

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

Inside:

How do we stop the sectarian killings?

WORKERS HIT BACK

NOW LET'S FIGHT



Spread the Action!

STAGG'S HOMELESS LIES

EMMET Stagg, the Coalition's junior Minister for Housing, claimed recently that the housing problem in Dublin was solved. He was lying.

Last year, 400 young people found themselves homeless.

The solution of the Eastern Health Board was to send some of them to Bed and Breakfast accommoda-

tion.

The situation has become so bad that Eoin O Sullivan from Streetwise, the organisation which lobbies for the homeless, claimed:

"St Patrick's institution and Wheatfield prison are now the main residential centres for young people in Dublin".

When Brenda found herself out of a home with her

young child she approached the Corporation looking for a flat.

"They told me that I needed to find myself a man and get another child before I had a chance of getting accommodation fairly quickly".

Next time Labour boasts about its achievements in Dublin, tell them where to stuff their lies.

Stop this Criminal Injustice

THE Tory Criminal Justice Bill will give the police in Britain many of the draconian powers they already have in the North.

It will end the right to silence for everyone and give the police the right to stop and search on the street without any reason.

The RUC are already well used to these powers.

But the Bill will give the RUC new powers to harass and arrest anyone who gathers in a group of more than ten.

The Tories say this is for use against young people gathering for a rave. Refusal to move when ordered will carry a three month jail sentence.

Last year the RUC raided and stopped a number of open air raves on remote beaches around the Co Antrim coast.

The new Bill will allow them to arrest ravers even before they get going.

The RUC were ably assisted last year by the IRA. Raves at the Point Inn—in Donegal just a few miles outside Derry—were stopped because the IRA said drugs were being sold.

A rave disco in Derry, the Blunt Club, has also been closed by the IRA who agree with the Tories that young people should enjoy themselves only in ways approved by them.

The new Criminal Justice Bill will also criminalise squatters and travellers.

It will make it a criminal offence with a £5000 fine and six month sentence for a squatter to stay in a building after a court has granted a possession order.

It will be a criminal offence for travellers to stay on "private" land. But councils won't be able to provide authorised halting sites.

There are groups against the Bill springing up all over Britain.

A protest march in May drew 15,000 mainly young people. It's time people in the North started to protest too.

PASSPORTS FOR ALBERT'S PALS BUT...

Refugees treated as criminals

ALBERT Reynolds is at the centre of a scandal that shows the huge difference between rich and poor in this country.

A millionaire Arab businessman invested £1 million in the Reynolds family business "Cat and Dog Foods", and in return was given Irish Citizenship.

According to Dick Spring, this is "all above board."

Legally it might be so. But morally speaking it is pure corruption.

According to Des O'Malley a trade has grown up for Irish citizenship with fees of £60,000 being charged for the deals.

He should know, as a former Justice Minister he would have been responsible for dealing with appli-

cations for citizenship.

But the real scandal is the fact that while the rich do deals amongst themselves poor asylum seekers are treated as criminals.

Take Ji Yao Lau for example.

Ji Lau was involved in the Tiananmen Square rebellion five years ago.

Despite being arrested after the clampdown, he managed to escape from China to Ireland.

Was he given a hero's welcome for standing up for democracy? Far from it, he wasn't even given the right to stay.

Instead the authorities threw him in the Mountjoy for nearly nine months, without allowing him any legal advice.

What Ji Lau's case reveals is that Ireland is one of the most unwelcoming country's in Europe.

They're welcome here

IT IS virtually impossible to get a permit to work here if you are from outside the EC.

Nor do victims of re-

pression fare any better.

About 40 people a year apply to Ireland for asylum.

But since 1987 a total of only twelve people have been given the right to

stay.

The current laws date back to the 1935 Aliens Act and give refugees no procedure to follow.

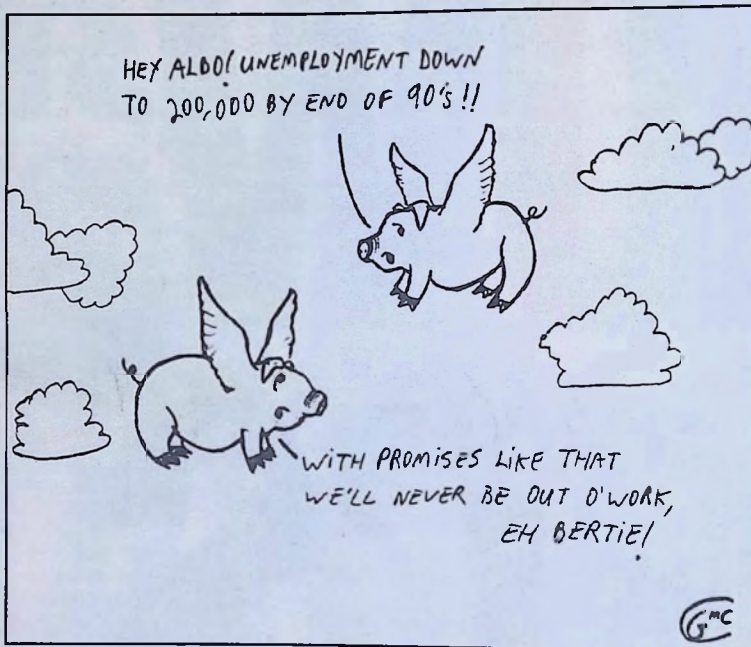
Their cases are dealt with totally at the discretion of the Minister for Justice, with no rights of appeal.

Most of those who come here remain with no legal rights, no benefits, no work.

The Irish Refugee Council told *Socialist Worker* that there are an estimated 5,000 people waiting for the right to stay in Ireland.

Some of them have been waiting years.

This is a disgrace. Everyone who wants to live and work here should be allowed to do so and not just millionaires who want the passports in order to enter the European world of high finance and diplomatic deals.



NO RACISTS?

JUSTICE Minister Geoghegan Quinn denied that Ireland operates a racist policy on refugees.

But 1991 figures show that while 1800 Europeans of non-EU origin and 7600 Americans have been granted Irish citizenship, not one person from Africa or Asia has received citizenship.

Non-whites who have lived here for up to 14 years are afraid of asking too many questions for fear of antagonising the Dept of Justice.

One man who went to see an official about his application was refused as he was not among the first 15 in the queue and he was then refused access to use the internal telephone.

In some cases applicants waited four years before getting a standard reply reading:

"I am directed by the Minister for Justice to refer to your application for a Certificate of Naturalisation.

"I regret to inform you that the Minister is not prepared to grant you a Certificate of Naturalisation."

Ballymurphy Seven fight on

SEVEN young men from the Ballymurphy area of Belfast are among the latest victim of an unjust legal system.

They were detained in connection with an IRA attack in August 1991.

All seven were held for up to six days in the Castlereagh detention centre where they broke under physical and psychological abuse and signed uncorroborated 'confessions'.

According to the Voice of the Innocent group cam-

paigning for their release "their arrest was a show of force to the community that the RUC and the British army could arrest anyone, innocent or guilty"

Nearly 80% of all successful prosecution cases in Northern Ireland are based on 'confessions' before the single judge no jury Diplock court system.

But the scandals over the Gullford Four case has made the British judiciary about sending innocent people to prison.

In recent months two of the Ballymurphy Seven

have been released after spending two and a half years in prison.

The judge told one of those released, Ciaran McAllister, that he should 'profit from his experience'.

But there are still five more locked up -- including James Morgan who was sentenced to 14 years. The campaign to prove their innocence is continuing.

The Ballymurphy Seven Campaign can be contacted at: Voice of the Innocent, 27 Ballymurphy Road, Belfast BT 12 Phone 0232 232234.

Nazi is blitzed

IRELAND'S only nazi candidate in last month's local elections was defeated heavily.

And it was all thanks to the activities of the Anti-Nazi League.

Michael McGrath tried to register the National Socialist Party in 1990. Its organising secretary was Terry Dempster who claimed that his mission was to 'spread the gospel of Hitler to every part of the world'.

Since the NSP broke up, McGrath tried to build a base in Kilkenny as an independent community candidate. Before the local election he was tipped to get a seat on the local council.

But the ANL leafletted every single working class housing estate in Kilkenny. They organised a public meeting in

the town with Frans Frison a survivor of the Buchenwald concentration camp speaking.

The result was that McGrath only got 132 votes or less than 2% of the vote.

After the election McGrath blamed the

ANL 'smear campaign' against him.

The proud specimen of the master race was so demoralised by the result that he promised never to stand in an election again.

"I'm taking a back seat as far as public life is

concerned".

The Socialist Workers Movement intends to make sure he keeps his promise.

A branch of the organisation is being established in Kilkenny to fight the system that breeds fascist scum.

BNP thug let off lightly

RICHARD Edmonds, deputy leader of Britain's small Nazi party, the BNP, has been convicted of attacking a black man who was scarred for life.

Steven Browne had been walking past the Ship pub in Bethnal

Green, east London with his white girlfriend when he was attacked by a number of BNP thugs screaming racist abuse.

Among those leading the attacks was the Nazi rat, Edmonds.

One of the BNP thugs was given a four and a half year sentence for

attack. But unbelievably the BNP leader was left off with a light sentence of a few months.

Rahul Patel of the Anti-Nazi League said the sentence was disgusting.

"This man is the main instigator behind the violence that the BNP perpetrates", he said.

