

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

inside

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since the Great
Hunger** —centre pages

NO WELCOME

FOR

THE

ROYAL

SCROUNGER!



Pringle case exposes Garda lies

THE RELEASE of Peter Pringle after fifteen years is further proof that the Irish "justice" system is as rotten as any other.

Until recently Irish politicians claimed that miscarriages of justice like the Guildford Four and Birmingham Six cases could never happen here.

But now it has been proved that Peter Pringle

was framed on a murder charge by the Gardaí. The main evidence which convicted him was a verbal statement.

Claimed

Two detective inspectors claimed that he said "I know that you know I was involved, but on the advice of my solicitor I am saying nothing".

That was enough to get a man the death sentence

from the no jury Special Criminal Court. Even the appeal Judge Hugh O'Flaherty said that he could not see how such an admission was allowed after such sustained interrogation.

Peter Pringle brought in a linguistic expert to show that the statement did not reflect his speech pattern.

During the course of the interrogation Pringle suffered a nose bleed.

The appeal judges never

asked if the bleed had been caused by a Garda beating.

Instead they pointed out that one officer was lying when he could not explain what happened to the paper tissue used to wipe his nose.

The real scandal is that Peter Pringle is now being asked to stand trial again.

The judges are still trying to cover for a corrupt system that could have hanged a man, and took away a good part of his life.



Irish Times censors truth on racist professor

THE RACIST Professor Richard Lynn of Coleraine has got a barrage of publicity from the media.

On May 10th the Irish Times carried a long interview with Lynn about his "career".

This was followed by big features in the Sunday Life and the Belfast Telegraph.

The vice chair of the SDLP, Jonathan Stephenson, was so appalled Lynn's message of hate, that he has asked the RUC to prosecute him for 'racial hatred'.

The Irish Times has taken a disgraceful stance on Lynn.

The Anti Nazi League asked the paper for a "right to reply" to put the record straight on this racist's "career". The Irish Times refused because the truth about

Lynn and his backers may be "defamatory".

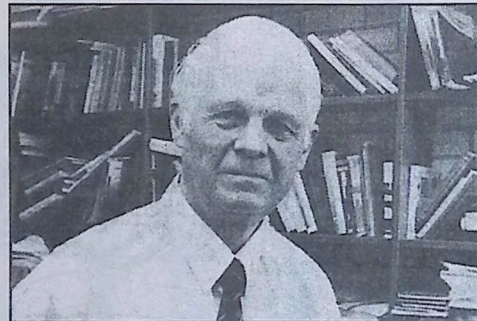
Just some of the facts the Irish Times refused to publish:

■ Lynn has received \$325,000 from the New York based Pioneer Fund to produce research material proving that black people are less intelligent than white.

Eliminate

The Pioneer Fund was founded in the 1930's and one of its first acts was to provide an English translation of the Nazi propaganda film, Hereditary Defective which showed pictures of mentally handicapped people and claimed there should be selective breeding to eliminate them.

■ The Pioneer Fund has financially supported every far right "scientist" since



World War 2.

One of those was Phillippe Rushton, also a psychology professor, who claimed that "blacks" were responsible for the spread of AIDS. Rushton received \$250,000 from the Pioneer Fund.

■ Lynn's connections with the far right go very

deep. He is associate editor of Mankind Quarterly.

Protest

The present editor of that magazine is Roger Pearson, chair of the World Anti Communist League.

This group has been described by the Washington

Post as "an assembly of all the forces of authoritarianism, neo fascism, race hate and anti Semitism in the US".

It is no accident that when an Anti Nazi League demonstration marched through the streets of Coleraine last October to protest at Lynn's activities, the group was attacked by a band of angry men who burst out from a pub, waving the Ulster flag and copies of the National Front magazine Bulldog. Their slogans were "White rights, white rights", "Red scum" and "Nigger lovers".

Richard Lynn is craving academic respectability so he can retire gracefully and continue to make his small fortune promoting racial hatred.

The Irish Times may believe they are being fair and objective.

But any self-respecting journalist or academic would show Lynn the contempt he deserves and tear his racist ideas to shreds.

Gardaí in UVF bombs cover-up

RELATIVES of the Dublin and Monaghan bomb victims have been given another kick in the teeth by the Irish Government.

Two years ago Justice Minister, Maire Geoghegan Quinn set up a commission to examine the investigation of the bombings screened by Yorkshire TV.

Assurances

The makers of the programme gave the families assurances that there was more evidence to

back up claims that the bombings were the work of British intelligence.

But Garda intelligence who conducted the investigation returned from Britain with "no evidence at all".

"We are furious with the response from the Department of Justice.

"We thought that after 21 years we would hear something more.

"This has to be a cover up by either the British or Irish Government or both", according to Michelle Byrne of the Relatives Committee who spoke to Socialist Worker.

Now Prime Time on RTE has produced evidence that British intelligence were working closely with loyalist groups at the time.

They showed the names of UVF men in the Portadown area who may have been implicated in the bombing and the former intelligence officers agreed that there was a case to answer against them.

The relatives of the victims feel they are on their own.

They say that they will now have to conduct their own public enquiry and will most likely do a better job than the Department of Justice.

Another one bites the dust

HUGH Coveney's resignation shows just how casually the rich try to use the state.

Coveney is a fabulously wealthy politician who spent a fortune getting elected in a recent Cork by-election. He is a director of the Imperial Hotel, Cork Communications and a quantity surveying firm.

He rang up his old friend Michael Conlon who is head of Bord Gais and asked was there any work coming up which his company could tender for.

His very words were "If there is something happening, will you get on to some of the lads."

Most people would take that as a request for some work to be swung his way. But Coveney was not embarrassed even when caught red handed. He saw no reason to resign and had to be told to do so by John Bruton.

His friend, Michael Conlon, saw nothing unusual in the phone call.

The politicians of Dail Eireann are now shedding crocodile tears for someone whose political career has been wrecked.

But Socialist Worker is delighted that another one has bit the dust. After all it was Coveney who once argued that each family should only have one job. Remember this is the man who holds several directorships.

The pity is that Coveney has not been completely thrown out on his ear. Instead he becomes a Junior Minister in the Department of Finance. This job involves responsibility for giving out big building contracts!

Councils threaten over water charges

COUNCILS in the Dublin area are trying to intimidate people into paying their water rates.

South Dublin Council are sending out warning notes to people who have not paid their bills.

They are trying to give the impression that non-payers will be brought before the courts immediately.

This is going against even the limited measures the Coalition

have brought in about water charges.

Under the new law councils have to give three warnings before anyone can be brought before the courts.

Protest

The third of these warnings has to be hand delivered.

Even if people are brought before the courts, judges are supposed to take account of family circumstances.

Big meetings have been held in the area to protest about what is happening. Over 100 turned up to meetings in both Tallaght and Greenhills.

There are presently 70,000 non-payers in Dublin. They should stick to their guns and refuse to pay the charges as a protest against double taxation.

Between 1991 and 1995, PAYE taxpayers will have paid £15,500 million in taxes compared to only £262 million from farmers.

The rich are still engaged in massive tax evasion.

People must now prepare for massive protests if anyone is hauled before the courts

Armagh: Outcry forces hospital rethink

A DECISION on the future of St Luke's Psychiatric Hospital in Armagh has been postponed for one month thanks to the public outcry over what was looking like its inevitable closure.

This is all part of the Tories' corrupt "care in the community" scheme.

Deprivation

Patients who need special medical attention are being turfed

onto the streets because it will save money.

A government report has linked mental illness to deprivation. No wonder then that mental hospitals all over the country are feeling the pressure for places.

Voluntary agencies

such as the Salvation Army have said that more than half of their hostel accommodation has been taken up by the mentally ill, while the number of places available in St Luke's has been cut from 600 to only 200.

The Tories are not interested in health. They are only interested in money and the accumulation of wealth for their own class.

We have to stop them. We have to save St Luke's.

JIM REILLY, Belfast

"We'll not be your Yellow Packs"



CEP WORKERS have forced the government to back down after a concerted campaign of militant demonstrations. Richard Bruton had planned to slash 7,000 part-time jobs in the community, but completely misjudged the resistance that would meet him.

350 scheme workers took their anger to the Department of Enterprise and Employment on Wednesday 10th May.

They made the point to the government that these cutbacks would devastate creches, information services and other resources for the inner city.

On Friday 12th May, another 500 scheme workers dared Bruton to "come on down" and face them. The workers turned an INOU picket into a march and sit-down at the Dail.

Within days Bruton and De Rossa had found a miraculous £10 million to restrain the revolt.

This shows that militant action and loud demonstrations involving hundreds of workers are much more effective than media stunts or sombre pickets.

However, the battle for

scheme workers' rights is far from over.

The number of places is held at 40,000 but the hated embargo on extensions has yet to be challenged.

Conditions

We need to spread union membership like wildfire through the schemes.

Every scheme worker should elect their own representative and join the ATGWU or the major union in their job.

Having a scheme job is

not good enough—we need better wages, creche facilities, better working conditions and job security.

No one should be thrown back on to unemployment assistance at the end of their scheme. Its time we stuck together and forced this Government to realise that jobs in the community are necessary and valuable. Scheme workers are not to be treated with disdain.

In the words of the May 12th sit down, "Scheme workers united we will never be defeated."

Join the Union!
Fight for scheme workers' rights
Contact: The ATGWU at 8734577
or Joe Carolan at 8722682

Tax fiddlers' charter

THE TAX evasion industry is rubbing its hands with glee.

Ruairi Quinn has backed down from a measure which would have compelled them to report tax fraud.

Solicitors and accountants have helped the rich to get off with an estimated £836 million in taxes they should have paid.

When Quinn first announced his 'whistle blowers' charter, they got on to their friends in the Dail and the media.

Politicians like Michael McDowell who never protested against the use of the Public Order Bill to silence 'whistleblowers', started to

whinge about the attack on personal liberty.

Quinn dropped his Section 153 measure and instead:

■ Solicitors are exempt from a requirement to report tax evasion.

