

Socialist Worker

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For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

€1.00 / £0.70 STG

FUND PUBLIC SERVICES

FREE HEALTH SERVICE

SCRAP THE BIN TAX

ROOT OUT CORRUPTION

SWP Manifesto People Before Profit

● END THE HOSPITAL CRISIS — A FREE HEALTH SERVICE NOW!

- Abolish private medicine. A medical card for all—no two tier medical system. Make big business pay!
- Return the 6,000 hospital beds cuts since 1980.
- Increase the number of health workers. Ireland has the lowest doctor-population ratio in EU.
- Clinical services to be run by clinicians—not health managers who work as economists.
- An end to involuntary detentions of psychiatric patients
- No waiting list for de-tox units for drug users. Decriminalise drugs—provide proper rehab services.
- Free reproductive health care - sex education, free contraception, non-directive counselling.
- Full rights for the disabled. Carer allowances should not be means tested

● EDUCATION

- End church control of our schools—for local democratic control of the schools.
- Pay the teachers a 30 percent rise. No benchmarking—education cannot be measured like car manufacturing.
- No return to fees as advocated by the Skilbeck report. End punitive fees for overseas students.
- For an end to corporate involvement in research in universities.
- For a major expansion of science based learning in primary schools—make religion classes voluntary and after school.
- Second chance education for all. For proper grants and education leave as a right for all workers.

● TAX BIG BUSINESS TO FUND PUBLIC SERVICES!

- We will oppose ALL forms of privatisation.
- Move to a policy of free public transport—the savings from health care and pollution will pay for some of the cost.
- Immediate imposition of rent controls—rent reductions for tenants whose dwellings are owned by property speculators.
- For an emergency local authority house building programme. Reverse the cuts that started in the Haughey years.

● NO TO WAR - NO TO MILITARISM

- No support to US military plans to bomb Iraq and withdraw the offer of the use of Shannon for US troops

- No to the Nice Treaty.
- Use the billions now spent on arms to end third world poverty
- Justice for the Palestinians—boycott Israeli goods until it ends its illegal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.
- Close Sellafield—for large scale mobilisations to pressurise the British government.

● AXE THE BIN TAX - PROPER RE-CYCLING FACILITIES.

- The SWP calls for mass non-payment of these unjust Bin Charges
- No to incinerators

● JAIL THE CORRUPT POLITICIANS

- Publish the names of the Ansbacher frauds!
- Seize the assets of businessmen engaged in bribery and tax dodging

● FOR FREE CHILD CARE FACILITIES - LEGISLATE FOR A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE!

- The people have spoken: Legislate now on the basis of the X Case for a woman's right to choose an abortion here in Ireland

● OPPOSE RACISM- DON'T LET THE RICH SCAPEGOAT REFUGEES.

- No to Racism, Houses and Jobs for All

● NO COALITION WITH THE RIGHT - BUILD A REAL MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE

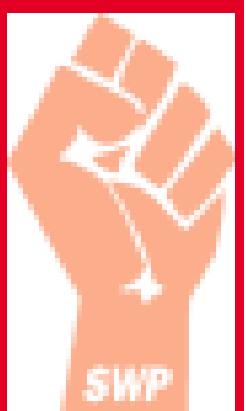
- The SWP stands for People Power. Real change comes through working class people organising themselves.
- If elected we will promote, encourage and help to organise every genuine form of resistance against the political establishment.

● SHARE THE WEALTH - BREAK THE POWER OF BIG BUSINESS

- Take the banks and major firms into public ownership.
- Open the accounts of the banks to public scrutiny.
- Workers' control of industry to increase efficiency and democracy.

ON MAY 17 TH

VOTE SOCIALIST No1



Vote Socialist Workers Party No. 1

THE TRUTH ABOUT MARY HARNEY

COURT cases and media spin can't hide everything about Progressive Democrat leader Mary Harney.

■ She used the government jet frequently—on one occasion to travel to open a friend's off license in Sligo.
 ■ She holidayed (with Charlie McCreevey) with businessman arms dealer Ulick McEvaddy.
 ■ Property developers Dwyer Nolan gave Liam Lawlor £15,000. Mary Harney admits getting a "legitimate political donation" from Dwyer Nolan but she won't reveal how much.



'Your generosity is very much appreciated'

Cash

Eddie O'Dwyer managing director of the company has claimed he gave large sums of cash to councillors for planning favours in the 1980s saying "Every dog on the road knew you had to pay for things".

■ Jim Kennedy a developer who used to bankroll corrupt council official George Redmond, bought land in Lucan just two weeks before it was rezoned.

He said at the time it was a "lucky guess."

Jim Kennedy is one of the owners of Jackson Way, a company which attempted to sue South Dublin County Council over the building of the Southern Cross Motorway.

Kennedy and his associates are still trying to claim compensation for the land. They hired Former Fianna Fail Press Officer Frank Dunlop to lobby for it's rezoning.

Mary Harney used

Kennedy's pub, the Laurels, for her constituency clinics.

Mary Harney wrote to Jim Kennedy on March 23 1982 saying, "Your generosity is very much appreciated and shall long be remembered. Should there be anything with which you could feel I can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me."

■ Harney put forward a number of Section 4 motions, which fast-track rezoning, either proposing or seconding them along

with Liam Lawlor.

For instance one of Lawlor's motions that she seconded proposed rezoning of an office block in Clonalkin owned by Fianna Fail supporter Christy Mullen.

She seconded a motion to Lawlor to have housing built on land owned by Denis Fitzgibbon, a Fianna Fail supporter.

■ Harney has repeatedly attacked Community Employment schemes for report turn to page 11.

Bosses want to scrap your rights

A HALT should be called to the "plethora" of regulations designed to protect workers, the bosses' organisation, IBEC, has said.

The nineteen pieces of workplace legislation had been introduced since 1993, including the Unfair Dismissals Act, Maternity Protection Act, the Organisation of Working Time Act and the Equal Status Act.

IBEC wants these replaced with "voluntary codes".

Who needs donations ... when you've got expenses?

A FORMER Fianna Fail justice minister topped the poll when it came to claiming TDs' expenses

last year—claiming more than €71,000

The "expenses king" was Longford-Roscommon TD Sean Doherty, who is not running in this election.

Fine Gael's Michael Noonan claimed €32,858; Ruairi Quinn claimed €26,884; Liam Lawlor (FF) managed 38,900.

Ministers tend to show low expenses because they

claim everything out of their department budget And the expenses list does not cover payments made to the chairs of Oireachtas committees—they received an extra €12,789

But all TDs receive an €8,888 payment to cover the cost of a constituency secretary, and an €8,000 contribution towards keeping a constituency office.

Irish Army training for Bush's war

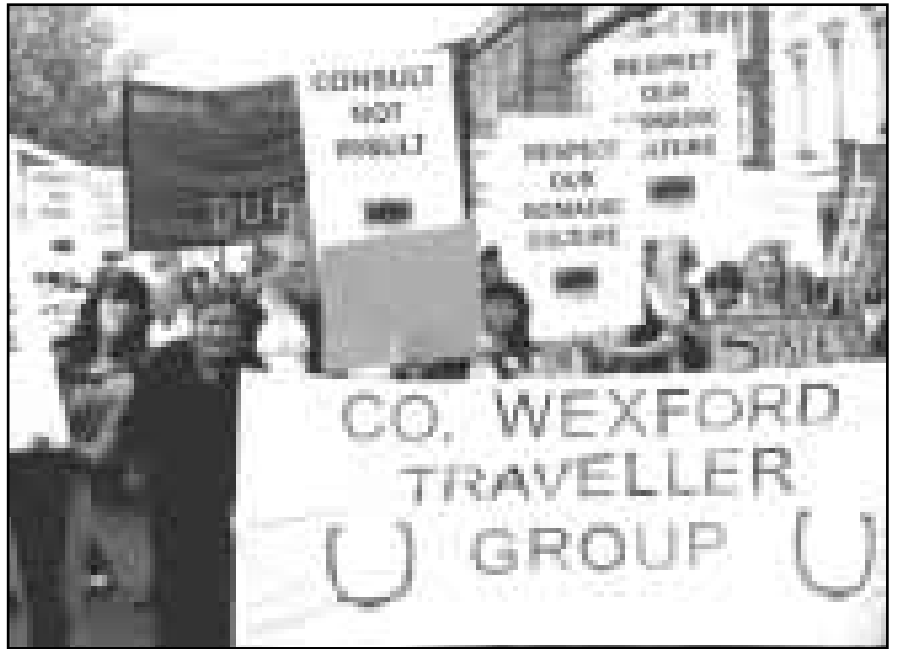
MORE than 700 troops took part in the biggest military exercise for 30 years in the Glen of Imaal in Co Wicklow.

The Government committed the Defence Forces to providing up to 850 troops to the UN at any one time. In addition, the Irish

army was also committed to providing the same 850 troops to the EU. The outgoing government has committed Irish Troops to Afghanistan and is preparing for the EU Rapid Reaction Force despite the rejection in last year's referendum of the Nice Treaty.

FF TOUGH ON JOYRIDERS?
BERTIE Ahern's motor cavalcade is speeding round the country for orchestrated stunts. A garda driver has logged up speeds over 95mph to make sure Ahern makes his next photo opportunity. He is tracked by a group of FF hacks and spin doctors in mercs all racing through the country.

Travellers protest over racist law



TRAVELLERS' Rights groups organised a 2,000 strong march in Dublin on May 2nd, against the new trespass pushed through by Fianna Fail last month.

"Consult not Insult" and "Travellers rights are human rights" were just some of the chants directed at the government by the protestors.

The government was supposed to provide 2,200 units of Traveller accommodation by the year 2000.

In the seven years since that promise was made, however, only 111 units were built.