We Think

INTO BATTLE

A huge strike wave has started to emerge in Dublin. The next few weeks will be important ones in Irish politics.

The Euro-election results show that the strike wave could not have happened at a better time.

The Coalition government's credibility is being torn apart as FF got its lowest vote in Dublin ever. According to Reynolds FF now has only 2,000 members in the capital city where it once had 12,000.

Even with all the corruption and graft at its disposal, its working class base has shrunk dramatically.

The mood of Irish workers is shifting leftwards. When Reynolds was caught selling off passports to millionaires who invested in his pet food firm, few argued that all foreigners should be kept out.

Instead they asked why are impoverished refugees who flee tyranny locked up while millionaires have doors



opened by the Taoiseach himself.

The shift to the left means that tens of thousands of workers are ready to support those who fight. They desperately want them to win.

In the height of the World Cup fever, for example, only a minority passed the pickets of Dublin bar staff.

The stakes are high in the

coming battles in TEAM, Irish Steel, B+I. The ESRI has forecast a recovery in the Irish economy. They predict a 5% growth rate next year -- the highest in Europe.

The employers want to use the recovery to boost their profits. They know the recovery will not last long. Instead of easing up on the attacks in recent years, they want to

carry them further by even demanding wage cuts.

That is why they put on macho attitudes everywhere. They threaten us with sackings and union busting.

Workers may go into battle on the defensive. But as every soccer supporter knows, defense can quickly turn into an offensive.

The key to winning lies in breaking with the pessimism that has infected the unions in the last few years.

Here socialists will play a vital role. Everyone who supports this paper should be working flat out to build the strikes and the campaign against water charges.

BONANZA FOR THE BOSSES.

The bosses who call for wage cuts are awarding themselves huge bonus payments.

Bank of Ireland: Bonus payments for the bosses up 815%. Three executive directors will see their bonus payments jump from £20,000 to a whopping £183,000

Cement Roadstone Holdings: Bonus payments are up 175%. Seven executives will share out £432,000.

Unidare: Bonus payments are up 25%. Four executives will share out a £15,000 bonus.

Allied Irish Banks: Bonus payments up 13%. Five executives will share out a staggering £600,000.

Remember: These are just the bonuses. The average salary for Managing Directors in Ireland is now £62,318 a year.

HOW DO WE STOP THE KILLINGS?

The Tories Northern Ireland Secretary, Patrick Mayhew has long claimed the IRA is the major cause of violence in the North. Recent events show that he is lying. The UDA and UVF are now responsible for most killings.

They are not just reacting to the IRA. They have definite political objectives in mind.

These groups have little support among Protestant workers. But they believe that they can use a campaign of terror to get to the negotiating table.

Aside from the O Toole's and Greysteel massacres, their main targets are Catholics who are at work in largely Protestant workplaces or areas.

The UVF/UDA are trying to give a message: certain jobs and workplaces have to be reserved for Protestants.

These sectarian killers have to be stopped. That can only be done by Catholic and Protestant workers uniting and seeing themselves as part of the one class: the working class.

Tragically, the republican movement is doing little to help in this. After the shipyard workers walked out in protest at the killing of Maurice O Kane, **Republican News** ran a banner headline,

"SHIPYARD OF SHAME". It detailed the sectarian history of the yard - but did not utter a word of support to the unions who had organised the walk-out.

Workers

It conveyed the impression that the shipyard workers were part of an enemy camp. The attitude of republicans to right wing nationalists like Albert Reynolds is a striking contrast. Sinn Fein, General Secretary, Lucilita Breathnach,

described Reynolds's offer to the Unionist Party of 30% of elite positions in a new Ireland as "just one example of the generosity of spirit which permeates Irish nationalism."

It was nothing of the sort. It showed that Reynolds believes that a united Ireland will be based on a carve up between Fianna Fail and the Unionist Party. The North desperately needs a socialist organisation that cuts across the Unionist and Nationalist blocks.

That will be built by Protestants who reject loyalism as a sectarian creed and Catholics who move beyond republicanism because they see that they have more in common with their fellow workers than they have with the likes of Albert Reynolds.

Socialist Worker Appeal

This last week has proved the need for a fortnightly Socialist Worker.

The rest of the media has given very little space to the workers side in the wave of disputes that have broken out.

The pub workers got the worst reporting, with paper after paper attacking them for spoiling the World Cup. They should have blamed the pub managers.

Socialist Worker on the other hand does put forward the views of workers in dispute. It is a paper that helps build solidarity, and unites the different struggles.

But a monthly Socialist paper is too infrequent for the pace of events today.

Help us reach our target for this year of £10,000.

Send donations to SW Appeal PO Box 1648, Dublin 8.

Bus dispute set to escalate

Workers in Belfast's Citybus and Ulsterbus have launched an overtime ban which should escalate to strike action.

Management are attempting to introduce flexible working practices and low paid part time workers in the build up to privatisation.

They have offered a pay increase of 3 per cent whilst the workers are fighting for 6 per cent without strings.

Ted Hesketh the boss of Citybus and Ulsterbus has claimed that bus workers take home pay is £275 per week in fact it is £140. Yet Hesketh gets £70,000 per year and recently gave himself a 16 per cent pay rise.

Management have claimed

that there is no more money available, yet in the last published figures Ulsterbus alone made a profit of over £2million in 1992.

Management responded to the overtime ban by threatening to suspend or sack workers.

This attack should of been met with an immediate all out strike

yet the union leaders went into talks. There have already been three ballots for strike action with a 2:1 majority.

Citybus workers have in the

past shown their unity and strength in striking against the threats of loyalist paramilitaries, this strength is now being turned on management.

Strikes at BBC

The two day strikes by BBC workers last month were a tremendous success.

The dispute is over attempts by management to force through performance related pay, and attempt to create "flexible" working hours and end national bargaining.

As one journalist told Socialist Worker, "This strike is about protecting jobs. The BBC has launched a ferocious attack on our livelihoods which could result in a 20% loss of pay. The BBC has thrown out all existing agreements and forced a strike".

Another striker from BECTU pointed out that, "performance related pay is just another way of cutting pay, this place is just a factory with ties".

The stoppages have forced management to negotiate but so far the new offer does not change any of the reasons for the dispute.

While workers clearly want to keep pushing ahead with the action, the union leaders have postponed various days of strike activity.

This runs the risk of letting the BBC bosses off the hook. Strike action forced the bosses to negotiate.

Further action could force them to back down altogether.

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MARXISM 94

Central London
8th-15th July

Speakers include:

Tony Benn
Tony Cliff
Bernie Grant
Paul Foot
Christopher Hill
Susan George

Over 250 meetings in a week of debate and discussion including:

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- Where now for South Africa?
- What about Human nature?
- Can there be a revolution?

If you want to travel over with socialists from Ireland or want more details about Marxism 94 send this form to Po Box 1648 Dublin 8, or Po Box 103 Belfast Bt15 2AB. Or phone (01) 8722682

UN hypocrisy on Rwanda

THE Western leaders have started to call for UN intervention in Rwanda.

France has accused other countries of 'culpable inaction' over the genocide in Rwanda and has offered to send in 2,000 troops.

This is all sick hypocrisy.

When the war started in Rwanda, the UN's only concern was to organise the withdrawal of white people.

Its soldiers allowed massacres to take place before their eyes—then the UN withdrew from the country while one quarter of a million Tutsis were massacred.

New reports reveal that the French government has played a major role in the butchery in Rwanda.

According to the Human Rights Watch, France sent guns to the Hutu dominated government.

It signed a secret defence pact with this government led by General Habyarimana and provided him with military advisors.

The other suppliers of weapons were Egypt and South Africa.

Habyarimana set up a paramilitary organisation, the Interhamwe, in a desperate bid to gain support.

Rwanda's main export is coffee.

As coffee prices tum-

bled on the world market, the country was thrown into desperate poverty.

Genocide

Habyarimana tried to turn the anger on the Tutsi minority and encourage genocide.

All the time France continued to back him.

The call for UN intervention now is simply a way for the Western powers and in particular France and Belgium to be given a chance to meddle again in the country after they backed the losing side.



BILLIONS SPENT ON ARMS WHILE MILLIONS STARVE

THE Human Development Report of the United Nations makes shocking reading.

It shows that while millions suffer famine and starvation on this planet, huge amounts of money are spent on the weapons of war.

The big arms spenders are the five permanent members of the UN's own Security Council.

They account for 86 percent of all current arms supplies.

At the moment military spending equals the income of nearly half the world's people.

The gap between rich and poor across the world has also grown dramatically wider.

The richest twenty percent of the world's popula-

tion now have sixty times the wealth of the poorest twenty percent.

The gap is thirty times greater than it was in 1960.

The UN claims that a third of humanity now lives "at such a margin of human existence that words simply fail to describe it".

More than a billion of the world's people live on an income of under one dollar a day.

Misery

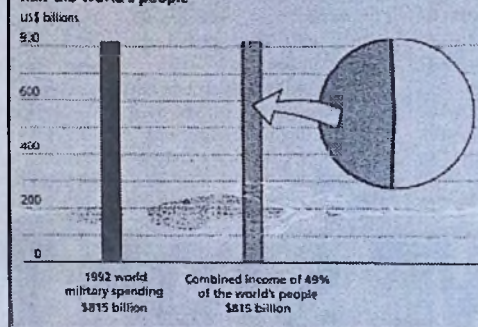
Poverty respects no borders.

