropped."

## SWP activist meetings — all welcome

□ **ATHLONE:** Contact 01-872 2682 for details

□ **BRAY:** Meets every Thursday at the Mayfair Hotel at 8.00pm

□ **BELFAST CENTRAL:** Meets Tuesdays at 8pm in White's Tavern

□ **BELFAST SOUTH:** Meets 7pm Tuesdays in Peter Froggatt Centre, Queen's

□ **BELFAST WEST:** ring for details

□ **BELFAST QUEENS UNIVERSITY:** Wednesdays 4pm, Peter Froggatt Centre

□ **CLONAKILTY:** Phone (01) 8722682 for details

□ **CORK:** Meets Mondays at 8pm in Telecom Eireann Club, MacCurtain St

□ **DERRY:** Wednesdays at 8pm in Foyle Friend Centre, 32 Great James St.

□ **DROGHEDA:** Meets Wednesdays 8:00pm Contact Kevin at for details

□ **DUNDALK:** Meets Wednesdays 8pm phone 01-8722682 for details

□ **DUN LAOGHAIRE:** Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the Christian Institute

□ **DUBLIN ARTANE / FAIRVIEW:** Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in Artane / Beaumont Recreational Centre (opp. Artane Castle)

□ **DUBLIN BALLYFERMOT:** Meets Tues 8:30pm in Ruby Finnigans Pub

□ **DUBLIN CABRA:** Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in Aughrim St Parish Hall, 13 Prussia St

□ **DUBLIN CENTRAL:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Conways Pub, Parnell St

□ **DUBLIN DUNDRUM:** Meets Tuesdays contact for details

□ **DUBLIN FINGLAS / BALLYMUN:** Phone Kevin on for details

□ **DUBLIN RATHMINES:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm downstairs J O'Connell's (Pub) Sth. Richmond Street Dublin 2.

□ **DUBLIN RIALTO:** Meets every Wednesday at 8:30pm St. Andrews Community Centre, SCR

□ **DUBLIN SOUTH CITY:** Meets at 8.30pm every

Tuesday upstairs Bowes (pub) Fleet Street Dublin 2

□ **DUBLIN TALLAGHT:** Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Jobstown Community Centre

□ **DUBLIN DCU:** Meets 2pm Thursdays in CGO2

□ **DUBLIN TCD:** Meets Wednesdays at 1pm contact for details

□ **DUBLIN UCD:** meets Wednesdays 1pm contact for details

□ **ENNISKILLEN:** Phone 01-872 2682 for details

□ **GALWAY:** Meets every

Wednesday in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square (beside Cuba) 8.30pm

□ **LIMERICK:** Phone 01-872 2682 for details

□ **LEIXLIP / MAYNOOTH:** contact for details

□ **SLIGO:** Phone for details

□ **TRALEE:** Phone for details

□ **WATERFORD:** Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the ATGWU Hall, Keizer St.

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## Teachers

## Right attack ASTI strategy

**WITH THE benchmarking body's report due for publication in June, the Easter conferences of the three teacher unions, the INTO, the ASTI and the TUI, will be watched with interest. Here are some of the issues to watch out for:**

**BENCHMARKING:** A report drawn up by five CEC members on reasons for ASTI opposition to benchmarking is a reminder of why a majority of teachers in the country rejected the PPF.

● According to the public sector employers submission "The benchmarking body is striving to achieve a situation where the overall cost of public service pay is constrained".

● For the first time in the process of national pay determination, no negotiation is possible within benchmarking as the benchmarking body accepts submissions from employers and trade unions, then carries out its research and on foot of

that will report its recommendations.

● The Department in its submission is thus seeking more changes: the introduction of continuous assessment by teachers for the Junior Cert, school planning, parent teacher meetings outside school hours and a new Whole School Evaluation System.

## Award

The leaders of INTO and TUI will undoubtedly do their best to sell the benchmarking recommendations to us in June.

Therefore we must be wary of how any award may be dressed up and any conditions attached.