Targeted

The new law is targeted at the 1,200 Traveller families currently living on the side of the road who have nowhere else to go.

They can now be arrested without warrant, jailed for one month, fined €3,000 and have their homes confiscated.

Margaret Hand from Blanchardstown spoke to *Socialist Worker* at the demonstration:

"It's disgusting that they're bringing in this law

when they're still thousands of travellers with nowhere to go.

"There's more on the side of the road today than since the 1970's.

"I'm eighteen years married and I've only been settled since last December. Cappagh field (a local halting site) is like a concentration camp.

"There's 68 families crammed into it.

Camp

"What travellers want is our own small little places to keep families together.

"We want to be able to get up in the summer time and go to Donegal or wherever for a few weeks.

"We're travellers. Even if we don't travel all the time, we love to travel—it's our culture.

"This law is destroying the only culture that's left.

"Bridget from Finglas, also felt that Traveller culture was coming under attack. "What we want is choice", she said. "We'd like to have the choice to live in a house or be able to travel.

"With this new law coming in they're taking our vans. Where are we supposed to get €3,000?

"Where are we going to go? We won't be allowed in fields and there's not enough sites."

Mary from Galway

believed discrimination against travellers is getting worse.

"We were getting moved on all the time by the law and I've been in a house since the 70's. But I'd prefer to back on the road.

"We can't get jobs because of discrimination.

"We can't get accommodation or have a social life because of discrimination. Now the government is discriminating against us."

Speaking about the march that day Mary said "an awful lot of settled people do support us. Every time something is done to us, this is what we should do."

Representatives of a host of different groups, from the Irish Council of Civil Liberties to the Latin America Solidarity Campaign, joined the travelling community on the march.

Support

But even wider support is possible—and necessary—to defeat this racist law.

These draconian powers in the hands of the state could also be used against trade unionists and anti-capitalists for instance.

We need direct action mass-trespasses, organised with the support of these groups, could break this racist law before it is used to criminalise Traveller culture.

★ **After selling off Abbeyville to Fianna Fail friendly developers, Charlie Haughey is now off-loading a bunch of pictures, the loot is expect to make €300,000 at auction this month.**

Irish Nazi worked for Ahern
A FORMER party worker for Fianna Fail leader Bertie Ahern is the leader of an Irish Nazi group.

Paul Kangley worked for Ahern as a party activist. He now fronts the fascist Irish People's Party (IPP). It boasts of close links to the British National Party, which

Kangley's other backer is the fuhrer of the British National Party, Nick Griffin, who claims he has "frequent contact" with the IPP and has offered the group its financial backing. The BNP is also supporting the Immigration Control Platform, which is running two candidates in the election.

Catholic Church cashes in again

The Catholic Church is again selling off community property for cash. This time it's in Rialto, in inner city Dublin.

The Parish Centre, which was a former primary school, has been used as a community building for many years. It is the home of a CE scheme. It is in constant demand by community groups for meetings and training workshops, a citizen's advice bureau and free legal aid clinic.

The ARK (children's art project & museum) uses it for workshops with local children. It used to have a crèche. In the past this building was built and

maintained by parishioners of Rialto paying each week in a church building fund yet if it is sold the profit made from the sale will not be given back to the community.

Anyway local people oppose it being sold as it is a valuable local resource.

The Rialto Network has tried extremely hard to get a clear answer from the parish about its intentions but no straight answer is forthcoming.

There are many uses for a building such as this in addition to its current uses—a community crèche would be top of the list plus office space for the many community organisations that are paying high rents to local landlords.

The Church—which claims to represent the poor—could use its resources to help this area which suffers from poverty and deprivation.

★ The Catholic church has over €10 billion worth of property in Dublin alone. As well as the plush residences like the Bishops palace in Drumcondra it owns huge tracks of land. According to one estate agent the total value of Church property throughout Ireland is the equivalent to the National Debt.

Yet the Church continues to fight against paying compensation to the thousands of people who suffered abuse by priest and the religious orders.

what we think

TIME TO PUT PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT

Throw the *real* selfish bastards

out!

THE contempt politicians actually feel for ordinary people was revealed when Jim McDaid, called suicide victims "selfish bastards". It was a sick and offensive comment.

However many spin doctors the parties put on it they can't hide the fact that the real "selfish bastards" in Ireland are the rich.

Behind the photo opportunities and the handshakes the rich and their bought and paid for politicians are laughing all the way to their offshore accounts.

After ten years of boom we have some of the worst health, education and transport services in the industrialised world.

There is money for Bertie Bowl and Ansbacher accounts but not for pensioners or the sick

Now the right wing talk of modernising our public services. What they mean is privatisation.

The start of the election campaign featured a tedious debate over the mainstream parties' economic forecasts. What none of the acres of commentary pointed out was what they all shared: A commitment to help big business before workers.

The fact is, there are more than enough resources to provide decent low-cost housing, and a first class health, education and transport system for all.

The resources exist to ensure the environment is properly protected, to fund recycling.

But it isn't done for one simple reason—the rich in Ireland don't pay tax.

They enjoy the lowest tax rates on profits in Europe and the rest they hide in off-shore accounts.

Funds

The health service is bleeding to death and schools are still left scrambling for lack of funds.

At the same time the people at the top have prospered.

Their wealth has mushroomed and their arrogance has increased.

The harsh fact is that the divide between rich and poor is far wider than ever before.

It's time to teach the Right in this country a lesson.

Every vote for Socialists the election is part of building the fightback.

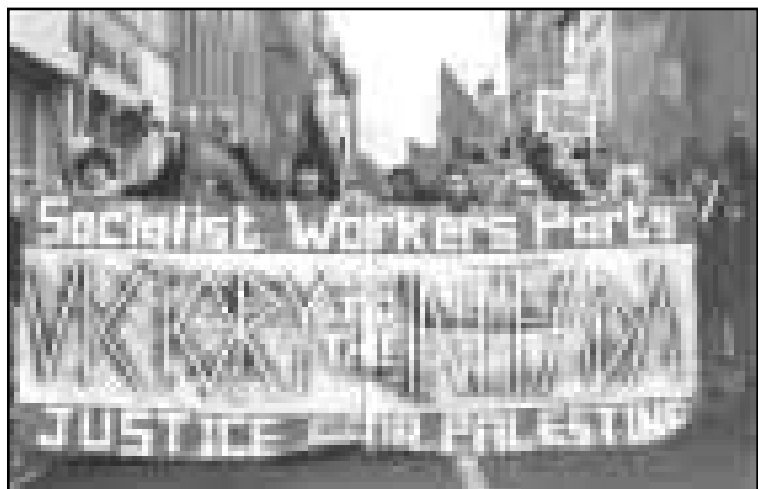
Across the country more and more people are disenchanted with what is on offer from the main parties.

The left has to give that anger direction and purpose.

We need more protests like those we saw recently in Barcelona and Rome.

And we need more resistance from the trade union leaders, more strikes and more socialist organisation.

2,000 march in Dublin against Bush's war and for justice to Palestine



Socialist Worker Appeal reaches €15,376

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 Sort 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.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SOCIALIST



Richard Boyd Barrett (Dun Laoghaire) 087 632 9511



Bríd Smith (Dublin South Central) 087 9090 166



Ritchie Brown (Dublin North Central) 087 203 5207



Jimmy Kelly (Waterford) 087 787 0621



Catherine Kennedy (Wicklow) (01) 282 9802



Shay Ryan (Dublin South East) 087 914 3703



Michael O'Sullivan (Cork South Central) 086 389 4712

JOIN THE SOCIALISTS

To join the Socialist Workers Party, fill in this form and send it to: SWP, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8

Name

Address



.....

Trade Union

Phone.....

E-mail

GORDON BROWN'S £200 MILLION PRIVATISATION PACKAGE:

New Labour set to sell off more schools and hospitals

Northern Ireland's schools and hospitals will face further privatisation under Gordon Brown's £200 million investment package.

And every single penny of that money has already come out of the pockets of working people—£125 million which was paid in rates, and another £75 million in unspent government money, which also came out of tax payers' pockets.

Admitted

That £75 million could have been spent straight away on schools and hospitals. Earlier this year the health minister, Bairbre de Brun, admitted that she had £23 million in unspent money—yet hospital waiting lists are rocketing.

Brown has also granted the Stormont Executive powers to borrow more money from Westminster.

How will that cash be repaid? By doubling or even trebling our rates over the next five years.

But most serious of all, this loan comes with big strings attached. It is an attempt by Blair and Brown to push for more Public Private Partnerships or Private Finance Initiatives here.

Brown made it clear that a new investment quango will ensure that business gets a bigger share in our public services. He also said there is a need to "reform" the public sector.

Refuses

In schools and the NHS, the "reforms" of the past few governments have led to cuts, chaos and an all-time low in staff morale. This time they will be part of a far wider agenda—the cracking open of public services around the world under GATS, the General Agreement on Tradeable Services.

The Labour government refuses to slap higher taxes on the rich and on big business to pay for decent hospitals. Instead they look to the private sector for investment.

Not one of the parties with ministers at Stormont seriously opposes this strategy.

It will be up to the trade unions and to anti-capitalist activists to challenge this latest effort to let the market rip where human need should come before corporate greed.



Brown and Blair visit Northern Ireland last month in search of services to privatise

CSA PPP fiasco...

What a waste of money!

The Minister for the Department of Work and Pensions recently announced the postponement of the government's flagship Child Support Reforms on the basis that the computer system was not yet fully tested.

However *Socialist Worker* can reveal that this is another example of Public Private Partnerships gone wrong.

Advised

The government has already spent over £1 billion on the CSR project and customers had been advised that the reforms would be implemented on the 19th April, many delayed their applications to take advantage of the new calculation system.