■ Only accountants who are 'working with a view to pay' have to do anything. In future they can now claim that they were not being paid when they discovered a particular section of the accounts where there was evasion.

■ Companies have now six months rather than 30 days to put their house in order. PAYE workers get no such leeway.

■ The accountants do not

even then have to make a direct report. Instead they have simply to resign from work with the companies. They do not have to tell the Revenue Commissioners exactly where the evasion is happening.

Rehab abuse

WORKERS FOR Rehab, the organisation that is supposed to offer opportunities to disabled people, are being abused in the name of profit.

They get £12 per week for producing boxes for Ericksons, on contract for Telecom Eireann, and if they are off sick, they are docked £2 per day. These 'boxes' earn £3000 per thousand for Rehab.

Indeed it's not too long ago that these same workers were making electrical harnesses for Packard.

what we think

Politicians dither over divorce

DIVORCE should be a right for couples whose marriage has failed. There should be no shame about the fact that relationships go wrong and break down.

But now the politicians of Dail Eireann are trying to punish people whose marriage has broken down.

According to reports, they want the 70,000 Irish people who are now separated to stay married for five years before they could get a divorce.

But why should a battered wife stay officially married to someone who has brutalised her?

And why should women in their late thirties be denied the right to have children in a new marriage?

Dick Spring has a strange answer to these questions. He said "There is something in the Irish psyche that wants restrictive divorce."

Screaming

But Irish people who go to Britain or America seek divorce just as often as others—and they don't feel they should wait five years before asking.

Northern Catholics or Protestants are not screaming about the damage the liberal divorce laws are doing to their "Irish psyche".

The Coalition claim that they

have to write a five year divorce ban into the Constitution in order to win a referendum.

They speak as if Irish people are a load of conservative morons who have to be manoeuvred into granting divorce by clever politicians like themselves.

In reality, their dithering is giving confidence to the Bishops. They play into the hands of those who argue that people should be punished for a relationship that goes wrong. They look shifty and afraid to defend people's right to re-marry.

And they are completely out of touch. An opinion poll in the *Sunday Independent* showed that a majority were against writing this new ban into the constitution.

The latest betrayal of Labour and Democratic Left shows why it is desperately urgent to build a socialist alternative.

Low wage scandal

MORE THAN half of women in Northern Ireland are earning less than £100 a week.

These shocking figures have been revealed by a new survey by the Equal Opportunities Commission in Northern Ireland.

Low pay cuts right across the religious divide.

21% of Catholic women and 16% of Protestant women take home less than £50 a week.

These are the type of figures that the multi-national bosses who attended the Ireland investment conference in Washington will love to hear.

They will be doing everything to keep the situation like this. They know that sectarianism has divided Northern workers and has contributed to a situation where women workers are now on Third World wages.

The Northern state was built around discrimination against Catholics.

But these figures prove that ordinary Protestant workers never gained from this situation.

It was never in their interest to be represented by the right wing Unionists.

The divisions between workers have allowed the Tories to

create their dream of a low pay economy.

In the last issue of *Socialist Worker* we reported on a different side to the North—the fact that 1,500 Belfast workers joined a May Day march and heard Arthur Scargill attack the horrors of capitalism.

It showed the potential there is for a socialist organisation to be built which saw class and not community as the real divide in the North.

If anyone needed proof of why it has to be done they should look again at how women workers are being treated.

Packard bosses on the rampage

"Thank you, Mr Schramm": this was the headline in the *Sunday Independent* over an article written by Shane Ross.

According to Ross, Packard boss David Schramm has "performed a valuable social service" by showing how to intimidate workers.

Schramm makes no bones about being a capitalist.

Not for him the talk about 'job creation' or 'caring for workers'. Instead there is a no holds

barred message: capitalists are about profit, workers are just unit costs to be used at will and disposed of like worn out machinery.

This is why stockbrokers like Ross love him.

They see his style as a new way of dealing with workers.

Jungle

This type of jungle capitalist can only win when workers are convinced that there is no alternative.

Tragically the union leaders of

the ATGWU and SIPTU have been the carriers of that message.

They have told every worker in Packard to give the bosses two hours unpaid labour a week.

In a plant with 800 workers, that is the equivalent to 40 jobs.

When it comes to gorillas like Schramm, there is only one form of defence: go on the attack.

Workers and Packard should go back to a 39 hour week and meet any attempt to run down the plant with a workers' occupation.

Tories 'saved' £11m benefits in N.I.

THE TORIES' Child Support Agency are trying to hound working class women for money.

The CSA was set up to harass "absent fathers" and to cut back on the costs of state support for single mothers.

Women are being hauled in by the CSA to be asked intimate questions about how their children were conceived. If they refuse to answer, they can be cut off social welfare.

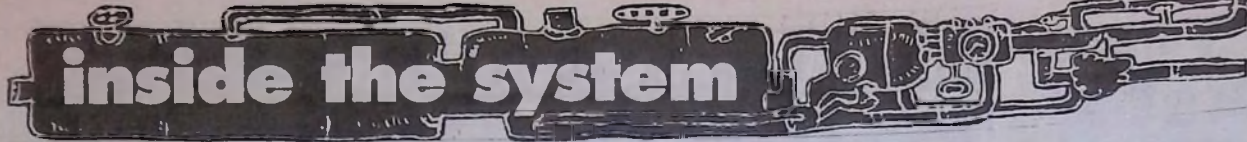
Boasting

If fathers do pay up, the state will still give less in

child support.

Now the Tories are boasting that they have saved £11.2m in benefits in Northern Ireland in 1995/96.

Meanwhile these hypocrites are making a fortune by getting money for putting down parliamentary questions in the House of Commons.



inside the system

THINGS THEY SAY

★ "It is not a back-down, it's a change"

RUAIRI QUINN, after dropping a measure to make solicitors report tax evasion.

★ "I owned only 1,500 pairs of shoes. I'm selfless. I give all to the people"

IMELDA MARCOS, former ruler of the Philippines.

★ "In leg irons they have absolutely no chance of escaping. Therefore they won't get shot. This will save on medical bills."

RON JONES, Alabama prison commissioner justifying the return of chain gangs.

★ "Who would turn up to watch Britain versus Kenya if all the athletes were black?"

DUDLEY WOOD, secretary of the English Rugby Football Union who sacked Will Carling for saying British rugby was run by "57 old farts"

Candidate of the bosses

Dick Roche is Fianna Fail's candidate in the Wicklow by-election. But a quick look at his backers shows his attitude to workers.

TEAM

One of his main advisers is John Behan, the Human Resources Manager of Aer Lingus. Behan, better

known as 'Jelly Bean' to his workers, was the hatchetman who led the attack on TEAM workers last summer.

Mind you, the choice is not great. Fine Gael are still trying to decide if they could dare run Shane Ross. This stockbroker regularly lectures workers about greed -- which is a real laugh.

WORN OUT

Ever wonder why you meet so many people these days who tell you, "they never have enough time"? They are not imagining it.

The Henley Forecasting Centre in Britain has discovered that workers there now sleep an average of 25 minutes less a day than their counterparts twenty five years ago.

Super Greed

Two out of three chief executives in US big business earn more than £600,000 a year.

But some do better. Like Stephan Hilbert, the boss of an insurance company, Conesco.

He got a staggering £24 million pay packet last year, making Tony O'Reilly green with envy.

RUC undermined

Anti-personnel mines have been made in Britain and deployed in Northern Ireland, despite government denials.

British Defence Minister Roger Freeman recently admitted that the mines were being made up to 1986. The mines were packed with hundreds of ball bearings and were designed to shred anything up to six feet high within 50 yards.

"To even think of using these things in support of police action is astonishing" said Rae McGrath, director of the Mines Advisory Group a charity which clears mines around the world".

Ferguson's generous countryside development

Councillor Raymond Ferguson of the Official Unionist Party in Enniskillen has been making fine speeches attacking the environmental lobby.

He sees, for example, no reason to protect the shores of Lough Erne.

He complains: "When are we going to get rid of the word conservation? I'm fed up with it. Never do we hear that development may improve the countryside."

Bravo, indeed. But now the local press has revealed the reason for this passionate flight of rhetoric.

It appears that the good Councillor is a solicitor and director of Castle Hume Development Company Ltd. In alliance with Bundoran, Fianna Fail's former council-

lor Brian McEniff, he is planning to build a £4.6 million four star hotel near Lough Erne adjoining an 18-hole golf course.

Seems like the 'old enemies' of FF and the Unionist Party have no problem getting together when it comes to business -- and using the council chambers to get their way.

Cowboy

In a recent report journalist Greer Fay Cashman revealed that Fianna Fail politician Ben Briscoe was related to the famous outlaw Jesse James.

Things have certainly changed in the family; Jesse robbed the railroads and the banks, Ben just robs the poor.

behind the headlines

by Goretta Horgan

Multi-Nationals: which side are Sinn Fein on?

The press hailed the Washington Economic Conference as a great initiative by Bill Clinton to help the Irish people.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The conference was made up of businessmen who are looking to see if Ireland can provide a location for super-profits.

As one Sunday Tribune correspondent put it, they need to choose between Southern Ireland which offers big grants and Northern Ireland which specialises in very low wages.

David Schramm, the bulldog manager of Packard, would by no means be out of place in this gathering.

Much of the media attention focused on the meeting between Gerry Adams and Patrick Mayhew but one intriguing question was never asked: how does Sinn Fein reconcile its claim to be a socialist party with its new approach to advising multi-nationals on business opportunities?

It's a practical question as a number of events in Derry indicate.

In United Technologies (UTA) over 1,000 workers have been resisting management attempts to introduce shift working for several months now.

Management have threatened to move their jobs to Portugal or Hungary if they do not buckle under -- a practice not uncommon amongst many of the companies attending the Washington Conference.

The UTA plant is situated between the Bogside and Creggan - the heartland of support for Sinn Fein.

Dispute

Yet Sinn Fein has not issued a single statement giving the workers their support in this dispute. Instead it has called on both sides to negotiate.