**ICTU:** The issue of rejoining the ICTU is likely to make an appearance on the ASTI conference agenda.

The way the debate will be framed is that a vote to rejoin will be part of a broader package that will involve re-thinking opposition to the benchmarking process and making a submission, even at

this late stage.

In this context it is correct to argue to stay out of ICTU and to fight to establish the right to engage in free collective bargaining.

**SCHOOL BUILDINGS:** In December 2001 an updated list of 90 seriously substandard primary schools was published, but no commitments have been received from the Department to engage in a complete overhaul of the listed schools.

It is highly likely that the government will continue to refuse to fund an adequate building and refurbishment programme and will argue that this work in the long term should be pushed into the private sector.

This is already happening at second level. Five secondary schools are being built under public private partnerships (PPPs), whereby a private company gets a contract to design, build, finance and operate a school.

The state buys back the school with an expensive type of hire purchase

arrangement, making annual payments to the private company over a period of twenty-five years.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Once again special education will be debated on the floor of the INTO conference and the significance of this debate for all teachers should not be underestimated.

## Extension

Teachers support the right to all year round care and education for these children, but this should not take the form of an extension of the formal school year.

**SEANAD ELECTIONS:** Joe O'Toole has been a key champion of social partnership while Bernadine O'Sullivan, former ASTI president has been one of the main critics of benchmarking, social partnership and the growing industrialisation of education.

A vote for her is a vote to defend public services and public sector workers.

## Hospital Crisis

## Nurses prepared to resume action

**NURSES throughout the South took action last month against overcrowding in hospital Accident and Emergency Departments.**

There was a national two hour stoppage from 12.00 noon to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 13th March, followed by a continuous work to rule.

*Socialist Worker* spoke to striking A&E nurses on the picket line during the stoppage in Dublin's Beaumont Hospital.

## Lying

"There are 25 to 40 people lying on trolleys for 3 or 4 days—this is the norm now, not the exception," said one nurse, "I may be cynical but I don't feel like anyone's listening—it's all empty promises. We took this action because we're at the end of the road."

Margaret, the shop steward, felt things have been getting worse not better, "Five years ago you'd get bad days or a bad period of overcrowding once every couple of weeks, but now it's all the time. It's dangerous."

"We're making life and death decisions we shouldn't have to make."

Two young nurses, Caroline and Lorraine, said the atmosphere has become

almost unbearable "there's a lot of hostility from the patients."

"You can understand why they're upset but the relatives are getting at us."

"The work to rule is going to be difficult but it's our only option. We want people to complain more so that management will listen."

Another nurse gave a frightening account of the crisis point that the A&E service has come to.

"Last week we had to leave patients on resuscitation trolleys for an hour and a half because there were no beds—there were three ambulances waiting for those trolleys before they could respond to 999 calls!"

The A&E is the wing under most pressure in the health service but the problems are much broader than that.

As one nurse who's been working in the A&E since 1984 explained, "Modern medicine can keep people alive much longer which is great, but it means that we are covering a growing catchment area with an aging population."

"When an elderly person comes out of hospital it used to be that the whole family would be there to look after them. That just isn't the case anymore."

"Elderly people end up coming back again and

again for emergency services which are just not suitable."

"They need more long-term community care."

A week after the strike, LRC proposals were put to nurses' representatives and they agreed to suspend the work to rule and review implementation of the proposals at the end of April.

One nurses' rep in a Dublin hospital told *Socialist Worker*, "The proposals set up a number of committees to look into bed management."

"But these are dominated by management. In my hospital only two places out of seven will be taken by nurses."

"Many nurses are very sceptical about this process being able to solve the crisis in the hospitals."

"This has been years in the making because of the run down of the health service. What we need is a big expansion in the number of both beds and nurses."

"We fear that management and the government are simply going to lessen the crisis in A&E by shifting it other departments in the hospitals."

"As far as most nurses are concerned this is completely unacceptable. And they are in a mood to take action again if nothing has changed by the end of April."

