

# Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

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## Dunnes strike showed the way

# NOW BUILD OUR UNIONS



PHOTO: JONATHAN PRATSCHKE

**THE DUNNES strike has shown how workers can get organised and fight some of the most ruthless bosses in this country.**

The Dunnes empire was built on the super-exploitation of young part-time workers. They encouraged their managers to bully and intimidate their staff.

Meanwhile the Dunnes family lived like lords. The arrogance of

Margaret Heffernan came straight from a style that was pioneered by Margaret Thatcher.

But in the end the power of the picket line showed that the high and mighty can be forced to make concessions.

Within days of the

strike, her shops were closed down fully.

A huge wave of solidarity developed with the strikers because people were glad to see them standing up for their rights.

### Pay

Dunnes have been told to pay their workers time and a half for Sunday work.

They have been told to give part time workers minimum hours. All this is a major advance.

But far more could have been won.

The Labour Court only advises employers to concede when they know that workers are strong.

If the union leaders stuck to their guns and organised active picketing, they could have won

the traditional demand for double time on a Sunday.

But whatever the outcome, there is a lesson for the future.

### Organise

For years workers have been told that it is impossible to organise part-time workers.

But MANDATE showed that part-timers

will join the unions in great numbers if they know that the unions will fight for their rights.

A few weeks before the strike they *doubled* their membership in Dunnes.

What is now needed is a massive union drive throughout the whole of Irish industry.

In hundreds of restaurants, small workplaces and multi-national com-

pany firms, there are no unions.

We need a massive recruitment campaign to change all this.

Union organisers should be outside these jobs with application forms.

The Dunnes strike was a turning point.

Now is the time to build fighting unions that start to get results.

# Hotel has to pay up after defaming victimised worker

**IN AN important case, a young worker Weldon Costello took his employers to court to show that they were defaming him—and won.**

Weldon worked for the Mont Clare hotel up to 1991.

There was no union and conditions were terrible.

In a union organised hotel workers normally get meals provided and have proper rest periods.

They have also won the right to showers and a staff hall.

None of these existed in the Mont Clare and

staff were even asked to pay £2 for their meals.

Weldon got application forms from his union SIPTU and started to leave them about the place.

## Target

He soon became a target for a vindictive management.

On the 1st October 1991 he finished work at

1 am in the morning.

As he had to give lifts to other staff, he didn't get home until 2.30 am.

But the Mont Clare was demanding he be back at work at 7 am.

When he could not meet this grueling schedule, he telephoned the management to explain that he would be late.

His reward was to be sacked by a manager who was jumping up and down and stamping his feet.

Management also tried

to accuse him of fraud, claiming that he fiddled time sheets.

Weldon placed a picket on the hotel and eventually went to a Rights Commissioner who found that he had been wrongfully dismissed.

## Awarded

But he was only awarded a puny £750 compensation.

He later found that he could get no other work in the hotel trade.

But again he was not beaten down.

He took this case of defamation against the Mont Clare.

He had to get a £15,000 bond even to bring the case.

When he finally got to court the Mont Clare settled for a substantial sum and agreed to pay the costs.

It was not before time.

As Weldon said, "They made a serious mistake and paid for this mistake".

## MICHAEL CLEARY: Father and hypocrite



**Fr Michael Cleary and Eamon Casey were both called "the singing priest". They had something more in common.**

Both tried to intimidate the mothers of their children to give their babies up for adoption.

Cleary had a long-term relationship with his "house-keeper", Phyllis Hamilton. Their first child was born in 1970 and at Cleary's insistence was given up for adoption. Their second child was born in 1976.

Again Cleary tried, unsuccessfully, to force Phyllis to place the child for adoption. At the time a senior cleric advised Cleary to ask her to have an abortion.

Throughout all this time,

Cleary was a loud advocate of Catholic moral values. In 1979 he co-starred with his fellow-parent Eamon Casey in Galway when the Pope lectured hundreds of thousands of young people on the evils of sex.

Since the revelations about his children Cleary's family have started a campaign of lies against Phyllis Hamilton.

Cleary himself was also an expert at spreading lies. He claimed that the girl in the X case wasn't really raped but that the case was fabricated by pro-abortionists in order to test the law on abortion.

He used his radio programme on 98FM to set up Youth Defence, the fanatical right-wing group.

The exposure of the hypocrisy of Michael Cleary is hopefully another nail in the coffin of church power in Ireland.

## TORIES TRAGIC CUTS

**MASSIVE health cuts are continuing in Northern Ireland.**

In the Western Health Board area which covers Derry, Tyrone and Fermanagh, there has been a reduction in psychiatric hospital beds for

the mentally ill of some 39 per cent.

In September 1994, 41 staff were made redundant from the Tyrone and Fermanagh Psychiatric Hospital in Omagh.

One psychiatric nurse received only

£4,200 after 14 years service.

## Lodged

According to figures lodged with the House of Commons library, eight hospitals have shut in Northern Ire-

land since 1991.

This is now leading to some real tragedies.

Recently a pregnant woman lost her baby after having to be transported from Omagh to the Erne hospital in Enniskillen.

## inside the system



**Eddie Haughey, the man with a golden harp**

# A man for all Tories

**MEET Eddie Haughey, the only man to be loved by Thatcher, decorated by the Queen AND given a seat in the Irish Senate by Albert Reynolds.**

Why is he honoured when thousands who do voluntary work are never recognised?

Simple—he's the richest man by far in Northern Ireland.

Last year alone he received a remuneration package from his

Norwood company of £1m.

This included a 4% salary rise to £758,947 and the sharing of £540,000 in pension contributions with three fellow directors.

Haughey is renowned for his attacks

on workers.

In 1981, he sacked many of his women workers and then used Tory laws to try to break a strike.

## Threatened

He has threatened to sue the *Newry Reporter* for daring to print a speech by an Environmental Health Officer on the effect his factory was having on

the Clanrey river.

He's also believed to have had local beaches closed off with fencing, denying locals their use.

And it's said that when a security man let one of his business friends into the factory without a pass, he was sacked.

Just the sort the Tories and Fianna Fail love to honour.

## TEACHERS TAKE NOTE

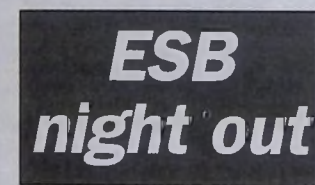
**WITH teachers still angry over being ignored by the government regarding early retirement, they could learn a thing or two from another strike.**

Primary and secondary teachers in the West African state of Sao Tome are paralysing the education system in an indefinite strike. Their demands? A 300% pay rise and better working conditions.

With victory in their sights, Irish teachers could learn to up their demands just a tad.

## Anorak or dinner jacket?

**SO YOU thought that we have a free press that reported on disputes in a neutral fashion.**



**ESB bosses are demanding up to 2,000 lay-offs.**

But that didn't stop them celebrating in style.

Chairman Paddy Moriarty is 50 years at the semi-state body. Twelve board members and 40 "guests" went to the posh Skelligs hotel in Dingle for a full weekend's wining and dining.

The main meal went on until 4am! The cost for the lot came to nearly £4,000, but it could be higher.

So much for belt-tightening.

Well guess where some of the top flying journalists are going.

Take Jackie Gallagher, the former industrial correspondent with the *Irish Times*.

He was not exactly known for his sympathetic reporting of the TEAM workers dispute last summer.

Now the bold Jackie has revealed his true colours and has joined Bertie Ahern's kitchen cabinet which is geared to revitalise Fianna Fail.

## Disaster

He is believed to be earning over £30,000 a year for hanging around Ahern, the Drumcondra disaster.

Another of the recruits to Fianna Fail's inner-circle is Michael Ronayne. He used to be the neutral RTE's economics correspondent.

Mind you he must know something about economics as his own salary is reputed to be in the region of £40,000!

## It doesn't say in the papers

**REPORTS which don't reach the papers are sometimes the most revealing.**

Such as a recent Reuters report that the Bosnian Serb authorities say they will prosecute doctors and men of military age who have fled the war.

So high is the current rate of desertions, Serbs have been rounding up their own refugees in night raids.

Two doctors in Petrovac have been charged in their absence of violating martial law decrees against desertion.

## SACKED FOR HIS POLITICS

**CIARAN Damery and his partner Josie Croft were sacked from their teaching jobs in Roscrea Co Tipperary in 1993 after the local VEC found out that Ciaran had been a political prisoner.**

A Garda visited the Youthreach centre where the two worked in February 1993 spreading innuendo about Ciaran.

When their jobs were put up for interview in November 1993, Ciaran and Josie were told it was 'just a formality'. But Luke Murtagh, the Chief Executive Officer for North Tipperary, refused to re-employ the two.

The VEC, which is dominated by Fianna Fail councillors and the local clergy, supported the sackings.

When the Teachers Union of Ireland appealed to the Labour Court Murtagh eventually admitted that Ciaran's 'criminal past' was the reason for the sackings.

But the Labour Court still refused to rule that the two be re-instated. At most they will be given three months salary as compensation.

Ciaran and Josie are still being punished for Ciaran's political past. So much for the peace process.

## We have shortest holidays-official

**IRISH workers have the shortest holidays in Europe, with an average of only 20 days free.**

The new EU figures include full and part-time workers. It shows that workers in Britain, Ireland, Portugal and Greece are the worst off.

what we think

# Wicklow voters take revenge on Labour



Mildred Fox's vote was a protest at Labour's betrayals—but her right-wing backers are waiting in the wings

## MORE THAN 45% of people in the Wicklow by-election turned their backs on the political establishment and voted independent.

It is a sign of the deep disillusionment that is growing in this country.

