

# Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

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## DUNNES TRIBUNAL:

# Don't let them cover up for corrupt politicians



Michael Lowry

**MICHAEL LOWRY'S decision to leave Fine Gael and stand as an independent candidate in North Tipperary should fool nobody. Lowry and Fine Gael have come to a friendly arrangement to part company temporarily so that neither side can be embarrassed.**

The party of 'law and order' and high moral principles refused to expel Lowry even though he openly admitted to taking money from Ben Dunne and availing of a tax amnesty.

### Down

The politicians of Dail Eireann are trying to play down the full implications of the Dunnes scandal. They have set up a tribunal which has not even begun hearing evidence yet. If any ordinary individual was charged with shoplifting they would

have been hauled before the courts long before now.

Already 'sources' close to the Tribunal are hinting that they will never be able to prove who was the real beneficiary of the £1.1 million that Dunne handed over to a prominent Fianna Failor.

Meanwhile politicians like Sean Haughey have refused to offer an explanation of why Ben Dunne was so generous as to give him £10,000 for his election campaign when he pays his own staff such miserly wages.

The reality is that a gigantic cover-up is going on. The major political parties are run by the money of big business and do what these sharks want.

This is why they always preach to workers about making sacrifices while their rich pals make a fortune from the new boom.

### Campaign

In the next general election, Socialist Worker Party candidates will campaign openly for

special laws to jail corrupt politicians.

But the elections only give us a chance to voice the anger that thousands of workers feel. We need to go much further and begin organising a fightback against the greed and hypocrisy of the establishment.

Ambulance drivers and hospital staff have given a good lead by preparing to take industrial action. By linking these types of struggles to a strong socialist party we can start to make some changes in this country.

# Burton scapegoats refugees

JOAN BURTON, a Labour Minister for State at the Department for Foreign Affairs, showed her true colours last month when she said that many refugees from Eastern Europe were not 'proper' refugees but economic migrants.

Speaking on 'Morning Ireland', she said: "Many refugees leave desperate civil war situations such as Somalia or Zaire, but we also need to recognise that many people from Eastern Europe come as economic migrants."

People applying for asylum should make "genuine" cases, she said, implying that it wasn't genuine to leave countries where your wages come to £20 a month and your family is starving.

The 180 refugees that are entering Ireland every month are "a worrying situation" since we now receive "more applications than Finland,"

she claimed.

But the nine Liberians who arrived in Ireland last month tried to make "a genuine case" in Turkey, the first EU country they reached.

## Claimed

There, the UN Human Rights Commissioner told them she didn't believe they had a case and so they weren't entitled to refugee status.

One of the refugees said: "Do they want us to lose an eye, an arm, or a leg, do they want us to become handicapped first?" They could now be deported to Liberia because Fortress Europe's

laws say you must apply for asylum in the first EU country you reach.

All immigration laws are racist to the core.

European immigrants need not even apply for a residence permit.

But anyone with darker skin and a non-EU passport faces interrogation about their money and friends and the reason they are here.

But immigration is fine if you have the money. The government is throwing passports at anyone with the cash to buy one.

In 1996, eleven investors received Irish citizenship under the Passports for Investment scheme.

These are the real scoundrels, receiving millions of pounds in tax breaks and profits squeezed out of Irish workers.



The Liberian refugees arriving in Waterford

# Worker's life worth £900

WHAT IS a worker's life worth to a company? Not more than £900 if recent court cases are anything to go by.

At Aughinish Alumina a maintenance worker died in a vat of hot caustic solution when lifting gear failed and dropped a load onto a scaffold.

"Other persons were also injured to varying degrees," says the Health and Safety Authority.

## Guilty

Aughinish pleaded guilty and was fined £900 for this horrendous death.

This is also the plant suspected of having caused ill-health in humans and deaths and disease in dozens of cattle on farms downwind from the plant.

At Cleary Doyle Contracting, a worker was hit on the head and shoulder by gas bottles that fell from a height of 10 metres and caused severe injuries.

The bottles were slung on a crane without a cage. It was fined £750.

## Lost

An ESB fitter lost four fingers and part of his right thumb when he touched a compressor

fan. The ESB pleaded guilty, too, and was fined a paltry £500.

Iarnród Éireann got away with even less, £450, for four charges, with two others struck out.

In this case, a worker lost a foot "when a rail mounted excavator rolled over him while transporting acetylene and oxygen cylinders in a dangerous manner".

In 1996, injuries increased by 21.6 percent and ill-health doubled, with 7,000 persons affected: compared to £3,500 in 1995.

## Sector

There were 2,622 injuries in the transport, communications and storage sector: more than twice as many as in the previous year.

Ireland's boom is paid for in workers' lives as companies cut corners in cut-throat competition. The bosses are getting away with murder.

It's time strikes closed down every single site where workers are forced to ignore safety regulations.

# TD's to get extra £1,000 per year



IF JOHN BRUTON remains Taoiseach, he will be £2,700 a year better off as a result of a pay review.

The Higher Remuneration review body has given an average 3% pay rise to politicians.

This is a tenth of what TDs demanded but they will still get over £1,000 a year extra, bringing their salaries to £35,400.

The Taoiseach's salary rises

from just under £100,800 to £103,500. Dick Spring will be anxious to remain Tanaiste since it would give him more than £2,500 extra: a new total of £89,000 a year.

## Increase

Government ministers, the Attorney General and the Ceann Comhairle will all get an increase of over £2,400 a year, bringing their salaries to £82,600.

The biggest increases —

between 4.8 and 5.6 percent — go to the chairs of Dail committees. Politicians who chair a committee for a year could get £11,100 on top of their salary: thousands of workers earn less than this sum.

But workers had no say in determining the new salaries. The review body was dominated by figures from the business world.

It was chaired by Michael Buckley of AIB Capital Markets, and also included Jurys Hotels boss Peter Malone and Vivienne Jupp of Anderson Consulting. Two members of the Labour Court also took part, no doubt to create an impression of neutrality.

# Unemployed in the firing line

THE BOSSES and the government, our so-called social 'partners', are teaming up in a disgraceful attack on the unemployed.

Recently ISME, the small firms lobby group, called unemployed people "FAS course junkies" and said there were some 100,000 "social misfits" in Ireland.

An ISME report, *Putting the Unemployed Back to Work*, says:

"Every society has a percentage of its population who are, for a variety of reasons, social misfits. The percentage could easily be as high as 100,000 or 40 percent of those currently classified as unemployed."

ISME wants those on the dole to produce evidence that they have applied for "known vacancies".

It calls for penalties for people who reject their second job offer.

The Small Firms Association (SFA) has joined in the witchhunt.

It also says those who don't apply for vacant jobs should have their payments "reviewed".

## Backed

And both are backed up by Enterprise and Employment Minister Richard Bruton who says 18 to 21-year olds on the dole should undergo counselling or have their entitlements reviewed.

Forfas should also review the education system, he says, which could mean

changing it to every whim of industry. Forfas is the industrial development body that says workers have too many rights and should take out private pensions instead of relying on the state.

Richard Bruton's recommendations are an insult to every unemployed person.

It also shows that a place at the Partnership 2000 negotiations, which the Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed occupied, is absolutely meaningless.

The only way to fight for decent dole payments and for jobs is to force the unions to take up this issue, by fighting against jobs cuts and for a shorter working week.

# Bosses Bonanza in Semi states

SEMI-STATE bosses are set to gain huge increases under the Buckley review on Higher Remuneration.

The government has agreed that chief executives in the commercial semi-state sector should be on a par with similar private sector bosses.

Some semi-state chiefs are already in breach of existing guidelines.

## INJURY RATES IN KEY SECTORS

Sector	1995	1996	Increase in accidents
Agriculture	1,502	1,392	-7.3%
Manufacturing	1,480	1,826	23.4%
Construction	1,840	1,860	1.1%
Commerce, Insurance, Finance	693	1,153	37.7%
Transport, Communications and Storage	1,184	2,622	121.4%
Public Admin., Defence	1,389	1,702	12.2%

Telecom Éireann boss Alfie Kane is paid more than £200,000 a year.

Bernie Cahill of Aer Lingus was found to be living in a luxury hotel while his workforce faced major cuts.

## Report

The Buckley report states that semi-state companies

"need to appoint and retain top-calibre executives to maximise the return to the state from its investment".

The bosses' favourite line when justifying their salaries is:

"You pay peanuts and you get monkeys".

But it's the other way round for workers.

We are told to accept less in order to be competitive with companies who pay lower wages.

As the semi-states are lined up for privatisation, bosses like Kane and Cahill are being richly rewarded for doing a hatchet job on workers.

what we think

# Take the control of the schools away from the Bishops

**THE HEADS of the Catholic, Protestant and Muslim churches have united to protest at Niamh Breathnach's Education Bill. They claim that the Bill will stop 'the patron' having control over a school and transfer it to a Board of Management.**

The real tragedy is that Niamh Breathnach's Bill has no intention of tackling the power of the churches who want to use the schools to promote their religious views.

Breathnach says that she supports the right of the churches 'to maintain the ethos and traditions' of the school.

She pretends that Ireland has a pluralist system of education-- even though 98% of primary schools are owned by one religious group or another.

Her Education Bill still leaves effective control of the schools in the hands of local bishops.

She has now agreed to meet the churches to address 'their reservations and concerns'.

The cowardice of Labour has been shown in so called Equality Act introduced by Mervyn Taylor. This gives the churches power of sack teachers and nurses who offend against their ethos.

## Against

What this could mean was shown in a recent case in Britain, where a teacher in a Catholic school was sacked because he was living with a divorcee!