The government has now put the target date back at least to the end of the year.

Affinity, the private company installing the new computer system, have now admitted that it has over 800 faults.

The government could not have been taken by surprise by this—Affinity is owned by the IT giant EDS.

EDS has been successfully sued for fraud in the US and has also had its shady dealings exposed by Channel 4.

Criticised

The company has also been criticised for problems with the IT services it provided to the Bank of Queensland and Telecom New Zealand.

In 1997 the Tories initiated the ADAPT fiasco to involve the private sector in the running of the Benefits Agency and the SSA.

Of the three consortia that rose to the bait only one has survived the change of government and the transformation of ADAPT into Public Private Partnerships—EISIS.

EISIS consists of Price Waterhouse Cooper, Manpower PLC, AT Kearney (owned by EDS) and EDS as the prime contractor.

Just like the CSR project EISIS has run into major delays and difficulties and yet the government continues to throw tax payers money at

EDS which in the UK alone has a turnover approaching £2 billion.

The end product is yet more wasted public money, poorer public services and fatter bank accounts for the company shareholders.

The other worry is if the government were to succeed in implementing these reforms they will result in massive public sector job losses.

Under the guise of staff efficiencies *Socialist Worker* has learned that in the Child Support Agency in Belfast, management and government ministers have secretly planned over 300 job losses by 2004—over one third of the work force.

Continues

It is clear who the winners and losers are if privatisation continues unopposed.

More of our money wasted, more workers on the dole and more child poverty (which the government cynically claims to be combating under the Child Support Reforms).

The Trade Unions must be forced to oppose every attempt to put private greed before public need.

What is the US military doing in Colombia?

IN APRIL Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams refused to attend Congressional hearings in the US about terrorism in Colombia.

This fed a media frenzy about possible IRA links to international terrorism. Brian Cowen, David Trimble and the SDLP all lined up to attack Adams for refusing to testify. The SDLP's Alex Attwood claimed that Adams had let down "our friends in America in their time of need."

Sponsored

But barely a single commentator asked the most important question, namely, what the US military is doing in Colombia.

Under Bill Clinton, and now under George Bush, the US sponsored a \$1.3 billion program of aid to the Colombian military, known as Plan Colombia. This was supposedly part of the War Against Drugs, but was a cover for rearming the Colombian military with helicopter gunships, supplied by the US.

Numerous independent reports from groups such as Amnesty International and War On Want have reported that the main suppliers of drugs in Colombia are the military and their supporters in the right-wing paramilitary death squads, responsible for the murder of over 3,000 trade unionists in recent years.

At most, they report, FARC rebels merely tax the cocoa growers in the areas they control, mainly small farmers driven into cocoa production by the collapse in coffee prices.

Now Bush wants to massively increase military aid to Colombia by another \$98 million this year, using the excuse of the War Against Terrorism.

The money is specifically aimed at

protecting a vast new oil pipeline being constructed by Occidental Petroleum in areas where the FARC operate.

The Congressional hearings are a cover for a major shift in US policy. Under existing US law, the Bush administration is forbidden from giving military assistance to "anti-terrorism" drives in Colombia.

Henry Hyde, the chair of the International Affairs Committee hearings on the IRA and FARC, is introducing a new Colombian Anti-Terrorism Act next week.

A senior member of staff on the International Affairs Committee told reporters:

"A lot of people thought those hearings were about the Irish peace process but they weren't."

"They are a backdrop to huge changes on US policy on terrorism in South America."

The US has always intervened directly in Central and Latin America, in support of US multinational interests.

After the defeat in the Vietnam War, the US tended to use proxies such as the Contras in Nicaragua or provide covert support for the military dictatorships in Chile, Argentina and elsewhere.

Trained

One of the key witnesses at the Congressional hearings last week was General Fernando Tapias, chairman of the Colombian Joint Chiefs of Staff, who was trained at the School of the Americas, in Fort Denning in the US along with thousands of other Latin American soldiers.

Now Bush wants to go on the offensive, with direct military intervention.

The hypocrisy of Trimble, Cowen and the SDLP in scoring cheap points over Sinn Fein's connections to FARC while not even mentioning US mili-

tary involvement or the corruption of the Colombian government, is staggering.

The reluctance of Sinn Fein to even mention never mind question the role of the US military is a testimony to how beholden they have become to US imperialism.

ARMY KILLERS BACK ON JOB

TWO JAILED British soldiers who carried out a murder have been given a go-ahead to rejoin the army.

The convicted murderers shot 18 year old Peter McBride in the back in 1992 as he ran away from an army patrol that had searched his home.

At their trial the court was told the soldiers "had deliberately lied as part of their defence and had not come under any threat before firing on Mr McBride".

The two soldiers were sentenced to life imprisonment for murder in 1995.

All the soldiers convicted of murder in Northern Ireland have been allowed to return to the army.

FF DESTROYED THE HEALTH SERVICE

Waiting to join the waiting list

THERE ARE 26,000 people on hospital waiting lists but thousands of others are waiting to join the queue.

Socialist Worker reports from around the country on the crisis in the health service.

THOUSANDS of sick Irish people are not on official waiting lists because they need medical tests before joining the queue for operations.

Waiting list figures published by the Department of Health exclude people waiting for tests such as angiograms, which can show whether a heart bypass is required.

Hundreds of patients are waiting for this test in

Dublin hospitals.

Ireland's "hidden" waiting list also includes:

- More than 1,000 people in Dublin suffering from nerve disorders such as epilepsy, waiting up to 18 months for electromyography (EMG);

- More than 900 people in the North Eastern Health Board area, some waiting up to 10 months, who need ultrasound tests before surgery;

- At least 300 patients around the country waiting to have magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

scans, often used to track cancer progression.

Problems with the accuracy of official waiting lists emerged when it was revealed that the list at Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children in Crumlin, Dublin, jumped by 86 percent between March and June last year.

Revealed

Patients at the Mater Hospital wait an average of 11 months before getting a bed.

Those waiting for ultrasound tests in the North Eastern Health Board area include 450 people on the list at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, Co Louth.

The hospital has three ultrasound machines, but can only use one because there are no rooms available for the other machines.



Ahern confronted by angry protestors in Waterford

Waterford rally told 'Kick out FF to get a radiotherapy unit'

THE NEED for a radiotherapy facility at the South East Regional Hospital is a huge issue in Waterford.

At the end of April local people rallied in the town in a protest called by the trades council on the issue.

President of the South Eastern Cancer Foundation, Mags Kirwan, has resigned in disgust following a meeting with health minister Michael Martin.

Martin failed to guarantee the provision of a radiotherapy cancer treatment unit in the southeast, saying he must wait for the report of the expert group set up to decide this matter to be published.

However, Fianna Fail are saying the report will not be published until after the election despite the fact that the findings were leaked to the media several months ago.

The report will find that the South East should not be a recipient of this service as it does not reach the requisite population mass of one million.

As a radiotherapy unit is to be built in Galway with a smaller surrounding population, this reason is widely regarded as being spurious and an excuse for the government not to give extra funding to the health service in the region.

At present, cancer patients in the south-east are forced to travel daily to Dublin to receive vital radiotherapy treatment. A recent survey showed that only 40 percent of cancer patients who require this treatment in the southeast actually receive it.

Mags Kirwan, is an oncology nurse in the regional hos-

pital. She told *Socialist Worker*, "There is a ten week waiting list to receive treatment in Dublin, but patients need to be seen in six. Cancer waits for no-one. I think patients are suffering as a result."

"I am disgusted at the government's non-action."

The South Eastern Cancer Foundation organised a protest on Bertie Ahern's recent visit to the city which was attended by 4,000 people.

This included almost 1,000 Waterford Crystal workers who were led to the protest by ATGWU shop steward and SWP candidate Jimmy Kelly who had organised an one hour work stoppage in the factory.

As Ahern's car pulled up to the protest, it was showered with daffodils (to mark cancer

support day) and confronted by angry protestors, including cancer patients, who were infuriated by the delay in constructing this unit.

Jimmy Kelly was publicly and vocally criticised by several right wing politicians, including those from the Labour Party and Sinn Fein for attempting to confront Bertie Ahern and relate the anger and hurt felt by many in the area.

Despite that criticism, SWP canvassers have seen a groundswell of support for Jimmy with many people feeling he didn't go far enough and the government has a lot to answer for on this issue.

Following the protest on Ahern, the Waterford Council of Trade Unions organised a march in the city following a

motion from Jimmy Kelly's ATGWU branch.

Despite the call from WCTU for the march to be non-political, Mags Kirwan received great support when she said from the platform that the two sitting Fianna Fail TD's in Waterford should stand down in shame because of their failure to secure the radiotherapy unit.

Jimmy Kelly said afterwards: "The only way we are going to get this unit is through mobilising thousands onto the streets. Polite petitioning and lobbying has been tried and it hasn't worked. We are calling on people not to return two Fianna Fail TD's in the next election and to follow up this repudiation with a series of protests throughout the city and the region."

'SILENT SUFFERER' SPEAKS OUT

by LIZZY WILSON 106012.2005@compuserve.com

'CHRONIC PAIN drives you to the edge of the cliff—the inadequacies of the health service in addressing the needs of pain patients, push you over!'

Life in chronic pain is lived 'close to the edge' in a state of uncertainty, vulnerability, isolation and endless searching for hope.

Chronic pain has been part of my life for the last ten years—an unexpected 30th birthday present! It has stripped me of all I once knew myself to be and left me 'naked' to look at myself and what I have become.

It has stripped me of; my profession as a nurse/midwife; my job; my social life; my leisure activities; my confidence; my ability to travel; my physical, emotional and psychological energy.