Even in the so-called developed countries, misery is widespread and increasing.

In the European Union, for example, 44 million people—28 percent of the workforce—receive less than half the average income of their country.

Homelessness is also on the rise.

World military spending equals the income of nearly half the world's people



Four hundred thousand people, for example, are registered homeless in London while 500,000 are registered homeless in France.

This is called "European civilisation".

Governments everywhere are turning their backs on people who are looking for support.

Social security is being torn apart in the major industrialised countries.

Welfare

Germany, for example, plans the largest post-war cut in unemployment and welfare programmes.

One of the biggest causes

of poverty is the debt imposed on developing countries. In 1992 these countries were forced to hand over 160 billion dollars in debt servicing.

This is two and a half times the amount of development aid they received.

Some eight hundred million people at the moment are now starving on this planet.

Yet, per head of population, food production has increased throughout the 1980s.

Diseases

There is enough food in the world to offer everyone 2,500 calories a day - two thousand calories more than the basic minimum. People go hungry not because food is unavailable, but because they cannot afford it.

Simple diseases which

could be eradicated are still a major killer. Four and a half million people die each year from diarrhoea which is caused by polluted water.

Access to clean water is a huge problem in the developing world where two billion people have no way of getting safe sanitation.

The UN report's solution to these problems is to set up an Economic Security Council which is similar to the existing UN Security Council.

But it is international bodies like the World Bank and the IMF that have largely got developing countries into the mess they are in at the moment.

It's crazy to suggest that letting the big powers sit around another table will do anything to solve the problems of famine, ethnic conflict or mass unemployment.

□ Patricia McManus

ITALY:

Euro-elections boost far right

THE European Elections have given another boost to the Italian right wing media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi.

Berlusconi has formed an alliance with the fascists who again got 12% of the vote in the European elections.

Five fascists have joined his cabinet.

At a meeting of European Union Telecommunications Ministers, Giuseppe Tatarella of the National Alliance, formerly the MSI, said

"The National Alliance has no links with fascism. Its members belong to the political right, democratically formed. They are not

fascists".

The leader of the MSI, Gianfranco Fini, no longer calls himself a fascist.

He claims that the MSI has been playing by the rules of democracy for almost half a century.

He also insists that the party had rejected its racist past.

True colours

No one should be fooled by this. MSI was founded after the war to continue the traditions of Mussolini's regime.

Fini showed his true colours when he described Mussolini as "the greatest statesman of the century" in his post-election vic-

tory speech.

The Speaker of Parliament Irene Pivetti, is notorious for her bigotry. In a recent interview with La Repubblica, she said

"We cannot uncritically support the declaration of the rights of man when it stipulates full freedom of religious belief for all. Everyone must share the Catholic faith. What can I learn from a Muslim?"

One prominent Italian historian remarked that "It is terrifying to think that the next time there is a skinhead attack on the Jewish community, our leaders may have to ask for protection from a neo-fascist Interior Minister elected with the votes of

those very skinheads".

Under Mussolini's regime, almost 7,000 Jews were deported to concentration camps. Fewer than 1,000 returned alive.

Berlusconi has now announced his intention to create a ministry of the family, which would encourage women to stay at home.

Following in the tradition of Mussolini, women are viewed, as one feminist put it, "simply as brood mares for a new generation of young fascists".

Fini's intentions to build a strong fascist movement outside parliament should increase the left's determination to resist.

At the beginning of

May, 300,000 people took part in a massive anti-fascist demonstration in Milan.

This shows that the potential to resist the fascists exists. What is needed is effective leadership and a strategy which can confront the skinhead thugs on the streets.

Resigned

Unfortunately the response from the left has been hesitant and fatalistic.

As Forza Italia gained its victory, the leader of the former communist Democratic Left (PDS), resigned.

Rather than giving up in despair, the left needs to

exploit the divisions within the government and to mobilise the anger which will undoubtedly flare as Berlusconi goes ahead with his attack on the living standards of workers.

His Thatcherite programme of privatisation, dismantling of state enterprises and lowering taxes for the rich will cause massive anger among the working classes.

This anger can be rapidly turned against the fascists and their capitalist bosses.

The Italian working class has a long history of struggle and in the present conditions Berlusconi is by no means certain of victory.

Since the autumn, a number of struggles were taken up in workplaces in defence of employment, forcing the employers to back down on several occasions.

In November and December 1993, there was a massive mobilisation of young people against the privatisation of schools and reduction in teaching staff.

In January, FIAT workers in Turin came out alongside white collar workers to oppose attempts to lay off 15,000 workers over two years.

If the left can link these struggles to the fight against fascism, Berlusconi's stay in power could be short-lived.

Belfast shipyard workers strike against UVF murder

LAST month two thousand mainly Protestant shipyard workers walked out in protest at the murder of a Catholic man, Maurice O'Kane, shot dead as he worked in a building dock in the harbour in June.

It was a magnificent response to the sectarian bigots who are trying to divide the workers of the North.

Maurice O'Kane had worked at the Belfast shipyard for twenty years as a welder.

He was murdered by the UVF in an attempt to stir up sectarian tensions in the shipyard, which is over eighty percent Protestant.

His murder comes at a time when loyalist gunmen in the North see anyone who is a Catholic as a target.

They are trying to set back any chance of a deal or a beginning of a "peace process".

Over the past period of months of the loyalist terror groups have stepped up their campaign.

They have been encouraged by bigoted politicians like the DUP's Sammy Wilson, who claims that the term "ethnic cleansing" is re-

alistic when applied to the streets of Northern Ireland.

Yet the Harland and Wolff strike shows that there is real opposition to the sectarian thugs.

According to a TGWU steward, "the strike was one hundred percent supported by the workers at Harland and Wolff and also those working for the contractors and subsidiary companies."

Indeed in the press bulletin released by the Senior Stewards Committee, union spokesman George Rose stated: "The work force of Harland and Wolff are determined not to let this murder divide us, if anything we are determined it will make us stronger."

Shocked

One worker said, "I've always been a loyalist but I'm totally shocked and disgusted at the murder of a man like me who was only here to earn a



Maurice O'Kane: murdered by the UVF

living.

It really brings it home to you when something like this happens in your own work place."

A TGWU steward said, "Maurice has three sons who also work in the shipyard."

"One of them phoned the ICTU when the murder was discovered asking if he would be safe to return to work."

"It was our duty as workers to guarantee

him that safety.

"That is the most important reason for the walk out—that we show the people who committed this murder that they do not have any support within the Harland and Wolff work force.

Problems

"Working people in this day and age have enough problems without facing death threats

and murder in their work place."

The management of the shipyard were quick to support the trade union walk out, claiming that they also had the common goal of combating sectarianism.

This needs to be exposed as the complete lie that it is.

In the past Harland and Wolff bosses were at best likely to turn a blind eye to anti-Catholic bigotry.

In the past, the owners of Harland and Wolff encouraged pogroms against Catholics and "rotten Prods"—people who were socialists or trade union activists.

Their reaction today is hypocritical and comes not from a humane response but a desire to maintain stability and protect their interests and profits.

The Harland and Wolff workers should be applauded for their stand.

Socialists have always argued that the only way to confront sectarianism is to unite on a class basis.

Workers have far more to gain united than divided.

A background of unrest

FRIDAY'S walk out comes at a time when shipyard workers bear the brunt of Tory and management attacks.

The Harland and Wolff shipyard, which used to employ thirty thousand men in the 1950s, now has a core workforce of only two thousand.

Since privatisation two years ago there have been a steady stream of redundancies and worries over the future of the yard.

There are genuine concerns within the workforce that there is little future and that the shipyard owner Fred Olsen (also owner of Timex) has a long term goal of milking dry government grants and then leaving the workers high and dry.

Resigned

The managing director of Harland and Wolff, John Parker, a man who forced through many attacks, resigned last year in mysterious circumstances yet still stayed on the board of directors.

Only last month a hundred workers were sacked when they refused to accept new contracts which forced them to work up to eighty

hours per week but with only 40 hours' pay.

The men have since returned to work but are bitter about the whole package.

Sacked

"The management simply put a gun to our heads and said that if we didn't sign we were sacked."

We're back to work now, but it's still a bitter pill to swallow knowing you're working Saturday and Sunday with no pay."

At a time of defeat for shipyard workers last month's brilliant walk out gives a glimpse of the action that can defeat the bosses and give the workers a few needed victories.

The unity forged against the sectarian killers should be turned into a real fight against the Harland and Wolff managers and their Tory friends.

WATER RATES

Build the non-payment campaign!

THOUSANDS of people in the county council areas of Fingal, Dun Laoghaire/Rath-down and South Dublin are refusing to pay water rates.

So far hundreds have attended meetings and demonstrations to oppose this latest rip-off of working class people.

They are angry because once more the politicians have targeted PAYE workers who already pay 89 per cent of central taxation in Ireland.

One speaker at a meeting in Baldoyle pointed out that for low paid workers the local water rates bill of £85 is worse than the one per cent levy abolished in the last budget.

Meanwhile the rich pay the lowest rates of tax and receive huge hand-outs from the state.

When the Motorola company expanded in Swords recently they gave major reasons for choosing Ireland as low tax rates and generous IDA grants.

Despite the low tax rates for the rich, big companies try every trick in the book to avoid or delay paying their bills. In the 1980's the beef baron Larry

Goodman only paid one per cent of his tax bill and Dunnes Stores owe £100 million in back taxes.