Socialists oppose a church-run school system. Children should not be split up at the age of four on the basis of being Catholic, Protestant or Muslim. Our schools should be used to convey the general skills necessary to take part in society.

They should not be run for religious groups to propagate their views.

Denominational education also works directly against working class children. Church run education has always promoted 'bright' middle class students at the expense of working class kids.

This is one of the reasons why children from professional backgrounds are seven times more likely to get their Leaving Cert than the children of unskilled manual workers.

Ireland needs a school system which is given 100% state funding. Schools should not have to rely on raising money from raffles and social events to maintain the fiction they are voluntary organisations.

There should be democratically elected management boards composed of teachers, parents and students. No one should be let run a school just because they happen to be a parish priest.



## £10,000 Appeal

THE *Socialist Worker* Appeal is under way. We need £10,000 for a new printer and to cover the costs of running four candidates in the next general election.

The SWP is the only party left which encourages workers' militancy and puts its resources behind workers on strike. Standing in the election is an opportunity to challenge the ideas of the right wing parties and the betrayals of Labour and DL.

But to put a clear socialist message across, we need thousands of leaflets and posters. We appeal to our readers to help raise the money.

Please send cheques or postal orders made out to *Socialist Worker* Appeal, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8.

£10,000

£9,000

£8,000

£7,000

£6,000

£5,000

£4,000

£3,000

£2,000

£1,000

Socialist Worker

## Eric's crocodile tears

**WHAT A BUSY man Democratic Left's Eric Byrne is. He's so busy he didn't have time to write an election leaflet.**

Instead he reprinted a glitzy article the Star wrote about him a few years ago.

It reads like a child's school lesson.

Eric gets up at 8 o'clock. At 8.30 he kisses his wife goodbye and goes off to work.

He's very busy at work, the files are piled high on the desk, the phones are hopping and he's got three afternoon appointments!

How does he do it?

### Told

The files on his desk are, we're told:

*"the heart-breaking harvest from his constituency clinics - seven on Fridays, one on Saturdays"*.

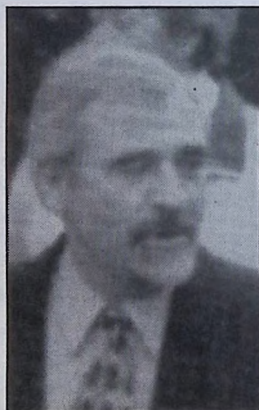
Byrne is trying to portray himself as the superman who can solve all his constituents' problems.

Fed up with drugs in your area?

Just ring Eric. Looking for a decent home? Eric's your man.

His election manifesto says there's a need for minimum wage legislation.

It says millions of pounds



Eric Byrne

are being wasted on tax breaks for the rich. But why does he support a government which is doing all these things?

Eric says: *"My assistant and I absorb very much the plight of so many people who are living lives of misery and look to us for some help."*

But these crocodile tears can't hide the fact that Democratic Left is part of the government that is causing so much misery.

## Nuns cash in on property boom

**Religious orders are cashing in on Dublin's property boom by selling off church land in top Dublin areas.**

Only last month the Holy Faith nuns in Glasnevin netted £5 million over the sale of 18 acres described as *"the most valuable to come on the market in North Dublin in recent years."*

### Stop

And the churches' greed doesn't stop at land. Two years ago the sisters of charity in Miltown sold St Anne's primary school as part of an £8 million deal.

At the time the teachers' union, the INTO, accused the nuns of being *"speculators rather than educators"*. Because of the nuns' actions there is now a shortage of primary school places in the area. So much for charity.

The Catholic church's incredible wealth was given to them by the Irish state and Irish people.

They were given grants and lands to build their schools and churches. Now, as vocations decline, they're selling off the 'patrimony of the poor' to the highest bidder.

There are some exceptions: a few years ago the Presentation order gave its convent to



Carmelites property sold for £1.5million

Focus Housing Association. But this should be the norm.

There is a massive shortage of decent housing in Dublin.

Many children in the city

have nowhere but the streets to play. If the church really cared about the poor, it would give back its wealth to the people who really need it.

## Landlords dodge student register

**THERE IS still a crisis in student accommodation despite the government's registration scheme.**

Thousands of landlords have not registered their houses and flats with local authorities.

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) estimates that only 12,711 accommodation units have been registered out of a total of 90,000. New figures due in March show little improvement.

### Example

In Limerick, for example, there are only 363 units on the register in a city with 10,000 students.

The Irish Property Owners Association is challenging the registration scheme in court. But the scheme is modest: it costs £40 to reg-

ister. USI welfare officer Helen Ryan says it does not go far enough in ensuring proper standards of housing.

Many landlords charge high rent for flats without providing proper fire safety, for example. There have been numerous deaths and injuries as a result.

No doubt one reason why landlords refuse to register their flats is that they want to avoid paying tax on the huge amount of rent they collect. Unfortunately Helen Ryan of USI has called for tax incentives for these scroungers.

The real solution is to tax the big property owners to pay for affordable public housing for all who need it.

## Sexual harassment loophole

**THE GOVERNMENT is allowing a loophole for sexual harassers in the new Employment Equality Bill.**

The Bill defines sexual harassment as an action or conduct which a 'reasonable person' would consider to be 'sexually offensive, humiliating or intimidating'.

The loophole will allow

bosses to claim that a woman is being 'unreasonable' or 'prudish' if she refuses to put up with sexist behaviour.

### Report

This could result in women being more reluctant to report harassment. At the moment many women do not take action because they fear further ridicule or even

dismissal. Out of 267 queries on harassment to the Employment Equality Agency in 1995 -- up from 44 in 1990 -- only seven cases went to the Labour Court.

The majority of Labour Court cases were for constructive dismissal: where women were forced to leave their jobs because of intolerable harassment.

## international news

# Albania: Revolt against the market

ALBANIA has been engulfed by its second mass uprising in seven years.

The first revolt, in 1990, toppled the state capitalist dictatorship of Enver Hoxha. Today people's anger is directed at the pro-market, supposedly democratic, regime of president Sali Berisha that has proved no better.

Mass protests and armed clashes with riot police forced Berisha's cabinet to resign.

Berisha declared a state of emergency, effectively martial law, as rioting spread throughout the country and much of the south moved completely out of the control of the security forces.

## Upsurge

The upsurge in mass protest comes after two months of riots and demonstrations by ordinary Albanians who have been robbed of their life savings in collapsed pyramid investment scams.

The southern port of Vlore was taken over by armed demonstrators many of whom wanted to march on the capital, Tirana.

Armed protesters sacked Berisha's summer villa in Vlore.

The Vlore uprising began after secret police tried to stop a ten day old hunger strike by university students.

Police were driven out of the town of Sarande on the Greek border, and armed protesters

sacked police stations and government buildings in Berat and Gjirokaster.

In a nationwide television address a desperate Berisha made the absurd claim that "armed Communist rebels, helped and financed by foreign espionage, have started military actions to overthrow the government."

"They will soon feel the iron hand and the full punishment of the laws of the state."

The Shik secret police and army will face stiff resistance in attempting to retake the towns. As one protester said, "Every family here in Sarande has a Kalashnikov."

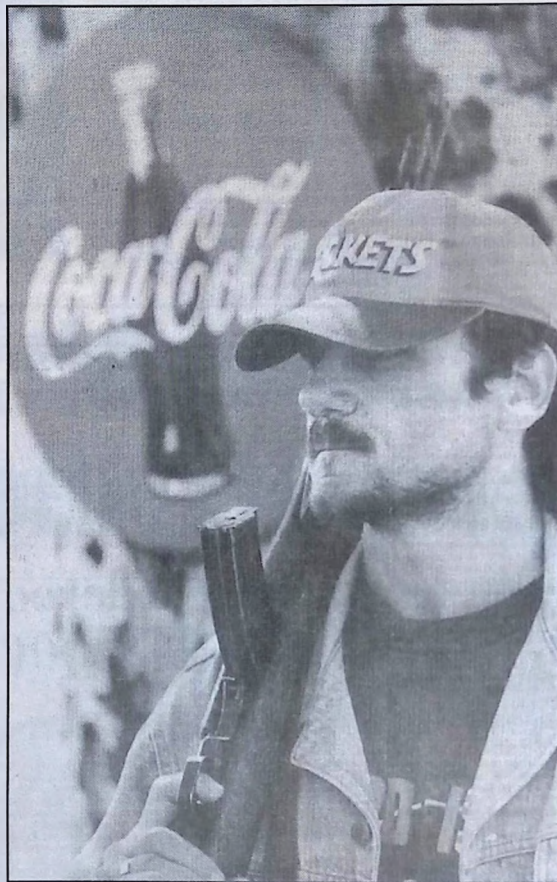
Berisha is trying to make some concessions to pull the opposition, led by the Socialist Party, on board and take the steam out of the protests as well as confronting them head on.

## Forcing

As well as forcing his government to resign he offered round table talks with the opposition Forum for Democracy.

But that failed to satisfy the spontaneous demonstrators who are not under the control of the Socialist Party.

They redoubled the protests, demanding that Berisha steps down and their money is returned.



The leader of the Socialist Party, Fatos Nano, has not openly attacked the rioters but

has called for restraint. He wants to use the unrest to force new elections which could see the return of a Socialist Party government.

The tragedy for Albanian workers is the lack of a genuine socialist alternative on the ground.

## An Albanian worker speaks:

### 'Berisha is the new dictator'

SOTIRIS IS an Albanian immigrant worker in Greece. He spoke to Socialist Worker's Greek sister paper, Workers' Solidarity:

"IT IS not true that the protests have been led by the Socialist Party as the government maintains.