The announcement of 300 new jobs in the Seagate factory brought an even more telling response. In Derry, Seagate is a byword for the worst of multinational treatment of workers.

Unions are not allowed in the plant and workers are told that if they join a union they will be sacked. They work a rotating shift which has terrible effects on the health and family

lives of the workforce.

Basic wages are as low as £4.10 an hour and there is nowhere (not even toilets) in the plant where surveillance cameras don't operate.

When Seagate announced the new jobs socialists pointed out that workers would still have to fight the management to get their right to join a union recognised.

Sinn Fein's Northern chair, Gearoid O hEara, took an entirely different approach.

He told the Derry Journal that Seagate should offer training schemes to "afford the youth of Derry the chance to become the directors and decision makers of industry in their own country and eliminate the need for foreign management being given the plum jobs."

Now anyone can tell you that a manager with a Derry accent is not going to operate any differently than a 'foreigner' when the objective is 'maximising profits'.

Unions

What workers need is not Irish managers -- but decent unions.

This seems fairly obvious. But Sinn Fein cannot be seen to incite people to fight back against the very multinationals their allies in the Irish-American millionaire lobby are trying to court.

Indeed, they are now having to take a further step. During a recent debate in the US, Gearoid O hEara was actually asked how he reconciled the left wing rhetoric with the new found friends in the business community.

He replied that "Sinn Fein has no problems with capitalism".

Remember this shift is happening even before the party has come near to full negotiations. If the British and Irish governments ever patch up a deal in which Sinn Fein is involved, then the embrace of capitalism will be even more loving.

At the moment Sinn Fein are still trying to look both ways at once. They have to pay back their right-wing allies in the pan-nationalist front, and at the same time they are trying to build an electoral base in the South on a left-wing basis.

But the contradictions will continue to grow.

BOMB VICTIMS EVICTED

Marion Gandy is a landlord that would make Scrooge look generous. She discovered that her tenants, Robert and Donna Luster, had been murdered in the

Oklahoma bombing. They left behind six children aged between 6 and 21. Gandy sent an eviction notice to the family. She could not even

wait until the parents' bodies had been removed from the rubble. Her only spark of humanity: "I'll let them stay a week extra if there is a funeral"

Socialist Worker welcomes letters

PO Box 1648, Dublin 8

Guidelines in Social Welfare need change

The present Minister for Social Welfare when in opposition continually pressurised his predecessors for a fairer distribution of payments for the lower paid.

I, as a Community Employment Worker, fail to see or understand how he views the increase of £1.50 on Welfare Pensions as a just payment given in the Budget of '95.

I would also ask him to explain the following guidelines as laid down by his Department.

Firstly, a person on a C.E. Scheme and who is in receipt of a Survivor's Pension may hold their Pension whilst on a Scheme but loses eligibility for Unemployment Assistance should he or she come off the Scheme.

Secondly, a person in full time employment who is in receipt of Survivor's Pension may hold Pension plus

salary. Thirdly, a Scheme Worker is taxed on a Pension, I would ask why?

These are rules which must be changed if the Minister is serious about helping under paid workers, etc. The Minister has a golden opportunity to

implement changes on socialist policies and I would ask why he has reneged in this regard? Is it because he has become like his predecessors "Power Struck"?

RICHARD MCGUINNESS, C.E. WORKER. BRAY.

Mistreatment

I'M WRITING to complain about the social welfare treatment of me. Three weeks ago I got a letter saying my dole was under review, and said I had an appointment for 12th March.

The letter arrived in April. I then went to collect my dole, I was told I would have to go to my dole office.

There I was informed that they were suspending my dole because I had missed my appointment which was meant to be in April.

I then showed them the letter to prove it was their fault. I was told I would have to wait for a week to get the dole back, leaving me to live for a week on £8.60.

This proved to me that the dole is designed to degrade the people on it.

It also shows to me that the money I get from the state is a privilege in the eyes of Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and all the Dail parties and bosses.

However, I've a right to live more than O'Reilly has to profit.

TERRY, South Dublin

Fascists in Italy

On a recent trip to Rome, I saw something horrifying. It was 2 days before the Regional Elections and various parties were holding rallies in Rome city centre.

Berlusconi was sharing a platform with Fini, who heads the fascist National Alliance party. In another square, the reformed Communists were holding their rally.

But just around the corner, the new political party 'Flamma' or Flame were holding their rally, with 300 people attending. 'Flamma' recently broke from the National Alliance because they were not fascist enough for them.

It was very scary to see scores of people giving fascist salutes in a European capital 50 years after the Holocaust. Thankfully, 'Flamma' got 1% of the vote but the National Alliance got 15%.

Tragically there is not yet an Anti-Nazi League in Italy to mobilise against these fascists.

The ANL in Ireland is correct to organise now, so if fascist groups ever start organising here, we'll be ready for them

DAMIAN McLOUGHLIN, Bray.

around the world

BELGIUM

Nazis still a threat despite poll setback

NAZIS in Belgium failed to make the big breakthrough they had hoped for in a series of elections for both the national parliament and regional assemblies last week.

But though the Nazi vote fell compared with European and council elections last year, it was still well up on the last parliamentary elections four years ago.

"The Nazis are still a serious threat, especially in Flanders" warns a member of Socialist Worker's Belgium sister organisation.

Belgium is divided into two regions, each with its own communally based political parties.

In Flemish speaking Flanders, in the north, the Nazi Vlaams Blok took more votes than any other party in the key industrial city of Antwerp.

Branches

Its 27 percent of the vote in the city was backed up by a well organised apparatus, with local branches and newspapers.

Across the rest of Flanders, the Nazis, who want the region to break away from the rest of Belgium, got 13 percent.

In the southern, French speaking province of

Wallonia, the Nazi National Front scored just over 5 percent.

The party is connected to Jean Marie le Pen's National Front in France.

The Nazis in Wallonia are split and have far less organisation on the ground than their Flemish counterparts.

The Nazis have grown in both areas on the back of rising unemployment and poverty pushed through by all the established parties, and a series of corruption scandals involving senior politicians.

Official figures last month showed 1.4 million people live in poverty out of a population of ten million.

The new government after Sunday's votes is likely to be a continuation of the coalition between Christian Democrat and Socialist parties from both parts of the country.

These are committed to policies which will attack workers, deepen poverty and fuel conditions which the Nazis feed off.

FRANCE



Renault workers demanding better pay during last month's wave of strikes

Brazilian workers revolt over wages

"WE will only return to work if our demands are met."

That was the defiant response of 50,000 striking oil workers in Brazil after a court ordered them to end a three week

strike.

They are out for higher wages and against privatisation.

The oil workers' strike is at the centre of a wave of revolt against attempts by the government and bosses to hold workers wages be-

low inflation in a bid to boast profits.

Centres

Last week over 300,000 workers joined a national protest over wages.

Rail workers, tube work-

ers and telecom workers struck, as well as civil servants and other public sector workers.

The transport strike paralysed major industrial centres like Sao Paolo.

The oil workers' strike is also hitting hard and has sent government and bosses into a panic.

Lack of oil and oil products has forced food, chemicals, tyre, fertiliser and other factories across the country to slash production or shut down altogether.

The workers have refused to comply with a public appeal by the President Cardoso to return to work.

Their defiance resulted in the bizarre spectacle of different state agencies trying to pass responsibility for enforcing the law.

The courts, police and various government departments all claimed it was nothing to do with them.

A SERIES of strikes over wages has swept Morocco in the last two weeks.

Rail workers have been out as have bank workers and phosphate miners.

"There is a social malaise because the cost of living has not stopped rising and most people cannot even afford to buy vegetables any more," said a spokesperson for the UMT trade union federation.

PUBLIC sector workers, transport workers and civil servants in the Dominican Republic joined a one day general strike last week demanding wage rises of 30 percent.

STRIKING workers in Poland last week blocked a main railway line out of the capital Warsaw for several hours.

The workers from the giant Ursus tractor factory are demanding more pay and government subsidies to protect jobs.

Some 5,000 of the workers placed burning tyres across the main railway line and held up trains for several hours. The strikers have been out for two weeks now and have also staged two protest marches through Warsaw.

SOME 30,000 oil workers in Venezuela staged a protest strike demanding higher wages last week.

The workers in the state run oil company say they will go on all out strike unless they get the same pay rises as workers in the private sector are getting.

German steelworkers staged a series of warning strikes in their continuing pay dispute last week.

BOSSSES have offered just 2.9 percent to 90,000 steelworkers in the German states of Bremen, Lower Saxony and North Rhine Westfalia, while the workers are demanding 6.5 percent.

The IG Metall union called short warning stoppages at plants in Bremen, Osnabruck, Bochum, Duisburg, Dusseldorf and elsewhere in the run up to more negotiations.

THE HATE BEHIND THE OKLAHOMA BOMBING

THE OKLAHOMA bombing last month was a horrific example of how the rhetoric of right-wing politicians can backfire.

Hate groups such as the Michigan Militia are springing up all over the US. They feed on the hype about a "crime wave" and the racism that Republican and Democrat politicians spoon-feed to ordinary American people.

Some of these groups say they campaign for lower taxes and against gun controls. But they harbour Nazis and are willing to kill

ordinary workers for their own aims.

The leader of the "White Aryan Resistance", Tom Metzger, used to be in the Ku Klux Klan which tortured and killed thousands of blacks in the US. This Nazi claims that "10 million Mexicans are flooding into this country."

The Militia of Montana's co-founder, John Trochmann, tells people that "America's white population will perish." Such bigots can recruit even better since the US Congress stopped health care for "il-

legal" Mexican immigrants (without whom the US economy would be in the doldrums).

Control

Anti-semitism is rife in these hate groups. One boycotts taxes because it says the US tax authorities are "a tool of Zionist international bankers".

Hitler also claimed that Jews were in control of the banks. Other groups tap into the growth of right-wing religion.

The Christian Identity

Movement says Northern Europeans are God's chosen people and Jews are "the offspring of Satan."