Working class people cannot afford to employ top accountants to find loopholes in the tax system.

We are told to pay up our water rates in two instalments or else the council will cut off our supply.

Even the waiver scheme for the unemployed is a con. The New Ross council abolished the waiver scheme and now forces everyone to pay regardless of income.

The only way to beat this tax is to stand together and refuse to pay. Many people realise this and have joined the Dublin Campaign against Water Charges.

People also remember that the Water Rates were beaten last time round in Dublin by a massive non-payment campaign. If we are organised we can beat them this time as well.

Why we are not paying

"If they get away with water rates the next thing we'll have to pay for having our rubbish collected. Already in my area they are trying to bring in wheelie bins that people have to pay for."

"It's brilliant to see so many people willing to join the non-payment campaign. They know it's not enough to be angry - you have to be organised as well."—Anne Marie

Brady, Tallaght against the Charges.

"You pay your full tax every year and now they want water rates. PAYE workers foot the bill all the time with no relief."

"People are sick up to the teeth with getting nothing back for what they pay out. You have to pay £15 for the dentist and £6 for the doctor as well as PRSI and PAYE. Enough is

enough."—Pat Hughes, Baldoyle.

"Everyone around here is paying enough and there is no way they are going to give in on this. They know the water charges are only the first step to being charged for refuse."

"We feel that we ourselves need to get out on the streets over this issue instead of leaving it up to the politicians."—Deirdre Cronin, Ballinteer.

ACTION SO FAR-ACTION SO FAR-ACTION SO

THE Dublin Campaign against Water Charges has organised groups in several areas around Dublin. Local people have leafletted their estates urging non-payment.

In BALDOYLE the Campaign was launched with a successful meeting in the Racecourse Inn on the eve of the European elections.

The following evening the local group leafletted the polling station and got an excellent response - the

politicians were nowhere to be seen!

In BALBRIGGAN on 10th June a loud and angry demonstration brought traffic to a standstill. Many local people took away leaflets and posters to build the non-payment campaign.

On the same day in TALLAGHT determined demonstrators had to overcome the obstacle of a JCB digger placed at the entrance to the new £10 million council offices. A week later on 17th June an angry picket confronted Environment Minister Michael Smith as he arrived at the

lavish opening ceremony at the new offices.

In BALLINTEER on 7th June, a crowd of 300 marched to Dundrum and called for a Dublin wide demonstration on 25th June to link up the local groups in a show of strength.

In SWORDS a demonstration of 200 demanded the scrapping of the charges. The area is already being hit by threatened sackings and wage cuts in TEAM Aer Lingus.

For details of activities in these and other areas contact the Dublin Campaign against Water Charges at 01-8722682.

Win support from workers

THE non-payment campaign can be strengthened if we win the support of organised workers in the county councils.

Already workers in South Dublin are taking action against privatisation of refuse services (see report on page 117).

Council workers should be urged to refuse to cut off water over non-payment.

Water charges were defeated in Waterford in 1989 when trade unionists refused to cut off the supply of anyone not paying.

A huge demonstration

stopped scabs from cutting off the water in a local estate.

Council workers are doubly hit by cutbacks and charges. They face job losses due to privatisation and also have to pay local charges and suffer the effects of run-down services.

These workers have a direct interest in opposing the water rates and have the industrial muscle that can win.

Depressing news from the drug companies

A MAJOR controversy has broken out in America about the use of the anti-depressant drug, Prozac. After five years of adverse reaction, the drugs makers El Lilly are being sued for damages in the courts.

The issue is whether Prozac increased irritability in depressed people. There have been reports that it led to uncontrollable outbursts of rage and even to attempted and completed suicides.

The Medical profession in the US has come to the aid of the drug company and dismissed allegations against the drug as being unsupported by solid scientific evidence.

The drug companies have a powerful influence on medical practice and the development of medical knowledge. Massive profits are made from the sale of drugs making the companies among the wealthiest and most powerful of multi-nationals.

Wealth

Some of the wealth is used to gain control over medical practice. Doctors are given expensive brochures and often taken on junkets by the drug companies. The companies also sponsor research into the particular areas they are interested in.

Jansen and Wellcome, for example, are proud of their tradition of supporting medical research. But they were heavily criticised by international health organisations for their marketing of cures for diarrhoea.

Their drugs which were supposed to cure diarrhoea were costly and often made the condition worse. The more appropriate first line treatment was a mixture of boiled water, sugar and salt.

Jansen and Wellcome carried out an exploitative campaign in South America and African countries where poverty and a lack of a public health programme left people vulnerable.

They claimed that their drug could be taken by children who were two years younger than those in developed countries. The drug companies only concern is profit and greed.

Any health problem which might reduce the need for drugs will be heavily opposed by drug companies who have the politicians who are in their pockets.

But how useful are drugs in general and Prozac in particular?

Drugs can be effective. Some are even life-saving.

But it doesn't mean that they are the most important or even relevant approach to a problem. TB, for example, is a disease which had fallen dramatically before the discovery of antibiotics.

TB was reduced through less crowded housing, better nutrition and overall health of the population at large.

But this success does not mean that an individual with TB should not be treated with an effective antibiotic. It just means prevention is better than cure.

Prozac is as good an anti-depressant drug as any other over the last 40 years. But it is no more effective. Ironically its advantage was marketed as having fewer side effects. There are several effective and many cheaper anti-depressant drugs on the market and there is no good reason why psychiatry would miss Prozac if it was withdrawn.

Anti-depressants undoubtedly work for a minority of depressed people. But like antibiotics for TB there is a much more important but neglected role for prevention.

Depressed

We need to look at why people are depressed in the first place.

People are bombarded with images of success and continued happiness.

Yet the reality is more likely to be unemployment, debts, and the chaos of family life. It's not surprising that people can't cope.

The causes of depression are a complex mix of environment mingling and altering biology, in ways which we don't fully understand.

Yet progress is unlikely in this area under the present system.

Research in the area of depression has shown that social conditions and the ability of individuals to control their lives are key factors in ending depression.

Yet capitalism does everything to remove those areas of control from our lives.

As revolution is not available on the medical card, we are going to have to make it for ourselves. Go for it.

□ Doctor P.J.

Thorp Tim

The major upset of the Euro elections was the election of Patrica McKenna a green party candidate. She was elected mostly due to the anger over the THORP Reprocessing plant. Here Catherine Curran looks at the issues around THORP and the Greens strategy of opposition to it.

THE THORP plant in Cumbria is still not in operation. When British Nuclear Fuel tried to start it up, they encountered a few accidents. Now they have had to defer their plans.

This means that there is still a chance to stop this death factory.

THORP was set up to reprocess spent fuel from nuclear reactors, including uranium, plutonium and other radioactive waste.

The plant will, if it goes ahead, increase tenfold the radioactive emissions into the air and sea around Sellafield.

For instance, emissions of iodine-131, which is linked with thyroid cancer in children, will increase by forty times their present level.

Discharges of tritium, cobalt-60, strontium-90 and iodine-129 will increase by six times their present levels.

Already a child living near Sellafield has ten times greater chance of getting cancer than a child living in other parts of the UK.

The only justification for going ahead with THORP is the profits to be made from reprocessing nuclear waste from around the world.

The British government hope to make £500 million from this crazy plant.

BNFL has agreements with British and foreign nuclear plants worth some £9 billion pounds. They are determined that the plant should go ahead regardless of the costs to people and the environment.

The Sellafield plant where THORP is located was set up in 1947 to produce plutonium for use in nuclear weapons. The plant was a disaster from the start.

In 1957, a fire broke out which released a nuclear cloud containing 100 to 1000 times more iodine-131 than the Three Mile Island accident.

In the days after the accident, levels of radioactivity increased massively on parts of the Irish coast but no health



warning was given. In Britain, milk from farms for 300 miles around the plant had to be poured away.

Irish nuclear medical specialists have shown a link between the radioactive cloud and an alarming number of birth defects among the children of former Dundalk schoolgirls.

Accident

These include a form of Down's Syndrome which is not hereditary, as well as Spina Bifida, heart defects and deafness.

But this accident is nothing to what could happen in the new THORP plant. This is a potential Chernobyl on our doors steps.

Even if there were no accident there is a danger of greater exposure to radiation.

The plant has poured a quarter tonne of plutonium into the Irish Sea, making it the most radioactive sea in the world.

THORP is the extreme end of a crazy system that puts profits before people. But there is still a chance to fight it.

The judges in the European Court will do little to stop THORP. They have been nominated by governments who back the

nuclear industry.

The only way to stop THORP is mass action. In 1972, the Irish union leaders called huge demonstrations all over the country to protest at the Bloody Sunday murders.

When tens of thousands marched on the British embassy in Dublin, they forced the British government to abolish the old Stormont regime.

Similar protests on the same scale would be the only way to force the Tories to back off again.

HOW ALBERT SAVED THORP

The Irish government say that all Irish people are united in their opposition to THORP.

It is a lie.

■ When Albert Reynolds was the President of the European Finance Ministers, he agreed to a £3 billion grant to the nuclear industry.

If THORP had not gotten some of that money it would never have been built.

■ In 1992, the Irish government made a submission to the World Earth Summit on environmental problems. They never mentioned THORP.

FF politicians pretend to oppose THORP—but they will never take any action that will offend their right wing friends in Europe.