"People are there because so many feel cheated by the government and the bankers.

"Fatos Nano's Socialist Party do not want to see a real revolution because it will challenge their own privilege. They are talking against Berisha but many people remember that these people were part of the old corrupt regime.

"Fatos Nano headed a provisional government for a year after Ramiz Alia's Communist regime fell.

"When aid came from Italy he presided over it. The aid was not handed out but sold on the black market. Fatos Nano made \$7 million. Many people say he is still involved in cigarette smuggling.

"Berisha's group is also part of the old bureaucracy of Enver Hoxha. The bureaucrats split into two camps when the general strike grew in 1990.

"The workers are showing fantastic power. A real revolution is needed. A general strike and riots got rid

of the old regime and the same can happen today.

"Berisha is scared he will end up like Romanian leader Nicolai Ceausescu.

"He is worried about using the army because they are the sons of the protesters and they themselves have lost money in the pyramid schemes.

## Movement

"There is growing radicalisation but people are not clear about what to do next and how the movement should proceed.

"But some things are becoming clearer. Real socialist ideas can flourish.

"Capitalism is the problem, whether with the old Stalinist face or with Berisha's 'democratic' face, which is in practice a second dictatorship.

"Things will not be solved if Berisha holds on or if he resigns. Albanian workers need a real socialist party.

"This will be a long struggle, but what is happening now shows workers hold the future of the Balkans in their hands and that victory can remove the threat of war and establish brotherhood."

## 'Miracle economy' hailed by the West

ALBANIA shows the depths of the market madness which has engulfed Eastern Europe. Albanian state capitalism went into deep crisis in the 1980s.

When Berisha, part of the state capitalist elite, took over from the ailing Communist regime in 1992 he was hailed by the West as a democrat.

He had already been feted by Western leaders, sharing a platform with Margaret Thatcher at the 1991 Tory conference. His dubious links with British Tories continued up to the present crisis.

Less than two years ago the International Monetary Fund pointed to Albania, with high levels of economic growth, as an example for other poor countries to follow.

But there was widening inequality. Average public sector wages are less than £65 a month.

At the other extreme former bureaucrats have made

millions as the new bosses of industry.

The IMF and Western governments also turned a blind eye to the drugs and arms smuggling which accounted for much of the 'miracle economic growth'.

## Corruption

Now the corruption, crisis and authoritarian rule brought by the market have fuelled tremendous opposition.

The movement shares some of the characteristics of the recent upsurges in Serbia and Bulgaria.

The democracy movement in Serbia and the strikes against austerity in Bulgaria were directed at regimes ruled by parties directly descended

from the old Stalinist regimes.

But the free market, supposedly democratic, regime in Albania is no better.

The Albanian strikes show that those who look to the West and the extension of the market offer no solution to the mass of workers and peasants.

Nor do parties like the Socialist Party in Albania which is just as committed to the market and the defence of the privileged minority.

The danger is that the movement in Albania can get sucked into round table talks between different proponents of capitalism.

But the uprising so far has pointed to the possibility of an entirely different alternative based on opposition to both the Thatcherite free market and the Stalinist converts to it.

Real democracy means power in the hands of ordinary people.

## From state capitalism to market madness

ALBANIA WAS part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire until gaining independence in 1912.

During both the First and the Second World Wars it was occupied by Italian forces.

## Resistance

In 1945, at the end of the Second World War, the Communist led resistance overcame royalist forces and Enver Hoxha established a one party dictatorship.

Hoxha presided over a command economy which succeeded in build-

ing up some industry and transforming agriculture in the poorest country in Europe. Like Stalin's Russia, Albania was a state capitalist country.

The regime allied itself successively with Yugoslavia, Russia and then China.

Economic growth began to stagnate in the 1980s.

The collapse of the Eastern bloc and the turn of China towards the market further isolated Albania.

President Ramiz Alia, who took over after Hoxha's death in 1985, tried to reform the

economy and took steps to open it up to the world market. But the result were a worsening economic crisis, soaring food prices and huge austerity.

## Strikes

Mass strikes in December 1990, inspired by similar revolts in the rest of Eastern Europe, broke the Communist regime.

A series of transitional governments held power during 1991 before Sali Berisha's Democratic Party came to power in April 1992.

## ANTI-SECTARIAN DEMO: HARRYVILLE—15 MARCH

# 'We're going down to fight against bigotry'

**THE CALL** for a demonstration on 15 March against the sectarian pickets in Harryville received a good response.

United Against Bigotry organised two coaches—one each from Belfast and Derry—to bring a strong anti-sectarian contingent to the beleaguered church.

The situation is extremely serious. Harryville is the Loyalists' recruiting ground for this year's 12th of July at Drumcree.

They are trying to gather a hard core of bigots and raise the temperature in the run-up to July.

### Gather

Socialist Worker spoke to some of those going to the anti-sectarian protest in Harryville about their reasons for attending:

"I think there are a lot of people sitting back and thinking about Harryville, disagreeing with it," said Shane from Derry, "and I think this could be the first step to get them to do something about it."

"I can see Drumcree building up in Harryville. Last year Drumcree was building up, too, but this year it seems a lot more organised."

"And I don't think Protestants are supporting it: there may be a hard core but I know a lot of Protestants who are

completely against it."

Shane thought the trade unions should actively oppose the Loyalist pickets:

"I always thought that work unites people, even though there are a lot of unemployed people in the North. The unions could play a large part in Harryville."

John, a student in Belfast, is from a Protestant background:

"All the trade unions have policies against sectarianism, yet they've made an art form out of not talking politics and about things like Harryville," he said.

### Opposed

John believes there is a growing audience who are opposed to the picket and to another siege at Drumcree:

"I live in a staunchly Orange area but a lot of people here aren't happy with what's going on and I think the protest on the 15th will mark that out."

"Yet some of the community groups, who have every right to stand up to the Orange marchers, are not reaching out to these Protestants at all. Instead they're taking a territorial approach."

"But there is an ideologi-



cal split among people from what's traditionally a unionist background. Many are wary about the way Trimble is turning the UUP into a hard, right-wing party.

"The Unionists haven't got the network anymore to give people jobs and privileges and so they're talking about two separate identities."

"So I've talked to a few

people I know and many think it's a good idea, but they might still be reluctant to go down."

### Ensure

"I tell them the best way to ensure security on the march is to get the maximum number of people down there: there were 50 pickets there last

week, so we're not talking massive numbers."

Colin, also from a Protestant area in Belfast, said: "I'm going down to show our support for the fight against bigotry. If there's a large enough presence it will certainly achieve something."

"Most of my friends and family defend people's right to go to their place of worship

although a lot would say 'but what about Dunloy?' I then say that's a totally different issue."

The Loyalists claim they are picketing at Harryville because they were not allowed to march through mainly Catholic Dunloy last summer. This is a sham.

The planned march through Dunloy was not about 'attending a place of worship', as claimed by its organisers.

It was another attempt by Orange bigots to lord it over the local Catholic population.

### Sectarian

United Against Bigotry opposes all Orange marches through Catholic areas and says Protestants can only lose out from sectarian divisions in the fight against job cuts and starvation wages.

It is a disgrace that the trade unions have remained silent, leaving it to small groups to organise against the bigots.

As Colin said:

"The Trades Council hasn't done a thing about it: it's actually a local women's group that's done most around Harryville. I think we should be united in fighting for jobs instead of fighting each other."

United Against Bigotry said in a recent statement:

"The longer the picket goes on, the more the confidence of the bigots grows."

"They will try to heighten sectarianism to a fever pitch during the marching season. Unless we do something it could make Drumcree look like a picnic."

## Tories plan to axe 13 hospitals

**OVER THE next four years the North will lose 13 out of its 19 hospitals in one of the most vicious health cuts programmes ever implemented by the Tories.**

The government's strategy, cynically called *Health and Wellbeing into the next Millennium*, will axe small local hospitals.

It will discourage people from going to hospital in the first place and fob them off with GP-run primary care centres whose workload will increase dramatically.

### Enough

Those who are sick enough for a referral will face much longer travel times since only six hospitals will survive into the year 2001.

Banbridge Hospital closed its doors to in-patients, who now have to travel to Belfast, on 31 December 1996. Out-patient services are provided

in a refurbished nurses' home. Health Minister Michael Moss had the gall to say the closure would "result in a high standard and enhanced quality of care for the people of Banbridge and the surrounding district".

Moss is trying to shave 3% off the National Health Service's funding each year. These cuts will hit the whole of the North and services for Catholic and Protestant workers alike. Newry's 220-bed Daisy Hill

Hospital was threatened with downgrading last year, but a concerted campaign by hospital workers and the public has so far stopped any attempts to close wards.

### Campaign

But geriatric and maternity beds have already been cut back.

The North's hospitals lost 15 percent of their acute beds in the four years between 1990-91

and 1994-95 and day cases rocketed by a massive 82 percent. 'Patient throughput' increased by 21 percent while their length of stay was down 17 percent.

The Tories are trying to push through assembly line hospital services where people are turfed out as soon as they wake up from an operation.

Hence the move towards a few gigantic hospitals in Belfast, Derry, Antrim, Craigavon

and Dundonald. The only other hospitals to flourish will be private ones.

Ambulances will face longer trips to hospital from remote areas where there used to be local hospitals. Relatives will find it harder to get the time and money for visits to patients.

But workers are fighting back against attempts to run the NHS on a shoestring. Compass, a private contractor, pays starvation wages to sub-contracted hospital workers such as kitchen staff and porters.

But when Compass workers struck last year and in late January they received huge support from other workers who face similar pressures on their wages and conditions.