And it is no coincidence that the militias' call for lynch law and the right to bear guns.

Clinton himself has stirred up fear of crime.

He passed the "three strikes and you're out" law under which a young black man got a life sentence for stealing a slice of pizza—his third offence.

These groups do not use elections to spread their propaganda, unlike organ-

ised Nazis like the BNP in Britain or Le Pen's National Front in France but their racist slime is the same.

Millions of white, black, Latino and Jewish Americans alike are without a health service and live on shrinking wages.

But there is also a growing anger that can move to the left. US unions, for example, have seen a major growth in recent years.

Tens of thousands have joined protests against racist laws. This is where the power lies to crush these messengers of hate.

Socialist Workers Party launches major recruitment drive

A NEW membership drive has been launched by the SWP to increase its size and influence. It is hoped that the organisation will have over 500 activists in the coming year.

The tempo of class conflict is rising in Ireland.

Tens of thousands of workers know that David Schramm, boss of Packard, has the image that their own bosses would love to have.

This is capitalism on the raw, no frills attached, gearing itself up to new attacks

on wages and conditions.

The Labour Party and Democratic Left offers no protection from these attacks.

They have long decided that their only option is to manage capitalism—rather than seek to overthrow it.

Audience

This is why Ruari Quinn's first budget gave major a tax break to the big farmers and the banks—and only a £1.80 a week rise to pensioners.

In the North, there is a growing audience for class

politics. Parties like Sinn Fein and the Ulster Democratic Party put themselves forward as representatives of 'their' working class communities.

But while the attempt to lobby the multi-nationals at the Washington Conference, workers are on the receiving end of their demands for low wages.

What is needed is a party that sees class as the central division in Northern Ireland.

When people do fight back they can win. But it will be socialists who will play a

key role in encouraging confidence, militancy and the ideas which can win.

That is why over the next few months:

■ we appeal to all readers of this paper to join the SWP.

■ the regular stalls and streets sales of Socialist Worker will have a display urging people to join.

■ we urge all new members to read our pamphlet *The Case for Socialism* to equip themselves with the arguments that will help to recruit their friends.

Why I have got involved...

"I am uneasy and angry about the extremes of poverty in this society. Other parties would try to blame the people themselves but the SWP point to the real enemy—the system. Wishing it away has not worked, it is time to try another way"—Grainne, a teacher.

"I am interested in fighting for real socialism that will bring change for working people"—Michael, a photographer.

"We find out more about what's going on in our job from SWP leaflets than what the unions tell us... Pat Rabbitt got votes from workers but has joined the other side. Labour promised to provide more jobs but when they got in they didn't create any."—Joe, a worker at Packard Electric

Anti Nazi League COMEDY NIGHT

with

Jeremy Hardy

Barry Murphy

Ardal O'Hanlon

Anne Gildea

Kevin Gildea

and friends

Baggot Inn

Tues 6th June 8pm

£5 (£3 unwaged)

Tickets available from Comet Records, Temple Bar or Anti Nazi League, PO Box 4007, Dublin 1

150 YEARS SINCE THE GREAT

A famine of the market

THIS YEAR marks the 150th anniversary of the Irish Famine, the "Great Hunger".

About one and a half million died from starvation and diseases like typhus, cholera and scurvy. The real number will never be known.

Because no-one could keep up with the number of deaths, record-keeping almost stopped. Another million emigrated on "coffin-ships" mainly to North America.

The horror of the famine shocked many writers of the time because the country was officially part of the UK, then the wealthiest country in the world.

One newspaper told of how "the town of Westport has become a strange and fearful sight. The streets are crowded with gaunt wanderers, shuffling to and fro with a helpless air and a hunger-stricken look.

"A mob of starved, almost naked women surrounded the poorhouse asking for soup tickets... In Claddagh, the fishermen have sold all their nets and tackle to buy soup and corn. When the herring shoals approached the coast, the fishermen were helpless."

Commander Caffyn visited Schull in Cork in February 1847. "Never in my life have I seen such wholesale misery nor could I have thought it so complete ... bodies half-eaten by the rats, two dogs tearing a body to pieces. These are things which are everyday occurrences."

The immediate cause of the famine in 1845 was the failure of the potato crop which was wiped out by blight—a fungus which spread like wildfire and reduced whole crops to an inedible stinking black mess.

The blight destroyed one third of the crop in 1845, and the total crop in 1846

and 1848.

The blight also struck Belgium and the Netherlands but did not have the same catastrophic effect there.

The Belgian government stopped exports of other foodstuffs to make up for the loss of the potato.

Ireland, however, was different. Ireland at the time was a British colony. Over 80 per cent of the population lived on the land which was owned by wealthy landlords, many of whom were "absentees" and who never saw the land they owned.

Farmers rented land from these landlords who in turn broke up the land into smaller plots which they leased to "cottiers". In 1841 three quarters of these holdings were smaller than 15 acres and a quarter less than five acres.

Staple Diet

Gerard Keegan who lived at the time described how the cottier on the landlord's estate was at the bottom of the economic ladder in Ireland. "If he is fortunate his annual income amounts to £6 a year. The landlord collects over half of this for rent. The cottier ends up with little more than £2 a year to spend."

The majority of people lived in extreme poverty with the potato as their staple diet. Anything else they may have produced such as butter, bacon, poultry or eggs were sold for money to pay rent.

Landlords accumulated vast amounts of wealth out of the work of cottiers and agricultural labourers. £6 million were paid in rent and taxes each year during the worst of the Famine. Tenants who were mostly Catholic were also forced to pay tithes (taxes) to the Church of Ireland.

But even with this terrible land system the Irish famine could have been prevented with a number of simple measures.

■ The government could have stopped exports of food and used it to feed the people who had produced it. The governments of Belgium, Turkey and Sweden had stopped grain exports for similar reasons.

■ It could have stopped the forced evictions of the already starving population. The great wave of evictions came in 1847.

Gerard Keegan describes "the brutality of the herds of marauders who are smashing down the humble cottages of the tenants knows no bounds. People are beaten, even killed, when they resist".

Instead the actions taken by the government did nothing but exacerbate an already disastrous situation.

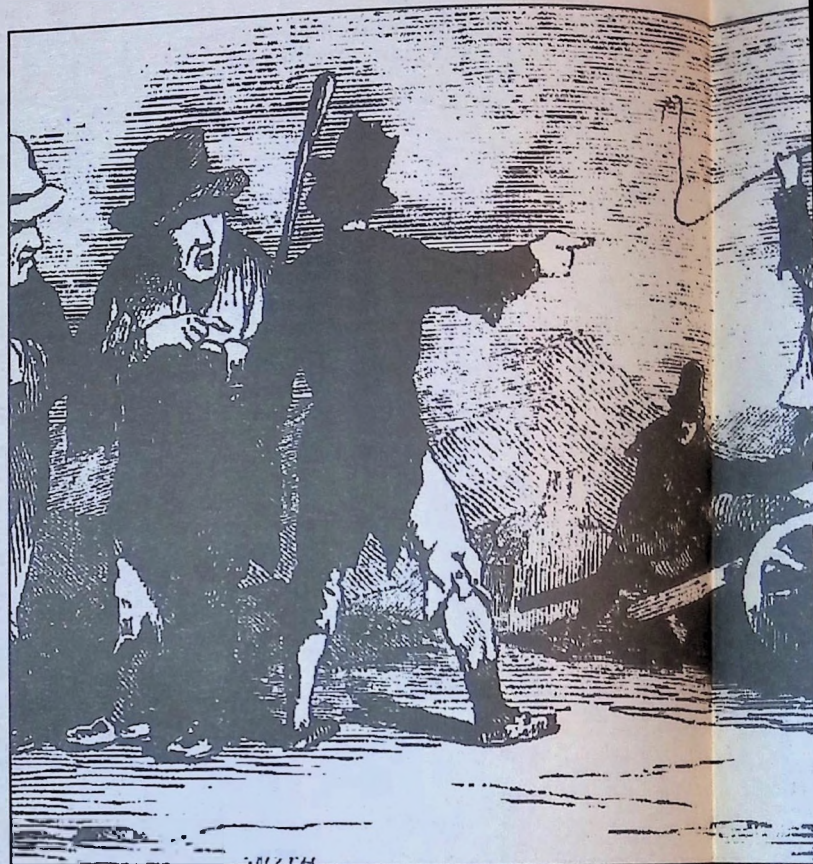
■ It bought £100,000 worth of maize and put it into storage. This was meant to replace potatoes worth 30 times this amount. Maize was chosen because it was cheap and not usually sold in Ireland.

It would not affect the profits of the corn merchants. There were no suitable mills to grind the maize and so it made people violently ill.

■ The food depots which were set up by the Relief Commission were forbidden to sell or distribute food if it affected traders' profits.

Food was only to be distributed according to the "workhouse rule", that is, food could not be distributed until the local workhouse was full. Food prices rose higher and higher.

■ In March 1846, the Relief Commission set up a programme of "public works". By the beginning of 1847,



570,000 people were employed building roads, often leading nowhere.

But on the relief works nobody could earn more than 6-8 shillings, a third of what they needed to survive.

Wage Rates

The British government were determined that their wage rates would not offer any competition to landlords who wanted to hire labourers at a cheap price.

■ Even the public works were terminated in the Spring of 1847 because they

were too costly.

They were replaced by soup kitchens which fed over 3 million people. 93 per cent of people in Ballinrobe were dependent on the soup kitchen.

■ Soup kitchens were also finally abandoned even though they served as a life-line to the starving.

There were two main reasons why the British government acted like this.

First, the theories of the capitalist free market had become the main dogma of the British ruling class.