One of the key causes is the betrayal by the Labour Party of its own promise of change. Labour made massive gains three years ago when it promised to break the power of the 'Golden Circle'—the wealthy backers of parties like Fianna Fail.

But instead of attacking the rich, the Labour minister Ruairi Quinn is pushing through a package of cuts that will mean no nurses are being recruited to deal with the crisis in the health

service.

In their last budget they gave huge tax breaks to the banks and big farmers while people on social welfare found themselves with a puny £1.50 rise

Thousands are now taking their revenge on Labour and in Wicklow their vote was halved. Just like in the 1980s, Labour is set to pay a huge price for its betrayals.

### Split

But the election shows that something has changed from the past. Fianna Fail is not able to pick up on the discontent. Instead the party is badly split over the changes in Irish society. One wing wants to hark back to traditional family values just like Haughey tried in the past, the

other wants to make a shift.

The result in Wicklow shows a temporary retreat from general politics towards local issues. Mildred Fox won because she hardly said anything about policies but promised to act as a messenger girl in the Dail.

But general politics will reassert themselves. And here there are dangers. Fox was backed by the far right Muintir na hEireann, admirers of the French fascist Le Pen. After the election, they tried to exaggerate their influence over the result. In reality, only small numbers voted Fox because of her anti-divorce, pro-life stance.

Nevertheless it does show that if a left alternative is not built to the betrayal of Labour these insidious groups could start to make small gains.

## Decommission the British army

THE TORY hypocrisy on peace in Northern Ireland is becoming clearer by the day.

While they lecture republicans about the need to decommission arms they are continuing with a major military build up in areas like South Armagh where they are extending two military bases.

The reality is that the Tories are willing to take risks on peace in order to show their own right wing that they can get a full surrender from the IRA.

Their main strategy is to use the hundreds of political prisoners as hostages to force through a surrender of arms.

### Tensions

The British and Irish government claim that they have to move slowly in case sectarian tensions start to rise again.

But the immediate release of prisoners who were caught up in the military conflict would be massively

popular in most working class areas.

Nearly a year after the ceasefire it is becoming clear that there is no 'economic dividend' for working class areas and that the old sectarianism that was built into the Northern state is alive and well.

Lobbying right wing politicians in Ireland and Britain has failed to bring real change.

Starting a movement that highlighted the common interests of Catholic and Protestant workers would.

## Are Independents the way forward?

THE RADICAL protest vote in Wicklow went to Nicky Kelly who had been framed by the police for the Sallins train robbery.

Some now see independent community candidates as the way to oppose the establishment.

But it is a blind alley. Independent candidates always try to make gains for their community

while ignoring the larger attacks on working people.

### Imposing

In 1982, Tony Gregory pulled off a major deal for Dublin's inner city—but he kept a Fianna Fail government in office when it was imposing major cuts in the public sector.

Independent candidates are also forced to avoid key politi-

cal issues in order to garner support from all quarters.

In Wicklow for example, Nicky Kelly did not attack the support Mildred Fox was getting from Muintir na hEireann or her anti-divorce stance.

A few independent voices in Dail Eireann will do nothing to bring real change. An organisation that promotes the power of working people to fight the system will achieve far more.

## Ravers denied water

THE DEATH of Stephen McMillan who took Ecstasy at a rave organised in the Point Depot has led to a howl of outrage against Ireland's new drug culture.

But little attention has been focused on the way that young people are being ripped off by businessmen who put their livers in danger.

Nuala attended the Dance Nation rave at the Point Depot where Stephen died. She told *Socialist Worker* about what went on.

### Rip-Off

"It was rip off from the start. People had plastic bottles of water confiscated off them on the way in.

"You could see piles of bottles left outside the gig.

"Then they were selling cups of water to us for £1.30

just from a tap in the bar. It was pretty sick".

Dehydration is one of the major dangers that face Ecstasy users.

A pattern has developed in Dublin where club owners are cashing in on this need by turning off taps in order to force youth to buy water at exorbitant prices.

At the Dance Nation rave, the water in the toilets was turned off. Later the organisers claimed that vandalism was to blame. But signifi-

cantly there was tap water on sale.

The pressure on dancers was increased by the fact that they were not even allowed out of the Point Depot to cool down in the fresh air.

Security refused to allow back in people who showed ticket stubs.

The tragedy of Stephen McMillan's death would not be in vain if it led to a fight against the profiteers who are abusing youth.



Stephen McMillan

## Kevin Taylor: A means to an end

Kevin Taylor recently settled out of court with the Manchester police after bringing a case against them several years before.

Taylor's family were friends with John Stalker and his family. He came under pressure from the police when Stalker began to uncover the shoot-to-kill policy operated by the RUC in Northern Ireland.

Stalker had been appointed by the British government in the hopes that he would conduct a whitewash. When it became clear that he was not willing to play ball the RUC did everything in their power to thwart him.

The idea in targeting Taylor was to discredit Stalker and so have him removed from the enquiry he was conducting.

At first it involved background investigations at his bank and into other finan-

cial dealings; but as Stalker's enquiry continued the pressure on him and Taylor was stepped up.

Stories appeared in the media accusing him of criminal activities, his home was raided, his phone tapped and he himself was put under surveillance.

He was isolated socially and financially and wound

up bankrupt, his life in ruins.

John Stalker put it best when he said that vilifying Kevin Taylor was merely, "A means to an end". Taylor is unhappy with the settlement reached last week and has threatened to speak out whenever possible and to write an account of his ordeal.

## Labour councillor stabs firefighters in the back

A ROW has broken out in the New Ross branch of the Labour Party.

Two Labour Councillors on the New Ross UDC were summoned to a disciplinary meeting of the local party branch after they scuppered a motion at the annual general meeting of the council.

Independent councillor Seamus O'Brien had tabled a motion in support of the firefighters strike,

calling on the councillors to rescind the cuts in spending on the fire service. But the council's chairman Labour's Denis North ruled the motion out of order. He also refused to allow the firefighters into the public gallery to hear the debate. He was supported by another Labour man, Paddy Doyle who has served on the council for thirty years.

Firefighters were furious at North who had asked them to lift their picket on the UDC meeting to allow him call a special hearing on their strike. He stabbed them in the back.

The local Labour Party branch has serious difficulties with their public representatives. Workers in New Ross will remember where they stood when it came to the real fight.

# The Orange sash of sectarianism

THE TWELFTH of July will see thousands of Orangemen take to streets on their traditional march. Today politicians claim that it is only a 'cultural event' which celebrates Protestant culture.

Yet when the Orange Order was formed two hundred years ago, the reason for its existence was simple—to cleanse areas such as Tyrone and Armagh of Catholics and to oppose the United Irishmen.

Throughout its existence the Orange Order has proudly worn the badge of sectarianism, fostering division at every stage of its history.

Used by landlords to divide peasants, it became a useful tool of bosses both to divide workers and push through partition.

*Socialist Worker* spoke to a number of Protestants about the Orange Order and the Orange marches.

All remembered how the marches were sold to them as a celebration.

Dave a restaurant worker pointed out how to his parents the 12th was unthreatening. "I was told that Catholics go and watch it and that above all it was a cultural event. Everybody was given a free Union Jack to wave."

Jim, a factory worker, spoke of how you were expected to go. "I went until I



Wearing the sash—the Twelfth is still used to stir up sectarianism

was 21.

"You knew it was to do with some famous victory over Catholics.

## Drunk

"But most of the time people went to watch bands and get drunk."

As they left school and moved into more mixed environments they began to realise the political implications of the "celebrations".

Niall, a catering worker, explained: "I started to re-

alise it was just a show of strength—something to unite Protestants around.

"The myth put about by liberal unionists is that the bands and that keeps young people off the streets and they can learn to play an instrument.

"In reality they're totally sectarian—used to stir people up".

The idea of a united Protestant community rang a bit hollow to Jane, who is unemployed. She pointed out: "Areas like the Shankill,

Ballybean and Taghmanagh have massive amounts of poverty and unemployment.

"Yet each July those who benefit from that come in and stir it all up.

## Wealthy

"Take Sandy Row. It has an Orange Hall where wealthy people come from miles to.

"They get kids to paint the kerb stones, stoke up the tension and then go back to leafy suburbs.

"You can bet there won't be a sectarian riot in their area, nor Union Jacks tied to every lamp post."

Dave also recognised the contradictions: "I've got two uncles in the Orange Order—one is a well-paid manager, the other is unemployed but worked for years in Michelin. They're worlds apart. The only thing they have in common is they happened to be born Protestant.

"In the past people joined it to get a job and put up with the bigotry. But now only bigots join it."

Jim agreed: "There are very few young people in it. A friend of mine joined and got such a slagging for it—everyone sees it as old fashioned and out of date."

Jane pointed out how the Orange Order didn't just divide workers. "The Orange Order is a completely sexist outfit—women are not seen as equals—often they're made to march at the back and hold no positions of responsibility."

Jane explained why after 200 years the marches still go on.

"A lot of banners were painted with portraits of bosses on—the exact opposite of union banners which carried portraits of workers who'd led victories like Connolly and Larkin. That's why the marches take place—to oppose the unity that exists within trade unions."

MARK HEWITT

## behind the headlines

# Storm clouds over the recovery

WHEN LEADERS of the Group of Seven richest countries met in Nova Scotia, Canada last month they exuded an air of confidence about the recent recovery in the world economy. Their only concern appeared to be the continuing war in Bosnia.

But already there are signs of major difficulties ahead. Growth in the G7 economies has slowed more sharply than was expected, slumping from an expected 3% in the second half of 1994 to an estimated 1% in the second quarter of this year.

The biggest concern is Japan's current plight. The rise of Japan to become the second biggest economy in the world is the great capitalist success story of the era after 1945.