Other health workers should take their lead from Compass. Nurses, doctors, stores workers and porters are all affected by the cuts and should come together for a gigantic fightback involving every hospital worker.

## 'Community Care' means cuts

**PSYCHIATRIC hospitals in England and Wales have suffered so many cuts that patients on one in four wards have no contact with hospital staff at all.**

The Mental Health Act Commission made surprise visits to 309 acute psychiatric wards last November.

There were more patients than beds on eight percent of the wards, it found. Two thirds of women had to share bathrooms and toilets with men.

On half the wards, women had been harassed by male patients.

The Tories are pushing 'Care in the Community' in Britain and Northern Ireland. They are cutting psychiatric services to the bone because there is little money to be made from them.

Staff shortages, ward closures and the release of very sick patients into the community without rehabilitation are the result of Major's crusade against the mentally ill.

## SCIENCE

# A wolf in sheep's cloning?

WHEN DOLLY THE sheep was introduced to the world she provoked some extreme reactions. To some people Dolly — the world's first ever adult clone — represents a scientific advance with huge potential. To others she represents the encroachment of science into the natural order of things.

US President Bill Clinton demanded an investigation into the legal and ethical implications. Jaques Santer, head of the EU Commission, announced an inquiry into the whole issue of cloning.

The Vatican called for a worldwide ban on cloning. The front cover of the German current affairs magazine *Der Spiegel* featured a line of Hitlers marching next to columns of Albert Einsteins and Claudia Schiffers.

Five days after Dolly had become a household name the British government cut funding for the project.

The scale of the achievement is immense, as reflected in the comment of one Dublin researcher: "A definite barrier has been crossed and society will have to look at it."

The process by which Dolly was produced is not as complex as people might think. It simply involved taking a cell from an adult sheep containing DNA or genetic information.

## Combined

This was then combined with an egg from another sheep to form an embryo which was then implanted into the surrogate sheep. And that's how Dolly was born.

One of the main arguments put forward by those who oppose cloning is that it will inevitably go out of control.

The picture they paint is not a pleasant one. Imagine a society where some dictator cloned themselves a thousand times?

But it's not exactly a realistic picture. After all, in order to produce a thousand clones a person would need to find a thousand women who were willing to let their bodies be used to incubate the embryos.

Even if a Hitler or a Saddam Hussein figure did manage to produce a thousand clones it certainly wouldn't mean that they would be producing another thousand mad dictators.

Being a dictator isn't in one's genes. A whole range of factors go into shaping a person's personality and their politics.

Anyway, people who are genetically identical will always have completely different personalities. Identical twins have the same genetic make-up but that certainly doesn't mean that they will

## Cloning offers huge benefits in the field of medicine.

behave the same.

Clones like Dolly are just like 'later-born' identical twins.

Another argument used against Dolly by the right wing is that cloning is unnatural. They say it is wrong to interfere with the natural reproductive process in this way.

Certainly cloning does interfere with the so-called natural order of things. But what can possibly be wrong with using science for the good of humankind?

Cloning offers huge benefits in the field of medicine.

If someone was in need of a bone marrow transplant a cell could be taken from their body and fused with an egg.

Fresh bone marrow cells could be taken from the resulting embryo. In such cases cloning could save someone's life.

Cloned human embryos could also be of immense use in the study of miscarriages and in the development of contraception.

There is also the possibility of growing new limbs or organs which would greatly improve the success of transplants.

## Factors

Knowledge of genetics has already allowed scientists to insert human genes into animals such as sheep to produce drugs like anti-blood clotting factors in their milk.

The cloning of a human animal marks a huge step forward in the possibilities for science to find cures for diseases which were previously believed to be incurable. It is difficult to see how anyone can oppose such a development.

Of course, the big companies which fund most scientific research are not particularly interested in advancing knowledge simply for the sake of humankind. For big business it's all about profit. Within 48 hours of the announcement of Dolly's existence the value of the company with the patent had increased by £40 million.

But the scientists' success in cloning does show the enormous potential for making people's lives better and that is something to be welcomed.

# Union election is a fight

# The two of SIPTU

THE ELECTION for General President of the SIPTU trade union has now become a straight fight between left and right. This follows the withdrawal of the moderate left-wing candidate Norman Croke.

The contest is now between union vice-president Jimmy Somers and rank-and-file activist Carolann Duggan.

The candidates represent the union's two souls: Somers is part of the conservative bureaucracy which runs SIPTU, while Carolann stands for rank-and-file struggle.

Jimmy Somers has been a full-time union official since 1960 and a SIPTU bureaucrat since the union's foundation in 1990. He is proud of his role in negotiating the Programme for Competitiveness and Work (PCW) and its successor, Partnership 2000.

Somers is a long-standing member of the Labour Party and once stood as a Dail Candidate in Dublin Central.

He is the bureaucracy's favourite to take over from Eddie Browne in the presidential office. Indeed, Somers' election is regarded as a foregone conclusion.

## Favourite

The Union's *Newsline* magazine is already anticipating a further election in a few months' time to fill the position of vice-president when Somers vacates it.

Jimmy Somers stands for compromise with the bosses and for friendly relations with all parties in government, be they Fine Gael, Fianna Fail, Labour or Democratic Left. He is for rigid control over the union membership in case their demands threaten the cosy partnerships.

Carolann Duggan is standing in opposition to all of these things.

She is a factory worker at Bausch and Lomb, with 12 years of service on her section committee and ten years on the Waterford Branch Committee.

Carolann is also a member of the Socialist Workers Party. She has a record of fighting against the water charges, for women's rights and for union democracy.

She aims to represent the rank and file worker in the union, whose needs are being ignored by the bureaucracy.

She stood initially in protest at



Royal Dublin Hotel strikers won without much help from SIPTU

the way Partnership 2000 was negotiated behind the workers' backs and then rammed through without any opportunity for the NO side to make their case.

Despite this pressure, 43% of SIPTU members voted against the deal. Carolann believes that thousands of others voted YES because they were afraid of getting nothing at all from the bosses.

"This is a straight anti-Partnership 2000 contest," Carolann told *Socialist Worker*.

The election statement argues that: "This agreement means low pay increases for workers at the height of an economic boom yet only a limited debate took place."

"Only the YES side were given access to the official union publications to put their case. There was even a recommendation for a YES vote on the ballot paper."

The fact that so many SIPTU member voted against the deal means that the leadership has seriously underestimated the level of anger amongst the rank and file.

## Adrift

In their eagerness to negotiate and to do deals with the bosses, the bureaucracy has cut itself adrift from a large section of the union membership.

Unlike Jimmy Somers, Carolann is resolutely opposed to the "social partnership" approach. To gain real

victories, she argues, we need to build a fighting union, independent of the government and the bosses, which will stand up for the rights of its ordinary members.

The union should be led by rank-and-file members who should receive the average industrial wage, not salaries like those received by the captains of industry.

## Average

"Union executives on £70,000 a year cannot relate to factory workers who take home £150 a week. People in pinstripe suits can pretend to represent workers like us, but they don't."

Carolann promises that if elected she will take no more than her present earnings at the time of her appointment, and willingly return the rest to the union strike fund.

But she believes that building a fighting union means more than electing better leaders.

It means getting out of the cosy relationship that has the union leaders permanently in bed with the employers.

The example of French workers should be taken up:

"The French truck drivers got everything they were looking for: retirement at 55, payments for stopovers, the lot."

"Their militant action resulted

in a great victory just them, but not the public sector too, who the same rights."

"But this alien has been posed by the way SIPTU is members."

## Bure

The election President lack of democracy SIPTU and the rigid control: a few unelected bureaucrats.

SIPTU is the amalgam of the ITGWU and the. It has traditional a right-wing Lab which nonetheless had friendly relations of Fianna Fáil Haughey.

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# 10 souls

# RU

## A chance shake the union leaders

Balloting in the election for General President of SIPTU opens on March 18th and closes on April 5th.

The more votes that the rank and file candidate, Carolann Duggan gets, the greater the chance of building a network that can change the union.

Carolann Duggan has called for more democracy in SIPTU. She has protested at the way the Partnership 2,000 deal was rammed through the union.

A recommendation to vote YES was printed on the ballot paper and only the YES side was given a hearing in

union publications.

The deal gave workers a lower pay rise than that negotiated under the Programme for Competitiveness and Work which was concluded during a recession.

Now as economists trumpet about Ireland being a Celtic Tiger, workers will only get a rise of 1% above inflation after 39 months.

Already discontent with Partnership 2,000 is rising. Workers have seen how the nurses got a major pay rise and want the same for themselves.

A big vote for Carolann Duggan would shake the union leaders and give them a signal that workers want to see a fighting union.



Carolann Duggan

## For a fighting union

The methods of fighting proposed by Carolann Duggan are enough to make a bureaucrat's hair stand on end.

The union needs to go on the offensive against the bosses, and to learn again how to fight for its members.

This means, first and foremost, a strong shop stewards' organisation which can give rank-and-file members the confidence to take on the bosses.

This shop stewards' organisation would also be a safeguard for democracy within the union, making the official apparatus answerable to its members.

At the moment there is no such accountability, either for the de-

isions of the executive or for the results of these decisions.

As it stands, branch officials have the authority to call off industrial action even where the majority of the rank and file are in favour of continuing.

### Ballot

The outcome of the nurses' dispute shows a bureaucracy that is willing to ballot and re-ballot its membership indefinitely until it gets the result it wants, even where this is not what the mem-

bers want.

Avoiding industrial action at all costs is not the way to win gains for workers, as the Semperit shutdown showed.