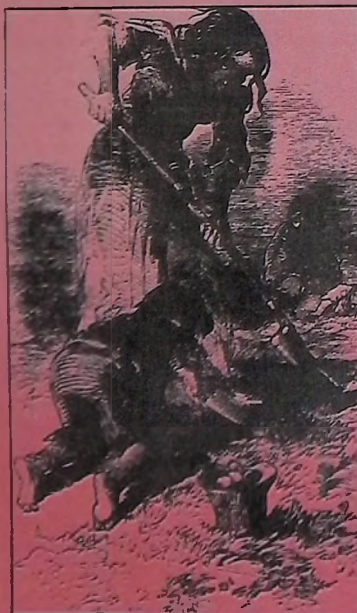
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Poverty

THE NEW EXCUSES



Today, right wing writers like the *Irish Times* columnist, Kevin Myers, want to make excuses for what happened.

He claims "there was no locally grown food produce which could serve as a substitute for the potato. It was the spud or nothing. Nothing was what people got, so they died."

This is nonsense. In fact the potato only accounted for one third of the acreage under crops.

Abundance

There was corn, wheat, meat and dairy products in abundance.

The potato crop was worth approximately £30 million. In 1848 in the middle of the

Famine when the potato crop was destroyed, the value of agricultural produce in Ireland was £45 million.

The *Southern Reporter*, a Cork newspaper, reported in March 1847 how "a valuable cargo which sailed yesterday from Cork consisted of: 1514 firkins of butter, 102 casks of pork, 184 hogshead of whisky, 844 sacks of oats, 247 sacks of wheat, 106 bales of bacon, 13 bales of ham, 296 boxes of eggs, 30 head of cattle, 90 pigs, 220 lambs, 34 calves and 69 miscellaneous packages."

Just as in famines today, there was plenty of food.

But those who owned that food did not see how they could make a profit from the starving.

Who bene

NATIONALISTS claim that the only beneficiaries of the Irish famine were British landlords.

Commentators like John Waters and Sinead O' Connor even go so far as to say that the whole Irish population today are still suffering a type of post-traumatic stress disorder from the Famine as well as a "damaged psyche".

But many native Irish farm owners gained from the changes the famine brought.

There was a transformation of the land system after the famine. Tens of thousands of agricultural labourers and cottiers were either driven off the land or had died.

In their place a class of larger, more secure farm owners emerged who had benefitted

from their dispossession.

It was this new, wealthier class which was to form the basis of a stronger, more conservative church run society.

The clergy was drawn from the wealthier section of these property owners.

Priests

The number of priests rose by 150 per cent between 1861 and 1911 despite an overall decline in the population.

The Catholic Church went from strength to strength. Its attacks on sex suited the needs of the new farm owning class.

For them marriage was the means by which property was passed on to one of their sons, so that "illegitimacy" and "promiscuity" were seen as unacceptable threats to the ownership of land.

In return for ...
church was re ...
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REAT HUNGER

by GER TUOHY

the free



Famines today

ONE HUNDRED and fifty years after the Irish famine we are witnessing similar scenes of suffering in parts of Africa. The rich use the same excuses as they did in the Irish famine. They say there are too many people in Africa or that natural disasters are the cause. Today grain mountains are big enough to feed the worst affected areas of Africa 70 times over, but as in Ireland it isn't profitable to provide food to the starving. In 1845 the authorities justified their inaction by claiming that nothing should be done to interfere with private enterprise or the regular course of trade. Today market forces still dictate that millions will die needlessly while food riots and farmers are paid subsidies to leave their land idle. James Connolly summed it up perfectly: "This [Irish] famine ... like all modern famines, was solely attributable to economic causes, the poor of all religions and politics were equally sufferers, the rich of all religions and politics were equally exempt... Had socialist principles been applied to Ireland in those days not one person need have died of hunger, and not one cent of charity need have been subscribed..."

economist Adam Smith that the free market would solve all problems. Every piece of government intervention had to be kept to a minimum in case it ran counter to 'market forces'.
Imported
If, for example, they imported massive amounts of food, this would have lowered prices and so destroyed the 'laws of the market'. Poverty and famine were instead

blamed on the 'idleness' and 'recklessness' of the poor themselves. Second, the British ruling class believed that Ireland was overpopulated. Years before the famine the right wing writer Malthus wrote that "a greater part of the (Irish) population should be swept from the soil". The British ruling class wanted to turn Irish land into a grazing pasture for cattle. This, they thought, would yield more profits and create a 'stable tenantry' who would buy British products and respect

British laws. The famine created the very opportunity to carry this programme out. So the Irish famine did not just arise from the deep seated hatred that Britain's rulers held towards the Irish. It was the logic of a free market system that was built on greed and profit. Despite the squalor and extreme hardship the British government caused, they met with resistance. Hundreds marched to the house of Lord Sligo in Co. Mayo. People descended on towns demanding work. Food riots were organised and crowds tried to stop ships exporting grain. Troops were sent into the fields to protect crops. In February 1846, the army reported a 'state of insurrection'. In 1847 seven landlords were shot, six fatally. In 1848, there was a failed insurrection. The British government was extremely nervous as that year saw a wave of revolutions across Europe and the huge working class Chartist movement looked like they might rise up in England itself. But in the end, they were given little grounds for fear. Sadly, the main resistance movement of the time, the Young Irelanders, were more concerned with the rights of property than the victims of famine. In Mullinahone, for example, the leader of the Young Irelanders, William Smith O' Brien refused to allow his followers fell trees for barricades until they had asked permission of the landlord who owned the trees. The famine arose from the workings of a market. The leaders of Irish nationalism failed to see this and continued to defend capitalism.

Benefited?



In return for its ideology, the church was rewarded by being given greater powers in Irish society. The legacy of that control is only now being shaken.

EBOLA OUTBREAK:

Western hypocrisy on killer disease

People are dying in Zaire from the horrific Ebola virus. The deadly disease kills within a fortnight by causing internal organs to disintegrate. The Western media has presented it again as a natural disaster. They have focussed on the efforts of the authorities and of health workers in Zaire to contain the virus. The West's main concern is that the disease might spread to Europe and America. People from Zaire are now facing horrific discrimination. A Zairean national who travelled from Belfast to Canada, for example, was given a medical check and cleared—but he was still placed in medical detention. Western governments are doing very little to help contain the disease.

ease occurred. The main contribution from the governments of the world's richest countries has been to create the conditions which have caused so many to die. The World Bank has forced African countries to repay crippling loans instead of allowing money to be spent on a decent health service. One million children died at birth last year in poorer countries because the blades used to cut the umbilical cord were not properly sterilised. AIDS has had a major impact on Africa because of the lack of a medical infrastructure. The media's favourite targets are the corrupt rulers of countries like Zaire who keep their people in poverty and encourage tribalism. But it was the West which put the dictator Mobutu in power in Zaire after the UN intervened in what was then the Congo in the early 1960's. The main 'aid' given to Zaire came in the form of weapons and training for the army which now harasses people fleeing the area of the Ebola outbreak. The cure for Ebola has yet to be found but the hysteria about its possible spread is misplaced. Once the immediate outbreak is stopped the disease then loses its effect and dies out among the human population.

It could easily be contained if proper medical equipment was available. Europeans who contracted the disease in the 1970's have lived to tell the tale because they had reasonable health services in their home countries. Even in those countries the health service is under increasing attack. Things are not as bad in Ireland or Britain as they are in Zaire but we also have a two-tier health system. Poverty means that diseases like TB are returning to cities like New York.

Emergency

Make no mistake—if Ebola was killing hundreds of people in Europe or America an international emergency would have been declared weeks ago. Plane loads of top medical personnel with the most sophisticated equipment would have flown to the scene. In fact it is likely that if the outbreak had occurred in the West it would not have killed hundreds of people. The main reason it has claimed so many lives in Zaire is because of the chronic lack of medical equipment there. Most of the people who died in the first few weeks were health workers trying to help others. They died because they did not have enough protective clothing to save them from contact with the virus. More protective 'space suits' were used in the making of the Dustin Hoffman film *Outbreak*—about a fictional virus—than were available to doctors in the city of Kikwit where the real dis-

Priorities

Competition between drug companies has slowed down the search for a cure for AIDS. All over the world people die needlessly because of capitalism's sick priorities. One other question surrounds the issue of Ebola. In the film *Outbreak* the US army is secretly storing the serum for a deadly virus to use it as a biological weapon. A bit far-fetched, you might think? But a Professor Bishop has revealed that the Russian government tested a strain of Ebola known as the Marburg virus for use as a weapon. "They demonstrated it could be transmitted by aerosol", said the Professor.

No welcome for the royal scrounger

March Wednesday 31st May, 7.00pm GPO, Dublin

Called by Dublin Against the Royal Tour

The British royal family:

Rich, idle and very, very nasty

"Monarchy would not have been continued so many ages in the world, had it not been for the abuses it protects. It is the master fraud which shelters all others"—Tom Paine, the English republican and leader of the United Englishmen.

THE VISIT of Prince Charles to Ireland had sent the politicians of Dail Eireann into a tizzy of excitement.

The Progressive Democrat deputy, Liz O'Donnell has even called for a dance to be held in his honour so that "all the female members of the house would get a chance to dance with a Prince".

But Charles Windsor is the world's best known scrounger.

Far from displaying an ounce of talent, the man is renowned for his incompetence.

He has presented himself as an expert on architecture but when he was let design his model village, he provided for no places for children to play in.

He claims to be "above politics".

Yet in a recent biography by his friend Jonathan Dimbleby, he boasts of "chivvying and harassing government ministers".

Far from displaying any great sensitivity or insight, he is famous for telling his

mistress that he would "love to be a tampon".

Despite claiming to represent the British nation, his family have a long Germanic background. Charles should rightly have been called Saxe-Coburg but during World War 1 the family changed their name to Windsor.

Like the rest of the royal family Charles spends a life endlessly trotting from one idle weekend at country palaces to another, from one rich person's do to another.

Free Lunches

If anyone on the dole tried to get as many free lunches and holidays as Prince Charles does, they would be hauled up for defrauding the taxpayer.

His mother, Elizabeth Windsor, is the world's wealthiest woman and still gets millions each year in handouts from British taxpayers.

Her stocks and shares are worth at least £340 million while her jewellery alone could net a cool £3.5 million.

