

# Socialist Worker

inside

## EXPOSED:

Ireland's corrupt scroungers — pages 6-7

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

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### Refugees are welcome here

# STAND

# UP TO

# RACISM



Jackie Healy-Racist

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A WAVE of racist hysteria has been stoked up in the past month. Villages that have taken in hundreds of tourists have claim they will be overcrowded because a few score refugees are arrived.

At the back of much of the agitation are local business interests.

In Kildare, Tramore and Rosslare, individuals who belong to the local Chambers of Commerce are organising

the protests.

Everywhere they raise the cry - 'We have to look after our own first'. But these same business types have paid poverty wages for decades and then avoided paying any tax on their wealth.

#### Exploited

The rich in this county never looked after the Irish poor. They exploited us and robbed us - and now when their corruption is exposed for all to see - they want us to blame refugees and asylum seekers.

Just as the fur coat brigade of

the Orange Order tried to scape-goat nationalists, these bigots want to turn the anger in Irish society on a tiny number of people who had to flee persecution, poverty and torture.

But we can stand up to the racists.

The fight-back begins with the demonstration organised by the Anti-Nazi League in Dublin on May 13th.

Everyone who comes to that demonstration should take the anti-Racist declaration to their workplace and their area. In the space of one month, we can gather thousands of signatures.

## Sign the anti-racist declaration

- page 3



# Health service in crisis

# The Hep-C cover-up scandal

**AS JUNIOR doctors take strike action against their appalling work hours and pay. Socialist Worker examines how the Department of Health has been engulfed in a spate of scandals.**

Dominic, aged 50, has severe haemophilia and was diagnosed HIV positive in 1985. He was shocked and stunned by the diagnosis, but

the consequences of it did not hit him until the late 1980s when friends started to die.

"Somebody did something wrong and covered it up and it caused death. The Factor 8 was bought and brought into this country by the BTSB [Blood Transfusion Service Board]. I don't believe they checked or cared, or was it a financial consideration? I don't believe they did their job. It's appalling that so many people have died because somebody did not do the job they were paid to do," he said.

Nobody ever told him he had hepatitis C. He read it in a letter of referral from a physiotherapist in Dublin to one in Cork after he had a hip replacement operation in 1991.

Dominic is one of over 260 people with haemophilia who became infected with HIV and Hepatitis C from contaminated blood products.

### People

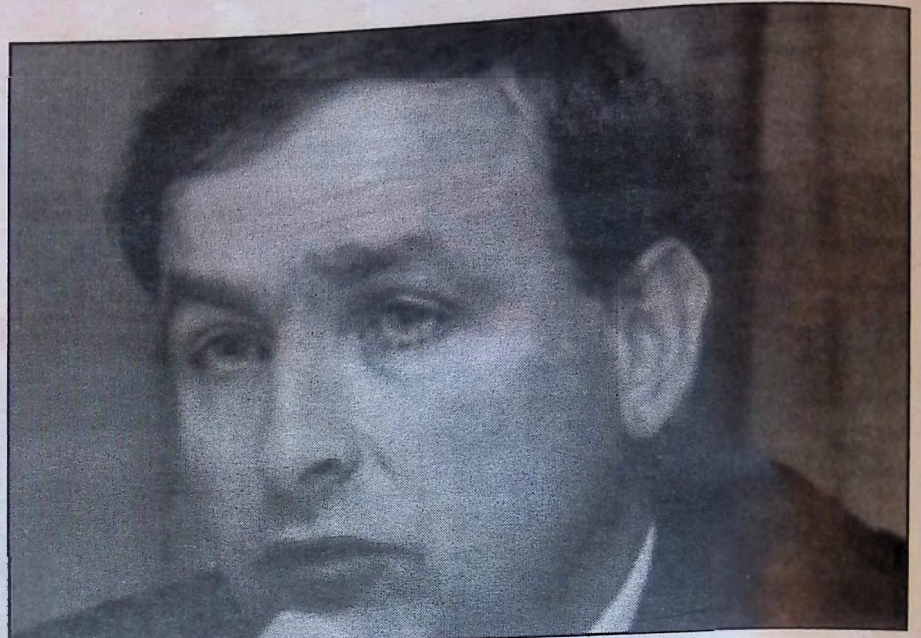
More than 70 people with haemophilia have died as a result of their infection with HIV or hepatitis C, or both.

The response of successive governments has been one of cover-up and hostility to the victims of the scandal.

They even opposed setting up the tribunal of inquiry in the first place. The Minister for Health even tried to block paying the legal fees of the victims at the Tribunal.

The reason is that the BTSB gave the infected blood products to people and the Department of Health knew about it.

Haemophiliacs continued to be infected with HIV after the mid-1980s, despite the availability of treatment to deactivate the



**The Minister for Health** virus in blood products.

The Lindsay tribunal's findings will come too late for the 74 haemophiliacs who have already died as a result of their infections.

In France when a similar scandal took place the officials and politicians responsible were sent to jail.

Here officials from the BTSB retired early on hefty pensions and the politicians responsible still sit in the Dail.