In cases such as this, the union officials show more hostility to those arguing for immediate action, like *Socialist Worker*, than to the bosses.

Indeed, the bosses' actions are regarded as a 'necessary consequence' of globalisation.

A fighting union means showing the Industrial Relations Act the contempt it deserves.

Workers like those in CIE who have defied this Act should be supported, not condemned.

### Fight

All workers who fight to save their jobs must get real solidarity. Union officials should organise collections for strikers and help them win solidarity, instead of distancing themselves from such activity in favour of negotiating sell-outs at the Labour Court.

The union needs a massive recruitment drive to organise the young and low-paid, as well as part-time and women workers.

The Dunnes' strike showed that these groups are well capable of taking militant action in defence of their livelihoods.

Only by fighting in this way can the potential of SIPTU's 200,000 members be fully realised.

Carolann Duggan is the best candidate to lead this fight and make SIPTU a real weapon of the working class.



...a great victory that affected not just them, but workers in the public sector too, who are fighting for the same rights. "But this alternative has never been posed by our union. "It is time for a debate on the way SIPTU is fighting for its members".

## Bureaucrats stifle democracy

The election for General President highlights the lack of democracy within SIPTU and the way that rigid control is exerted by a few unelected bureaucrats.

SIPTU is Ireland's largest union, which was formed through the amalgamation of the ITGWU and the FWUI in 1990. It has traditionally been run by a right-wing Labour grouping which nonetheless has always had friendly relations with the likes of Fianna Fail and Charlie Haughey.

One of the motives behind the formation of SIPTU was to give the bureaucracy greater control over the rank and file by imposing various codes of practice and rule books. These place stringent restrictions on the behaviour of

ordinary members and ensures a tightly-knit, centralised authority through which the executive operates.

None of the union's branch officials are elected. They earn above-average salaries and exert considerable influence over the union at a local level.

### Elected

This is the first time that the President will be directly elected by the Union's membership.

But even here there is scant regard for democracy, as the Code of Practice stifles all room for open and frank debate.

According to the Code of Practice, no candidate is permitted to give out leaflets and circulars in support of their candidacy.

No candidate is permitted to seek permission to address branch committees. Where a branch committee decides to invite a speaker, all of the other candidates must also be present.

But Jimmy Somers has unrestricted access to branch committees in his capacity as vice-president of the union. This gives the executive a huge advantage over challengers from the outside. So it is not surprising that Jimmy Somers received nominations from 84 Branches while Carolann received just one.

In view of the bureaucracy's advantages, it is not surprising that Carolann Duggan is the first rank-and-file member — and the first woman — to contest an election for a general officership in SIPTU.

## What do socialists say?

### Can socialists fill the gap?

Many thousands of workers are bitter and angry at the betrayals of Labour politicians and trade union leaders.

But the anger and bitterness can lead people in different directions.

This can lead them to turn to the politics of *Socialist Worker*.

But it can also lead them simply to feel depressed, to slip into the mood that things can only get worse and the is nothing anyone can do about it.

So people will say to us: "I like what you are doing. You are right to point to the spread of barbarism across the world. But with a few hundred or so members how will you ever be big enough to do anything about it?"

The answer lies in one of the basic features of capitalist society.

Although much of the time the great majority of people take society for granted and accept the propaganda of its defenders, again and again occasions arise in which they find themselves in conflict with some aspect of it.

This is especially true during a period of prolonged crisis like the current one.

People find the system — despite the boom — can no longer offer them even the barely tolerable conditions it promised in the past.

Even then people do not automatically hit out against the system. They may try to survive by putting up with increased hardship.

Many accept the message that it is all the fault of scapegoats — travellers, foreigners, single parents, undisciplined children, and the like.

This can leave the many individuals who do want to rebel feeling isolated and demoralised.

Yet a point is always reached where, somewhere in the system,

people do begin to fight back.

Then vast numbers of people identify with others and begin to change their circumstances.

Just as it is impossible to know in advance how much you can stretch a piece of elastic to break it, no one knows how much people have to be pushed around before they start fighting back. But the elastic always does break eventually, and people always do fight back.

### Fight

Once a fight starts, it begins to change people's attitudes on a mass scale.

They discover they are not powerless, but can inflict defeats on those who want them to suffer. They also discover they are at least as able, intelligent and capable of running things as the existing rulers.

They begin to see that they have more in common with those they have scapegoated in the past than with those at the top.

They take up slogans you never see in the *Sunday Independent* or the *Irish Times* — "United we stand, divided we fall", "Never cross picket lines", "Catholic and Protestant unite", "Solidarity forever", "The workers united will never be defeated".

Suddenly all sorts of ideas opposed to the system, which used to be the preserve of small minority groups, begin to find a wide hearing.

This has happened right across Europe several times over the last 160 years — most recently in the years 1968-75.

On each occasion small groups of socialists, accustomed to having to search for few individuals receptive to their ideas, have suddenly found large numbers moving in their direction.

Socialists can fill the gap, provided as many as possible of those who are disillusioned with Spring and de Rossa join us and help us ensure we reach that audience.

There are signs this could be happening once more today, with strikes and protests in one European country after another and inspiring television images of workers' revolts in places like South Korea.

Such a mood cannot fail to affect workers in Ireland at some point. Here too people have been pushed too far, and anger can turn into mass action.

That, however, is not the end of the story. Even when people become open to ideas that challenge the existing system they can fall into the trap of trying to combine them with the ideas of the present rulers.

They can still be influenced by those who preach rejigged schemes for peaceful reform, however much such schemes have failed in the past, or they can see their own local forms of nationalism as an alternative.

### Schemes

Then, when such schemes get nowhere, some people can even fall into the trap of listening to fascists — as the electoral successes of Le Pen's Nazis in France show.

That is why it is vital to have groups of socialists active in each locality and workplace before the big struggles erupt.

Every individual putting across clear arguments, selling a socialist paper, pressing for solidarity and opposing scape-goating can make a difference.

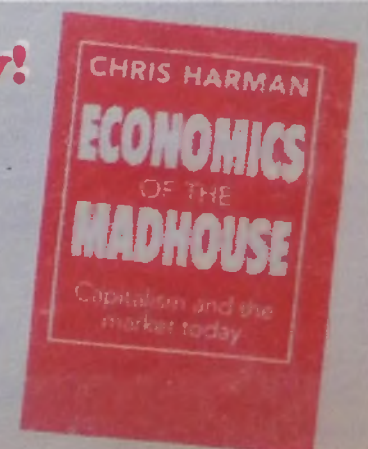
Conditions are developing in which the audience for socialist ideas can grow very quickly.

Socialists can fill the gap, provided as many as possible of those who are disillusioned with Spring and de Rossa join us and help us ensure we reach that audience.

— CHRIS HARMAN

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Special report by Catherine Curran

New book explodes myths about Protestants

# Escaping the poison of Orangeism

review by  
Kieran Allen

**F**urther Afield: Journeys from a Protestant Past is a book that every socialist should read. Based on interviews with 40 people from a Northern Protestant background, it explodes many myths that dominate Irish politics.

In recent years there has been a major growth of a Catholic middle class in the North that is increasingly confident about asserting its Irish identity. In many ways, their raw fury about Drumcree more than matched the anger found in Catholic working class ghettos.

With this growth in nationalist confidence, there has developed a myth that all Protestants are backward bigots. The more uneducated and working class they are, it is imagined that the more sectarian they become. This extreme pessimism about Protestant workers explains many elements of current republican strategy.

It is claimed that Protestant workers can play little of a positive role in Ireland until the border is removed. All talk of raising class issues now in the North is regarded as premature and utopian. For Gerry Adams, the most that can be hoped for is that a 'de Klerk' type figure emerges among Protestants to negotiate.

The comparison is interesting. De Klerk was the right wing leader who presided over the torture and murder of blacks. It was only after huge waves of strikes that de Klerk allowed Mandela take office — in order to protect the basic structure of South African capitalism.

Adams clearly assumes that Protestants can be directly compared to the privileged whites of South Africa. But few working class Protestants seem to have employed Catholic maids or keep elaborate swimming pools.

**T**he other approach to Northern Protestants has come from revisionist historians like Ruth Dudley Edwards and sections of Fine Gael. They claim that Orangeism is simply an expression of Protestant culture and needs to be respected.

In a bizarre reversal of history, Protestants are portrayed as an oppressed group under continual threat from Catholic nationalism. The revisionists have argued that the population of the South has to be cajoled, forced and censored if necessary to get them to recognise the different cultural rights of Orangemen.

Traces of this approach can be found in the incredible decision of the Fine Gael Minister, Avril Doyle, to invite the Orange Order to join in celebrations to commemorate the '98 uprising next year. The embarrassing



Bigots march at Drumcree. But many Protestants are beginning to reject "Orange Culture"

fact that Orangeism was used to crush the Protestant-led rebellion in blood is conveniently forgotten.

**Further Afield: Journeys from a Protestant Past is a wonderful book because it cuts through both the revisionist and republican mythology.**

It is a powerful testimony, firstly, to the sheer diversity of beliefs and attitudes among Protestants. One of the most common terms that is used in the political vocabulary of the North is that of 'the community'. This gives the impression of a unified group of Catholics or Protestants who have specific interests to defend.

However, the book stresses the differences in the so-called community. Protestants from evangelical and Church of Ireland backgrounds, from gay and straight sexualities, from socialist and non-socialist backgrounds all speak of their experiences of loyalism.

There are references to an Irish socialist Republican Group that met in the predominantly Woodstock and Beersbridge Road in the 1930s and to parents who remember when the Shankill came out to fight the police when they invaded the Falls Road during the Unemployed Riots of 1932.