FIGHT THORP SAVE OUR SHORES

Sunday 3rd July
Cooley peninsula

Assemble 4pm

For transport from around the country contact
Po Box 1648, Dublin 8, or phone (01) 8722682

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Are the politics of the Greens a solution

victories of Green Party candidates in the European elections are a sign that people are sick of the corruption and horse-trading which has torn apart and parcel of the national government.

Greens were seen as outsiders in the political system.

They only spent between about £5,000 on their campaigns while FF spent £100,000 in some constituencies.

Greens raised issues of real concern, particularly over the proposed nuclear reprocessing plant at THORP which threatens to turn the Irish Sea into a radioactive swamp.

They are not a single issue party. They say they want to offer an alternative form of politics which is free of the traditional left-right divide.

Alternative

The problem is that they do not want to break with capitalism. One of their spokesmen Richard Douthwaite claimed the Greens wanted to see "more locally owned small and medium sized firms". This will return economic power

to local hands".

But small Irish firms like Pat the Baker who sacked their union members are no better than multi-national like Brinks Allied where workers are on strike at the moment.

Ireland in the 1950s, was dominated by small local firms because foreign multi-nationals were barred by FF.

It did not lead to greater economic power for the people. This type of capitalism only paid low wages and drove thousands to emigrate.

Instead of working to overthrow capitalism, the Greens argue that individuals have to change their behaviour.

They believe that changes in what people consume is the key to the environmental crisis.

If we all bought eco-friendly products, for example, companies would no longer be able to produce environmentally damaging ones since no-one would buy them.

But not everyone can afford the price of green products.

One recent survey, for example, showed that the consumption of eco-friendly products was much higher among the upper-middle and middle

classes than among the working classes.

Of course, the vast majority of environmental damage comes from processes run by the state, such as nuclear testing, over which people have no consumer power.

Many companies, such as Shell Oil, can present an environmentally friendly image in the West, while riding roughshod over local people in regions with less purchasing power.

Shell

In the UK, Shell commissioned 17 different environmental reports before going ahead with an oil pipeline.

In Nigeria, 80 villagers were killed by police during a protest against Shell in 1990.

The only way to save the environment is to stop the greed for profit that pushes companies to cut costs.

And that can only be done through workers action. The Greens think that monstrosities like THORP will be stopped by the European courts.

But the only thing that the employers really understand is massive organised protests by workers.

Join the Socialists

THE Socialist Workers Movement organises branches around the country, which hold meetings to organise activity and discuss political ideas. Anyone is welcome to attend. If you want to join the fastest growing political organisation in Ireland fill in the slip below.

Athlone Meets every Tuesday. For details of time and venue write to the SWM national address.	Dublin Southside Meets every Wednesday 8pm Clarkes Bar, 11 Wexford St Tallaght/Clondalkin Meets every Wednesday 8pm Tallaght Welfare Society next to Foxes Court in Tallaght village	Belfast Meets every Tuesday 8pm See SW sellers for details or contact National office.
Dublin North Central Meets every Wednesday 8pm Conway's Pub Parnell St	Maynooth For details of time and venue write to the SWM national address.	Derry Meets every Tuesday 8pm Badgers Pub Orchard St
Dublin Northside Meets every Tuesday 8pm The Old Brogue, Dorset St	Waterford Meets every Tuesday 8pm ATGWU Hall, Keyser St	Cork Meets every Thursday 8pm Anchor Inn, Georges Quay
Dublin South Central Meets every Thursday 8pm Trinity Inn Pearse St		Dundalk For details of time and venue write to the SWM national address.

To contact the SWM in Bray, Coleraine, Cookstown, Drogheda, Galway, Kilkenny, Limerick, Lurgan & Athy, write to SWM PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Phone (01) 872 2682 or PO Box 103 Belfast 15 2AB

What we stand for

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. It has to be overthrown. The machinery of the capitalist state—parliament, courts, army, police etc.—is 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 SWM 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. Workers' revolutions are needed to win real freedom in the East.

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 SWM aims to build such a party in Ireland.

If you would like to join the SWM or receive more details, send this slip to: SWM, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Tel: (01) 872 2682 or PO Box 103 Belfast 15 2AB

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

FIVE YEARS AFTER TIANANMEN SQUARE China in revolt

FIVE years ago, the rulers of China crushed the Tiananmen Square democracy revolt. No one knows how many they killed.

Across the world's television screens the revolt left a powerful image. It was that of 19 year old Wang Weilin who stood alone and confronted a line of tanks. He was later executed with hundreds of others.

The revolt started as a student protest in Beijing. They wanted freedom of speech, better conditions in the crowded universities and the rehabilitation of jailed or exiled comrades.

The demands of the students for change found strong echoes with a working class.

China's rulers were deeply divided. But as soon as the revolt started they patched up their quarrels and sought to regain control the only way they knew how.

On April 19th 1994 martial law was declared and troops began to advance on Beijing. The Chinese leader, Li Peng ordered 300,000 troops marshalled on the edge of Beijing to advance.

It was a bad mistake. The movement snowballed bringing a chance that it would flare from revolt to an open revolution.

Students and workers commandeered buses, cars, trucks and motorcycles to have them on the outskirts.

Human barricades were set up almost immediately, soon reinforced by convoys of trucks and construction vehicles.

Chanting

There was almost a carnival atmosphere as thousands of people took to the roads chanting slogans and singing.

An eye witness reported: "The most amazing human spectacle I have ever seen. It was unreal."

"The amount of people who came out on to the streets. There was everybody there: the very old sitting waiting; families with young children, babies being carried in mothers' arms..."

"They thought the crunch was coming that night and they were fully prepared to try and stop them."

The green-uniformed troops, many just the same age as the students, stood frozen as the army truck-tyres were let down and their petrol drained.

Underground workers, worried that the tubes would be used to get the army in, cut the power to the system. Seventy thousand steel workers struck and many more stayed away from work.

On the Sunday night an eye

witness reported:

"All of the city centre, maybe six miles wide and six miles deep, is now under the control of workers and students."

"Five million people, over half the entire population, were out on the streets yesterday. Most of them are workers."

"They all have red flags and banners flying and everyone sings the Internationale over and over again."

Many soldiers joined the movement and many more supported the students and wouldn't fire. The government were thrown into disarray.

By declaring martial law they had hoped to frighten people into submission and off the streets. Their tyranny and intolerance proved counterproductive.

As the revolt moved to even greater heights, its spreading power transformed everyday life.

Long ingrained prejudices against women and minority nationalities began to disappear.

Across the rest of the country thousands upon thousands took to the streets in Nanjing, Shenzhen and Shanghai. Wuhan province and Changsha were taken over for several days.

Workers had started to organise independently, aware of the huge power autonomous workers' organisations could wield.

The largest of these was the Beijing Workers' Autonomous Federation. But similar groups sprang up in Shanghai, Hangzhou, and Xian. The Workers Federation called for a general strike.

The student leaders were hamstrung by a patriotic sense of nationalism which caused them to reject calls for general strike action as being against "the national interest".

They wanted to negotiate with the country's rulers—not to overthrow them.

Illusions about the West were widespread among the student leaders. They hoped that the Western leaders might pressurise their rulers into permitting more democracy.

But some of the workers had very different views. A poster dated 28th April outlined the way forward.



Signed simply "A Worker", it began: "Dear Students, As you continue your struggle over the following days you must try to gain the broad support of workers..."

"Emphasise the fact that the words 'owned by the people' actually mean 'owned by the bourgeoisie'."

"That group calls us 'masters of the country', yet we live in overcrowded conditions from generation to generation."

Tragically the students failed to recognise and exploit this explosive potential.

They saw the workers' support as adding to the numbers on the streets, but saw no role for workers' power inside the factories and offices.

Defensive

In Shanghai the movement argued directly against strike action as it would "damage the economy". This failure to move from a defensive position to an all-out offensive against the regime proved to be a terribly harsh death knell.

In Beijing stalemate set in. The movement had little clear focus beyond the nightly assemblies to barricade the roads. Workers drifted back to work as pressure from management intensified.

Revolts can never stand still and the state officials were quick to pick up the initiative and began preparing a military solution to finally clear the streets.

On 3rd June the military swung into action.

The army moved into Beijing, ferociously cutting through the barricades, mowing down students and workers alike.

Tiananmen Square became a bloody abattoir as bodies lay littered everywhere.

It could have been so different. As the democracy movement was being drowned in blood one student leader told journalists,

"There are not enough soldiers in all of China to keep vital industries running. The workers have the power, let the workers have their say. It is the only way."



THE CHINESE SOCIALIST MYTH

IN 1949, Mao Zedong came to power. He pretended that his new regime was socialist.

Hopes in the new order were high. Millions had fought bitterly to rid China of the old regime's warlords, ganglords and Japanese imperialists.

But for all his fondness for communist rhetoric, Mao never intended that China be a "people's" republic.

The ruling elite lived in luxury while workers were squeezed hard.

Mao was not a socialist but a nationalist.

His aim was to build an independent and profitable national economy that could compete on equal

terms with the world economy.

Mao's aim was to follow the example of Stalin.

The state was to be used to impose a grinding exploitation on workers and peasants.

Weakness

The weakness of the Chinese economy meant that there were often spills in the ruling group. Sometimes they wanted greater centralisation.

At other times, they wanted a shift to more local industries.