It has reduced my life to 'existence' and forced me into dependence on; medication in order to be able to function; friends to carry out daily tasks for me; Invalidity Pension to maintain me financially; and the medical system in a search for a solution to my pain.

Eighteen to twenty hours of my day are spent 'married' to my bed—with depression and chronic fatigue coming as part of the 'package'.

Entering my fifth year out of the workplace I have scaled the hurdles of two rounds of back surgery and set out on the road of chronic pain management.

In the last three years I have spent 120+ hours (the equivalent of 5 days and 5 nights!) lying on a bench in Out Patients Departments waiting for the treatment of choice for my pain to be forthcoming.

It took over two years to secure two

basic diagnostic nerve block injections that could have been administered at two weekly intervals.

The third injection in the series was abandoned In the torturous years of waiting for the 'hi-tech' treatment I now need to control my pain, the physical and psychological consequences have been profound.

The indescribable shattering disappointment of repeated cancellation of admission dates—due to bed and operating theatre unavailability—reduced me to a state of despair.

Compounding health issues stemming from chronic drug dependency have seen me drawing on other specialties and occupying other hospital beds awaiting THE bed I needed for management of my chronic pain.

As chronic pain does my life in and the health services do my head in, years of my life are slipping by and the economics of supporting me in this state of unemployment and pending medical treatment, don't make sense ... And ironically the medical profession needs my skills!

"There were many times I believed light was finally appearing at the end of a very dark and lonely tunnel of intense suffering.

Alas! Too soon I realised it was only the familiar headlights of a freight train destined to crush me with disappointment once again.... I can assure you it's worse than being hit by a sledge hammer—for it's an indescribable reduction to pulp as the full force of an engine's tonnage crushes you between sharp steel wheels and unyielding track.

The most painful blow comes when you realise the assaulting train is the very health care system you chose to trust in your darkest hour with you need for wholeness and healing"

NAZI JEAN MARIE LE PEN BEATEN IN FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION...

Protest can crush Le Pen

MASS PROTEST against the Nazi Jean-Marie Le Pen swept through France. Every day for over a week, hundreds of thousands of people, millions in all, have taken to the streets.

On May Day over one and half million people protested throughout France while Le Pen's rally could muster only 10,000. This ensured that Le Pen couldn't increase his vote significantly in the run off for the presidency. Le Pen, the leader of the fascist National Front, got 17 percent of votes in the first round and 18 percent in the second round.

Le Pen's vote was a terrible warning. But it is important not to exaggerate. The size of his vote was similar to what he won in the last election in 1995. He went through into the run-off ballot because of a collapse in support for the government coalition led by France's Socialist Party, equivalent to the Labour Party.

In many towns the protests were the biggest for over 30 years, since the great revolt which shook France in 1968.

The spirit of the demonstrations is sharply left wing and goes way beyond the election run-off. "We have to protest now and show we are the majority."

"We must crush Le Pen, and also fight Chirac after Sunday," explained Anne Sophie, an 18 year old high school student.

The protests have the same spirit as the anti-capitalist events seen around the world. "We have to fight misery and poverty, challenge globalisation and change society if we want to deal with problems here in France. The political system, the whole system, has failed," argued Nirine, a young worker on a Paris march.

The wave of demonstrations, hardly reported in the newspapers, shows how the Nazi Le Pen can be crushed.

Established politicians were merely telling people to vote for the right wing Chirac. But hundreds of thousands of people know that much more is needed.

Olivier Besancenot was the presidential candidate of the LCR revolutionary socialist organisation who won over one million votes in the first round.

He and his comrades were at the heart of the protests. "Since this morning in hundreds of schools and colleges, there have been strikes, mass meetings and spontaneous anti National Front demonstrations," he explained.

"Today marks the start of a movement of social resistance," Fabrice, a student on the Paris march, said. "After you heard the result you wanted to cry. But then you felt you had to do something about what had happened."

The protests on the streets which halted Le Pen's advance in the second round and building further protests in the run up to the June parliamentary elections, is the way Le Pen can be wiped off the map in France.



SCHOOL AND other students across France have taken the initiative to organise protests against the Nazis. In Orleans school students marched from school to school and pulled out

1,000 people behind a banner reading "Fuck Le Pen".

In Strasbourg school students walked out and marched behind a banner reading "Mussolini 1922, Hitler 1933, Le Pen never!" By the end of the day over 10,000 people were on the streets of a city where

Le Pen scored one of his best votes.

In Lyon, on the first day back at college after the Easter break, students marched out of classes against Le Pen, their numbers growing from 1,500 to 4,000. As Nicolas, a 20 year old maths student in Lyon, said, "It is time to take to the streets."

Should we support the crook before the Nazi?

IT IS not just ordinary people who were shocked by the French election result. Establishment politicians across Europe too have been shaken. These politicians agreed the only solution to the danger of Le Pen was to unite behind the conservative candidate Jacques Chirac in the election run-off on 5 May.

But looking to him as the answer to Le Pen would be a terrible mistake. Neither Chirac's right wing party, the RPR, nor the rival UDF conservative party, is a barrier to Le Pen and his Nazi National Front.

Creating

In the election campaign Chirac boosted Le Pen by creating a right wing panic over crime. The mainstream Le Monde paper said, "At the same time as Chirac campaigned for himself he helped Le Pen" by this approach.

The Nazi leader himself openly joked that Chirac was helping with the "Le-Pen-isation" of the campaign. A glance at recent French history destroys the idea that Chirac and the conservatives can be trusted to break Le Pen.

Le Pen's National Front made its first breakthrough in a town called Dreux in 1983. Four National Front members were elected to the town's council, and a longstanding Nazi thug, Jean-Pierre Stirbois, became deputy mayor. This happened because these Nazis were invited by both right wing parties, the RPR and UDF, to join their united right election list.

Jacques Chirac, then as now the RPR national leader, openly defended the decision to have the Nazis on the Tory election list in Dreux. In some regional and local elections in the 1990s France's conservatives made electoral deals with the National Front. And in the last presidential election in 1995 Chirac even secretly met with Le Pen himself to discuss possible horse-trading of votes.

Nazis have never come to power on their own in Europe, but have always done so with the help and support of mainstream parties.

But if lining up with the right is not the way to beat back Nazis, how then do we stop Le Pen? The hundreds of thousands people who have taken to the streets have shown an instinctive understand-



One of a number of protests in Ireland against Le Pens

ing of the answer. In part the streets are vital, because they are central to Le Pen's project.

He wants to turn votes into a mass Nazi force capable of dominating the streets, and of attacking workers' movements and organisations. That is the ultimate aim of all Nazis.

Le Pen does not yet have anything like this kind of force. Denying him and his supporters the ability to organise, to meet, to march and to rally is vital to stopping him building it. The streets and mass mobilisation are also central in stopping Le Pen for other reasons.

Le Pen feeds off the widespread feeling that all established

parties are rotten and corrupt. His claim to have clean hands and stand for the little man is a bit rich given his immense wealth and actual record.

But telling people that the answer is Jacques Chirac, who is up to his neck in scandals—shocking even by the standards of establishment politicians—would be disastrous. More than this, though, Le Pen also feeds off the real bitterness and pools of despair in society that establishment parties have created through their policies.

Simply promoting more of the policies that Jacques Chirac pushes will not offer any hope or alternative to those who abstained or who were conned into voting for

Le Pen.

Only mass protest can do that by showing how ordinary people can take matters into their own hands, challenging Le Pen but also pointing to how society itself could be transformed.

It would be a catastrophe to allow politics to be dominated by Chirac and Le Pen. It would guarantee that politics would shift to the right, and so play into Le Pen's hands.

Far more people voted for the left and for some kind of opposition to capitalism in France than voted for Le Pen on Sunday.

They need to make their full force, numbers and power felt if the terrible threat of the National Front is to be crushed.

How do we beat them?

TO BEAT fascism we need mass activity which draws together all the forces threatened by the Nazis. It needs joint leafleting, marches, petitioning and propaganda involving Labour Party members, Greens, revolutionaries, peace activists, anti-capitalists, trade unionists and socialists.

The most effective campaigning involves exposing people like the Le Pen or the BNP as Nazis, and denying them the respectability of being "just another political party".

In France Chirac has in the past been prepared to do electoral deals with Le Pen's National Front. The fascists see organising on the streets as vital to their growth. That means anti-Nazis

need to be prepared to confront the Nazis on the streets—not as individuals but as part of a united mass movement. United mass action can defeat the fascists and kick them back into the gutter where they belong.

But fascism grows out of the despair and bitterness created by the misery, poverty and inequality created by capitalism.

Betrayal

So far there is no serious Nazi force in Ireland. But the same bitterness and sense of betrayal that led people to vote for fascists can build up in here too. Every move to whip up racism by the mainstream politicians creates opening for the Nazis to grow.

It is always the failures of the Left which present the opportunity for the fascists to make headway. That is why we need to build a fighting socialist alternative here. Such a left needs to stand out

against the scapegoating of immigrants and seriously take up questions of poverty, bad housing, crumbling schools and hospitals, and insecurity. In that way we can unite people against those who are really responsible for creating the misery in which thousands live.

But as long as capitalism continues to wreck people's lives through bad housing, unemployment, job insecurity, privatisation, hunger and war, then fascism remains a potential threat.

That is why socialists argue that if we want to destroy the threat of fascism for good then we need to do two things. We need to build the biggest and broadest mass movement possible to confront the Nazis wherever they try to organise.

But in the process we need to point to a socialist alternative to capitalism which can meet people's needs, and end the hopelessness and despair on which the fascists breed.

WHAT SOCIALISTS SAY

What is Fascism?

FASCISTS ARE not just right wing, repulsive racists who scapegoat immigrants. Fascists aim to smash democracy and break all forms of working class organisation.

Their aim is to control every aspect of society.