It explodes the terrible idea that Protestants conform to the dour, stereotypical notion that is beloved of Irish nationalism.

What is impressive, however, is that alongside this diversity of opinion there is a shared hatred of what loyalism has done to Protestants.

A post office worker described how he was awakened to the horrors of loyalism when he saw a worker decapitated in the shipyards after a welding accident and then heard someone say, 'Fuck, that is only a Fenian'.

Peter Quigley, a theatre director, tells how two American tourists told him they were disappointed to miss

their image of a select few who are saved while surrounded by ignorant devil worshippers.

None of the writers call for respect for Orange culture. Instead they treat it as a poison from which they struggled to escape. The way that many of the writers broke from loyalism is one of the most interesting parts of the book.

Here an important factor has been the decline of the material roots of Orangeism. Writer after writer highlights this. Georgie McCormack describes how the Orange Order once functioned as a benevolent society. At the age of three she was classed as an orphan and got money from the Orange Order every quarter.

Jim Brown tells what it was like to work as a union organiser in West Fermanagh in the 1950s. He tells of the deference displayed to big Orange landlords like John Brooke, the son of the Prime Minister. He was even told off by his own members for daring to address the great lord as 'John'.

He tried to get a house in Enniskillen and was asked if he was in the Orange Order. When he said 'no' he was told "You'll get no house."

But those who broke from loyalism did not do so just because the material base of Orangeism was declining. On page after page, there are stories about the contradictions which struck individuals so force-

fully that they moved away from the tradition.

**B**y far the most central experience in undermining Orangeism was socialism and class politics. Time after time, the writers talk about seeing the hypocrisy involved in how both Catholic and Protestant workers are treated.

One writer tells how "I remember being terribly shocked when I read how the Northern Ireland unionists had tried to block the extension of the welfare state to Northern Ireland, not because Catholics were lazy but because working class people were lazy and state benefits only encourage them to continue being lazy".

A former member of the Young Citizen Volunteers, the youth wing of the UVF, tells how he would "like to see a united socialist Ireland, a workers' democracy with more grass roots democracy, not a state based on £100,000 a year politicians."

Of course, none of the individuals were born socialist — although many came from Communist Party or left wing families. It was the way that loyalism could not account for the world they lived in that led them to start questioning.

The former Young Citizen broke with the UVF when he went out with a Catholic girl and got beaten for it. Others supported the world wide struggles against US imperialism in the sixties and made a painful journey back to examining the Protestant-Catholic relationship in Northern Ireland.

A very common experience for many was to go to England only to find out that few made a distinction between Protestant or Catholic when it came to anti-Irish racism.

The idea for *Further Afield* came in the midst of the ceasefire. This gave a space for thousands of Protestants to start to question the type of Orange bigotry that eventually led to Drumcree. Even though the ceasefire has broken down, the contradictions which are inherent in loyalism have not gone away.

The book shows that when people break from loyalism, they can move very quickly to the left. Few of those who questioned bigotry sympathised with the conservative streak that is becoming more evident in modern republicanism. No one showed any enthusiasm for the great alliance of republicans, Fianna Fail and right wing Irish American politicians.

The majority are looking for an alternative on the left of the republican movement.

*Further Afield* is a story about individuals. It is a great sign for the future — but only if there is a socialist alternative that meets the fine aspirations expressed in this book.

**Further Afield: Journeys from a Protestant Past by Marilyn Hyndman, Beyond the Pale £9.95**

**'I would like to see a united socialist Ireland, a workers democracy with more grass roots democracy, not a state based on £100,000 a year politicians'.**



## book

## Blood bank's barrier to truth

**HEPATITIS C - NIAMH'S STORY** tells the story of Niamh Cosgrave, one of the 1,600 women who were infected by hepatitis C as a result of the biggest scandal ever in Irish medical history.

The story is one of cover-up, lies and negligence on the part of the Blood Transfusion Services Board (BTSB) and the Department of Health. It is also the story of immense personal suffering by the victims and their families.

It is now three years since the scandal was first revealed. The victims are still fighting to have those responsible held accountable.

The scandal goes back to 1976 when the blood of a woman, Patient X, who was suffering from infective hepatitis, was used to make the blood product anti-D. This anti-D was then given to women after the birth of a child if they had a particular blood type.

### Breaking

The Blood Bank was breaking all the rules in 1976 by taking the blood of someone who had infective hepatitis and who had had multiple transfusions. Patient X's blood was taken without her consent and without the knowledge of her consultant.

If the Blood Bank had followed its own rules this scandal would never have happened.

But the appalling negligence didn't stop there.

In 1977 the BTSB was told that there were cases of women infected with hepatitis C who had received anti-D injections. The Blood Bank did nothing to establish if there was a link between the two.

Fourteen years later, in December 1994, the Blood Bank's chief again received a warning about the use of anti-D in a letter from a consultant in Middlessex.

This letter made a clear link between anti-D and hepatitis C. But no action was taken until 1994.

Niamh Cosgrave is one of the women who was infected by the hepatitis C virus between 1991 and 1994. The source of the virus this time was the blood from "Patient Y", taken in 1991 and used before tests for hepatitis B and HIV were done.

In October 1991 the blood of Patient Y tested positive for the hepatitis C virus. Incredibly, products made from this blood continued to be used until summer 1994.

### Fatigue

Niamh was one of the women who received this anti-D after the birth of a baby. She suffered extreme fatigue and depression for a couple of years, having no explanation for why this was happening to her.

It was not until 1994 when the BTSB announced a screening programme for women who had received anti-D that she realised what was wrong.

When she approached the Blood Board for screening she was told

that the programme did not concern her because only those who had received anti-D from 1976-7 were at risk. Yet the Blood Board knew all along that there were also cases relating to the contaminated 1991 blood.

Like all other women who went for screening Niamh was asked a series of questions about sexual activity, drug use, body piercings and tattoos. Although they knew that they were responsible, the BTSB continued all along to try to shift the blame elsewhere.

Being diagnosed as having hepatitis C was only the start of Niamh's problems. Apart from the illness and the terrible drug treatment that went with it, she was also faced with appalling treatment by the authorities.

The BTSB and the Department of Health consistently refused — right from the top — to accept that the situation had been created by their failure to provide a safe, reliable blood service. Time and time again they placed barriers in the way of those who were trying to get some justice for those affected.

This was most stunningly shown in the case of Brigid McCole, a woman who has since died as a result of hepatitis C.

In 1995 a compensation tribunal had been set up for the victims. For many however this was not enough. The tribunal would not involve any admission of responsibility on the part of the BTSB and the Department of Health.

Brigid McCole was one of those who decided to pursue the State through the courts to try to get to the truth.

### Stage

At every stage the State tried to make it as difficult as possible for her. Although she was seriously ill they refused to have the case heard any earlier and they refused her the right to anonymity.

Despite all this Brigid McCole won a hugely important victory in October 1996. The Blood Board was forced to admit that it was responsible for destroying the lives of hundreds of people and had to apologise for its negligence.

Yet it was still only the first step towards getting justice. The last two Ministers for Health, Brendan Howlin and Michael Noonan, consistently failed to reveal the full extent of the state's role in the affair.

While the victims and their families are faced with a lifetime of suffering, those responsible walked away from the Blood Bank with massive golden handshakes on retirement. It is quite clear that those who have suffered at the hands of the state will not have received justice until those responsible for the scandal are behind bars.

## play

# A challenge to anti-traveller prejudice

by Gino Kenny

**DISCRIMINATION** against the travelling community has always been Ireland's version of apartheid.

*Rosie and Starwars* is a new play which tackles racism against travellers. The play was written by Charlie O'Neill and produced by Calypso Productions.

Calypso has produced other political plays dealing with such issues as El Salvador and Indonesia.

### Central

The play's central character of Rosie is based on true accounts of a travelling woman whom O'Neill interviewed for the play. *Rosie and Starwars* is a brilliant piece of drama, showing the constant discrimination that travellers have to endure.

But the uniqueness of this play is that it does not set out to be in any way patronising. What you see is what you get: a humorous but serious look at the

relationship between travellers and the settled community.

The play contains the usual arguments which travellers encounter like "I've no problem as long as they're not in my backyard" and "Violence is in their genes: that's the way they are."

The play challenges all of these arguments in society through its portrayal of the relationship between Rosie and Starwars.

### Bias

We see the bias of the media and the local businessmen using violence to remove the travellers from their unofficial site. The local councillor whips up the hysteria by making damning remarks about the local travellers.

In a few words, this play is unmissable: has to be seen.



Travellers face constant discrimination

*Rosie and Starwars* plays at the Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin until 15 March, followed by a nationwide tour.

## music

## Singer's sick views on Nazis

**KULA SHAKER**, known for their swirling melodies and crashing guitars are a well-respected band. They recently won 'Best new band' at the Brit awards. They are also well known for shooting their mouths off.

Lead singer Crispian Mills, son of actress Hayley Mills and grandson of Sir John Mills, fancies himself as a bit of a guru. He seems to have taken it upon himself to spread his ideas of Indian spirituality and mysticism among his pop fans.

Which is all very well until you realise what's actually involved in his proclamations.

### Realise

See, Kula Shaker don't just talk about the Armageddon that's just a bit down the road, there's also some fairly nasty politics involved.

A recent interview in the *New Musical Express* showed exactly where they stand.

Let's start with Crispian's views on animal rights. He reckons that killing a cow is easily as bad as killing a baby. It's when he expands on this view that the problems re-



Crispian Mills

ally start.

Crispian actually seems to think that the cow is more valuable to society because it is, "supplying you with milk and acting as a maternal symbol".