After Mao, Xiaoping and his modernisers junked Mao's policies and attempted to force through market "reforms" while re-

taining Mao's political apparatus.

Control over the economy degenerated into complex factional squabbles between the army of state bureaucrats and local officials.

The world economy of the 1970s was in no position to accommodate or even ease China's problems. Financial austerity measures jockeyed with over-investment in some industries, lack of essential resources in others, spiralling inflation and gross mismanagement of agriculture.

At no stage were, or are, the people of this "people's republic" consulted in the running of their economy. It had nothing to do with socialism.

Rulers are frightened

THE opposition were by no means exterminated. An underground network still exists.

The political and economic anarchy which gave rise to the events of 1989 has not gone away.

The rulers are attacking many welfare benefits workers get, known as the 'iron rice bowl'.

A 12 hour day, six day week is common.

The Ministry of Labour reports that last year that there were 10,000 strikes and protests.

No Friend

But the US has proved no friend of the Chinese people.

This month President Clinton renewed the Most

Favoured Nation Status for China.

One 1989 exile to America claimed:

"President Clinton has just given those butchers a free hand."

"They think that trade is more important than human rights, but don't they realise that, by keeping the system alive, they are merely prolonging China's agony?"

The profits from soccer

IRELAND has been glued to the television sets as the World Cup reached fever pitch

Soccer is an international working class game, from the streets of Ballyfermot to the beaches of Rio to the rock-hard pitches of Eastern Europe.

But politicians of all persuasions use the game to raise their own profile.

First there was Albert and his cronies sending the Irish team off at Dublin airport.

The millionaire owner of the C & D pet food factory has nothing in common with the thousands of real fans who have followed the team over the decades.

These fans are now finding it more difficult than ever to get seats at Lansdowne Road because of the shameful FAI "ten year ticket" scheme.

The ten year ticket scheme is aimed directly towards company directors. It guarantees tickets for ten years for all of Ireland's international home games.

With prices ranging from £1,500 to £3,000 a ticket, even Kevin Moran admitted: "I can understand why fans are angry, because many of those who don't have that sort of money are the ones who go to matches."

The corporate racket promoted by the FAI over the past eight years has left genuine fans watching the game in pubs while the Berkeley Court Hotel mob hog the Lansdowne seats.

Then came Fianna Fail Euro candidate John Stafford's election leaflet with him photographed talking to Jack Charlton and a cartoon of Big Jack supposedly voting for Stafford.

Jack said he had never endorsed his campaign and Stafford was forced to withdraw the leaflet.

Stafford also did a leaflet featuring Eurovision winners Paul Harrington and Charlie McGettigan and Kevin Moran. "This has been done without our permission and against our expressed wishes," said Harrington and McGettigan.

Following this came news that at least nine government ministers were heading off to the USA apparently for business purposes and to promote Ireland.

The obvious con was revealed when a minister's spokesperson admitted that they were trying to find functions for the ministers to attend in between World Cup games.



Not buddies: Charlton and Stafford

Labour leader and Tanaiste Dick Spring said he would have preferred to stay at home, while Minister David Andrews was said to have bought his own ticket!

Thus thousands of pounds of PAYE taxpayers' money was used by the politicians while ten thousand fans had to fork out up to £3,000 each on exorbitant flight and ticket prices.

The cost of travelling was way out of reach for thousands of genuine supporters, with travel agents jumping on the profit bandwagon.

The politicians who jumped on the world cup bandwagon gave no sign of a national soccer stadium or adequate facilities for the clubs and their players in junior or juvenile soccer leagues around the country.

Professional soccer clubs are run as businesses. Directors don't give a damn about players as long as gate receipts and advertising and sponsorship revenue are rising. Soccer players' careers are quite short—and for every Roy Keane there are hundreds who are dumped as failures.

Testimonials are a farce, with players who need them not getting them. Like Dave Langan, who was capped 26 times for Ireland between 1978-1984, but due to a back injury is now earning £180 per week as a security man.

Fans are also ripped off with the regular changing of club or country jerseys. Just after the current Irish jersey was launched four months ago, the FAI announced a new style for after the World Cup.

Charlton may be personally £1 million richer after the World Cup run, but that is little consolation for the thousands of fans who have followed the team.

The government pretends during any major sporting occasion that we can all forget about our worries. Workers know this to be a lie. They also know that soccer is a working class game to which the bosses and the government should be shown the red card.

■ Damien McLoughlin

Film:

Robocop 3

ROBOCOP 3 is Hollywood's attempt to come to grip with the Los Angeles riots.

The riots happened a few miles down the road from the world greatest dream factory and its influence can be seen all over this film.

The riots started after the LA police were caught on video beating a black person, Rodney King. When the judges freed the police officers involved, LA exploded.

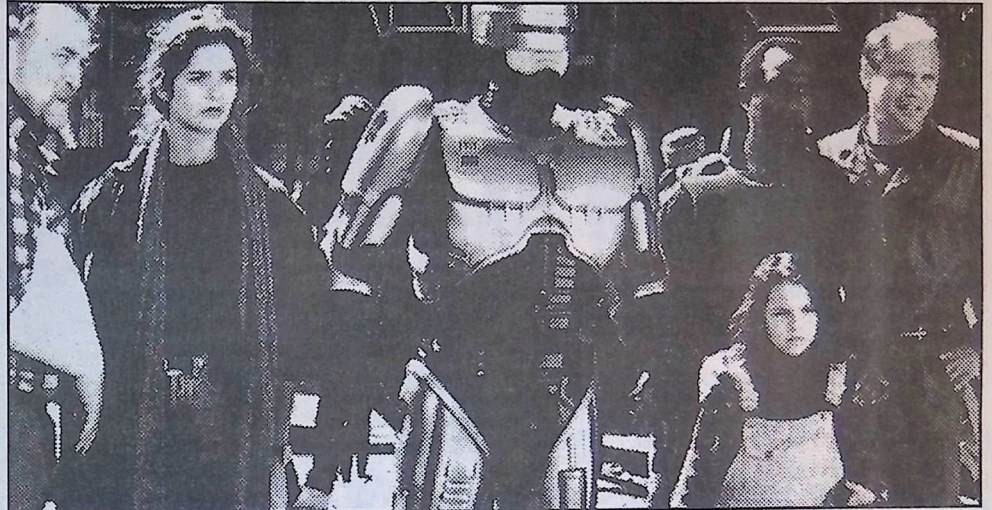
Robocop 3 is carefully casted. Bertha, a black woman is the heroine of the squatters movement.

Marie Lazarus, a white female technician is the brains behind Robocop. The computer whizz kid is a girl.

The baddies come in pin stripes. There is a middle aged company manager and his Japanese boss who has android, Robocop-compatible Ninjas.

The films attacks the idea of big business getting away with murder. Omni Consumer Products hire their own mercenaries to kick people out of a proposed property development.

Amidst the burning



buildings and people being shunted off to 'rehabilitation units', a woman grips a megaphone and cries "Stick together — they can't beat us if we stick together".

Resistance

An underground resistance movement starts to flourish. As the evictions go on Robocop comes to the rescue.

He has a dead cops brain with a star wars body. He sides with the squatters and turns his various Kill-o-Zaps on

Omni's mercenaries.

But what spoils the film is that the proper, non company police also help the squatters defend their homes.

People in South Central LA must have started asking at this point in the film if the pigs could also fly.

Still the film paints a grim picture of US capitalism. The mercenaries are brain washed and told "do not let the fact that people are homeless deter you—they are terrorists!". It could have come straight from the mouth

of George Bush who sent in the National Guard to crush the LA riots.

The squatters are the only warm characters in the film. Their underground HQ is littered with hammocks, dirty laundry, plastic Xmas trees and flute playing men are all dotted around.

Over the top, sure, but in a nice way.

Of course there are things which make you cringe. Ten year old Nikko carries her laptop with her at all times and plugs it into a police

monster to make it as 'loyal as a puppy'.

But the really bad bit is the message. The Japanese are the worst of big business—not like US companies which are as wholesome as Mum's apple pie. The 'real' police will not throw people out of their houses.

But this is Hollywood and it can still be fun to watch. There is very little guts spilling around, too (that's a plus for me, anyway) There is also the odd good one liner. Definitely Friday night stuff.

■ JENNY WINTERS

Book:

Luke Kelly remembered

by RITCHIE BROWNE

LUKE Kelly's talent and ability as a ballad singer is beyond question. As his fellow Dubliner Ronnie Drew said, "As a singer he was the best—bar none."

But it is not Luke's voice that author Des Geraghty scrutinises. It is more Luke's background and the experiences that shaped and moulded him into singing the songs he sang and that also gave him his political convictions and beliefs.

Luke Kelly's songs became very popular in the late sixties when the Republic of Ireland topped the world's strike league.

In an interview at the time, Luke Kelly said,

"There's a new spirit among young people, a political and social awareness that I think is directly related to the ballads.

"The movement has had a definite liberalising effect. I grew up in a dead city, I don't think it's dead now. I

think things are going to happen in Ireland again."

Luke epitomised that new spirit and political and social awareness. He never hesitated to say he was a card-carrying member of the Communist Party.

Socialist

In another interview in 1967 he said:

"I am a socialist. I look forward to a day when I can sing as an ordinary day's work as an ordinary worker.

That I'm making money now doesn't change what I want or what I believe in."

But because of his political beliefs he was constantly singled out for persistent quizzing as to whether or not

commercial success had spoiled the socialist in him.