## RTE job losses

**MORE JOB losses are envisaged at RTE. Programme production at RTE is threatened as unprofitable. The physical existence of RTE at its home in Donnybrook is being questioned, since it could raise 50 million Euro if handed to a developer.**

According to its website, RTE is "the Irish National Public Service Broadcasting Organisation", boasting that it "transmits programmes of cultural, educational and informational excellence."

Culture, education and information only make money acci-

dentally. Public service broadcasting is not a profit making operation by definition.

## Refuses

The Minister for Arts seems to forget this when she refuses more funding.

Sile de Valera rejected RTE's proposal for a 63 Euro increase in the TV licence fee and refused any more government money to maintain the service.

The RTE Authority by calling in two consultancy firms also seems to forget this.

Logical Strategy and KPMG Corporate Finance, as one might expect from

their names, made a series of recommendations which included moving RTE out of programme production.

The proposal is to farm contracts for programme making out to private producers.

However consultancy firms only exist in order to tell clients how to maximise profits.

They have no concern to maintain a public service.

There are certain areas where the State has a duty to provide services for a country's people, which overrides any concern to make money.

These areas include schools, uni-

versities, health and transport as well as public service broadcasting.

Decent public services are not directly profitable but are seen as investments in the overall prosperity for the country.

## Curbing

Ireland has always prided itself on its patronage of the arts and here is the Minister for Arts curbing the meagre funding for the creativity of RTE.

With daily reports in the media of corruption in the highest political circles, even the least cynical observer might see a connection.

## Shorts: Fight for every job

**FIFTY WORKERS in the machine shop at Shorts in Belfast were recently balloted for industrial action over proposed job cuts. Due to the imposed isolation of these workers they voted against strike action.**

They are members of the new Amicus union, which comprises of the former members of the

MSF union and the AEEU.

The leadership given to these workers by Amicus does not bode well for any future defence of terms and conditions of work at Shorts.

## Amalgamated

Even though the unions were amalgamated in January, AEEU members held separate meetings from their colleagues.

Amicus then chose to let

the 50 workers under threat fight on their own.

Many shop stewards found it almost impossible to unite all the workers against the attacks on their jobs.

John, a shop steward at the Shorts plant told *Socialist Worker*, "We have been unable to get any real information on the dispute."

"Senior officials have stated it is a matter for the machine shop workers only."

"Anything we did hear was from unofficial sources".

However this is part of a concerted attempt by management to cut jobs while

making remaining employees work harder.

Shorts have more contracts coming in from Canadair every week and have actually raised the production targets.

Recently some workers who were sent to work for Canadair were surprised by the hundreds of employees wearing t-shirts which depicted the management as fat-cats.

Workers in Shorts must take this attitude into their own workplaces and force Amicus to fight for every job.

## Mass Trespass on Old Head of Kinsale

**ON SUNDAY March 31st, hundreds of protestors will once again attempt to enter and re-assert their right of way on the Old Head of Kinsale in Co. Cork.**

The area is a magnificent landmark and amenity that has been used for generations by both locals and people from the city.

The Old Head has been bought by millionaire John O'Connor and developed into a golf course for the rich.

Access to the public has

been closed since last year. A bus will leave Cork city Grand Parade (city library) at 12pm Sunday.

Globalise Resistance in Waterford has backed the protests and will be supporting the trespass also.

## Care staff dispute

**THE LABOUR Court recommendations in the care staff dispute have still to be revealed to the union rank and file.**

The IMPACT care workers went on strike, but the SIPTU 'leadership' backed down, preferring to go to the

Labour Court.

Rumour has it that the 25% pay increase has been agreed in principle, but the stumbling block is back pay.

The government want to back date it to December 2001, the care staff to the traditional start of the tax year, April 2001. This is a major stumbling block and will not be easily overcome.

## Harland &amp; Wolff to cut more jobs

**HARLAND and Wolff has announced a further 144 redundancies. This will reduce the overall workforce in the yard to 350. The job losses have been blamed on continuing difficulties in attracting orders.**

The announcement was met with "regret" from Enterprise Minister Reg Empey, while a

spokesperson for the company said that they had "sought to delay the redundancies as long as possible not least as individuals' livelihoods are at stake".