The last time fascists took control of an advanced industrial country it led to the unequalled barbarity of the Nazi Holocaust.

It led to the death camps such as Auschwitz where six million Jews were slaughtered. Fascism is not just an assault on minorities or socialists. It is a full scale attack on the freedoms of the vast majority of society.

Fascists want to end elections. They believe that trade unionists are, as a BNP leader in Britain said, "people whose freedoms need to be curbed."

They would target working class activists and even prominent members of the Labour Party.

As the Russian revolution

leader Leon Trotsky put it, "The historic function of fascism is to smash the working class, destroy its organisations, and stifle political liberties when the capitalists find themselves unable to govern and dominate with the help of democratic machinery."

Appeal

Some people argue that the bulk of those who followed the Nazis, or who support the National Front in France or the BNP in Britain, are working class.

It is true that fascism can appeal to some workers, in particular to those workers who are the least organised and the most marginalised.

But fascism has never penetrated the organised working class movement.

Two years before they came to power, in 1931, the Nazis fought a campaign around elections to factory committees.

They won just 5 percent of the votes. Some 83.6 percent voted for candidates linked to the SPD, the German equivalent of the Labour Party. In similar elections in 1933, which took place after Hitler came to power, the Nazis won just 3 percent.

The main base of fascism has always come from the middle class—the people whose lives are torn up by the effects of the system, but who have no collective organisations with which to fight back.

This class—small businessmen, farmers and shopkeepers, managers, lawyers and other non-unionised professionals—do not have the collective power of workers or the economic power of the bosses.

Their lives can be ruined in times of economic crisis and mass unemployment.

Trotsky pointed out how these people hate the big capitalists, but they also detest the workers.

Trotsky wrote, "At big business the small man shakes his fist as if he were a socialist, against the worker he shrills his bourgeois respectability his horror of class struggle, his rabid nationalist pride."

The fascists try to give the little man a banner to express his despair, and to turn his bitterness against scapegoats.

Hitler said "Mass demonstrations must burn into the little man's soul the conviction that though a little worm he is part of a great dragon."

Urgent

Today fascists like Le Pen in France and try to present themselves as respectable electoral politicians.

But behind the suited fascist leaders stand the street thugs.

Across Europe it is urgent to expose and campaign against the Nazis. Fascism has never "crept up" bit by bit on society.

It has only been successful in taking power during periods of deep and brutal social crisis.

Fascism grew before the Second World War when the system was facing the most savage economic crisis in the history of capitalism. The fascist Mussolini came to power in Italy in 1922 at a time when the major banks, steel and engineering firms, and mining and shipping companies had gone bust.

Hundreds of thousands of people had been thrown out of work, and countless small businessmen and farmers found their lives ruined. In Germany Hitler's Nazis grew at a time of an even bigger economic slump.

Unemployment grew to 1.3 million in 1929, soared to three million the next year, and stood at 4.3 million in 1931. In 1933, the year Hitler came to power, it stood at six million.

The Nazis presented themselves as the people who could save Germany from the abyss.

Their victory involved persuading important sections of the ruling class that they could deliver what the bosses wanted.

For most of the time only a tiny number of big capitalists support Nazis. But when society is gripped by deep social and economic crisis, such as in the 1930s, the bosses find that their usual methods of rule no longer work.

They can then take the gamble of embracing the fascists as a way of crushing workers' resistance and restoring profits.

Today there is not a slump like in the 1930s. But there is growing insecurity about jobs, welfare and housing. The sense of crisis in society is enough for the Nazis to get a foothold—if we let them.

British Nazi Party warning

IN BRITAIN, the Nazi British National Party has conned its way into the council chamber for the first time in nine years.

The shocking election of three BNP councillors in Burnley in north west England is a terrible warning.

The Anti Nazi League mobilised hundreds of people to oppose the BNP during the council elections, hundreds more took to the streets after the result.

Uniting

Campaigners rallied the anti-Nazi majority, uniting trade unionists, Labour Party members, Labour councillors, Labour MEPs, community activists, religious leaders and even soap stars.

Together they stopped the BNP candidates making the political breakthrough.

Anti-Nazi campaigners in Bradford, Burnley, Oldham in Manchester, Sunderland and Tipton leafleted every home tar-

geted by the BNP.

Ever since the BNP raised its head campaigners have been out on the streets opposing it.

The vast majority of people in Burnley, as across Britain, are NOT Nazis.

Even in the three wards in Burnley where the BNP managed to get elected, the majority of people did not vote for the Nazis.

Two in three of those who voted in the Cliviger ward did not cast a vote for the BNP.

The same is true in the Rosegrove ward.

The BNP has spent a year organising in Burnley and Oldham since its shock results there at last year's general election.

It stood one candidate in each of 13 wards in Burnley out of a total of 15. The BNP presented an ultra-respectable image. Its candidate who came second in Oldham was a local businessman.

The Cliviger ward in Burnley, where it got a councillor, is one of the most middle class areas in

Burnley. The BNP got in along-side two Tory councillors. Its candidate in the Tory area The Rosegrove ward is largely a deprived working class

area.

The only candidates in the election against Labour were the BNP and right wing "independent" candidates.

Other areas where the BNP got very worrying votes were three wards in Oldham, and individual wards in Tipton Green, Sunderland, Gateshead, Dewsbury, Dudley and Bexley.

The BNP is trying to break through in these areas after the base it had in areas such as east London in the early 1990s collapsed.

Broken

But just as the BNP was broken in Tower Hamlets and Newham, it can be broken in the towns, mainly in the north west of England, that it is targeting today.

On the Isle of Dogs in east London the Nazis got just 200 votes in the local elections.

That was less than a third of its vote in the general election last year and it was less than a tenth of what they got in 1994 when they hoped to make a major breakthrough following the election of the Nazi Derek Beackon in that area.

Le Pen wants to be Hitler



JEAN-MARIE Le Pen is more than a nasty right wing politician with some racist policies. He is a Nazi who wants to emulate Adolf Hitler. In 1987 Le Pen said the Holocaust was "a detail of history". He has a conviction for producing and selling records of songs of Hitler's Waffen SS.

No one should be fooled by his party's attempts to appear respectable in recent years. Just a few weeks ago leading National Front members in the east of France were videoed at a meeting singing Nazi songs and making jokes about the gas chambers.

He feeds off despair

LE PEN'S National Front first emerged as a serious threat in France in the 1980s. He fed off disillusionment with the governments of the Socialist Party's François Mitterrand.

In the 1990s the National Front won control of several local councils, and had MPs and Euro MPs elected.

A huge wave of protests against the

National Front in 1997 hit the Nazis hard. The National Front split into rival factions as a result of the growing opposition, and was left a much weaker force. But it was not destroyed, and now hopes to seize the chance to rebuild.

Eyewitnesses in Jenin refugee camp

The horror of Israel's murderous rampage

THE ISRAELI government is trying to cover up its horrific war crime in the Jenin Palestinian refugee camp.

Israeli troops sealed Jenin off for 13 days last month and attacked the camp. Three times Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon has refused to allow a United Nations (UN) fact finding group into the camp. *Socialist Worker* spoke to Palestinians from Jenin.

Nemervet works at the Arab American University: "The camp is really terrible. It is worse than an earthquake.

"People returning are astonished at what they find.

"Some people left friends and family behind.

"Now they are desperately searching for them. Every day we find bodies—or really pieces of bodies. You can only tell by their clothes if they were children or grown ups.

"We are waiting for the international people. I think we need to know the real truth."

Samah is an assistant director at the same university.

She stayed at her home near Jenin throughout the Israeli occupation:

"The Israelis were on our streets all day and all night.

"They shot at us all the time, and from helicopters. One night I started crying because I thought I would die that night. In the morning I found bullets on my veranda.

"If you see the camp you would know that the Israeli army just wanted to kill people.

"They killed one man I know who was just standing in his house. Everything is damaged.

"Everyone is searching for people in the ruined houses, but they don't have equipment so the work is very slow. We need professional people to help.

Truth

"Many people still don't have water and electricity. If you came here, if you heard the stories of the people who live here, you would know the truth.

"The Israelis lie about what happened, about not killing people who had no weapons. No people should have to live like this. More people will take up weapons and bombs if they treat us like this."

Rami stayed in the camp during the occupation. He escaped the Israeli Defence Force by

'I was digging through the wreckage and found something—a hand'

dressing as a woman. As he was speaking to Socialist Worker Israeli soldiers started firing live bullets into the camp:

"I was in Jenin. I saw what happened. I feel very hurt.

"The Israeli Defence Force destroyed important old streets and hundreds of homes. I don't know for sure, but everyone is saying at least 400 Palestinians were killed and another 200 are missing.

Searching

"Now there is shooting going on. It is still very dangerous in Jenin.

"If people come to Jenin and see the wreckage they can know who the terrorists are. Colin Powell said Arafat should stop the terrorists, but how can he stop anything when he is a prisoner?"

Islam has been helping Palestinians from Jenin search for relatives:

"Yesterday I saw some people looking for relatives in the ruins of their house. They told me they were looking for an old man and woman.

"I helped them to dig in the wreckage and I found something—a hand, just a hand. There was nothing else left to find of these old people."

Jamal translated the story of a woman he met in Jenin.

She was sitting on a pile of rubble next to an empty wheelchair when he saw her: "When the soldiers



Bodies being carried out of the Jenin refugee camp

came, she and three of her sons stood outside their house.

"They told the soldiers that the fourth son was in the wheelchair, that he couldn't get out on his own. The mother showed a picture of her son in his chair to the soldiers.

"She begged them, 'Let me bring my son outside.' The soldiers just bombed the house and fired shots into the ruins.

"Now she is just sitting on the rubble that used to be her home, next to the chair they found while her friends dig in the rubble."