Charles owns half of the



Fairy tale couple of royal scroungers

county of Cornwall and pockets millions in state handouts.

His former wife Diana is rich enough to have splashed out £1 million last year on a holiday home in France.

None of them have done anything to earn their wealth, except be born.

None has done a day's work in their life.

Instead the whole family has spent their time entertaining tyrants and the

wealthy of the world.

The former Romanian dictator, Ceausescu was a regular visitor to Buckingham palace.

So too was the Shah of Iran who terrorised his people with his secret police

force, the SAVAK.

Instead of feting this scoundrel, any decent government would take a few of the homeless off the streets and give them a place to live.

No representative of peace

CHARLES Windsor will pretend that he wants peace in Ireland.

But every so often, he decks himself out in the full uniform of the Parachute regiment.

His official title is that of Colonel in Chief of the Regiment. This is the same regiment that murdered 13 people on Bloody Sunday.

When it was let loose in towns like Cookstown it got a reputation for beating up both Catholic and Protestant youth.

This regiment alone has murdered 45 unarmed civilians in Northern Ireland.

Instead of apologising for any of its actions, Charles Windsor has rushed to its defence. The only Para that was ever convicted of murder was Private Lee Clegg who shot Karen Reilly and Martin Peake for joy riding.

When the British establishment mounted a campaign to get Clegg freed, one of the first signatories was Charles Windsor.

Instead of campaigning for peace, Windsor is a symbol of the naked imperialist ambitions of the British ruling class.

Off with their heads

SOMETIMES it is claimed that English people have a 'natural liking' for monarchy. But this is nonsense.

During the English revolution of the 1640s, the king of England, Charles, was beheaded as a "tyrant, traitor, murderer and enemy to the country".

The poet Milton celebrated the execution of King Charles I by proclaiming that "people must needs be mad or strangely infatuated that build their chief hope of their common happiness on a single person".

Tens of thousands of English people supported the radicals who were organised in movements like the Levellers and the Diggers that wanted to get rid of kings and no-

bility.

At the time of the American Revolution of 1776 there was a huge rise in republican sentiment. One man, Tom Paine, became a voice for thousands.

His pamphlet attacking the monarchy, *Common Sense*, sold a staggering 150,000 copies and was second only to the Bible as the most popular book.

Abuses

Paine wrote that "Monarchy would not have continued so many ages in the world, had it not been for the abuses it protects. It is the master fraud which protects all others."

This hatred of the monarchy lasted over centuries.

When George IV died, even the conservative paper, *The Times*, wrote that, "There never was an individual less regretted by his fel-

low creatures than this deceased king".

Today Charles is despised by many British people. Even sections of the right wing tabloid press are arguing that Britain should become a republic. The *Sun*, for example, found that 78% of its readers believe that "the monarchy should not continue into the next century."

But the Tories and the Labour Party keep the monarchy because they want to encourage an image of stability in the institutions of the British state.

As the former editor of the *Times*, William Rees Mogg, put it, the royal family signifies "deference and hierarchy".

Prince Charles is coming to Ireland to create an impression that he has a useful role to play in promoting a new friendship between Britain and Ireland. The reality is that he is despised on both sides of the Irish Sea.

WHY THEY WANT US TO GROVEL

BRUTON claims that the visit will help create a 'new understanding' between Irish and English people.

But respecting a monarchy will do nothing to encourage friendship between English and Irish workers.

Real solidarity has already been forged in common struggle.

When the British miners struck in 1984/85 for their jobs, trade unionists automatically raised thousands in collections.

Waterford Glass workers did not have to think twice before they took the children of the miners into their homes.

And when Dunnes workers went on strike against apartheid produce, they raised thousands in collections in Britain.

Pretend

The British royalty are used to pretend that some are born to rule and others to be ruled.

They are built up as superstars to get us to accept the idea that there is nothing wrong

with great wealth.

The press dangles them in front of us as dream figures who are 'glamorous' and 'exciting' because it does not want to seriously investigate the lives of ordinary workers who put up with injustices daily.

The Irish establishment have never felt the need for a monarchy—but they do understand that the more people turn out for Prince Charles, the easier it is to get us to accept our own aristocracy.

That is why the visit should be opposed.

COMMENT

Garda row: The best thing since Fawlty Towers

IT'S ABOUT time there was a good word said in this paper about the police.

Let's face it, *Socialist Worker's* coverage of the cops has tended to be a bit on the negative side, highlighting the sectarian thuggery of the RUC and the way the guards stitch people up. But fair's fair. Can anybody deny that the Garda Representative Association has provided us all with great crack altogether over the past while?

At their annual conference in Galway a couple of weeks back the GRA had to hire private security guards to make sure that dissident guards didn't storm into the hall and wreck the proceedings.

The picture of cops queueing up to have their credentials checked by burly bouncers who looked like they'd been tempted down out of the mountains with hunks of raw meat was the funniest thing seen on television since they took *Fawlty Towers* off.

It's a pity we didn't get to see the bouncers telling some fat sergeant, "Regulars only, so fuck off". But then you can't have everything.

The GRA's problems have to do—wouldn't you just know it?—with money. There was the small matter of half a million quid of GRA money being invested in an assurance company run by a former member of the executive. That caused a most unseemly row at the conference in Killarney in 1990.

Then there was the embarrassing investigation two years later into the GRA's finances. The chequebook and records of the association's No. 2 account had gone missing for seven months. There were dark mutterings about expenses claims. The detectives who carried out the investigation recommended no prosecutions. But then they were members of the GRA themselves and disgruntled rank-and-filers hinted at a cover-up.

Discontent was further fuelled when two elected officials were mysteriously transformed into paid officers of the association—with around £25,000 a year

each on top of their garda pay.

Garda pay. That's another thing. Last year, the GRA executive negotiated a deal which improved pensions for cops nearing retirement—but ruled out any pay rise until 1998. Even SIPTU would get a better deal than that for its members. So your younger fresh-faced lads and lasses are hopping mad. They note that the Prison Officers Association, a notoriously useless crowd of bowsies, has just negotiated four and a half per cent on the basic. And since they won't do anything sensible like going on strike they are taking out their rage on the association's executive.

Settle

But let's try to be constructive here. Could the guards not settle the differences by traditional methods?

If wrongdoing is suspected, could the concerned members of the association not invite the likely culprits in for a chat and give them a bit of a kicking if they refuse to confess? If they continue to sing dumb, a plausible confession could surely be scribbled out on their behalf.

Of course, that wouldn't dispose of the deeper problems. But here again, *Socialist Worker* has a constructive suggestion.

Why don't the members of the GRA mass at one end of a wide street—O'Connell Street in Dublin would be ideal—and members of the breakaway Garda Federation muster at the other end, and baton-charge one another?

It would have to be agreed in advance, of course, that the crowd that beats the shite out of the other crowd would then be recognised by all as the legitimate guards' organisation.

This event, televised live, would not only bring a complex dispute to a definitive end but would also contribute greatly to the gaiety of the nation. Pubs with big screens would be jam-packed. And—a real bonus this—the plain people wouldn't be down-hearted no matter which side took a hammering.

—EAMONN McCANN

BOOK

Backing up the tyrants

Richard Willmsen reviews John Pilger's book *Heroes, now in paperback*

JOHN PILGER's classic book *Heroes* has recently been republished in paperback. It is essential reading for anyone interested in finding out the real history of the world's great powers.

Pilger shows how US manipulation and terror against the Vietnamese people began with the importation of a new 'leader', Ngo Dinh Diem, to South Vietnam.

He had been hand-picked by the CIA to provide an alternative to the 'Communist Regime' in the North.

Frighten

Ngo Dinh Diem had no support from his own people, so the CIA orchestrated a campaign of false propaganda to frighten almost a million people into fleeing from North to South.

It backed this up with a regime of terror: in 1959 a law was passed

making 'spreading rumours' against the Government a crime punishable by death.

Heroes contains many more on the spot reports from despotic states around the globe.

It was Pilger who first drew attention to the Indonesian government's war against the people of East Timor.

The book also tells of his fight to bring Pol Pot's tyranny in Cambodia to the world's notice—against opposition from Western governments.

As he points out, Pol Pot's representative continues to sit at the UN with the full backing of the US.

The book leaves two lasting impressions.

One, that imperialist powers will only intervene in 'troublespots' where they see a quick profit.

They will stop at nothing whatsoever, least of all the truth, to get their hands on wealth.



Two, that people always manage to resist and struggle against their oppressors in some form. Pilger writes that people are 'portrayed merely as victims when, in truth,

their courage and resilience are often heroic. It is they who are the heroes of this book, which I hope will stand as a tribute to them.' — Essential reading.

OSCAR WILDE

Rebel against Victorian values

ONE HUNDRED years ago, the writer Oscar Wilde was imprisoned for two years in Reading gaol. His crime was to offend the morals of Victorian society by being gay.

His conviction was part of a backlash against those who rejected the Victorian ideal of family values.

A recent RTE television programme suggested that the whole affair was a tragic misunderstanding.

They brought together a grandson of Wilde and a grandson of the Unionist leader Edward Carson, the prosecutor who successfully brought about his conviction.

Hounded

But no attempt was made to explain why one of the most celebrated authors of the time was hounded by society.

The truth is that in his personal life and in his writings, Wilde challenged the hypocrisy of the times.

While he could delight and entertain high society gatherings with his wit and intelligence, his loathing of Victorian capitalism and its moral

values could not be concealed.

Wilde satirised marriage, the family and the church.

He despised the way conventions and respectability stifled human spontaneity and freedom of expression.

Yet he himself was not able to break from the suffocating conventions of the time.

This forced him to lead a double life—respectably married with a family on the one hand, but having sex with rent boys and paying off blackmailers on the other.

These contradictions are reflected in his work—especially in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, his most widely-known novel.

Dorian Gray is to all appearances young and beautiful, but his portrait reflects the cruelty and degradation of his secret world.

This reflects Wilde's own ambiguities about his homosexuality.