It led to Japan being held up as a model of how capitalism can be made to work.

Japan's success was attributed to the degree of state intervention and long term planning.

## Unbridled

The British writer Will Hutton who acts as an advisor to the Labour leader, Tony Blair, claims it offers an alternative to the unbridled market of the US and Britain which are championed by the New Right.

Hutton argues, "East Asian and particularly Japan's structures emphasise trust, continuity and co-operation in economic relationship".

This argument was echoed by ICTU leaders who argued that the Irish economy could also deliver prosperity for all if social partnership was developed here. At industry level, they have supported Japanese production techniques of small work teams becoming 'empowered' to organise their own productivity.

This image of a caring form of capitalism ignored the fact that Japanese employees work longer hours, suffer higher levels of stress and have worse accommodation than in other advanced economies.

Now the Japanese miracle is becoming a mirage. It is suffering from what the *Financial Times* called "the longest, deepest recession since the Second World War."

The slump has been going on for three years and in 1993 the Japanese economy actually shrank.

Profits are being squeezed as companies are forced to attract buyers for their products by cutting prices faster than the cost of their raw materials are falling.

The problems go back

to the 1980s. Just like in the US under Reagan and Britain under Thatcher a boom was created from huge speculative investments.

The "bubble economy" as it became known saw huge rises in the prices of shares and land. Central Tokyo became worth more than the entire continental US.

The banks lent heavily to speculators eager to gamble on these markets rising forever. But of course they didn't. In 1990 the bubble burst.

The banks have now found themselves saddled with huge debts, according to one estimate about 40,000 billion yen—£296 billion. This is the equivalent to one tenth of all that is produced in Japan.

Land prices have been falling steadily ever since. Now Japan's life insurance companies are also in trouble as they guaranteed customers high returns in the 1980s in the expectation that their shareholdings—which make up one eighth of the Tokyo stock market—would continue to rise.

The government wants to bail out the banks but the mass of Japanese do not see why the bankers should be saved from the consequences of their own greed.

The slump in Japan is starting to spread to the rest of the world economy. In the 1980s Japanese investors snapped up \$77 billion worth of US office blocks and shopping centres. Now they are selling them off at rock bottom prices.

The money flowing back to the Japanese economy is pushing up the price of the yen. This in turn means that Japan has more difficulty in exporting.

To add to the problems a new trade war between Japan and the US is starting up. Clinton has imposed punitive tariffs on imported Japanese luxury cars.

The British magazine *The Economist* is now warning that the big 'threat to global economic stability' is Japan.

Far from offering a model capitalist success story where workers and employers can join in a genuine partnership, Japan shows that every capitalist success story contains the seeds of its own destruction.

Socialist Worker welcomes

## letters

PO Box 1648, Dublin 8

# Zhironovsky gets a fistful

ONE OF the best television reports in ages were the recent pictures from Moscow involving a debate between fascist Zhironovsky and a liberal.

They ended throwing water at each other on screen.

The commentary said Zhironovsky was taken aback by the abuse he deservedly got.

The punters in one particular pub in Dun Laoghaire watched silently—until it was said that the television host had clocked the

fascist full in the face after the aborted show.

Everyone in the pub

## Penny-pinching over the Feile

I JUST wanted to put down a few lines concerning my thoughts about the recent re-rerun in the media over Feile.

I believe it was one of the best examples this country has seen yet of the stinginess and conservatism of the penny pinching middle class.

While admitting that they would welcome the huge sums of money the event would

cheered.

DAMIEN  
McLAUGHLIN, DUN  
LAOGHAIRE.

bring in, business community spokespersons all over the country fairly raged at the prospect of it being staged in their town.

You'd imagine they'd show a little thought for the thousands of young Irish people who have little or nothing else to brighten up their lives.

On second thoughts, why would you?

ARTHUR HURLEY

# 'SW was too tough on Chechens'

THE ARTICLE on Chechnia in the last issue of *Socialist Worker* rightly condemns Russia's war-mongering.

But it spends almost as much time condemning the Chechen fighters.

Their hostage-taking is attacked as "brutal", as "desperate and appalling". But the accounts of the hostages themselves talk of the generosity of the Chechens, sharing food and water with them.

They blame the Russian army's Rambo-style attack for the bloodshed.

The article blames the actions of the Chechens

themselves for the anti-Chechen racism in Russia.

One of the reasons it gives in favour of Russian withdrawal is "to prevent a terrorist campaign" by the Chechens.

Socialists have to be clear whose side we are on. We stand with the Chechen resistance, however wrong their tactics may be. It is unforgivable to blame the Chechens for their own oppression, and accusations of brutality and terrorism should be reserved for the Russian ruling class.

AINDRIAS O  
CATHASAIGH,  
DUBLIN

around the world

# French nuclear tests spark storm of protests



Protest by French Australians in Sydney

**MILITANT PROTESTERS** are taking to the streets in the Pacific region against the French conservative government's decision to resume nuclear testing in the area.

Mass anger at the French government has erupted in Australia, New Zealand, Japan and France itself.

But it is the islanders who live near the nuclear testing ground who are most incensed.

Last weekend Papeete, the Tahitian capital, was brought to a halt for three days as workers blockaded the roads with dustbin lorries, buses, cars and bulldozers.

Two marches with a combined total of 15-20,000 demonstrators, somewhere between a fifth and an eighth of the population, met in the capital to demand that testing be halted.

Etienne Thteparri, chief of communications of the anti nuclear move-

ment in Tahiti told *Socialist Worker*. "The people, the whole population are very, very nervous and angry. The people are ready for that."

## Killing

"We are in a situation of war. The people are determined to act and the French government do not see the reality. For us we do not go back. It might finish by blood and killing people -- we are ready for that."

The French government's dismissal of the islanders' protests have also brought the demand for full independence from France to the forefront.

The French control many of the South Pa-

**THE FRENCH** government want to set off eight bombs between this September and next May. Each is equivalent to between 40,000 and 90,000 tons of TNT.

The nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima fifty years ago was the equivalent to 20,000 tons of TNT.

The test bombs, set off underground, cause massive radiation. The explosion sucks in sea water which then disperses, carrying the radiation fall-out into the ocean. There have been 187 previous French tests in the Pacific.

The French are trying to beat a test ban due for 1996. The US are also planning to resume underground testing.

cific territories—French Polynesia—as well as the proposed test area of Mururoa Atoll.

## Sovereign

As Etienne says, "The only answer is independence ... Here we have the word 'autonomous' in the territorial government.

"But France is always sovereign here. Sovereign

in the land, sovereign in the sea, and in the air."

At protests on the Cook Islands, nearest to the test area, the French brought in military police to try and intimidate the demonstrators.

There was also a march in New Caledonia over the weekend.

Protests have also erupted in Australia where there have been

demonstrations outside the French consulate in Brisbane, Sidney and Melbourne.

Eighty French Australians also demonstrated outside the French consulate in Sydney.

More protests are being built for 14 July, Bastille Day and August 6—the 50th anniversary of the destruction of Hiroshima.

These protests have been backed by the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

Workers have been taking industrial action in protest. Port workers are staging rolling bans on French ships. Airport workers have been refusing to refuel French military aircraft, while postal workers are refusing to handle French consulate mail.

In France itself thousands marched against their government demanding that the money be used for housing and social provisions. There were also demonstrations and sit-ins in Tokyo and Hiroshima.

An opinion poll has shown that 95 per cent of Australians are against the testing. The government has tried to identify itself with the protests -- while at the same time conceding that the tests will go ahead.

But it is taking massive criticism over its annual sale of 4300 tonnes of uranium every year. 475 tonnes of it to France.

The uranium goes straight into the nuclear warheads that France wants to test under the Mururoa Atoll.

## SOUTH KOREA:

# Corruption led to store tragedy

**UP TO 300** people died in a collapsed department store in the South Korean capital Seoul last week.

They were victims of the corruption and corner cutting that went hand in hand with the country's long economic boom.

The building was only six years old, yet an eyewitness described how, "One minute it was there, a five storey building. Then there was a loud bang and when I rubbed my eyes it had disappeared."

Staff and rush hour shoppers thronged the Sampoong Department Store at the time it collapsed.

## Refused

Staff had reported cracks in the building earlier in the week, but management had refused to shut the store.

They had turned off the gas in restaurant kitchens as a precaution on the day of the disaster, but still kept the store open.

Management were reportedly in an emergency meeting at the moment of the collapse. But the store owner and six executives had already fled.

Rescue officials confirmed government safety inspectors had examined structural defects in the ceilings of the top floor.

But the entire store appears to have been doomed from the start.

It was built on a land-filled rubbish dump—at risk of subsidence and explosions from leaking gas.

A steel buttress that should have been in place beneath the fifth floor was missing. Construction experts said the girders and concrete used in the building were sub-standard.

The ceilings lacked supporting joists.

They said store bosses had enlarged the building without reinforcing the main structural columns.

Yet the building got a

clean bill of health from government inspectors just three months ago.

"All the evidence points to poor construction work", insisted Seoul's new mayor, elected last week in a defeat for the government.

Its unpopularity has soared because of a spate of disasters revealing the underbelly of South Korea's "economic miracle".

Construction companies and politicians have ignored safety standards in the chase for profits.

In April, a gas explosion at an underground construction site in Taegu—the country's third largest city—killed 100 people.

In March, the central span of the Songsu Bridge in Seoul collapsed, throwing cars and buses in the Han river and leaving 32 dead. Shortly afterwards, a gas explosion in a Seoul neighbourhood killed 32 and demolished hundreds of homes.

Last November, a pedestrian foot bridge in Seoul collapsed after a lorry ran into it, and in October 29 people drowned in a pleasure boat accident.