As journalist Joe McAnthony wrote,

"The steady rise to fame and the monetary awards accruing from it appear to have left Kelly's private vision unaffected.

He is vehemently opposed to the private enterprise system and in the sense that he would sacrifice everything at his command to see it done away with, he is a revolutionary."

And as Luke himself said:

"You've only got to look around you to see the injustices in the system. I'm a socialist because I believe it will change all of that.

"I would stop singing and work at any job with my hands at any time if I thought it would help improve things for people."

All in all this is a great



book about an even greater singer and a remarkable man, a man who sang the songs of the people for the people.

Injustice

Jim and Peter Sheridan wrote the foreword to the book. They summed up what Luke Kelly was about better than anyone else.

"They couldn't stop Luke singing. And no voice better rallied against injustice, inhumanity and degradation.

When Luke sang you stood shoulder to shoulder with your mates on the picket line, or your perception of the disabled changed forever.

Never again would simplicity be scorned. When Luke sang you felt ennobled. It felt good to be working class. Better than that, it felt important.

Better still, it could be expressed. The struggle was no longer suppressed.

"Through the medium of Luke we grasped that rare thing, unflinching solidarity, the thing that makes us invincible. His voice still rings in our ears.

You can hear it perfectly. It is the clarion call of our rightful inheritance that can never be silenced."

■ Luke Kelly, A memoir, by Des Geraghty, Basement Press, £8.99

Workers in struggle

Back our TEAM!

THE Crisis at TEAM Aer Lingus has escalated into a full-blown confrontation between unions and management in the wake of the Labour Court's recommendations on the dispute.

While management has backed down from its original demands, including a 16 per cent pay cut and the imposition of a 48 hour week, the recommendations of the Labour Relations Commission are clearly in favour of the bosses' position.

They want a two-year pay freeze, shift pay to be cut by one-third, bank holiday pay to be halved, overtime to be paid at a lower rate of time-and-a-half, flexible rostering and electronic clocking-in.

As one TEAM shop steward put it: "We cannot let them get away with this. It is not just about our pay and conditions."

"If they break nationally negotiated agreements, they will be after the CIE or ESB next to cut overtime payments"

Jelly Bean

The 'Human Resources' manager at TEAM's, John 'Jelly Bean' Behan's answer is to threaten 1800 workers with the sack.

He is being backed by Labour Party minister Ruairi Quinn.

For the workers at TEAM, the demands of management are completely unacceptable.

Last March, workers made concessions which saved the company £14 million.

Management just tore up the agreement and demanded more. But they never take sacrifices.

Bernie Cahill, the man behind the plan cuts, stays in the Westbury Hotel

and commutes to Cork every week with a helicopter.

As one worker put it, "management would have us working for nothing and the company would still lose money. We are not willing to go any further".

Management at TEAM are preparing for a show down. They have told the *Sunday Business Post* that they will send aeroplanes to British Airways for maintenance.

They have welded loops on the turnstiles in preparation for a lock-out.

But these plans can be beaten. Many of the workers are members of British based unions.

They should use the unions to ensure that workers at B.A. do not take their work.

Air France workers also showed how to deal with petty management tactics.

Workers there seized the runaways and called other transport workers out in solidarity action.



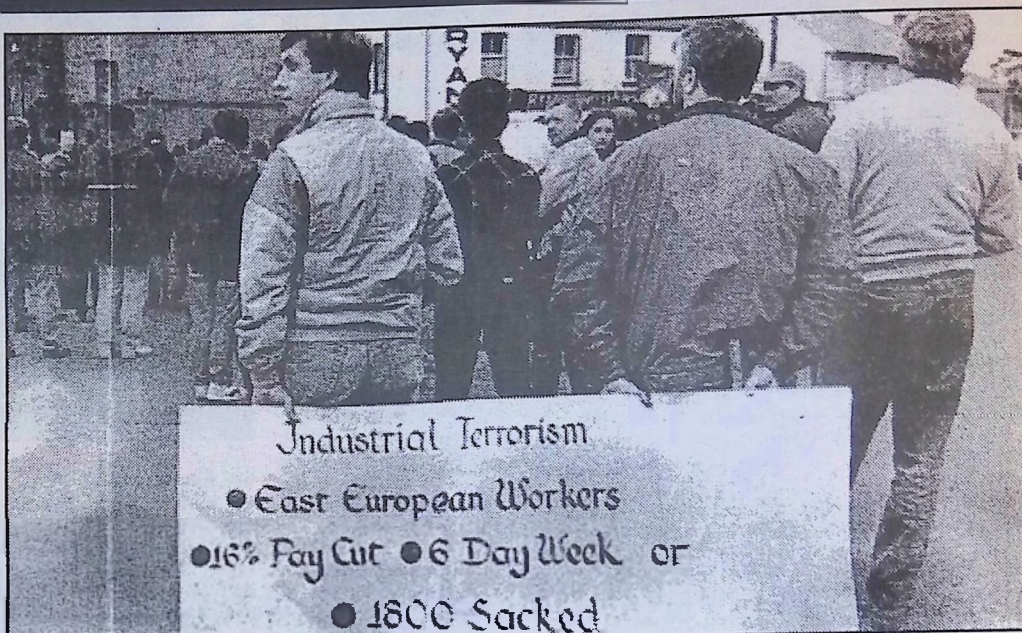
The catering staff at Aer Lingus are being pushed too far by their management, Scandinavian Air Ways.

Catering managers have been treating the union members with contempt, openly boasting that they can "beat the union".

The managers want to sack seven cleaning staff, and get the rest of the staff to cover their work. They also want to cut bank holiday pay to just one day.

At the same time the management are refusing to pay 3% owed to the workers under the PESP. They are also refusing to train new staff properly. But the workers are refusing to accept this attack.

One worker said "we have voted 106 to 10 not to accept the new management proposals. So long as nothing changes we will be happy. But if they try and impose their new plans on us then we'll ballot for a strike if necessary."



Militant action at TEAM can also force the management to back down. TEAM workers already have the sympathy of tens of thousands of trade unionists.

They can turn that sympathy into solidarity and smash Cahill and Behan.

WE THINK

IRELAND is on the brink of a major strike wave. Thousands want to take on the macho bosses.

For the last few years, management have been picking away at our conditions.

Everywhere they use the same language and make the same demands. They want 'reduced wage costs', 'flexibility'.

They never look to their own side to make sacrifices. It is always workers.

Don't allow the bosses to play on division between general and craft, or SIPTU and non-SIPTU.

Now it is time to fight back.

The strategy of the ICTU and the union leaders of offering partnership has not worked.

It has only encouraged the managers to look for more.

But militant action can get results. Other countries prove that.

Coming Alive

In the USA, the number of strikes this year has trebled. 100,000 Teamsters (truck drivers) struck and stopped their management bringing in contract staff.

The unions in America are coming alive as new groups of workers join up.

These are the example we should follow.

We have to fight with no holds barred.

That means not just passively picketing. Instead we should:

- Spread the action quickly. Escalate, bring other workers out in solidarity.

- Occupy the plants. Don't let the management bring in scabs or keep the operation going.

against the plan.

SIPTU members at the plant have taken up a union petition demanding that their union hold a general meeting and decide on a strategy to fight it. This petition was necessary because many workers felt in the dark while negotiations were going on.

But despite the divisions on the past, there is a new feeling for unity. Craft and general workers need to stick together. The Irish Steel workers must

also start to link up with other semi state workers to fight the government.

As a worker who spoke at a Socialist Workers Movement public meeting in Cobh, put it,

"The ICTU should be calling a stoppage of the semi-state sector. We are all faced a concerted government effort to lower of wages. In the meantime, we are determined to forge our own links with TEAM."

Response

In Aer Lingus several groups have voted by overwhelming majorities to strike. If we stick together we can close the airport and put manners on the bosses.

- Demand that ICTU call a general stoppage of workers in the semi state sector.

In Irish Rail, Irish Steel, Aer Lingus management are on the offensive to tear up our conditions.

The battle we are entering is political.

This government is orchestrated the attacks on workers. It encourages management to look for wage cuts.

It backs them up by blackmailing workers with promises of investment only if they concede.

We need a political response. Labour has let down the workers.

Now we have to build a real alternative to them. A party that fight form our class with the same determination that Labour crawls to the bosses.

Irish Steel on the rack

IRISH Steel is another semi-state industry where this rotten government is attacking workers conditions.

The Coalition are using the same tactics as they are using at TEAM. They are holding a gun to workers heads and demanding wage cuts in return for investment.

The new macho manager of Irish Steel is Pat Dineen. This former cricket international, who has worked most of his life in the financial sector, is demanding that workers take a pay cut.

At the moment a single worker on the day shift earning the top rate takes home a pay packet of £174 a week.

If Dineen gets his way, the same worker will be taking home only £133 a week. And that is for hard and dirty work.

But that is not all. Dineen is demanding the abolition of the shift bonus which averages out at 8% of pay. Even after the pay cut, he wants a four year pay freeze.

The company also want to make workers pay more for the ferry service that transports them from Cobh to the plant. At the moment it costs 75p a week. But Dineen wants workers to pay a minimum of £10 a week for the ferry service.

Dublin pub strike

DUBLIN bar staff who are members of Mandate have taken strike action.

It is the first time that they have been on an all Dublin strike in nearly forty years.