One month before, the soldiers came to the house of a Palestinian policeman. "His mother and his three children told the soldiers that the man was injured, cut in the leg and couldn't walk out of the house.

"They refused to believe them, and destroyed the house with him in it."

'It's like the aftermath of a nuclear attack'

DREW McEWAN lives near the Jenin camp. He told Socialist Worker what he had witnessed:

"As I have made the journey to Jenin after previous Israeli incursions, I thought I would know what to expect. The Israelis seem to have a game-plan of pulling up roads to strategic places, and taking out the communications networks, electricity cables and water mains—all designed to cause maximum disruption to this so called "nest of terrorism".

As we approached Jenin I saw all this, plus burnt out buses, street lights bent double by marauding tanks, and people everywhere working feverishly to bring some normality back into their lives. What I didn't expect to find was the dust storm which blew from the centre of the city like a massive desert storm.

The Israelis had meticulously picked out a square in the centre of the camp and reduced it to dust. This was the source of the storm. In some areas on one side of the street the houses are badly damaged. But on the other side they are just dust, with twisted metal rods sticking out of the ground like burnt out trees.

These are like scenes I remember from my childhood in the 1960s, like the projected images of the aftermath of a nuclear attack. The streets I had walked up before now bore the marks of the oppressors. Everywhere were Israel's Stars of David, regimental insignia, names and messages in Hebrew and Arabic saying what the soldiers had done there, and what they would do when they came back.

Some people were afraid to go back into their homes. They were afraid that the soldiers had left booby traps.

Ferocity

Each street became worse than the last. The destruction seemed to take on greater ferocity as we moved to the heart of the camp where some 15,000 people lived.

For three weeks I had stood on my roof night after night watching and listening to the nightly assaults on the Jenin camp. Slowly it filtered out that the Israeli Defence Force was not doing very well and had sustained casualties. The streets were too narrow for the tanks, and in one to one fighting the people of the camp were defending themselves.

Then the machine-guns

stopped, and instead it was mortars and Apache helicopters firing rockets into the camp.

I watched for nights as they came with rockets flashing red through the sky and again on impact so they could see through the never-ending dust storm. Everywhere there are signs of people's lives scattered and lost forever. Through the rubble people search for anything they can find.

Some are searching for their brothers, sisters and parents. Every day they find bodies, and every day they wait for the UN teams to come. They are people who have to wait for everything in their lives. Now they must wait even for this help.

Someone is painting the faces of the children in an attempt to distract them. The dominant colour on their faces is red. It is not painted but streaked across their cheeks. Now, on my second visit, the graffiti of the oppressors has been painstakingly removed and replaced.

The Palestinians' graffiti is written in red. Emblazoned across walls in Arabic and English it says, "We were born to die and we will never leave here".

'BEYOND BELIEF'

"THIS IS horrifying beyond belief. This is a blot that will live forever on the history of the state of Israel."

■ Terje Roed-Larsen, UN envoy to the Middle East, after visiting Jenin

Eamonn McCann

Mainstream promoters of the racists

THE BRITISH Tory MP Ann Winterton might be forgiven a rueful smile as she contemplates life on the backbenches after briefly tasting the pleasures of power. Well, maybe not power.

She was shadow minister for rural affairs in Ian Duncan Smith's Westminster team.

But she had to go after ending a speech at a rugby club dinner with a "joke" about an Englishman throwing a Pakistani out of a train window and saying, "They're ten a penny in this country."

Smith won wide praise for his "decisiveness" in sacking Winterton immediately.

The *Guardian* reported that the only MP who could be found to support her was her husband, a light-minded fool called Nicholas.

The reason she might smile ruefully is that it can be very difficult these days, in Ireland as well as Britain, to tell what's acceptable to the major parties and the mainstream media when it comes to racism.

Only four weeks prior to Winterton's outburst at Congleton Rugby Club, New Labour Home Secretary David Blunkett had talked of British schools being "swamped" by refugee children.

Perhaps Blunkett's phraseology wasn't quite as contemptuous towards refugees as Winterton's had been towards Pakistanis.

But his meaning was close enough to hers—that there were just too many of these outsider people in the country and it was understandable that native Britons should feel uncomfortable about it.

Similarly, in Ireland the foul-mouthed Cork TD O'Flynn was castigated by much of the media for his rant against refugees the month before last.

And Charlie McCreavy took criticism for attending a fund-raiser for the racist's reelection.

But what had O'Flynn done other than say in crude, blunt terms what his senior colleagues like "justice" minister O'Donoghue say frequently, if in a marginally more subtle way—that Ireland is a soft touch for "bogus" refugees and native Irish people have a right to be angry about this?

It has been interesting to observe, as the days passed, that media defenders of O'Flynn began to creep out of the closet.

Wasn't he only giving voice to what huge numbers of "ordinary" people were quietly thinking? If O'Flynn didn't speak up for them, these "ordinary" people might turn to some extremist outfit. Look at Le Pen in France, they say, or the BNP in Lancashire.

It was because the major parties didn't articulate the fears and concerns of "ordinary" French or British people that the far right was able to present itself as their only authentic voice.

So, Blunkett in Britain and O'Donoghue in Ireland are presented as intervening to stem any flow of support towards overt racists. On this reading, what was offensive about Winterton was that her joke was in bad taste. What was offensive about O'Flynn was the vehemence with which he expressed himself.

Pernicious

This argument is both pernicious and pervasive. While neither Winterton nor O'Flynn found support in any newspaper editorial, no editorial explicitly denounced either of them as the racists bigots they are. They have been generally accused of "bad judgment". The worst that's said of them is that they have "pandered to racism". In fact, they are promoters of racism.

There is a continuum here, running from the "Fortress Europe" immigration policies of governments across the EU to the racism of the likes of Winterton and O'Flynn and on to the full-blown fascism of Le Pen and the BNP.

The only way to deal with it is to confront the issue head-on, to campaign not on the basis of only admitting a "managable" number of immigrants, but on the straightforward basis of immigrants being welcome here.

Blunkett says British schools are being "swamped". Winterton says Pakistanis are ten a penny. The BNP says send them back "home". O'Donoghue says Ireland is a "soft touch". O'Flynn says immigrants are "spongers".

The Immigration Control Platform says send them back "home". To ponder where exactly we should stand on this continuum, as liberal commentators do, is to miss the point entirely.

film

Home alone with camera tricks

MOVIES that begin with someone moving into a new house always end badly. What happens in between can range from harrowing to tedious but it is never nice.

PANIC ROOM is about a sense of privilege, but not in any way that challenges or plays with it.

It's a post September 11th *Home Alone* with camera tricks.

The camera goes into keyholes, through electrical outlets and snaking around air ducts, between the solid barriers that separate one floor of a house from another.

Effects

These gimmicky effects add nothing in the way of suspense. They're like a kid shouting, "Looky what I can do, Ma!"

Now fancy camera angels can be for a purpose. In David Fincher's previous films *Seven* and *Fight Club* the camera work had a reason.

But now the times have changed. *Fight Club* ended with the blowing up of lots of skyscrapers, *Panic Room* starts with the Manhattan skyline as a backdrop for the titles.

Defending the "American way of life" from attack is the new orthodoxy.

Jodie Foster is a recent divorcee who buys a new pad.

The place is three floors with a working elevator and, off the master bedroom, a panic room—a steel-lined security vault with a separate phone line, video surveillance monitors and supplies designed to let the occupants survive invasions.

During her first night in the new place with her teenage daughter (Kristen Stewart), three men who expected to find the house unoccupied enter.



Jodie Foster and Kristen Stewart

Foster and her daughter hole up in the panic room, only to discover that what the men came for is in there with them.

But the phone doesn't work, Foster is claustrophobic and her daughter is diabetic.

The bad guys are respectively sad, bad,

and mad.

Maybe it's irony but like the phone it doesn't work.

Symbol

In the past Fincher has played with the clichés of film to effect. Here it is just cliché.

I was going to write

that while the panic room is a good symbol of the insecurities of the rich, they're not really believable.

Then I remembered Farmleigh House.

The Government's overpriced Bed and Breakfast in the Phoenix Park has a panic room.

The Guinness family in the 1970s were convinced the poor might come and get them.

I suppose it will be useful for George Bush to hide from protests and rogue pretzels when, as he has promised, he visits Ireland.

—JAMES READ

book

A bright tale of dark days

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.

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.

Contrast

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. 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 feel that the party stifled her individuality.

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.

—MEGAN TRUDELL



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.

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 here.

news & reports/politics/industry/the unions (01) 8722682 /fax (01) 872 3838 e-mail swp@clubi.ie / www.swp.ie

PHONE REPORTS ABOUT STRIKES/LOCAL CAMPAIGNS/PROTESTS

Cherry Orchard

Uniting against shoddy housing

IN LATE April Bertie Ahern travelled to Ballyfermot to launch the €55 million Cedar Brook housing development in Cherry Orchard.

This scheme is a public private partnership between Dublin City Council and Park Development, John Sisk & Son and O'Mahony Pike consortium.

The project is marketed as an affordable housing development that will help make private houses available to low income first time buyers. 374 apartments and terraced houses, all for sale, will be constructed on a ten-acre site.

Ahern praised the scheme and said he hoped it would serve as a model for future housing developments throughout the country.

Dangers

But while Ahern was heaping praise on it, building workers and local residents were forming an alliance to warn the local population that this scheme—rather than being the answer to housing need—poses serious dangers.

John Sisk & Son who are responsible for building the dwellings intend to use pre-cast concrete houses that are manufactured in the North.

According to one alliance member who spoke to *Socialist Worker*, "These houses are of a lower quality than brick ones. They are geared towards people in a lower earnings bracket who are expected to take what they can get and aren't offered choices.