Now a leading newspaper reports, "Korean people are living in a shoddy republic where they do not know when they could face an accident."

■ **THE** ruling party of President Kim Young Sam took a hammering in mayoral and local elections last week.

Now is the time to step up the pressure for release of political prisoners like socialist Choi Il-bung.

Protest postcards demanding his release are available from Committee to defend South Korean Socialists, c/o PO Box 1648, Dublin 8.

# Frame up of former Black Panther

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a black American activist who was arrested and framed for a shooting in Philadelphia in 1981 and then sentenced to death in the farcical court case that followed.

Jamal was driving a cab when he passed a policeman beating a black motorist. The motorist turned out to be Jamal's brother. Jamal stopped to intervene.

Witnesses claim an unidentified man fired

at the police officer. Jamal was shot in the chest by the officer.

He was left lying on the road for forty five minutes while policemen took turns beating him.

## Brutality

He was beaten again at the hospital he was taken to.

The fact that he was active politically, highlighting numerous cases of police brutality against blacks, played a

major part in his conviction.

His former ties with the Black Panthers were used against him in court, he got one of the shoddiest defences ever seen in the United States and the jury, ten whites and two blacks, was purposely put together with the view to ensuring that he would be convicted.

Now, an innocent man is spending what could be the last days of his life on death row for a crime he didn't commit.



Mumia Abu-Jamal

## SEX AND CELIBACY:

# Bishops fall out

by KIERAN ALLEN

FOR THE first time in over a century, Irish Bishops have started to attack each other in public.

The issue at stake is whether or not priests should be celibate.

The split started after Bishop Brendan Comiskey called for an open debate on the question. Comiskey is no liberal. He once sacked Father Kevin Hegarty from the magazine *Intercom* for daring to raise the issue of priests sexually abusing children. But he does recognise that the Catholic Church is facing a crisis.

Vocations are at an all time low and there is growing evidence that celibacy has produced extreme distress amongst sections of the clergy. A study in the US showed that only 10% of priests interviewed had no difficulty with celibacy. A psychologist report argued that "half suffered from psychological immaturity or sexual difficulties".

Comiskey was moving towards some recognition that there is a connection between celibacy and the growing numbers of sex scandals involving priests. But this was too much for Cardinal Daly. He had previously ignored the letters sent by parents of the victims of Fr Brendan Smyth.

### Aim

His aim is to deny that there is any real problem in the Irish clergy. Like all conservatives, he claims celibacy is something that reaches right back to the Bible.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The twelve apostles were chosen from predominantly married men.

When Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he asked them "Do we not have the full power to take along



Daniel Curran: 'celibate' but guilty of child abuse

with us a sister in faith as a wife, just as the apostles do."

The arguments for celibacy emerged at a much later stage — they were connected to a contempt for sex, and particularly women's sexuality.

In 383 Pope Siricus laid down that priests should not have sexual intercourse on the night before they celebrated Communion.

One of his later propagandists Jerome even argued that "To touch a woman must be an evil thing". Lay people were warned not to take any enjoyment from sex because "feelings of sensual pleasure such as are experienced by whores when embracing, are in a wife to be condemned".

But for hundreds of years these dire warnings were ignored. Children were fathered by Popes and Bishops in great numbers. The Popes who came from the Borgia family were a legend in debauchery.

The real push for celibacy came as the Church became the major landowner in Western Europe during the feudal period. In 1139 the Second Lateran Council expressly forbade the

marriage of priests.

A terror campaign was mounted by Pope Gregory VII to enforce the decree. He warned that the wives and children of priests could be sold into slavery as a deterrent.

It was the material needs of the Church hierarchy rather than a general loathing of sex which was the key. The higher echelons of the Church in the middle ages was composed of the younger sons of the aristocracy.

It had accumulated nearly a quarter of the land in France and there was a danger that church property would be broken up if priests had legitimate sons and daughters who could inherit their property.

After the Reformation, there was a renewed drive for celibacy as the Church tried to build up a militant priesthood that would be able to discipline the flock.

### Loyalty

They believed that if priests were restricted in their personal relationships their entire loyalty would be to the church hierarchy.

In every great upheaval in society, clerical celibacy has come under question. It was designed as an instrument of control — both to protect property and break real ties between priests and their supporters.

The French Revolution, for example, proclaimed in 1791 that no one should be prevented from marrying. Thousands of priests and nuns broke from their celibate existence and even the famous Bishop Talleyrand married.

The open splits in the hierarchy reflect the depth of the crisis the Irish Church is facing. But despite Bishop Comiskey's call for debate on the issue, neither he nor his fellow bishops will uproot the structures that have given them so much power.

It will again take a major social upheaval to abolish practices that have so distorted the lives of genuine believers. Only such a revolution will make religious belief or non-belief an option that is free of all the repression and distortion which has been the by word of Irish Catholicism.

# Shell retreats over

# How can

THE RETREAT of Shell over the Brent Spar should give hope to everyone who believes the multinationals can be beaten.

Shell has been stopped dumping this oil rig to the bottom of the ocean bed. They had planned to dump 30 other rigs, causing major pollution.

Shell is Europe's biggest corporation and one of the top ten companies in the world. A huge boycott campaign in Germany and other countries made it retreat.

The climbdown sent shock waves through the British government, which had always defended the plan to dump the rig at sea.

John Major proclaimed that any plan to bring the rig ashore and dismantle it on land was "incredible".

But the British government knew all along that deep sea dumping would be environmentally disastrous.

Two years ago the government's own scientists claimed the waste inside the Brent Spar was so toxic it could not be dumped at sea.

The British government ignored this report. They did so because their main concern was with profit, not safety.

### Profits

Dumping the Brent Spar at sea would have saved Shell £35 million.

The company's greed and drive for profits was behind its original plans.

The North Sea is now one of the most polluted stretches of water in the world.

The British government's policy of deregulation—to remove standards of health and safety for both workers and environment—contributed to much of the pollution.

Although Shell has spent considerable sums on public relations to pretend that they are friendly to the environment they have been lying all along.

Greenpeace played an important role in the campaign by occupying the Brent Spar rig.

It encourages companies to develop environmentally friendly products.

But without the removal of the profit motive, no company will stay eco friendly for long.

Although Shell has been defeated and exposed in Europe, it continues its malicious assault on the environment in other parts of the world.



Greenpeace protesters occupy Shell refinery in Luxemburg last month

# Shell's destruction

# repression

THE MOST glaring example of Shell continuing attack on the environment is in Nigeria.

Here it works hand in glove with a vicious dictatorship to ensure that the flow of oil - and profits - continues unhindered.

According to an Oil Spill Intelligence report, forty percent of all spills and leakages in the 100 countries in which Shell operates, occur in Nigeria.

The company's oil-drilling in Ogoniland, Southern Nigeria, has caused massive environmental destruction.

According to organisations like Trocaire and Greenpeace, Shell's activities have caused the destruction of farming land, pollution of rivers, and the destabilisation of village life.

One eyewitness, Majella McCarron, who has been teaching in the country for over 20 years said "Its

heartbreaking. The Ogoni women see the trees they have planted being ripped up and when you walk across the land, your shoes are covered in oily mud."

The damage results from Shell's refusal to observe even the most basic standards of environmental protection.

Leaking pipelines, gas flares, and open pits of oil waste have led to the devastation of the local ecology.

### Blow-Out

A local villager said "Plants are now dying, land is flooded, fish are killed. Our lives are becoming unbearable. We have scratches on our bodies and rashes on our skin."

Apart from the loss of land and harm to the environment, the Ogoni people live in constant fear of a major blow-out of the pipe-

lines which cross the land.

While they face hazards of oil pollution the people gain no benefits.

Revenues are shared by the oil companies and the government.

Since 1958, over a billion worth of oil has been taken from the land.

The region, which has a food surplus, suffers serious shortages as a result of oil exploration.

The economy of the region depends almost entirely on oil revenue. 95% of earnings come from which Shell produces.

Protests by the Ogoni people, demanding that the companies, and the government, stop spillages and meet with violence police and military

## er Brent Spar

by CATHERINE  
CURRAN

# Can we stop the polluters for good?



## Construction and Pollution in Nigeria

lines which cross their  
land. While they face all the  
hazards of oil production,  
the people gain none of the  
benefits.

Revenues are grabbed  
by the oil companies and  
shared with the Nigerian  
government.

Since 1958, around \$30  
billion worth of oil has  
been taken from Ogoni  
land.

The region, which once  
had a food surplus, now  
suffers serious food short-  
ages as a result of the ra-  
cious process of oil ex-  
ploration.

The economy of Nigeria  
depends almost totally on  
oil revenue. 95% of foreign  
earnings come from oil, of  
which Shell produces half.

Protests by the Ogoni  
demanding that the oil  
companies, and Shell in  
particular, clean up  
spillages and leaks, are  
met with violence by the  
police and military.

Shell denies any collu-  
sion with the government.

But the fact is that the Ni-  
gerian government owns  
51% of Shell Nigeria, and  
also owes a vast debt to  
Shell for oil payments and  
capital investment.

In 1990, the Ogoni peo-  
ple formed themselves  
into MOSOP (Movement  
for the Survival of the  
Ogoni people.)

### Looted

This was a non-violent  
action group set up to  
claim compensation for  
damage to their land.

The Ogoni immediately  
became a target for the  
ruthless Internal Security  
Task Force, which, accord-  
ing to Amnesty Interna-  
tional, has torched villages  
and looted homes in a sa-  
vage attempt to smash  
Ogoni resistance.

Over 100,000 people  
have been driven from  
their homes.

In the last year, the secu-  
rity forces killed four  
Ogoni leaders and 50  
MOSOP members.