So while in his world animals are worth less than humans, women definitely come at the very bottom of his scale: although they do come in very handy for bearing children.

Men of course have an important role to play in protecting women. But Crispian worries about men in the nineties:

"Where have all the

knights gone?" he asks in despair.

All of this is bad enough but it's when he gets to talking about fascism that this former public schoolboy moves from the ridiculous to the dangerous.

"Hitler knew a lot more than he made out. Hitler and his whole gang weren't just a bunch of fucking psychos, they were also into magic and all that," he says.

"I love the swastika! It's a brilliant image, it symbolises peace and the sun and illumination... I'd love to have great big flaming swastika on stage just for the fuck of it."

It's difficult to comprehend how someone can so completely fail to see what the swastika has come to mean. Mills shows a total disregard for the suffering of millions of people at the hands of the Nazis.

Coming at a time when any decent person is repulsed to see the likes of Le Pen and his National Front gaining ground in France, it shows how far removed the likes of Mills are from reality. And no amount of sixties psychedelia can hide that.

## BOOKS FOR SOCIALISTS

### Party and Class

Cliff, Hallas, Harman, Trotsky

Socialists aim to change the world and have always stressed organising within the working class.

But how?

These essays show why we need something very different from reformist organisations like the Labour party if we are to get real change.

They also dispel the myths about democratic centralism and explain the socialist party that Lenin built and the Stalinist despotism that replaced it.

£3.50

### The Two Souls of Socialism

Hal Draper

This brilliant pamphlet which inspired a new generation of socialist in the sixties has just been republished.

It forcefully argues that there is a fundamental division between socialism from above and the socialism from below of Marx, Engels, and Lenin. Central to their view is the idea that socialism can only be brought about by the working class itself taking control of society. More relevant than ever. Only £2.

Both available from SW Books PO Box 1648, Dublin 8. Please include 75p for package and posting.



**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.

# As politicians pander to the bigots: Defend a woman's right to choose

**WHEN IT emerged that two years ago a woman had an abortion in a Dublin clinic, the 'pro-life' movement jumped at the opportunity to renew their attack on women's rights.**

SPUC and Youth Defence demanded that the doctor who performed the abortion be charged with murder.  
The bigots have picketed the clinic involved and have had seemingly unlimited access to radio and television to repeat their cry for another referendum on abortion.

A referendum which would take place on their terms would give them a ready-made platform to spew their dangerous anti-woman views again. They would try for a re-run of the 1983 referendum when they were given an opportunity to drive women back to the dark ages.

Sections of Fianna Fail have allied themselves with these right wing bigots. John O'Donoghue, the FF spokesperson for Justice, has echoed their call for a referendum.

But one in every ten Irish pregnancies end in abortion, suggesting that thousands of women are in favour of abortion being available.

But Labour and DL are content to force Irish women to travel abroad for a simple medical procedure rather than stand up to a tiny number of bigots.

## Number

After the X-case in 1992, Labour's Brendan Howlin called for immediate legislation to regulate the circumstances in which abortion could take place in Ireland.

He said: "The failure by the legislature to enact the appropriate legislation is no longer unfortunate, it is inexcusable. What are pregnant women to do? What are the parents of a pregnant girl under age to do?"

As Minister for Health, later that same year, Howlin had every opportunity to enact legislation but instead swept the matter under the carpet.

Howlin and his colleagues in the Labour Party and DL have shown contempt for the working class people who voted for them. They speak about abortion as an abstract medi-



The x-case brought a sea change in attitudes to abortion.

cal issue rather than a real requirement for working class women.

Although the bigots have been on the retreat the politicians have opened the door for them to attempt to set the agenda again.

The girl at the centre of the X-case changed many people's views on abortion forever. Previously they would have seen abortion as a black and white decision in favour of 'the

right to life'. But the realisation that a rape victim could be in danger if she continued her pregnancy brought home the reality of the girl's right to life.

If the doctor at the centre of the recent case was charged with murder many working class people would be horrified. Real-life situations show up the cruelty of the bigots' abstract arguments.

## STUDENTS' VICTORY

**THE RECENT Supreme Court judgement in favour of the three student unions is proof of the huge shift in attitudes to abortion.**

In 1992 SPUC obtained an injunction preventing the students from distributing information on abortion. Now all five Supreme Court judges have overturned that decision.

Although they voiced their judgement in legal terms, they were forced to make a decision which acknowledged a changed mood in Ireland.

In 1986 one of the same judges, Liam Hamilton, closed two pregnancy advisory services in Dublin. He has been forced to do a complete u-turn, not because he has become more liberal, but because he knows a similar decision now would enrage people.

## Abortion is a class issue

**SOCIALISTS see abortion as a class issue. While wealthy women have access to abortion, working class women have to struggle to find the hundreds of pounds needed to travel to Britain.**

For women to have any meaningful control over all aspects of their lives they must be able to control their fertility: to decide if and when to be pregnant

and have children.

The bigots claim that the life of a ten-week-old foetus is of equal value to that of the woman who is carrying it. But this trivialises the aspirations and health needs of the woman.

## Concern

The pro-life concern for 'life' doesn't extend to children who have been born. Groups like Youth Defence were in a tiny minority when they campaigned against

Stay Safe, which aimed to counter child abuse.

Socialists campaign for a woman's right to choose and we also demand decent healthcare and childcare facilities and the right of children not to live in poverty.

Socialists fight for working class people to exercise control over all aspects of their lives.

The fight for women's right to control their fertility is a vital part of this.

## SWP Conference: Confidence is the key to growth

The SWP held its annual conference in Dublin last week, where delegates discussed the urgency of growing quickly to provide a socialist alternative to the fail-

*These struggles could escalate to French dimensions if the bosses and politicians go for further cuts after the election.* said one speaker.

## Campaign

Sessions on the SWP in the coming election made it clear that the real test for the organisation was if it could come out of the campaign with more members and a strong network of supporters.

many delegates was that there exists a growing interest in the idea of revolution.

As Richard Boyd Barrett concluded: "We are the only organisation that backs militancy and can explain the revolutionary socialist alternative to the market."

"If we are confident we can grow quickly. And we need to do so, as people's bitterness could otherwise be pulled to the right."

## SWP branch meetings

- BELFAST**  
Meets every Wed at 8pm Central Hall Rosemary St.
- CORK**  
Meets every Weds at 8pm in Dennehy's Pub, Cornmarket St.
- DERRY**  
Meets every Tues in Badgers Bar at 8pm
- DUN LAOGHAIRE**  
Meets every Tues at 8pm in Smyths Pub.
- DUNDALK**  
Meets every Weds at 1pm in Dundalk RTC
- ENNISKILLEN**  
Meets every fortnight Contact national address for details
- GALWAY**  
Meets every Thursday at 7.30pm in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square
- LIMERICK**  
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Costello's Tavern, Dominick St
- MAYNOOTH**  
Contact 8722682 for details
- WATERFORD**  
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in ATGWU Hall, Keysers St.
- DUBLIN NORTH-WEST**  
Meets every Tuesday at 8:30pm in The Old Brogue, Dorset St.
- DUBLIN ARTANE/COOLOCK**  
Meets every Thursday at 8.00pm Contact 8722682 for details
- DUBLIN DRIMNAGH**  
Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in the Black Forge (formerly the Bentley), Drimnagh Rd
- DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL**  
Meets every Wed at 8:30pm in Conways, Parnell St.
- DUBLIN RATHMINES**  
Meets every Wed at 8pm in O'Connell's Pub, Richmond St.
- DUBLIN SOUTH CENTRAL**  
Meets every Thur at 8pm in the Trinity Inn, Pearso St.
- DUBLIN TALLAGHT CLONDALKIN**  
Meets Monday at 8pm in the Steering Wheel, Clondalkin

There are Socialist Worker members in: COLERAINE; LURGAN; CAVAN; DONEGAL; NAAS; KILKENNY; DUNDALK; ATHLONE; DROGHEDA. If you would like to get in touch, contact our national office at (01) 872 2682, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8

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# Council workers win concessions

**THE FOUR WEEK** refuse workers strike in Tallaght ended on 7 March. The vote to go back to work was 3 to 1 in favour. The council made considerable concessions to the workers but, as one worker told *Socialist Worker*:

*"The fight is only beginning. This was an inconclusive deal. It was a climbdown by South Dublin County Council, but we still haven't won the substantial issue of the future of our jobs."*

*"What the council wants to do is eventually have only 39 men on the road, and the rest taking redundancies or redeployment."*

## Commitment

The workers won £600 back-to-work money and a commitment that the 34 men who were due £1,000 each would get it the next week. The council will compensate,

at time-and-a-half, for any lifts above the two loads. It also agreed that the Saturday before a bank holiday will be paid at double time.

The workers had good support from the public, but yet again union leadership was found wanting as in all disputes lately.

The refuse workers should be commended for their persistence during the four weeks in very difficult conditions.

But, as the workers have learned, local representatives and the media showed by their contempt what side they were on.

# Action likely at TEAM

TEAM Aer Lingus' claim that working relations are fine is a sham. The company still hasn't paid productivity pay which it should have done three years ago, following a 1994 Labour Court ruling.

The general operatives are likely to be on a work-to-rule and overtime ban from 24 March. They voted nine to one for industrial action last month and this could still see them going on strike.

## Overtime

The operatives wash the aircraft that come in for servicing and therefore their overtime ban will slow down all sections of the company. "Nobody is going to do their work," said TEAM worker

Ritchie Brown. "And now the storemen are talking about action, too. That would mean we couldn't get the parts we need for repairs and it would soon hit the company."