They are demanding that a 1% pay rise agreed under the PESP be backdated. The bosses organisation, the Licensed Vintners Association, only proposed to pay up from June.

But the burning issue is cleaning up time. Bar staffs often have to wait until nearly 1 am to clean up the premises. The Vintners have always tried to get out of paying for this work.

The Licenced Vintners Association agreed in principle to consider the issue of compensation. But they wanted to put off coming up with definite money.

As one barman told *Socialist Worker*, "They had hoped to come back to us after the summer. But they must think we are mad. The pubs are jammed packed at the moment -- especially with the World cup. Some of these owners can make a few thousand in one night. Now is the time to strike".

Dineen also wants to abolish the sick pay scheme. A workers who gets sick would get no wages until they were back at work. But as the SIPTU official Anne Egar put it,

"The point about the sick pay scheme is that one third of the injuries at Irish Steel are related to injury at the workplace".

Although they might try to hide behind Dineen, this is a government sponsored plan for wage cuts and abolition of sick pay schemes. If they get away with it at Irish Steel they will spread it to other workplace.

Resistance however is growing. Craft workers at the plant held a meeting where 69 workers out of 69 voted

Socialist Worker, the workers' paper

... spread the action



Pushed to the Brink

THE security firm Brinks Allied has sacked at least 85 workers at its headquarters in Dublin because they went on strike.

The workers are being asked to accept wage cuts of £100 per week. The media has repeated management's lie that the strikers are on £340 each a week.

But several strikers told *Socialist Worker* that the basic rates for the three main grades are £205, £212 and £218 a week.

The management are also demanding a ban on overtime and compulsory flexitime.

The Brinks bosses want to cut crews from three to two increasing the risk of death or injury.

"These workers are underpaid for very dangerous work and now they want to pay us less and make us even more vulnerable to attack", said one striker.

Managing director Hugh McDermott told the workforce that cuts were needed to get Brinks out of economic difficulties.

McDermott is the company hatchet-man who in a previous existence sacked striking workers in McDonnell's Foods just up the road from Brinks.

The Brinks strikers are in no doubt that management are to blame for the

Trinity College votes for strike

UNION members at TCD have voted overwhelmingly for strike action.

Management at Trinity College Dublin are trying to cut the number of full-time residential cleaners from 22 to 8.

This is a blatant attack on an agreement made several years ago to maintain the number of full-time cleaners at 21 or more.

Their excuse is that they need to cut costs to pay for the building of new student residences.

More flats for students are required. But these are to be built at the expense of the jobs of people whose children are the least likely to go to Trinity, let alone live on campus.

The management have also stonewalled on a promise to provide pension rights to part time cleaners. This promise was extracted from them after threats of industrial action.

As one SIPTU member put it, "We have put up with attacks for nearly seven years. There is a rigid class system in this college. Now it's time that we started to give these people a few bloody noses"

financial mess.

Last April the firm moved from James St near Dublin city centre to a site in Clonshaugh in North Dublin. This has added 2 hours travelling time a day to the work which is why so much overtime is needed.

Support

One striker told *Socialist Worker*: "We got £900 disturbance for the move to Clonshaugh but for most of us it was just a loan because we had to buy cars to make the long trip to work each

day."

Eight mainly women processing workers are out in support of the crews. They already earn only £4 an hour and work 50 hours a week despite being employed as part time workers.

Managers are driving some of the vans themselves and are picking up scabs along the way.

But workers at Dublin Bus are making it difficult for the scabs to collect cash from their premises and Bank staff have refused to co-operate with scabs. Support from other workers now needs to be organised.

COUNCIL WORKERS:

Binmen fight privatisation

A UNANIMOUS strike ballot by refuse collectors in South Dublin County Council has succeeded in delaying privatisation of bin collection in the area.

The Council planned to sign a deal with a private contractor on June 20th if the workers did not agree to a savage attack on their conditions.

They were faced with having to collect from 1,600 houses a day with only two men and a driver, instead of the current 800 a day done by four men and a driver.

If they did not accept this huge increase in productivity, the workers would be laid off, getting only statutory redundancy.

The private contractor would then start supplying "wheelie bins", at a cost of £90 a year per house. Only three bags of rubbish would be collected each week from the wheelies.

Following the strike ballot, the union leaders recommended a Labour Court compromise.

A four-month pilot scheme will be run, using the Council's own workers. Three men and a driver will have to collect refuse from 1200 houses a day.

Many workers feel the pilot scheme is a con, as the Council will be allowed review the scheme on a weekly basis. "The feeling in the place is still very bad," said a Council worker. "The real battle will be in four months time when they try to bring in the contractors."

Dublin Corpo fight forced move

WORKERS at Dublin Corporation's Planning Department have threatened industrial action over a change in office accommodation.

The Corporation is trying to move the workers to new buildings in Wood Quay. But it offered no consultation or access to the architects brief in the design of these buildings.

It thought that it could just move workers around like objects. But the union involved, IMPACT, took limited industrial action in protest. Then the Corporation responded with a vicious tactic.

They warned that they would lay off a number of temporary workers in June in retaliation for IMPACT's action and not renew their contracts.

As one union member put it, "It was disgusting. They wanted to use the contract staff as a bargaining chip. We were having none of it".

The IMPACT members decided to take strike action. But at the last moment the Corporation withdrew its threats to the temporary contract workers and entered negotiations.

"They backed down—but we may yet have to hit the streets to put manners on this macho management" is how one worker put it.

B&I LOCK OUT

SHIPS officers in B+I have been locked out after they tried to stop management reducing crewing levels on the ships.

B+I was privatised and has been taken over by Irish Continental Group which was originally a small firm.

Since the take over, they have seen their share prices shoot through the roof.

The directors of the company are paying themselves huge salaries while they lecture workers about the need for sacrifices.

The company has broken promises to the workers which it made when it took over B+I instead of keeping the

number of ships in operation, they have cut down the number of ship from 5 to 2.

The unions has originally been willing to discuss reducing crewing levels on a phased basis.

But with management slashing jobs, they are now demanding that crewing ration of three shifts be maintained.

Gung-Ho

The B+I management have responded in a gung-ho fashion. On the day before B+I workers were due to take strike action, they withdrew their passenger service.

Day trippers who had gone to

Pembroke, for example, found themselves stranded.

The company was trying to claim that their ships would be occupied and damaged.

But their real aim was to raise the spectre of a close down off the service completely in order to intimidate workers.

According to one SIPTU rep, "They are out to break the union. That is what their game is. But they have made a severe miscalculation".

This dispute can be won provided there is a rapid escalation. On no account should B+I be let use the ships they have docked at Rosslare and Liv-

erpool.

They should not be let get away with keeping their freight operation running.

B+I management have put adds in newspaper claiming that their freight company is a completely separate operation and is not affected by the strike.

But if their aim is to break the union, then the union must fight with no holds barred.

They should look for solidarity among dockers handling the cargo vessels and also start to spread the strike to the ICG ship operating the Le Havre and Cherbourg lines.

Phone reports to (01) 872 2682

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Harland and Wolff strike shows the way

STRIKE TO STOP SECTARIAN KILLINGS

The sickening attack on O Tooles bar in Loughinisland in which six Catholics were murdered is the latest in the increasing spiral of sectarian attacks

The UVF statement claimed that those watching the World Cup in O Tooles were attending a 'republican function'.

This shows that they regard any Catholic or supporter of the Irish football team as a potential target.

From the murder of Maurice O'Kane in Harland Wolf to the attack in Loughinisland, the loyalists

killed nine workers in the space of one week.

They are using murder as a way of driving a wedge between workers.

They want to create a climate of fear so that Catholics are forced out of workplaces. This is an attempt at 'ethnic cleansing' Northern Ireland style.

The loyalist paramilitaries are aided in their activities by people like Unionist Councillor Jim Rodgers who blamed the attack in the ship yards on Dublin Government interference and didn't condemn the killing.

The Belfast Telegraph revealed that Unionists have

recently held talks with the loyalists paramilitaries.

The loyalist killers will not be stopped by retaliatory action. Previous bombings in the Shankill Road only drove hundreds into the arms of the UDA and UVF.

The best response to these killings came from the shipyard workers of Harland and Wolf.

They walked off their job in protest at the murder of Maurice O'Kane and pledged themselves to protect his sons who are also working at the yard.

All around Northern Ireland the discontent against the bosses and the Tories is spilling over into industrial

action. In the strikes at Montupet, the BBC and the buses Catholic and Protestant workers are standing shoulder to shoulder on the picket line.

The same strength workers are showing against their bosses needs to be turned against the killers.

Every workplace should follow the example of Harland and Wolf and strike against sectarian murder or threat.

In the past bus workers and public sector workers have forced threats to be removed by striking.

That type of action can stop the North sliding into vicious sectarian conflict.

THE ICTU MUST ACT

Last December tens of thousands of workers responded to the ICTU when they called peace marches across Northern Ireland.

But since the Downing St Declaration they have done nothing but issue statements. It would appear that many of the ICTU leaders believe that this Declaration lays the basis for peace.

But since the Declaration was issued the UDA/UVF attacks on Catholic workers has reached new heights.

The ICTU should get off the sidelines. It should call a major stoppage across the North to protest at the sectarian killings.

It should encourage workers to take action against every threat to any worker in their job.

It should be telling workers that their real enemies are the Tories and the employers who are trying to drive down wages and conditions.