Overall, Amnesty esti-  
mates that 1,800 villagers  
have been killed and whole  
villages have been de-  
stroyed.

At present, the Ogoni  
leader, world famous au-  
thor Ken Saro Wiwa, is on  
trial in a military court, fac-  
ing the death penalty.

His only crime was to  
protest against Shell's ac-  
tivities and the repression  
of his people.

Typically, Shell's West-  
ern representatives claim  
to know nothing of this.

According to Shell's  
Dublin representative, the  
question of environmental-  
ism in Europe and what's  
happening in Nigeria are  
"separate issues".

But unless the question  
of environmental destruc-  
tion is linked to the issue  
of the global drive for pro-  
fits Shell will never be com-  
pletely defeated.

## The power of the oil workers

THE WAY to defeat Shell was shown last year  
by Nigeria's heroic oil workers. For two  
months, they went on strike for greater democ-  
racy in their country.

Oil workers are among the strongest groups of workers  
in the world. Last month, the Brazilian oil workers brought  
the country to a halt for weeks. They were only defeated  
when the government called in the army.

In Iran, in 1979, it was the power of the oil workers that  
brought down the Shah who was a murderer and a ty-  
rant. The tragedy was that their Communist Party lead-  
ership offered no alternative to the Ayatollah Khomeini.

If they are organised and militant, these workers have  
the power to bring any oil company to a standstill.

Companies such as Shell understand the threat from  
workers organisation perfectly well. In the North Sea, they  
refuse to allow workers proper trade union organisation.

When the workers struck and occupied oil rigs four  
years ago, demanding union recognition and better safety,  
Shell's response was to sack and victimise hundreds.

The result is a disastrous safety record. Oil workers call  
the North Sea "The Killing Fields". Over 500 workers  
have been killed in oil operations there. The worst was  
the 1988 explosion of the Piper Alpha oil rig, which killed  
167 workers.

"You can be sure of Shell" was the oil company's fa-  
mous slogan. The only sure thing from Shell is death and  
devastation in the chase after profit.

## what do socialists say? by DAVE McDONAGH

### Legislation or liberation?

The Minister for Equality and Law Re-  
form Mervyn Taylor has promised leg-  
islation to combat discrimination  
against travellers and other groups.

The new laws would make it illegal for pub  
and hotel owners to refuse service to travellers  
'purely on the grounds that they are travellers'.  
Racist publicans will argue that its their busi-  
ness whom they choose not to serve, but they  
are wrong.

A premises that poses as a public place of  
enjoyment should not be allowed to practice  
racism just as they should not be allowed to  
mistreat their employees.

Anti-discrimination laws should be a basic  
feature of any society that calls itself democratic.  
That is why socialists welcomed Equal Pay leg-  
islation and the decriminalisation of homosexu-  
ality.

But in and of themselves they do not solve  
the problem.

The most blatant example is in the case of  
Equal Pay for women workers. It is over twenty  
years since the Equal Pay Act was passed but  
women still face discrimination and earn on  
average two-thirds of the wages of male work-  
ers.

And where direct discrimination does not ex-  
ist the employers often use more subtle tactics.  
In the Civil Service, for example, women are  
largely confined to the lowest paid grade of  
Clerical Assistant with few promotion prospects.

Neither has legalisation prevented gays be-  
ing discriminated against at work. Donna  
McAnellan was sacked from her job in a Cork  
leisure centre for being a lesbian. The reality  
for most gay people at work is fear of victimisa-  
tion if they are found out.

The fight for liberation involves more than just  
passing new laws. People have to mobilise to  
make sure that discrimination is not allowed to  
occur.

That means workers organising trade union  
action to defend gay workers against victimisa-  
tion. Several unions have an official policy of  
opposing discrimination in the workplace—only  
by acting on those policies can workers hit the  
profits of employers who discriminate.

In the case of travellers, anti-racists should  
picket racist pubs as socialists did in Dublin  
when the Palace Bar refused to serve the  
Glenroe actor Michael Collins a few years ago.

The problem with the law, however, is not that  
it is weak but that it is not neutral. It upholds the  
rule of a tiny minority of rich people in society.

So laws against trade unions are put into prac-  
tice far more vigorously than laws which seek  
to protect workers or oppressed groups.

The SIPTU trade union was fined millions  
over the Nolan Transport dispute but chemical  
companies which polluted Cork Harbour were  
only slapped on the wrist.

### Protect

And even some laws which appear progres-  
sive can end up being used against the op-  
pressed. In the 1930's in Britain a Public Order  
Act was passed supposedly to deal with the  
threat of fascism. But it was instead used to  
protect Moseley's Blackshirts and to attack anti-  
fascist demonstrators.

We cannot trust the legal system because it is  
part of the capitalist system which oppresses  
everyone.

The judges who implement these laws are  
drawn from the rich. They are usually members  
of right wing political parties who worked closely  
with wealthy backers.

So while some laws are welcome, the legal  
system itself serves the interests of a class which  
benefits from oppression.

Gays are oppressed because they do not fit  
into the ideal of the family which capitalism de-  
pends on for cheap childcare.

Travellers are victimised because they do not  
conform to the discipline of the system and be-  
cause whipping up racism against them diverts  
workers' anger from the real enemy.

Oppression can only be ended by fighting for  
a socialist society rather than simply reforming  
the laws of the existing capitalist society.

# The war of independence

# Revolution in Ireland

by CONOR KOSTICK

**A**T THE end of World War 1, Europe was plunged into enormous upheaval.

In Russia workers held power from October 1917, in Germany the Kaiser fell in November 1918 to a movement which set up workers and soldiers councils all over the country.

In Ireland Sinn Fein destroyed the more conservative Irish Party in the general elections of 1918.

Twenty-four of the victorious candidates who had not been arrested by British authorities met on January 21st 1919 to constitute Dail Eireann.

At first the British viewed the proceedings of the Dail with amusement. The *Irish Times* wrote that the Dail was "futile and unreal" and that the deputies were living in "cloud-cuckoo land".

But feeble as the Dail looked, it was representative of huge feeling in Ireland that the time had come for independence.

Not only did the Sinn Fein deputies have enormous good will behind them, they also had thousands of people willing to take up arms in order to establish it as a real power.

The Sinn Fein party that had won the 1918 election was a coalition of moderates represented by Arthur Griffith and younger militant nationalists such as Micheal Collins.

The party was divided on the question of whether to employ militant tactics and violence in pursuit of independence.

The division between the different wings of Sinn Fein was to reappear again and again during the struggle for independence. It ultimately formed the basis for the Civil War.

To a large extent it was based on different class outlook. For Griffith and the moderates Sinn Fein was a political movement which was trying to establish a state that would protect native Irish capitalists.

They wanted an immediate compromise with the respectable element who had formerly backed the British empire.

Collins, P.S. O'Hegarty and other members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood were drawn from a different background, predominantly "young, lower middle class and Dublin based."

They originally wanted a more determined fight against the British ruling class.

Initially they were for using



Revolutionary Dublin, 1921

of local land agitation." **S**INN FEIN managed to sell the argument that the class struggle had to wait until after independence.

They were helped by the Labour leaders who themselves were panicking at the scale of workers' unrest.

Tom Johnson, Labour leader observed that "were it not for the mollifying influence of Labour leaders and officials the present position would be infinitely worse."

Unfortunately at this time Ireland lacked a revolutionary socialist party, such as the Bolsheviks in Russia,

radical rhetoric.

In 1919 O'Hegarty argued that Sinn Fein were "neither socialist nor capitalist."

In the early stages, the moderates set the pace. The Dail was not a fighting institution but had "all the tosh and piffle" of Westminster.

**W**HEN de Valera escaped from prison, Collins planned a rally for him in order to confront a British ban.

But de Valera had the appearance cancelled and Collins was disgraced.

Two developments caused the physical force side of Sinn Fein to dominate the organisation.

One was the strategy of the British.

From September 1919 they viewed with alarm the fact that the Dail had launched a loan which was attracting subscribers.

In large parts of the country British courts had collapsed and were replaced with effective Sinn Fein institutions.

The British authorities decided upon a clamp down.

The Dail was declared illegal and two months later raided.

In November Sinn Fein, the Irish Volunteers, the Gaelic League and Cumman na mBan were all banned. Their headquarters were closed down.

Seven pro-Sinn Fein papers were shut for good.

From mid 1920 the "Black and Tans" an armed and vicious supplement to the police, were brought in to carry out the policy of repression.

The whole independence movement, conservative and radical, was driven underground.

The other development was the intervention of the working

class.

The years 1918-1923 saw hundreds of "soviets" as workers took over their workplaces.

Often these were prompted by demands for better wages or conditions. But inevitably this activity connected with the issue of independence.

**W**ORKERS took on the British authorities in some major confrontations.

A general strike in Belfast 1919 saw Protestants and Catholics unite to control that city for four weeks.

Limerick workers rose up against the imposition of military rule and took over their city, even issuing their own money.

Transport workers refused to move British troops and in April

1920 a general strike for the release of hunger strikers led to workers taking over the running of almost every town in Ireland.

No wonder the *Times* of London thought there was a danger that labour radicals "will push aside the middle class intelligentsia of Sinn Fein, just as Lenin and Trotsky pushed aside Kerensky and the other speech makers."

**A**LTHOUGH the initiative inside Sinn Fein had passed to Collins and the IRB, they were no more supportive of the workers than the conservatives.

Their belief in uniting all classes meant stopping workers and small farmers from going too far.

Employers and landowners

soon recognised this and started to come to the Dail as the British did not seem able to stop the workers' movement.

"East bound trains brought to Dublin large numbers of terrified landowners, who came beseeching the Dail government for protection."

All of Sinn Fein united in trying to dampen down the workers' movement.