He said it was now up to the company or the Labour Court to intervene. The workers had won a pay claim, upskilling of their work and guarantees against exploitation of temporary labour three years ago.

It was time all of these were implemented.

# AMBULANCE PERSONNEL VOTE FOR INDUSTRIAL ACTION

**530 AMBULANCE** personnel, members of SIPTU and the ATGWU in regions outside Dublin, rejected a pay deal by 88% to 12% on February 28th and promptly began a ballot for industrial action "up to and including strike action."

The dispute has been building for years due to the extremely low pay of ambulance personnel which the latest offer did nothing to address.

Under the deal starting pay was approximately

£11,500 for a 39 hour week which would rise to £13,500 over eight years.

By contrast the lowest hospital administration grade gets £16,500 for a 35 hour week and does not have to face the stress of having

responsibility for peoples lives.

"Another way to look at it" said one ambulance worker, "is to compare us with the fire brigades. A lot of people might think we have roughly the same pay as them, but we actually earn £6,000 less."

In 1993 ambulance workers rejected a similar pay offer, but were ignored.

Management showed their contempt for the union by

dragging out talks and on a number of occasions failing to turn up.

"We've reached the end of the line," *Socialist Worker* was told, "we've had nothing above the miserable national pay agreements since 1978."

## Increase

"We've had no increase in shift pay since 1978 nor increases for productivity or training agreements."

"The Minister has said the money has been agreed. Well, I'm sorry, we haven't agreed. He said there was no money in the kitty for the nurses, but then he found it. Well if nurses are an exception because of stress, which they are, then so are we."

Management also seems to be aiming to break a long held link between ambulance drivers' pay and controllers' pay as well as trying to divide staff inside and outside Dub-

# Dunnes cut part-time hours

**MANAGEMENT** at Dunnes Stores in Dublin's Northside shopping centre are trying to cut workers' lunchbreaks in half.

Workers on the 2pm to 9.30pm shift are normally entitled to a break of one hour, but are now being told they will have to make do with just half an hour.

A shop assistant at Northside has told *Socialist Worker* that Dunnes Stores is also breaking the agreement reached with workers after the last strike.

Part of the agreement was that all part-time workers would be guaranteed a minimum of 15 hours work every week. Dunnes Stores is rostering part-time workers for 15 hours, but then send them home early and cutting their wages accordingly.

The mood among workers has been described as "very hostile". The worker who spoke to us says lots of issues that staff went on strike over have yet to be resolved.

## Divide

She says management is trying to divide staff who work in different departments and is also making it difficult for staff to get in touch with their trade union.

The Dunnes workers put up a tremendous fight when they went on strike last year. But clearly the fight isn't over.

There is a high turnover of staff in Dunnes Stores; a lot of new young people have begun working there since the last strike.

They need to be encouraged to join the union, and workers need to channel their hostility and anger into building solidarity and a strong trade union on the shop floor.

That is the only way to take on a company like Dunnes.

# Teachers ballot over Tory cuts

**The Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO)** is balloting its Northern members for a half day stoppage and a work-to-rule. The stoppage is planned for 23 April.

The union is protesting at cuts which will see five hundred teachers made redundant.

The Tories claim £120 million cuts are needed to pay for the security bill at Drumree. But this does not explain why they are planning similar cuts in Scotland.

Despite all their talk of 'falling standards' in schools, the Tories are taking more and more resources away from education. They then blame 'disruptive pupils' and 'trendy teachers' for the resulting chaos.

The NASUWT teachers' union is holding regional meetings to discuss its own action against the cuts. Members in both INTO and NASUWT should insist that the two unions strike together and that the action should spread beyond limited stoppages.

# Critical week in Irish Life dispute

**320 LOCKED OUT** Irish Life field workers entered their sixth week of the dispute more determined than ever not to return under new contracts imposed by the management.

"Management just don't realise the strength of feeling," said one worker. "The longer this goes on, the more stubborn we are going to get." The field workers, members of MSF, have gained a boost from their 50 or so colleagues in SIPTU who last week held a union meeting and voted unanimously to begin a strike ballot. One SIPTU member explained to *Socialist Worker*: "Management have been imposing a lot of changes which have not been negotiated, for example giving us less backup, increasing the work from our homes and giving penalties to those who don't sell the full mix of products."

"The size of our commission has been declining in the last few years. Supposedly for the sake of the customer, but the savings have not necessarily been passed on. It seems to always end up that the sales force pay for changes out of their own pockets."

"It stands to reason that we have



MSF and SIPTU members picketing the Irish Life offices in Dublin city centre

to light at this stage. I've really hated doing work while our colleagues were outside, we're all under the same umbrella. That's why we voted so unanimously to ballot for a strike."

## Movement

Management has begun talks, but this has just been "juggling and huffing", with no real sign of movement. As a result the locked out work-

ers are all talking about escalating the dispute. An attempt to picket out the indoor staff is absolutely necessary. As one of the most experienced workers put it:

"The company can tick over with a skeleton staff. At this stage they might not be gaining much new custom, but our action is not really hurting them. If a decent number of indoor staff came out they would have to move."

# Mackie's workers hammer home demands

**Mackies' engineering plant in Belfast has been repeatedly paralysed by a series of half-day strikes since early March. Some 240 manual workers are hammering home their demand for better pay and conditions.**

The workers want an immediate one-hour reduction in their working week. Management has offered a phase-in, with half an hour in June and the other half hour to follow next January.

But Mackies' workers are fed up with a nine-month wrangle over the issue. Last month, an overwhelming majority voted for strike action.

Strikes will become even more important now that the company has announced the sackings of 60 textile work-

ers. This follows last year's pay freeze imposed by Pat Dougan, the new Chief Executive.

Dougan also sacked 41 workers last year. Meanwhile, his take-home pay of £210,000 per year ranks amongst the highest in Northern Ireland.

## Threat

But the threat of strike action alone has already forced management into a massive

U-turn over pay. At first management insisted there was not a penny on the table, but it has now offered 2.8 percent.

Clearly, strike action is the way to win results. Now it is vital that workers keep up the pressure on the company.

The strike included a complete overtime ban. Further half-day strikes were in the pipeline as we went to press and the ATGWU and MSF unions are talking about a full-day strike on 19 March.

However, MSF's regional officer Jackie Nicholl has said he would be available until the 11th hour to resolve the dispute. There is a danger that workers will be sold short of what they can actually achieve.

The company's profits are dropping but it is still expected to make £1 million for 1996 - enough to pay its workers ten times the paltry 2.8 percent on offer.

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The union is protesting at cuts which will see five hundred teachers made redundant.

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lin. But this might backfire as Dublin ambulance workers are also raising the issue of pay. "I hope we can organise together," said one outside Dublin activist. If, as expected, the ballot is won action should begin promptly.

The government is weak and desperate to avoid conflicts. Dublin workers should be approached for co-ordinated action.

# Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

**Inside:**

**The Protestants who broke from Orangeism**

An important new book reviewed on Page 8

## Stop the siege at Harryville...

# UNITE AGAINST BIGOTRY

**UNITY CAN BEAT THE BIGOTS:** that is the message that should go out from the anti-sectarian protest at Harryville on 15 March. For six months, an Orange mob has intimidated Catholic mass-goers at Harryville church. Most Catholics and Protestants are horrified at the actions of a minority. United Against Bigotry organised the 15 March protest to mobilise this anger.

So far the bigots have been bravely opposed by Women Together, who have faced abusive remarks like, "You Fenian bastards, you should be killed".

On International Women's Day, Monica McWilliams of the Women's Coalition was hit by a rock as the Loyalist crowd were singing 'The Sash'.

Unionist politicians are divided over Harryville because they realise the siege is unpopular with many of their own supporters. But the protests are a logical outcome of the sectarian posturing of the likes of Ian Paisley and David Trimble.

### Protests

Paisley supported a recent Orange band parade at Harryville, where marchers sang sectarian songs. Ian Paisley Junior was associated with the early stage of the protests.

David Trimble may not openly back the protests but he has been linked with some of the worst Loyalist elements.

Trimble claims he does not 'talk to terrorists'. But he held talks with Billy Wright during the Drumree events last year. Wright has now been jailed for his part in a brutal attack.

Loyalism has two faces: the 'respectable' face of Paisley and Trimble and the ugly face of groups like 'Spirit of Drumree'. The politi-

cians whip up the rhetoric about the threat to 'protestant rights' and the thugs turn this into attacks on ordinary Catholics.

It is clear that much bigger protests are needed to force an end to the siege at Harryville. The trade union movement should get off the fence immediately and organise demonstrations.

The ICTU is capable of sending thousands of catholic and protestant workers to Harryville to surround and demoralise the bigots.

But beyond Harryville, a socialist alternative is urgently needed to challenge the sectarian set-up in the North.

Many people in the North do not simply identify themselves as being part of one 'community' or the other. They are just as likely to see themselves as part of the working class.

The book *Further Afield*, reviewed on page eight of this paper, shows how many individual Protestants have broken from Loyalism. A party based on class politics could pose an alternative to thousands of workers who see no future in backing Paisley. It could also shift Catholic workers away from Republican politics, which accepts the notion of 'two tribes'.

If you support action against bigotry at Harryville, and you want to see an end to sectarianism, we urge you to join us in the *Socialist Workers Party*.

**Demonstrate at Harryville**

Saturday 15th March, 5.30pm

Buses leave Belfast 4.20pm front of City Hall;

Derry: 3.30pm Meet Guildhall steps

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## STRIKE ACTION AT MACKIES



Workers have begun a series of stopages over pay and working hours at Mackies in Belfast. FULL STORY PAGE ELEVEN.