"I saw a lot of these houses when I was working in Australia. People there lost money on them. They haven't the same resale value.

"In Kilbarrack where blocks of flats were precast they lasted less than twenty five years.

"The use of these type of units will also affect employment opportunities on the site. The area is an unemployment blackspot.

"Precast houses will mean that there is not much

employment in this development for local people".

As *Socialist Worker* was going to press construction workers in the BATU union were balloting on action against Sisks on the issue.

At present there are sixty bricklayers laid off by Sisk.

The building bosses want to use prefabrication to weaken the unions on the sites.

While hailed as affordable housing, less than a third of the units will go to people on the council's affordable housing list, while the other units will be sold for between €115,000 for a one bedroom apartment and €170,000 for a house.

In Mulhuddart a similar development used bricks and mortar and is offering houses for €127,000 for a three bedroom dwelling.

The council is allowing large areas of land that it owns to be used by private developers. Over 22,000 new local authority houses are due to be built over a three year period, but this target is not going to be met.

Instead of holding on to this valuable land and initi-

ating building projects the government is allowing in private companies. As a member of the Ballyfermot alliance says "Sisk is an industrial builder. Under PPPs Sisk is now getting into house building because there is big money to be made."

Brid Smith, the Socialist Workers Party's local candidate will be highlighting this issue in her campaign and will be supporting workers and local people in their fight for decent housing.

★ **Waterford City Council has completed less local authority houses than any other city council in the country last year. According to a new report only 402 houses were constructed last year despite the fact that Waterford has the highest per capita housing list in the country. There are more than 1,500 families waiting for accommodation in the city.**

SWP candidate Jimmy Kelly is a member of the committee of the Waterford Housing Action Campaign. He publicly called for the city councillors to hold a public meeting to explain to people on the housing list why so few houses are being built.

Incinerators



Dublin South East Socialist Workers Party candidate Shay Ryan joined campaigners from around the country at a protest against incinerators

Bin tax



Members of the Dublin Campaign Against the Bin Tax marching as part of the Dublin May Day protest

Marino school

Bray takes to streets to fight for special school

MARINO Special School in Bray caters for 42 children with cerebral palsy and some other conditions.

In 1992 it was recognised by the Department of Education as substandard and parents have been lobbying since then to get a new school built.

Harry Sterling whose child attends the school describes the conditions as "Dickensian, or maybe a little after that period".

"The original school was built in the 1970s at a time when disability was not recognised and remained hidden behind closed doors. It was never designed or suitable for children with special needs. It robs the young people of their dignity and makes it impossible for them to function as independent human beings".

Three years ago the breakthrough that parents

had been waiting for arrived. The school was given priority status, funding was made available and planning permission was granted.

Building work was due to begin the following year but parents are still waiting today for the first brick to be laid.

No clear reason has been given for the delay. When told that there were difficulties with some electrical and mechanical aspects of the submission, the problems were addressed in a new submission but still no communication has been received.

All that is needed is for Minister Michael Woods to sign off the process so that the project can go out to tender. Harry and the other parents now fear that planning permission may expire and they will be back at square one.

Parents supported by the local community, local schools, REHAB and other

organisations have taken to the streets since the start of May. According to Harry "We've waited long enough and now we have no option. My voice is gone from protesting in the streets.

"We marched last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday but we'll be back on the streets again after the bank holiday weekend".

The failure to build the school is incomprehensible and reflects the low priority given to children with special needs.

Given the lengths that parents like Katherine Sinnott have had to go to in order to establish the right to education for their children it is completely unacceptable that the government would continue to fail to respond to their needs.

The parents in Bray are determined to win and *Socialist Worker* calls on everyone to join their protests and support their campaign.

Service Charges

THE BIN service in Bray has finally been handed over in its entirety to private operators. From April 26 residents of Bray can no longer access a council-provided service.

Catherine Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate in Wicklow, has opposed the privatisation of public services in the county for years and has decided to resist this decision by continuing to leave her bins out for collection by the council.

The litter warden has visited her and asked for the removal of the bags.

However Catherine argues that following the Supreme Court decision in the case of anti bin tax campaigners in Cork city, the council is obliged to collect rubbish.

Catherine has vowed to continue with her protest and is prepared to go to jail if need be in order to resist the privatisation of this vital local service.

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: Thursdays at 8pm in Foyle Friend Centre, 32 Great James St.
DROGHEDA: Meets Wednesdays 8:00pm Contact 01-872 2682 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 Finigans 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 2 pm Thursdays in CG02
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 Taylors Bar,

Dominick Street at 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.



ATGWU

Mick O'Reilly sacked

MICK O'REILLY the Irish Regional secretary of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union was sacked at the end of April. Also sacked was regional organiser, Eugene McGlone.

This followed a ten month suspension and "investigation" by TGWU headquarters during which time O'Reilly and McGlone were forbidden to speak to the press or other members of the union.

The witch hunt had been ordered by Bill Morris, general secretary of the TGWU and his officers at the union's headquarters in London after the ATGWU had accepted the ILDA train drivers into membership as a branch of the union.

Also the London bureaucrats were extremely unhappy at O'Reilly's opposition to so-called social partnership deals.

As *Socialist Worker* revealed, behind the scenes Bertie Ahern contacted the Labour Party in Britain to

send the message to TGWU leader Bill Morris to rein in O'Reilly.

Mick O'Reilly told *Socialist Worker*, "My sacking means an iron grip on the union in Ireland from the headquarters in London. This is part of a move to shift the union here towards Partnership."

The manner of O'Reilly's dismissal shows the appalling attitude of the London leadership. The union HQ first told the media who then informed Mick O'Reilly. Only days later did O'Reilly receive official notification of his dismissal—on May Day!

Mick O'Reilly told *Socialist Worker*, "It sends a terrible signal to employers about what is an acceptable way to treat employees. It

makes our members vulnerable to bad employers if the union leaders treat their officers like this.

"They could have called me over and let me know first. I will be appealing through the union's internal procedures—although I don't have much faith in those—and then looking at the legal situation."

O'Reilly had been bound to silence and the membership had not put in the picture. But support for O'Reilly and McGlone is widespread. Last year the Regional Committee of the union, a body of lay representatives from around the country, opposed his suspension.

A few months ago in an attempt to bring the issue to the membership Jimmy

Kelly stood for the Executive Committee election on the issue and topped the poll.

A number of meetings of shop stewards to build a campaign for Mick O'Reilly's and Eugene McGlone's reinstatement have been organised.

At one in Waterford around 30 shop stewards demanded the reinstatement of the sacked officials and that the matter should be referred to the membership of the union here in Ireland North and South.

Another meeting of shop stewards was set to take place in Dublin as Socialist Worker went to press.

As Jimmy Kelly told *Socialist Worker*, "It is a disgrace. A union leader who fought on behalf of his members has been taken out."

WE THINK

THE sacking of Mick O'Reilly and Eugene McGlone is a disgrace. They were pushed out on trumped up charges contained in a 240 page document.

They were silenced and told not to speak about their case.

They only found out they were finally removed when they heard it on the television.

If an employer behaved like this there would have been outrage!

Both men were sacked because they stood up for genuine trade unionism. They did not believe in

partnership with the employers but encouraged workers to resist them.

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions and the Southern government put pressure on the London head office to sack them because they backed a group of train drivers who were otherwise denied their negotiating rights.

Rank and file ATGWU members who want to defend the progressive tradition of the union should rally around these two men.

They will only be reinstated when members take back the union—and put it under rank and file control. The Irish elected members of the Executive—who come from both parts of Ireland—want these two officials back. But their wishes are being thwarted by an

unelected bureaucracy. This situation cannot be let fester, as it will lead to frustration and splits. The TGWU in Ireland needs to be urgently re-organised on the basis of democratic control by members.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

In June the TGWU in Ireland will meet in conference. The delegates should back resolution to reinstate the two sacked officials.

If head office does not accept this resolution, the conference should reconvene and take direct measures to re-structure the union on a democratic basis.

No unelected group of bureaucrats have a right to lord it over members. It is time for democracy—and a return to genuine trade unionism.

Pensions

OUR pension rights are coming under attack and very few trade unions have anything to say on the matter. The ASTI has highlighted the issue in the course of its campaign against benchmarking but it has failed to gain the publicity that it deserves.

The Public Service Commission on Pensions reported

last year, and included on its membership list Joe O'Toole former General Secretary of the INTO.

Most publicity centred around the disgraceful opposition of the Commission to lowering the retirement age for public sector workers.

However it contained another very important devel-

opment—its recommendation that pensions should no longer hold parity with salary.

In other words they recommended that rather than pensions rise in line with the salary of a serving equivalent, pensions would instead increase in line with the average increase across the public sector.

Dun Laoghaire

Council workers win strike

SIPTU and IMPACT workers in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council have won an important victory against their employer.

Council Manager Derek Brady, who worked for years in Dublin Corporation and was known there as a vicious opponent of the unions, was forced to back off in the face of strong, united pickets on depots and offices across the county.

SIPTU workers had a list of 70 grievances they wanted met, while IMPACT municipal workers had a list of 44.

All the grievances were a hang over from the reorganisation agreements that were put in place in 1994 when Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council was formed.

One IMPACT worker told *Socialist Worker*, "We weren't looking for extra money or promotions, they were all work matters. Things like not being given

money for overalls and shoes when there is a budget for them, wages no longer being paid into the bank and being expected to have tea breaks in huts with no facilities instead of back in the depot".

The management decided to go to war over this, with human resources refusing to talk to the unions.

Strike notice was served and SIPTU workers took to the picket line on Monday April 29.

IMPACT workers officially joined the picket lines on Tuesday.