In Ballinrobe the Dail insisted that land occupied by the poor was handed back to its owners.

When the occupiers refused to move, four leaders were taken away by the local IRA.

Peadar O'Donnell noted later that "Many an IRA man in jail in '22 and '23 cursed his use .. to patrol estate walls, enforce decrees for rent, arrest and even order out of the country leaders

which could have fought for a workers' republic.

The consequence of holding back and even attacking workers, was that Sinn Fein ran into a stalemate with Britain.

The 3,000 IRA men under arms were not enough to force out the British, who had over 60,000 troops and special police.

Collins who was a strong guerrilla leader recognised this fact. Despite his more militant nationalism he joined with the conservative Griffith to accept the Treaty.

This book is very relevant to all those who want to know where the present day Sinn Fein movement will end up.

The lesson of history is that those who turn their back on workers' struggle end up accepting the domination of imperialism.

■ *Revolutionary Government in Ireland* by Arthur Mitchell, Gill and McMillan, £18.99

## Was partition inevitable?

**SINN FEIN never had a strategy that could have avoided partition. Arthur Griffith believed that the industrialists of the North-East did not gain from their links with the British Empire.**

He thought an economic boycott from the South would make them see why they should work with Sinn Fein.

"If they held up the banks it would bring the Unionist gentlemen to their senses very quickly."

This was patently not the case and the boycott only made partition inevitable.

The radicals in the IRB had no better strategy. P.S. O'Hegarty thought the North could be conquered against the will of the majority of the population "Ulster would be Irish whether she liked it or did

not like it."

Because both wings of Sinn Fein did not want to turn the revolution into a socialist movement, they could not appeal to the key group in the North, the working class.

### Militancy

Protestant and Catholic workers showed tremendous militancy and solidarity in the 1919 general strike for shorter hours.

The leader of the strike was a Catholic, Charles McKay, while the majority of strikers were Protestant.

On the other side Orange Order leaders and Unionist politicians were clearly supporting the employers and as a result Protestant workers began to look around

for an alternative to loyalism.

Sinn Fein offered them nothing. Their election leaflets spoke of Irish Catholics' interests alone.

Socialists on the other hand got a considerable hearing. The radical socialist Sam Kyle topped the poll for Shankill in the local election of January 1920.

But the more it became clear that the revolution in the South was not heading towards a workers' republic, but a Catholic state, the more Protestant workers fell back to their old loyalties.

The only way that Ireland could have avoided partition is if a united working class had striven for a worker's republic.

That would have meant a revolutionary socialist party organising all over Ireland both for independence and workers' rule.



## COMMENT

# The devil's advocate?

**PAT KENNY, when challenged on the line he might take on a controversial issue, is fond of saying he is merely playing Devil's advocate, merely putting the other side of the argument. RTE is choc-a-bloc with Devil's advocates.**

Whenever anything happens that goes against the establishment line the station's presenters row in—on the side of the establishment. Tune into any of them and you'll hear them bating for the bosses and their class.

The Dunnes Stores strike is a fine example. With almost the entire country, including the Knights of Columbanus, behind the strikers, RTE bend over backwards to come up with scabs, people who pass pickets and business people caught in the cross-fire.

## 'Balance'

They constantly pit an opponent of the strike against someone who supports it, giving the impression that the balance is almost 50/50 when it's anything but.

Only the fact that the overwhelming number of calls into the station were in support of the strike, and the arrogance of Dunnes management in their refusal to talk to anyone prevented RTE from tipping the scales in the bosses' favour. There are hundreds of other examples.

When the story broke recently about Michael Cleary's allegedly having fathered two children Joe Duffy had a soft spoken, softer line priest waiting in the wings to interview.

When the big bad Wolf, Gerry Adams was finally allowed speak on the Late Late Show Gay Byrne assembled a panel of the most rabid anti-republicans he could lay his hands on.

But this same principle of balance is not always applied. Richard Lynn was allowed spout racist vomit on Marian Finucane's show but spokespersons for the Anti Nazi League were not allowed a right to reply.

Extreme conservative views are also regularly aired on talk shows and

presenters such as Gay Byrne and Gerry Ryan have been expounding their own inimitable brands of imbecilic, right wing rubbish for years.

The fact is that RTE, just like any other government owned network, is the voice of the establishment. Its staff, those at least who have any say, are drawn almost exclusively from the upper and middle classes.

Its presenters reflect the values of those classes and their prejudices towards the working class. When have you last heard someone with flat Dublin accent, for example, reading the News or interviewing some professional politician?

Mainstream radio, television and newspapers around the world all perform the same service for their ruling classes.

They all present the news as a haphazard hotch potch of events that occur independently of each other. Features on Boyzone and Hugh Grant go side by side with stories of natural disasters, war and famine.

There is never a hint that the same system which caused the famines in Africa causes the unemployment and industrial disputes we see here in Ireland.

## Controlled

Their advertisements, their drama productions and their presenters constantly re-enforce the ideas of the particular government they were set up by, and the media for the most part is owned and controlled by millionaires and multi-millionaires.

It is naive in the extreme to believe the establishment media is capable of objectivity. Even reporters and journalists who genuinely attempt to tell the truth find obstacles put in their path.

This happened for instance during the Gulf War, where reporters found themselves relying on the very forces who were prosecuting that war for their information.

A serious socialist newspaper on the other hand does connect the issues. It tells the truth as it sees it, it recognises who the enemy are and it is always on the side of the working class.

— MICK DOYLE

## FILM

# Girl with a tank meets Hollywood



**TANK GIRL first appeared as a comic strip character in 1988, in the new London based magazine, *Deadline*.**

Her appeal was instant: she was anarchic, speedy, violent, and best of all, a girl with a tank.

Living in a post-apocalypse Australia, Tank Girl was a woman who had no difficulty dealing with the dangers posed by a variety of authority figures.

Tank Girl's most likely source of trouble came from her enthusiasm for

excessive violence and rash action.

## Routine

For anyone sick of conservative values and of boring routine at work, Tank Girl was an exciting find.

Her popularity came partly from the fact that she represented a fantasy which combined escapism with putting two fingers up to conventional life.

The other side of her success was that in London and Brighton at the time there really were people who looked like Tank Girl, hated society and were out for kicks.

Now Tank Girl has gone

Reviewed by  
**CONOR  
KOSTICK**

to Hollywood and has suffered as a result.

You could tell before it was made that the film was liable to lose much of the impact of the comic strip.

When casting Tank Girl, agencies invited people to come in off the street.

Hundreds responded only to find that it was a publicity stunt.

The organisers had no intention of using an un-

known actress.

The main problem with the film version is that it is plot driven, she has an enemy who she is out to defeat.

So no matter how much of the film is tongue-in-cheek it can't help becoming predictable.

That said, it is a fast and well made adventure. You are bound to get some good moments when you give a mad woman a tank.

The music, chosen by Courtney Love, is brilliant.

But for all her attitude and bad mouthing, the film version of Tank Girl is much tamer than the comic strip.

## TELEVISION

## Over the edge

**OVER THE EDGE is a great series which is shown late in Wednesday night on BBC 2.**

The first programme showed a disabled group, who weren't satisfied with the polite lobbying of politicians to gain equal rights in society.

The group chained themselves to trains, under buses, and even climbed on top of police vans to make their point.

Their ideas came from Malcolm X and others like him.

The police had to back down when they tried to arrest demonstrators. The others blocked the road until the arrested people were free.

Inspiring stuff, with lessons for others who want to fight for their rights and to end this system that allows this discrimination to happen.

■ COLM O RIAIN

## PLAY

# Too much too young

**THE PLAY is set in the bedroom of a corporation flat.**

There are just three characters, Buster, Joey and Phil who get together to commemorate a Madness concert held in Dublin in 1980.

In the first part of act one everything seems hunky dory.

The three mates reminisce about the old days and dance and listen to old Ska numbers.

But half way through that act animosities surface.

## See-saw

This more or less sets the theme and for the rest of the performance the characters see-saw between horseplay and outbursts of violence and recrimination.

The political concerns of groups like The Specials, The Beat and The Selector are touched on but I couldn't help feeling that the author could have delved even deeper than he did.

The same goes for the relevance those groups had to working class kids



Commemorating the Madness concert in 1980

throughout Britain and Ireland during the early 1980s.

What does come across though is the devastation, caused by unemployment and emigration, and the loss of hope and idealism that the 80s brought to so many.

The characters are likeable, the acting is very

strong, as is the dialogue—the one liners are funny.

But at £12.50 a shot you might be tempted to say the play should have been called Too Much, full stop.

Any working class person interested in going to see it will find it hard to come up with the lolly.

■ MICK DOYLE

## FILM

# The Silences of the Palace

Reviewed by Niamh Kavanagh

**THIS remarkable Tunisian film is breaking boundaries.**

Set against the backdrop of a declining monarchy and a growing nationalist movement, the story develops through a rapidly changing Tunisian society. The air is filled with rising tension and discontent.

This story of women is told through the eyes of Alia. News of the death of Prince Sid Ali brings her back to visit the Bez palace where she spent her youth as a servant.

Three generations of her family served under the Royal family, where female servants had to succumb to the Princes rights of the bed-chamber.

## Brutal

Cruel, deeply poignant and sometimes soft, this story illustrates the brutal manner in which women are downtrodden.

The only resistance is silence and Khedija, Alia's mother fights a lonely battle to protect her daughter from the wandering eyes of the Bez princes.

Alia's break for freedom is hindered because she remains bound to Lofti, a lover who won't allow her to keep their own child.

There are some positive aspects, like Alia's friendship with Sarra, the daughter of Prince Sid.

Even if at the end of this film, women are still the inferior group, but at least they have tried to fight back. Compelling viewing.