While he portrays homosexuality as attractive, it is also shown as being sinful, something to hide.

Ultimately, Wilde



looked to some form of socialist society where people would be free from the oppression of capitalism.

In *The Soul of Man under Socialism*, published in 1890, he proposed a vision of what the future

socialist society would look like.

People would be free to live happy and fulfilled lives.

Marriage and family life would be replaced by free and open relationships. The abolition of

private property would ensure there would be no poverty.

Socialism would mean the end of crime, since criminals were "merely what commonplace people would be if they had not got enough to eat".

The lives of ordinary people would be utterly changed if machines were used for heavy and time-consuming labour.

Thinkers

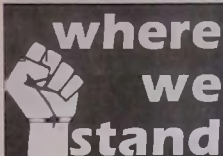
Wilde's vision of a future society was not, however, matched by any plans for how it could be achieved. Rather than turning to collective struggle, he looked to the ideas of great thinkers like Michaelangelo and Shakespeare.

One hundred years later, the rich still accumulate its wealth at the expense of human freedom and happiness.

But in the past hundred years, the system has itself created the one force which can sweep it away forever—the organised working class.

That class alone has the power to make sure Wilde's dream of socialism becomes a reality.

■ Catherine Curran



Workers create all the wealth in capitalist society. A new society can only be constructed when they collectively seize control of that wealth and plan its production and distribution.

FOR REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be reformed out of existence. Parliament cannot be used to end the system.

The courts army and police are there to defend the interests of the capitalist class not to run society in a neutral fashion.

To destroy capitalism, workers need to smash the state and create a workers' state based on workers' councils.

FOR REAL SOCIALISM, EAST AND WEST:

The SWP welcomed the break-up of the USSR and the end of the East European dictatorships. These states were not socialist but were run by a state-capitalist class. We are against the domination of the globe by imperialist powers and we oppose their wars. We are for the right of all nations, East and West, to self-determination.

FOR AN END TO ALL OPPRESSION

We oppose all forms of oppression which divide and weaken the working class. We are for full social, economic and political equality for women.

We stand for: free contraception and free, legalised abortion and the right to divorce; the complete separation of church and state, an end to church control over schools and hospitals; an end to discrimination against gays and lesbians; an end to racism and anti-traveller bigotry.

We argue for working class unity in the fight against oppression.

FOR WORKERS' UNITY IN THE NORTH:

Northern Ireland is a sectarian state, propped up by the British Army. Catholic workers are systematically discriminated against by the state. The division between Catholic and Protestant workers weakens the whole working class.

Workers' unity can only be won and maintained in a fight to smash both the Northern and Southern states.

We stand for the immediate withdrawal of British troops. Violence will only end when workers unite in the fight for a workers' republic.

FOR A FIGHTING TRADE UNION MOVEMENT:

Trade unions exist to defend workers' interests. But the union leaders' role is to negotiate with capitalism - not to end it. We support the leaders when they fight but oppose them when they betray workers. We stand for independent rank and file action.

FOR A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY:

To win socialism socialists need to organise in a revolutionary party. This party needs to argue against right-wing ideas and for overthrowing the system. The SWP aims to build such a party in Ireland

news & reports—politics; the unions—

An Post fightback

LAST WEEK bosses in the post office suspended clerical workers who refused to cooperate with changes in work practices.

500 clerical workers have now served strike notice on the company and in the meantime they have a ban on overtime and a work-to-rule in all clerical departments.

An Post have been driving through radical changes in the working conditions of all employees over the last four years but are refusing to negotiate a 3% pay deal.

Reduce

"The straw that broke the camel's back was when they tried to force us to work on counter automation", according to one steward who spoke to *Socialist Worker*.

This means that a lot of work will be taken away from clerical workers but An Post will not give any productivity pay.

On top of this the bosses want to reduce the staff by 20% and bring in part-time, temporary staff.

"These workers would be paid the lowest point of scale for the job without any job security or commitment to promotion. It's like McDonalds without the chips".

The list of attacks from An Post management reads like an ultimatum from Schramm of Packard—creation of a low-paid, temporary grade; cutting tea breaks back to ten minutes; extending the working week by two hours; an end to flexi-time working; in-

Family Income Supplement to feed and clothe their families.

But, as one of the steward pointed out, "There is a confidential payroll in this company.

"Everybody knows what the ordinary workers earn and it's a pittance for an awful lot of us.

"But none of us know what the Chief Executive or his cronies earn.

"That's a carefully kept secret."

Opposition

An Post are facing determined opposition to their plans.

The mood among the workers is exceptionally militant.

"I have never seen the workers get behind the union like this before. They are sick and tired of being pushed around".

If suspensions continue, workers should place determined pickets and force

this semi-state company to give decent jobs.

As one worker put it, "We would expect better from a semi-state employer.

"They should be setting the standards for decent jobs in this country instead of driving them down".

Packard plant still under threat

FIVE MONTHS after Packard Electric tried to force through drastic changes in conditions for over 800 workers, the future of the plant is still very uncertain.

Workers voted twice to return to a 39 hour week because of the company threat to lay off another 400 workers and their failure to give a decent settlement to 42 laid off since April, 1994.

But this resistance was undermined when union leaders called a special meeting to get the action called off. No vote was taken at the mass meeting

on Sunday 21st May. Instead union leaders looked for a "consensus" from workers and got their agreement to work the extra two hours.

Deadline

But many workers believed that a deadline of "one week" was being put on negotiations. This was never reported in the media which presented the story as a complete cave in by the workers.

The danger is that the 'deadline' will be strung out. Meanwhile, Packard is getting 1600 hours labour for free from an already

wear, over-stretched workforce.

The feeling among many workers is that Schramm "wants to break the backs of the unions like they did in America". But workers in America have fought back and won against General Motors.

Last October they forced the bosses to create an extra 800 jobs in the Flint Michigan plant after an all-out strike.

Negotiations on the lay-offs and the future for the 400 workers could take much longer than workers have been told. But they need to tell their unions that they are going to take back those hours if the huge lay-offs go ahead.

It would make a mockery of trade unionism for workers to work longer -- so that their bosses get more lay-offs.

As one of the workers put it, "The people with the money are dictating the pace. It's about time that the people without the money started to dictate and force Schramm to sit up and listen to us".

Teachers take to the streets

THOUSANDS of teachers took to the streets of Dublin last week. They had taken part in a one day strike to demand the right to early retirement.

The teachers have been under sustained attack in the media, particularly from the *Independent Group*. They seized on the fact that two branches of the INTO voted against the strike.

What they never mentioned was that the INTO has a rule which demands a two thirds majority for action. The demand for early retirement is a very modest demand. Teachers want to be able to retire at 60 after 38 years service. Teachers who wish to leave should not be forced to work just for the money.

Even Niamh Bhreathnach, the Labour Minister for Education said at an INTO conference in 1993 that she would "enhance opportunities for early retirement". But she has gone back on that promise.

The real worry that many teachers have is that some of the union leaders will try to get early retirement by giving concessions on longer school openings.

Despite these worries it was a tragedy that one teachers' union, the TUI, did not take part in the strike. One of the branches of that union in Dublin even criticised the 'negative' image that the strike was creating.

The best way to stop any concessions is to give full backing for the struggle—and to keep arguing against any weakening by the union leaders.

A Wolf in a Sheep's Skin

WORKERS at the Sheepskin shop in Wicklow St, Dublin have taken strike action after they were sacked by management.

Some had worked at the shop for more than 10 years. The strike has been given official backing by SIPTU.

The manager of the shop is trying to keep it open by hiring young people at weekends.

But the strike at Knightingales a few months ago showed that good pickets will turn customers away and defeat the boss.

SWP branch meetings—all welcome

BELFAST CENTRAL
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Penny Farthing Bar, Upper North Street
May 31st: Northern Ireland—Is Britain Pulling Out?
June 7th: Public Meeting in Central Hall, Rosemary Street
Abortion: A Woman's Right to Choose

BELFAST SOUTH
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Queens Students Union. Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Queens Students Union
May 30th: Northern Ireland—Is Britain Pulling Out?
June 6th: Public Meeting in Central Hall, Rosemary Street
Abortion: A Woman's Right to Choose

CORK
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the Anchor Inn, Georges Quay.
June 1st: Where is Republicanism going?
June 8th: Drugs—Whose to blame?

DERRY
Meets in Badgers Bar at 8pm Tuesday May 30th: Drugs—Whose to blame?
Wednesday June 7th: Public Meeting in Badgers Bar
Fight to Defend the NHS

DUBLIN BALLINTEER
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Ballintheer House.
May 31st: Demonstration Against Prince Charles
June 7th: Where is Republicanism going?

DUBLIN BLANCHARDSTOWN
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in the Blakestown Community Centre.
May 30th: Ebola Virus—Why capitalism is bad for your health
June 6th: Drugs—Whose to blame?

DUBLIN COOLOCK
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the Arlene/Beaumont Family Recreation Centre, Kilmore Rd.
June 1st: Where is Republicanism going?
June 8th: The fight for women's rights

DUBLIN CLONDALKIN
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in the Loch and Quay, Clondalkin.
May 30th: Where is Republicanism going?
June 6th: Drugs—Whose to blame?

DUBLIN DRIMNAGH
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in the Bentley Pub, Drimnagh Road
May 30th: Drugs—Whose to blame?
June 6th: Where is Republicanism going?

DUBLIN FINGLAS
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in The Royal Oak.
May 31st: Demonstration against Prince Charles
June 7th: Crime—What's the solution?

DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Conways.
May 31st: Demonstration against Prince Charles
June 7th: Where is Republicanism going?

DUBLIN RATHMINES
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Cassidy's Pub, Camden Street.
May 31st: Demonstration against Prince Charles
June 7th: Why did the revolutions in Eastern Europe fail?

DUBLIN RINGSEND
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in Ringsend Community Centre
June 1st: Ebola Virus—Why capitalism is bad for your health
June 8th: Where is Republicanism going?