## Completed

The shipyard is currently working on an £80 million contract from the Ministry of Defence which is due to be completed next year.

Unless there are new

contracts the rest of the yard will probably be closed.

However the shipyards management is not really concerned with either the livelihoods of the workers or in attracting new orders.

Instead the yard's owners are more interested in selling the land on which the shipyard lies.

The yard is a potential goldmine for the owners.

Harland & Wolff should be re-nationalised to provide and maintain employment for workers across Belfast.

# Socialist Worker

(01) 8722682 <http://www.swp.ie> [swp@clubi.ie](mailto:swp@clubi.ie)

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism €1.00 / Stg 70p

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Solidarity price €2.00

## It's a double tax

# DON'T PAY THE BIN CHARGES!

**THE SECOND round of bin charges bills for 2002 have begun to arrive in the Dublin Corporation area.**

However with non-payment standing at around 50 per cent and large turnouts at campaign meetings in local areas, the Dublin Corporation area is set to follow the example of Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown area.

There—where the campaign has been organised for two and a half years—the second round of bills saw larger an increased the rate of non-payment.

Many people instinctively reject this charge. Marie from Ballybrack near Dun Laoghaire explained, "Why should we have to pay for the collection of bins when it has been part of the basic public services we expect from our income tax?"

The bin charges is not an environmental tax. In most rural local authority areas the service has now been privatised.

Philis who is active in the campaign in Ballyfermot comments: "Just like the new charge on plastic bags in shops, the real polluters get away". Those responsible for most of the waste produced, such as big business and farmers, are given paltry fines for pollution.

If the right-wing parties are so concerned about the environment why don't they support investment in more recycling facilities?

Instead are they are planning to build six new incinerators around the country. In America and Western Europe these incinerators are being closed down as the emissions from them are found to be linked to higher rates of cancer in the surrounding areas.

Dublin Corporation also sent out threatening letter to those who haven't paid their bills for 2001. This was an attempt to panic and bully people.

These letters implied people would be dragged to court and their goods would be seized. They also claimed that if you did not pay you could not sell your house.

However, because these letters weren't dated they were invalid.

The reality is that the Corporation can only

apply for a court order for the arrears. To take goods the Sheriff must prove that the person named on the court order is the sole legal owner of the items.

If you have a mortgage with the Corporation the outstanding amount can only be added to what you pay back.

And the only thing they can do with the deeds of your house is make sure in the event of you selling up that you pay the arrears.

## Bin tax campaign growing

**DELEGATES FROM across Dublin recently met to hear what various campaigns had been doing.**

In Fingal a High Court injunction was taken out when the local authority tried to stop collecting the bins of those who had not paid the charge. This tagging system was found to be illegal—it is the legal responsibility of the council to collect refuse.

At the meeting it was also decided to participate in the May Day rallies and invite local trades councils to adopt abolition of the bin tax as a major theme of the gatherings.

One branch of the ATGWU has already given a donation to the campaign. Trade union backing of the campaign is crucial as this campaign is about the defence of public services and halting the privatisation agenda.

■ To contact the Bin Tax Campaign in your area phone Bríd on 01-872 2682

## Bin tax campaign says: BACK THESE CANDIDATES

The Campaign against the Bin Tax is calling for a vote for candidates who have a consistent record of pushing for non-payment.

Campaign meetings have been organised for canvassing. Also a campaign leaflet will be produced by the local campaigns to name and shame those who voted for the bin tax or who did nothing to oppose it.

Socialist Workers Party:

- Richard Boyd Barrett
- Bríd Smith
- Ritchie Browne
- Shay Ryan

Socialist Party:

- Joe Higgins
- Claire Daly
- Lisa Maher
- Mick Barry
- Mick Murphy

Workers Party:

- Linda Kavanagh

Independent councillor on Dublin Corpo:

- Finian McGrath.