**where we stand**

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

**FOR REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM**

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

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

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

**FOR REAL SOCIALISM, EAST AND WEST:**

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

**FOR AN END TO ALL OPPRESSION**

We oppose all forms of oppression which divide and weaken the working class. We are for full social, economic and political equality for women. We stand for: free contraception and free, legalised abortion and the right to divorce; the complete separation of church and state, an end to church control over schools and hospitals; an end to discrimination against gays and lesbians; an end to racism and anti-traveller bigotry. We argue for working class unity in the fight against oppression.

**FOR WORKERS' UNITY IN THE NORTH:**

Northern Ireland is a sectarian state, propped up by the British Army. Catholic workers are systematically discriminated against by the state. The division between Catholic and Protestant workers weakens the whole working class. Workers' unity can only be won and maintained in a fight to smash both the Northern and Southern states. We stand for the immediate withdrawal of British troops. Violence will only end when workers unite in the fight for a workers' republic.

**FOR A FIGHTING TRADE UNION MOVEMENT:**

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

**FOR A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY:**

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

**news & reports—politics; the unions—**

**DUNNES STORES STRIKE:**

**This is how to fight**

**"HEFFERNAN thought she could break us and the union. But we stuck it out and showed her that the unions are powerful"**

That was the overwhelming response of Dunnes workers, three weeks into their strike.

A month ago Margaret Heffernan thought she could ignore unions and treat her workers like dirt.

But the Labour Court recommendations mean that she is going to have to make important concessions.

All of this happened because Dunnes workers fought. In the past, the Labour Court has come down firmly on the side of management—in Packard they told workers to do 2 hours extra work for free.

The strength of the pickets means that the Court had to tell Margaret Heffernan to make conces-



**Dublin Bus workers and Dunnes workers collect at Phibsboro garage.**

sions on ending zero-contracts and paying time and a half for Sunday work.

Yet far more could have been won if the union leaders had been willing to carry through the fight. There are still many problems with the Labour Court recommendation.

**Sunday working:** It is

not clear that Sunday working will be voluntary from now on. Those who work Sundays will be paid a time and a half rate because Dunnes will make sure the rosters work that way.

**Industry**

But in every other industry, people are paid double time for Sunday. Why should Dunnes workers be treated any differently?

**Pay Rise:** Before the strike Heffernan agreed to pay a 3% pay rise—and then withdrew her offer. But it is still not clear that she is going to pay the increase immediately after the strike is over.

**Part-timers:** The Labour Court said that the number of part-timers in Dunnes was way "out of line" with other jobs. But then they only recommended 200 extra full time jobs.

Dunnes will now try to enforce a no strike agreement on their staff. They are demanding that all problems be solved by a tribunal that is supposed to be neutral.

But they have to be told that the power of the picket line will be used every time they try to bully their staff.

When the Dunnes workers return, they should make sure that their union organisation is strengthened. More shop stewards should be elected. They should demand time for regular union meetings. They should isolate the scabs who tried to trample over their picket lines.

As one worker put it, "Whatever the outcome, we showed we were strong. Margaret Heffernan never dreamed that 16 year old part-timers would stand up to her. But she got a lesson that we should make sure she never forgets"

**What a strike**

**THROUGHOUT the strike Socialist Worker produced a regular strike bulletin which brought news of the huge wave of solidarity. Here are some of its reports:**

**Waterford:** A pub owner called Ms Tweedy passed the picket line on the first day. After word went around the union, her pub emptied that night. She had to ring the union office to apologise. But as one worker put it, "She would have to make a full confession at her other pub called The Pulpit".

**Tallaght:** One scab in Kilnamanagh went to his local Credit Union only to find that he was expelled. He trudged down to his nearest pub, the Cuckoo's Nest, for some consolation—only to be barred.

**Clonmel:** The local ATGWU branch raised £1,000 for the Dunnes strike and agreed to hold a regular social.

**Gay Pride Demo:** Huge support for the Dunnes strike on the Gay Pride Demo. Socialist Workers Party members take up a collection. £75 raised in the buckets.

**Solidarity in action**

HUGE collection were organised for the Dunnes strikers in a massive display of solidarity.

Workers at TEAM collected £140 and were set to run weekly collections.

Cadbury's in Coolock raised over £400.

Scientists in one lab in University College Dublin donated £35 \* Staff in Dublin City University raised £110.

Busworkers in the Phibsboro garage invited strikers into to meet them and handed them over £160.

£200 was raised from the IMPACT trade union branch on the Office of Public Works

£35 was raised at a collection at the CIE canteen.

£27 was raised from a Socialist Worker collection among Rathmines Corporation workers.

300 people turned up to an SWP social organised in solidarity with Dunnes.

SWP in Clondalkin organised a pub collection. A staggering £270 was raised from five pubs. Rathmines raised £73; Ballinteer £40 and Ringsend £40.

**When we go back**

**ALL OVER the strength and success of the pickets has been fantastic. In some areas there have been a small number of scabs but in others there have been too many.**

**One shop steward told Socialist Worker how they will deal with the scabs in her shop.**

**"All of us who were out will wear our badges on our uniforms.**

**"We are going to ask our customers to insist on only being served by union labour.**

**"If you don't have a badge on it means you scabbed.**

**"This way we can really isolate them."**

**SWP branch meetings—all welcome**

**BELFAST CENTRAL**  
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Penny Farthing Bar, Upper North Street

**BELFAST SOUTH**  
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Queens Students Union.

**CORK**  
Meets every Thursday at

8pm in the Anchor Inn, Georges Quay.

**DERRY**  
Meets in Badgers Bar at 8pm

**DUBLIN BALLINTEER**  
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Ballinteer House.

**DUBLIN BLANCHARDSTOWN**  
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in the Blakestown Community Centre.

**DUBLIN COOLOCK**  
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the Artane/Beaumont Family Recreation Centre, Kilmore Rd.

**DUBLIN CLONDALKIN**  
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in the Loch and Quay, Clondalkin.

**DUBLIN DRIMNAGH**  
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in the Bentley Pub, Drimnagh Road

**DUBLIN FINGLAS**  
Meets every Thursday at 7.30pm in Rosehill Community Centre.

**DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL**  
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Conways.

**DUBLIN RATHMINES**  
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in O'Connells Pub, Richmond Street.

**DUBLIN RINGSEND**  
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in Ringsend Community Centre

**DUBLIN SOUTH CENTRAL**  
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the Trinity Inn.

**DUBLIN TALLAGHT**  
Contact 8722682 for details of meetings

**DUN LAOGHAIRE**  
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Smyths Pub.

**GALWAY**  
Meets every second

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

**NEWRY**  
Meets every Wednesday

at 8pm—contact national address for venue.

**WATERFORD**  
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in ATGWU hall, Waterford.

**JOIN THE SOCIALISTS**

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.....

Phone.....

There are *Socialist Worker* members in:

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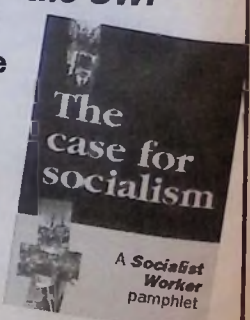
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# Wexford firefighters strike set to escalate

**AFTER almost two months on strike the support for the Wexford firefighters is growing.**

At a meeting in New Ross last week rank and file firefighters from the bordering counties of Kilkenny, Waterford, Carlow and Wicklow met to ballot their members on an escalation of the strike.

The meeting was called because the Army are being used to break the Wexford strike and are also working in neighbouring counties. Firefighters have refused to work with these scabs in their own areas.

But now they have unanimously backed a call for total non-cooperation with the Army.

This means when the Army are strike breaking in Wexford and Waterford firefighters are called in as back up, management will be told that they will not go.

According to one union representative, "These



Firefighters from across the country show solidarity with Wexford strikers

workers are prepared to put themselves in official dispute with their own local authorities in support of the strikers.

"Up to this, firefighters in an emergency situation have been put in the difficult position of making the choice at crucial moments."

The local authorities will also be told that if any member is disciplined for

this action there will be an all out strike.

## Prominent

Support for the strikers is growing in the local community. New Ross hosted a major fundraising night with 300 people attending.

The firefighters will be very prominent at the Strawberry Fair in

Enniscorthy on July 8th. They will be holding a demonstration and leafleting and petitioning the festival.

Firefighters in London have invited over their colleagues from Wexford for fundraising meetings.

■ All donations to the strikers will be welcomed. Sent to The Firefighters Fund, c/o SIPTU, North Main Street, Wexford.

## Dublin Corpo new attacks

DUBLIN Corporation are pushing forward new attacks against their workforce.

A work-to-rule commenced on 19th June in response to a directive from the head of maintenance, Douglas Beatty who instructed all workers in Ballymun to return to the depot at 5.00pm.

The work-to-rule involved a refusal by staff to carry working materials in their cars and reverting back to a 10am instead of a 9 am tea break.

Corpo management suspended 21 workers after the second week of their action and threatened to bring in the police to eject them from the depot.

Placards were made ready for a lock-out dispute but after talks with the union it was agreed to drop the issue of tea breaks from the work-to-rule action.

Suspensions were lifted but management are continuing the threats by calling in the 21 workers one by one for interrogation.

Corporation workers must stand united against this vicious management who have plans to axe jobs and introduce privatisation.

## IRISH PRESS: A fight to save jobs

IRISH Press journalists were lifted by a minor victory last week when the titles avoided liquidation and were instead placed in the hands of an examiner.

The NUJ had initiated the court action in order to gain time for a new investor to come forward.

Ironically the journalists have been penalised for their efforts. Had the liquidation gone ahead they would now be eligible for social welfare. But instead they have been denied any state support.