DUBLIN SOUTH CENTRAL
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the Trinity Inn.
June 1st: Where is Republicanism going?
June 8th: The fight for women's rights

DUBLIN TALLAGHT
Contact 8722682 for details of meetings

DUN LAOGHAIRE
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Smyths Pub.
May 30th: Drugs—Whose to blame?

June 6th: Where is Republicanism going?

GALWAY
Meets every second Thursday at 8.00pm in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square—contact national address for details.

LIMERICK
Meets every second Wednesday at 7.30pm in Desmonds Bar, Catherine St—contact national address for details.

MAYNOOTH
Meets every Thursday in Class Hall B at 6pm.

NEWRY
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm—contact national address for venue.

WATERFORD
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in ATGWU hall, Waterford.
June 1st: Where is Republicanism going?
June 8th: Drugs—Whose to blame?

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

Name

Address.....

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Dublin Bus: Action gets results

WORKERS IN Dublin Bus have scored a major victory in their campaign for cashless buses.

After a fantastic three hour work-stoppage and march called by the NBRU and supported by SIPTU, the new chief of CIE, Michael McDonnell, agreed to the introduction of an autofare system.

This will mean drivers will no longer have to handle cash.

The march was attended by almost 1,000 workers.

The NBRU had threatened to begin a campaign of industrial action unless management moved to a cashless autofare system.

Just days before the march, Dublin Bus management had flatly refused the unions' demands.

One NBRU shop stew-

ard believed the main reason for the change of mind was the response of workers to the work stoppage and march.

"The reaction of the workers was great, even the unions didn't expect such a turnout, the strike was absolutely solid."

Stress

The new system should see a real improvement in the conditions of busworkers.

Not only will the risk of assault be reduced, but the stress of handling large amounts of money will end.

So too will the system of "shorts", where workers are expected to repay any shortfalls in their cash paid-in.

But busworkers should have no illusions in



PHOTO: MICHAEL GALLAGHER
worker-friendly.

McDonnell, the new CIE boss.

Visiting

His acceptance of autofare says more about the power of workers than it does about his concern for

their safety.

Although McDonnell gives the impression of being concerned, visiting depots to meet "his" workers, and calling to the houses of drivers who have been assaulted, his real agenda is not so

He comes from Aer Lingus, where he helped push through attacks on pay and conditions.

There is no doubt he has similar long term plans for Dublin Bus workers.

Civil servants ballot on low pay

THE CIVIL and Public Service Union looks set to give Finance Minister Ruairi Quinn a long hot summer.

His Department pays the country's Civil Service workers who are due to ballot on industrial action over low pay.

They are paid miserly wages with many taking home around €150 a week if they are lucky.

This contrasts with the huge salaries of top Civil Servants like the Department Secretaries who advise government ministers.

The Department of Finance wants to bring in widespread 'flexibility' and the introduction of a 'yellow pack' grade on even worse pay than the existing grade of Clerical Assistants.

Recent victories by CPSU members in the Civil Aviation Authority and the Department of Agriculture prove that Civil Servants are no pushover. An all-out strike by 12,000 government workers would deliver a real blow to poverty wages.

STOP

O'DOWD'S DIRTY TRICKS
CPSU General Secretary John O'Dowd has resorted to dirty tricks to silence criticism of his performance.

A few weeks before the Union's Conference O'Dowd forced the CPSU Executive Committee to scrub no less than fifteen motions from the agenda.

The motions were not even published but apparently reflected members' anger over the leadership's betrayal of union policy by:
■ Continuing with dead-end talks on grade restructuring after an agreed September 1994 deadline;
■ Agreeing to a document allowing for 30 per cent privatisation of Telecom Eireann.

O'Dowd and two other fulltime officials - Blair Horan and Rosaleen Glackin - handed solicitors' letters to the Executive threatening legal action if the motions were allowed to go to a vote.

The union's solicitor even suggested that Executive members would be held personally liable if the motions undermined the officials' contracts.

O'Dowd's tactics are an affront to democracy in the trade union movement. CPSU members should insist that their paid officials be accountable to the rank and file and that members should have the right to sack an official who undermines union policy.

Dunnes workers prepare to strike

DUNNES STORES workers throughout Ireland are being balloted for strike action.

The action is to force Dunnes to concede workers rights to treble pay for Sunday trading and for full negotiations with their trade union Mandate.

A national strike against this company could cripple their profits. There is increasing competition in the super-market trade and Dunnes are forcing the issue of Sunday trading, rostering workers who want their Sundays free.

Active pickets on all Dunnes outlets would win massive support from other workers who know that Dunnes bosses are playing the same game as bosses in Packard, Team and the public sector.

Dunnes workers should recruit all part-time and casual workers into the union.

A strong united strike could teach management a short, sharp lesson and raise the confidence of shopworkers in other companies.

Solidarity for Dunnes from other shopworkers must be built up. Workplace collections for strikers and active support for pickets would go a long way to securing victory for Dunnes strikers.

TEAM jobs under threat

LOWRY, THE Minister for Transport and Communications, has announced a new plan for TEAM Aer Lingus.

Two hundred more jobs are to go in a company that has already cut back massively on staff.

TEAM bosses haven't yet said how they intend to get rid of 200 jobs.

But if workers are to go then the option of early retirement should be offered to older craftworkers who have given years of service to the company.

As one craftworker put it "If

they think they can force workers to go—that's not on.

"They have already discriminated against the older blokes with 35 to 40 years service.

"They deserve the option of early retirement."

Pay Cut

Talk of a pay cut is also on TEAM's agenda.

But this will meet with fierce opposition if management try to push it.

Last year workers accepted a pay freeze as part of the Labour Court deal.

A TEAM shop steward told Socialist Worker "A pay freeze

means your pay doesn't go up.

"But neither does it go down. There's no way we will accept a pay cut".

Management have been holding "seminars" to discuss the performance of the company with workers.

But workers at these meetings are concerned about their conditions.

The bosses don't want to know about the low standards of health and safety, the poor canteen facilities and the ban on half-day holidays.

These are the real issues that TEAM workers have to fight to win.

Premier Dairies back down

MANAGEMENT at Premier Dairies has been forced to back down by the workers' militant response to redundancy notices issued to six maintenance workers at the Rathfarnham plant.

Faced with the threat of an all-out strike, management agreed at the last minute in the Labour Court to withdraw the notices.

It is likely the dispute will now be referred for a full Labour Court hearing.

Workers are under no illusions as to the probable outcome.

They have no faith in institutions that have consistently handed

down pro-management recommendations.

As one worker said, "We're not going to accept any half measures. We're still prepared to strike to defend our jobs."

Management's plans to wind down the Finglas plant mean that other workers in Premier will come under attack.

A victory for the garage workers would be a victory for everyone else and would make these attacks all the more difficult.

Solidarity is the key. By continuing to stand together this vicious management can be beaten.

VOTE MORRIS

MEMBERS OF the TGWU are voting for a key post in their union.

Jack Dromey is being sponsored by the Northern Ireland region to oppose the existing General Secretary Bill Morris.

Dromey is the chosen candidate of the new right wing Blair leadership of the British Labour Party. He refuses to demand a minimum wage.

Morris has used left wing rhetoric in the past—but has failed to deliver solidarity with workers in struggle.

In a choice between a weak left winger and a right winger, TGWU members should vote Morris.

University of Ulster technicians

TECHNICIANS belonging to the MSF union at the University of Ulster are to decide whether to take strike action over attacks on employment conditions.

Previously an annual review of job conditions and grading was carried out as a right but this has not been done for three years.

Pressure

During this time conditions have worsened as increasing student numbers put extra pressure on all staff.

The University hierarchy wants to bring in a new job evaluation scheme which technicians feel will worsen conditions further.

The dispute recently went to the Labour Relations Agency but no resolution was found. As MSF representative Mac Pollack said, "The University no longer want to negotiate - they want to dictate."

The attacks on technicians are only part of the increasing attacks on both academic and non academic staff by University management.

Some clerical staff have recently had lunch and tea breaks shortened. Management are also using more short term contracts and part-time workers.

A strike by the technicians would win support from all other workers at the University and spread the confidence to fight management's attacks on conditions.

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

Support NHS Day of Action June 7th

WARNING:

TORIES DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH!

THE ACQUITTAL of a junior doctor of a charge of manslaughter for injecting a patient with a wrong drug shows what a terrible state the North's health service is in.

Yin Yin Teoh had just finished a 14 hour shift when she made the mistake.

The previous week she had worked for a staggering 110 hours.

The jury drew a clear link between these terrible working conditions and the dreadful mistake she made.

But the bosses who run our hospitals do everything to continue the cover up.

"I do not accept the

connection between the junior doctor's conditions and this accident", said William McKee, the Chief Executive of the Royal Group of hospitals.

Secured

Of course, he wouldn't. The new managers of the hospitals are used to treating their staff like dirt.

They are trying to deprive nurses of a decent wage rise that is secured

through national bargaining.

They are trying to privatise essential hospital services so that their fiends can make more profits.

The run down of the NHS has been systematically organised by the Tories.

They have cut the number of nurses while pushing up the number of senior managers by 262 percent between 1989 and 1992.

Their aim is to make the NHS go down the same road as the water, gas and electricity industries.



They want to privatise it so that it creates new opportunities for super-pay and super-profits for their capitalist friends.

Now there is a new op-

portunity to start fighting back.

Wednesday June 7th has been named as a day of protest in defence of the NHS by the unions.

In Northern Ireland this should be turned into a massive display of united class anger.

Action

We should tell the sectarian politicians who go on about our 'different identities' to take get off side.

Workers outside the health service should raise this day of action in their workplaces and unions.

They should organise to send delegations down to the protests.

But the day should

only be the start of the action.

Several groups of health workers, including the Royal College of Nursing, are now balloting for the right to take strike.

The UNISON union is planning major industrial action in July.

This weak and despised Tory government of John Major should finally be given the boot.

The action of workers in Northern Ireland can play a role in getting rid of these hated Tories who are out to damage our health.