Within the Town Hall moves were afoot to bring in private contractors to scab on the strike, but problems arose on the issue of access to dumps and the contractor seems to have pulled out.

In the face of all this management did a u-turn and called SIPTU into talks and their pickets were lifted on Wednesday afternoon.

IMPACT municipal

workers were then left out in the cold.

The IMPACT worker we spoke to believes that "this was a deliberate attempt to try and isolate IMPACT and to create division. However it didn't work."

"On Thursday morning we put our pickets up and SIPTU workers stayed out in solidarity with us. The mood was great."

All grievances are now being met and Dun Laoghaire management have been given a clear signal that despite their attempts over the last few years to demoralise the unions, workers will fight together tooth and nail against any attacks on them.

The solidarity that existed during the strike can be maintained and built on.

All council workers are aware of long term plans to privatise some of the councils services and this will mean attacks on jobs and conditions.

Ardagh Glass closure

THE ANNOUNCEMENT that Ardagh Glass is to close its plant in Ringsend is a disaster for 350 workers and their families.

The plant, better known under its old name of Irish Glass Bottles, is a major employer in the area.

The closure comes despite the workers accepting a draconian productivity deal and 50 redundancies before the closure was announced. This is nothing but greed on the part of the company.

The Ardagh group, which took over the plant from Irish Glass Bottle, is profitable.

They made €8 million last year. They are sacrific-

ing the livelihoods of 350 people just so they can increase the profits of the group as a whole.

Ardagh Glass recycles glass bottles from bottle banks all over the country. Its closure will be a major blow the amount of recycling in the country.

The glass produced in the plant is needed more than ever. Every year millions of

tonnes of plastic bottles that cannot be recycled have to be dumped in landfill.

If the government were serious about encouraging re-cycling they would force drinks companies to use recyclable glass.

Instead of backing a plant that helps the environment they are intent on building a dangerous waste incinerator in Ringsend.

Environment

PEOPLE LIVING in the Ringaskiddy and Carrigaline areas of Cork have been organising fierce opposition to the proposed incinerator in the area.

The opposition group CHASE (Cork Harbour Area for a Safe Environment) have been organising forums and protests over the last year and residents are now demanding what election candidates and their political parties are going to do about it.

At a recent meeting of the Cork Environmental Forum representatives from the six largest political parties all spoke against incineration. Many of the audience cynical of the promises of the main-

stream parties. One person spoke of the contradiction of local Fine Gael candidates speaking against incineration while former party leader John Bruton recently argued the merits of incineration.

Michael O'Sullivan, the Socialist Workers Party candidate in Cork South East, told the audience that the establishment parties could not be trusted on this issue as they would not be willing to take on the big polluters in this area such as their relationship with big business. The CHASE group is backing the Socialist Workers Party in the election.

Harney attacks CE workers again

MARY Harney announced a 19 percent cut in places on Community Employment (CE) schemes at the beginning of May.

Scheme workers have come under attack in the last couple of years with many finding that their places are phased out.

Many schools, community centres and voluntary organisations could not be run without CE workers.

Harney's decision was met with both anger and despair by those involved in the schemes.

The decision will cause devastation in the lives of some of those dependent on them.

Socialist Worker spoke to Anne, a young woman with a five-year-old child.

Her story illustrates how inhumane and callous these government decisions are.

This woman cannot read or write and she received special schooling during her childhood.

Anne began a scheme with a local drama group last year but was called in on the first Friday in April to be told that she had three weeks to find a new job.

"This job kept me going. I used to just sit at home in the house."

"Now I'm getting more confident and I've gone back to school as part of my scheme."

"I was thinking of doing a computer course next."

"This job has been great and I've been able to join up with other single parents and we've all gone with our kids to the seaside."

"I was promised two years when I signed on. I'll lose €160 a week when the job finishes. It's just selfish of Mary Harney to do this. No one should vote for her."

Missed

Anne's sister explained what this will mean for her. "She has no future to look forward to. She did her best and it's not fair on the likes of her."

"She never missed a day in school. She wanted to learn how to read. She doesn't want to have

to just watch while I help her kid with homework. She needs a job but without a scheme to help her she'll clean for the rest of her life."

Anne's mother, who is rearing her family on her own and has time only to sleep and work, must now face the worry of her daughter being let down again by the state.

FÁS have already told her that she has no prospect of finding a job. "It's a shame this carry on is let go. They always say they are cutting back because it costs too much money. But the people who should be entitled to it aren't receiving it."

"We're supposed to be one of the richest countries so people shouldn't have to suffer.

It's a bloody disgrace."

A supervisor on a scheme in a centre for old people explained what it would mean for her and her clients. "I'll be losing three of my four staff. That means the Day Centre can't be run. We collect 53 old people at 11 am and bring them home at 5 pm. We give them a four-course meal at lunchtime and provide afternoon tea and entertainment. We have a waiting list at the moment."

"The majority of my CE workers haven't been in the workforce for years. When they start their confidence and self-esteem can be at zero, but everyone who has been through my hands is now in proper employment... running shops,

working in hospitals, jobs like that. The scheme provided between one and three years of work in an environment where we worked as a team and enjoyed the work and it also provided training every year. It was a brilliant idea."

With the cut backs in the CE scheme there is no doubt but that the centre will have to close. "I've always said that without this service many of these old people would be in residential care. They live alone and without us they could not remain at home. The irony of all this is that it is going to cost millions to provide them with the residential care they will now need."

CE workers in Ballyfermot have called a

march for Wednesday May 8.

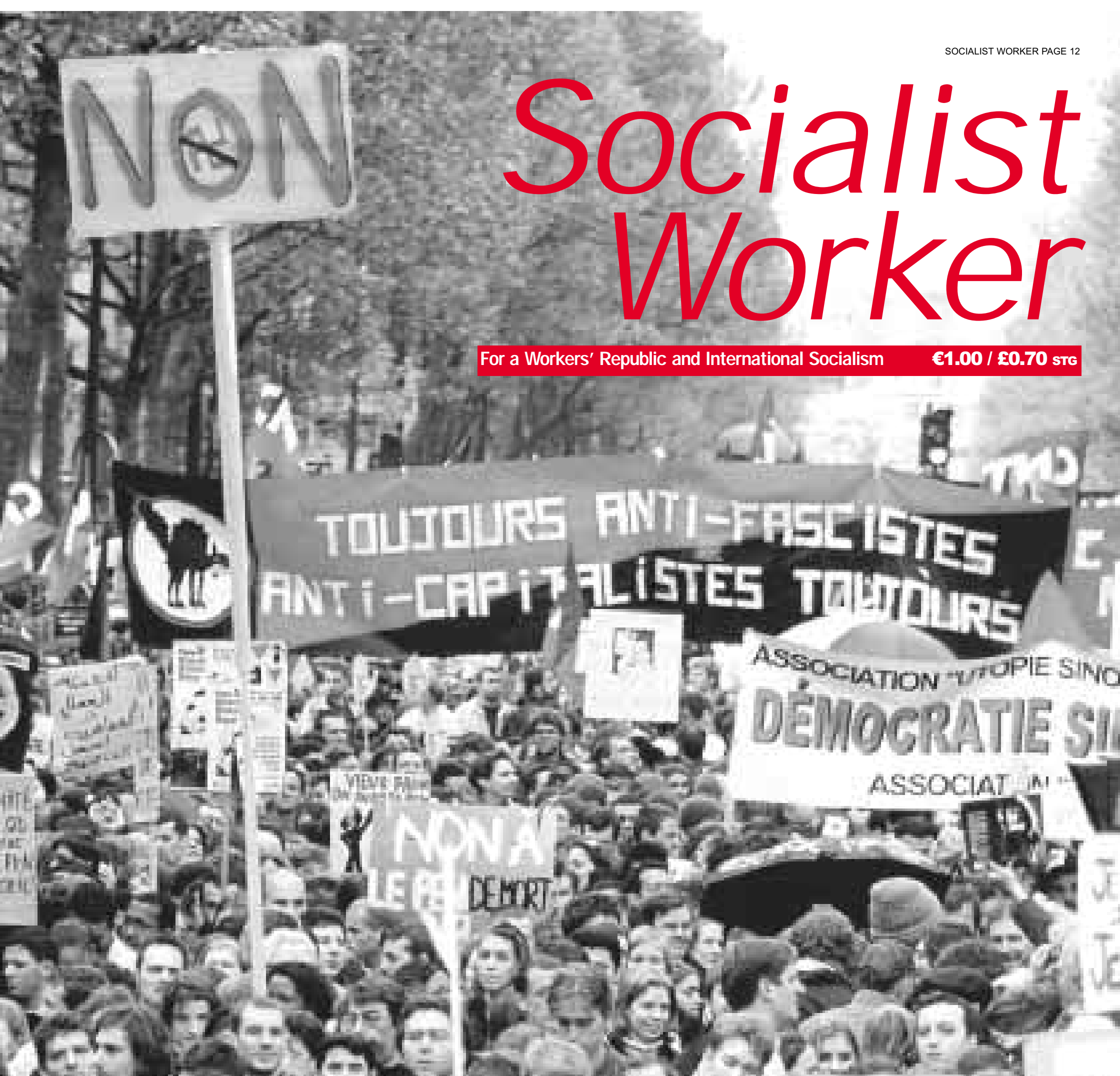
Brid Smith, local Socialist Worker candidate, is backing the march and is calling for a citywide demonstration to follow. "This is a huge attack on working class people and services in working class areas. It shows how arrogant and vicious the FF/PD government is that they think they can announce this in the middle of an election campaign and get away with it."

"Scheme workers got organised a few years ago and resisted similar attacks with large protests. They'll get the same response this time round."

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

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Millions march against Le Pen in France

**THIS IS HOW TO
BEAT THE NAZIS**

Report pages 6-7