## Owners

The campaign continues to attract "extraordinary support all the way across every social strata" observed NUJ member Ronan Quinlan.

But with Tony O'Reilly and the owners of the *Herald* set to gain £4m a year from the closure of the *Evening Press* the fight for a successful return of the paper is a difficult one.

The key group of supporters for the campaign are the journalists and printers in the rest of the media.

There is a danger that other employers will see the closure of the *Press* as an opportunity to attack their own workers.

The *Cork Examiner*, for example, is reported to be employing new journalists on "yellowpack" starting wages of £9,000 a year.

The print unions should demand that the government intervene and take the Irish Press titles into public ownership to save jobs.

## WATERFORD: AIRMOUNT MATERNITY HOSPITAL:

# Domestics strike over nuns' broken promise

**TWENTY-TWO women domestic workers have been on strike at Airmount Maternity Hospital in Waterford for the last three weeks.**

The majority of the workers have given more than 26 years service to the hospital.

Two years ago the women were promised redundancy payments by the nuns who want to sell the hospital and grounds. But now the nuns are breaking that promise and insisting that there are jobs for the women in the new Regional Hospital maternity unit.

But most of the women are at retiring age and want the jobs left open for younger people.

Airmount hospital is run by the Medical Missionaries of Mary which was founded in the 1930's by Mother Mary Martin. She broke her family's wealth by spending all their profits from their building company T & C Martins in Dublin.

She used the money to set up this elite professional order of nuns. Only women with large dowries could enter the order and all of the nuns are daughters of professionals, accountants, doctors and psychiatrists.

Now the order wants to sell the property where the maternity hospital is located. They have advertised widely in property maga-

## EHB workers vote for action

ANCILLARY workers in the Eastern Health Board and voluntary hospitals in Dublin have voted by a massive 17 to 1 in support of industrial action.

The workers are demanding improvements in their pension scheme and the right to early retirement.

Pension payments at the moment mean that after 30 years service the workers receive the

zines in Ireland and Britain and are looking for over £1 million.

Some months ago the workers went to the Labour Court on the issue of redundancy payments.

## Useless

But IBEC, who were representing the nuns, told the Court that the property was useless, the building in derelict condition and that they did not expect to get more than £500,000 for the sale.

The nuns are now trying not to part with any money to settle with the workers.

According to the shop steward, "For years they held the annual Christmas party without inviting the domestics. But when the popularity of the event went down they asked us along.

princely sum of £30 a week.

As one shop steward commented,

"We find it hard enough to live on our wages now, imagine trying to live on less than half of that at 65 years of age".

They are also demanding a pension scheme for the increasing numbers of part-time workers employed in hospitals.

A strike committee has been elected and will meet in early July to plan the strike campaign.

Once they discovered we could actually use a knife and fork and behave ourselves, they continued to include us."

The workers are running 24 hour pickets on the hospital and are determined to extract realistic payments from this wealthy elite.

As one picket told *Socialist Worker* "They thought we were a bunch of middle-aged women who wouldn't put up a fight. But these nuns don't live in the real world.

"They think £100 is a fortune for us and yet nearly all of us are the breadwinners in our families.

"We are tired of working long, hard hours and want the redundancy payments we were promised".

There is already a panel of young workers waiting

This will most likely begin at the end of July with a series of rolling strikes across Dublin hospitals.

Over 3,500 workers will be involved in the action which they have been forced to take because of the Government's insistence on freezing public spending.

The LRC or Labour Court will find it difficult to stop the strikes.

A working party State has failed to offer any real improvements.

on the dole queues for decent jobs in the Regional Hospital.

## Retire

Women of this age group have the right to retire with decent payments in recognition of their years of service.

The public support has been fantastic in Waterford but solidarity support has to build among the nursing staff at Airmount.

The younger nurses have already shown their solidarity for the pickets when they refused to attend a general meeting of the INO in the hospital.

They forced the union to hold the meeting in the town because they would not pass pickets on their off-duty.

## Lagan Valley strike against privatisation

WORKERS at the Lagan Valley hospital in Lisburn struck for four days last week against plans to privatise services.

The "contracting out" of catering and porter services is threatening the jobs of over 100 workers.

This latest strike at the hospital follows on from a series of stoppages against the Hospital Trust which is taking on the workers section by section.

The unions recently took the case against "contracting out" the work to an employment tribunal. Most of the workers affected are low paid, part-time and mainly female. The hospital is breaking the terms of fair employment equal opportunity law. But the hospital trust pleaded ignorance of the law to the tribunal which ruled against the workers.

As one worker put it, "It's like someone robbing a bank and claiming they didn't know they were breaking the law. Only you wouldn't get away with it".

The strikers say they can see no other way but to fight the Trust. The management have lied to the unions and are prepared to let the jobs of hundreds of workers go to contractors who will cut pay and offer no security.

The support for the picket was tremendous, especially from the nurses and other staff at the hospital. They supplied food

and drink to the strikers around the clock and spent hours with them on the picket line.

The strike in Lagan Valley hospital has shown the unity of Catholic and Protestant workers in the fight to save their jobs. One striker spoke of their determination to win, "This is not nearly the end of the strike. We will be out again and will fight them every inch of the way".

## Packard: Stop this overtime

PACKARD management are rubbing salt into the wounds of the 400 laid off workers.

Overtime is being worked around the clock at a factory which was supposed to be short on orders and without enough work to go around.

Many of the workers inside are disgusted at the overtime levels being worked while their colleagues are pushed onto the dole queues.

The main blame for the overtime scandal lies with the politicians and the union leaders who pushed through the lousy deal with the multi-national General Motors.

It was the General Motors policy of forcing overtime on workers which led to a major strike in North America last year. That strike forced the bosses to take on another 800 workers.

Anger is growing among the 400 laid off workers and many of them are meeting to mount a campaign against the overtime policy.

Workers inside the factory should take up the issue with the unions and demand an overtime ban right across the plant.

# Socialist Worker

# Sack all these Tories

# Para killer Clegg set free



Laughing: Clegg

**"IF YOU are Catholic and working class and from West Belfast, you're treated like dirt".**

That was the reaction of Sean Reilly, the father of Karen to the release of her murderer, Lee Clegg.

It is absolutely true. From the very moment that Karen Reilly and Martin Peake were murdered, the British establishment tried to hide the crime of the Para regiment.

The case only came to trial because a BBC programme *Rough Justice* exposed the gruesome murders.

The Paras claimed that they fired at the joyriders because their lives were under threat.

But Clegg fired the fatal bullet after the car had passed their checkpoint.

## Mock-Up

After the murder they made a mock up model of an Astra car peppered with bullets.

On it they stuck a caption *Vauxhall Astra, Built by Robots, Driven by Joyriders, Stopped by A company.*

Lee Clegg has been released in a desperate gamble by Major to hold onto his job as the Tory leader.

He wanted to appease the most right wing sections of the British establishment.



Victim: Karen Reilly

# free

## Release the political prisoners

**WHILE Clegg walked free, others are serving long sentences because they are political prisoners who got caught up in the Northern conflict.**

If they had not lived in a sectarian state, the vast majority would have led normal peaceful lives.

They include people like:

■ **Danny McNamee:** He

has been jailed for 25 years on the outrageous charge of 'conspiracy to cause an explosion'.

### Charges

Conspiracy charges are often used when there is little hard evidence

He was jailed because he touched a gambling machine in his workplace which others used for bomb making.

■ **Patrick McLaughlin:**

Has been jailed for life.

He was framed for bombing Chelsea barracks because he was Irish and unemployed.

He turned up to a party very drunk and left his name on a puzzlebook in a van that was implicated in a bombing.

■ **John Kinsella** got 30 years for possession of explosives. He agreed to hide a hold-all given by two men he met through his nephew.

With the ending of the conflict these prisoners

and all others who have been caught up in the conflict should be released.

There is mass support in both Catholic and Protestant areas for this move.

The British government has shown that it is willing to bend the rules to look after one of their own.

They must now be forced through mass protests to release these political prisoners they are trying to hold as hostages.

87 Tory MPs signed a petition demanding his release.

Lord Denning, the judge who kept the Bir-

mingham Six in prison, supported Clegg.

Even Prince Charles joined the campaign.

The Southern gov-

ernment is now shedding crocodile tears over the Clegg case.

But they did not raise a word of protest when

Charles Windsor visited them last month.

The Clegg case shows that very little has changed since the

peace process began.

There is still one law for British soldiers and another for Irish working class people.

**WHAT A sick spectacle the Tory leadership race is. All the contenders have presided over the wrecking of the lives of working class people for 16 years.**

Now they are desperate to hang on to power to keep their rich friends happy. Every one of them has a horrible right wing record.

**MAJOR** is the bumbling incompetent who has tried to destroy the NHS.

**REDWOOD** wants single mothers to lose all benefit.

Two days after the Guildford Four were released he was proud to proclaim himself an advocate of the death penalty.

**PORTILLO** said that the poll tax was 'fair and sensible, a vote winner'.

He is now warning about the 'menace' of trade unions.

**HESELTINE** is one of the richest men in Britain.

He threatened to shoot protesters at the Greenham Common missile base in 1983.

There is a natural fear among some that if the Tories get a new leader they could limp along. They have been split before and still came back to win an election.

But they are much weaker now. There is huge bitterness throughout Britain and Northern Ireland. Any big focus could finally finish off this crumbling government.

A ballot for strike action in the health service is being planned. Railway workers are going on a series of one day strikes.

Instead of waiting for Tony Blair to end these terrible years of Tory misrule, workers should start taking action themselves.

The one thing that unites most workers in Northern Ireland is a hatred of Tory rule.

We need to start getting ready to finish them off.