The victims and relatives deserve full compensation and those responsible for the crime should face trial.

## OFFICIALS AUTHORISED SALE OF ORGANS

**RECENTLY uncovered documents from the Department of Health reveal that it had approved the use of organs of children to make growth hormones.**

Former ministers Michael Woods and Barry Desmond granted authorisation for the

children's pituitary glands to be harvested for the production of growth hormones.

The documents also reveal that the Department berated Our Lady's Children Hospital in Crumlin for its decision to apologise and express its "regret and hurt" to the families affected by the organs controversy.

## US FIRMS SOLD CONTAMINATED BLOOD

IT HAS just recently emerged that international pharmaceutical companies continued to export contaminated blood products to Ireland for over a year after being warned by the US safety regulators not to sell them in the US.

It is alleged that the Department of Health, the BTSB or the National Drugs Advisory Board

(later the Irish Medical Board) had been informed of the concerns of the FDA about the use of non-heat treated blood products in 1983.

The US Centres for Disease Control confirmed that they had warned as early as 1982, that blood products could be a conduit for the transmission of HIV.

## inside the system

### THINGS THEY SAY

"I never got it in the Burlington or anywhere else."

■ Ahern, denying allegations he ever received £50,000 from the Cork property developer Owen O'Callaghan.

"I will be telling the tribunal in the most emphatic way that I never instructed or authorised anyone on my behalf to pay monies to any politician for his or her vote."

■ Mr O'Callaghan.

"If I were faced with that decision, I would probably prefer to break the law."

■ Dr. Peter McKenna, the Master of the Rotunda, saying a total ban on abortion would mean women would die unless they could be transported out of the country for a termination of their pregnancy.

"Let them rust in peace."

■ Caoimhín Ó Caoláin, Sinn Féin, on the IRA's weapons.

"The threat to the faith is more anonymous and more subtle than either Nazism or Communism were."

■ Cardinal Cahal Daly on the decline of the Catholic Church.

★ Internal documents leaked from British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) reveal that an Irish TD who wrote to Tong Blair calling for the closure of Sellafield received an official reply from energy secretary John Battle, saying his fears were "unfounded". The letter was scripted by BNFL.

★ A CONFERENCE on the future of Christianity in Ireland to be held in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. Despite boasting a list of dignitaries from the Catholic conference circuit, no more than two dozen people expressed an interest. Organisers said that the conference unfocused programme was to blame.

## Hypocrite Healy-Rae

**KERRY TD Jackie Healy Rae has no problem propping up a government made up of bribe taking thieves while at the same time stirring up racism.**

Healy Rae has made some disgusting remarks about refugees coming to Ireland. But this is in contrast to just

over a year ago, when he lobbied the government to send Kosovan refugees to his constituency.

At the time, because of Nato's war in the Balkans, right wing politicians were keen on refugees. And his local business friends wanted to make money housing Kosovans in their hotels.

## UNHAPPY MEAL

**PARENTS OF school children in Kilkenny are opposing McDonalds attempt to open a new franchise midway between two pri-**

**mary school.**

McDonalds at particularly interesting in targeting site close to primary schools because, as their head of marketing admitted children are "virgin ground as far as marketing is concerned".

★ Reform of the repressive regime in Morocco is being introduced at a phenomenal pace. The new king, only nine months into his reign, has ripped up royal convention and decreed that from now on his limo WILL have to stop at traffic lights.

The company's operation manual admits that "Schools offer excellent opportunity. Not only are they a high traffic sales generator, but students are some of the most profitable customers you could have".

★ A recent poll revealed that despite, Ahern potentially Oscar winning performance, almost 50 percent of the electorate did not believe his denial that he had

received £50,000 from property developer Owen O'Callaghan. A further 18 percent were undecided, while one-third of his own party supporters thinks he is lying.

**QUESTION: What do you get if you are a member of military intelligence and you deliberately set fire to a police station in order to destroy evidence?**

**ANSWER: Promoted.** That is what has happened to two former army intelligence officers in Northern Ireland. Both now hold senior posts at the army's intelligence headquarters in Bedfordshire, according to the Sunday Times. Both officers were members of a covert army unit in Northern Ireland which deliberately interfered with a police investigation into the leaking of security force

files to Loyalist killers. Sir John Stevens, now head of the Metropolitan police, headed the inquiry.

His inquiry uncovered Brian Nelson, an army intelligence officer who was acting as the Ulster Defence Association's intelligence officer.

The night before Nelson was due to be arrested, Stevens' office was set on fire. Nelson was still tried and committed for murder, but only because Stevens had made copies of all his files.

The Sunday Times reports one of those suspected of starting the fire still deals with matters relating to Northern Ireland



## BACK THIS STATEMENT

# Oppose the attacks on asylum seekers

**JUSTICE MINISTER John O'Donoghue and Fianna Fail are behind the recent wave of racist hysteria.**

Faced with a new wave of allegations about corruption, they have launched a fight to brand asylum seekers as the major problem facing Irish society.

The racist hysteria grew when O'Donoghue embarked on his policy of forced dispersal for refugees. Forced dispersal means that refugees are cut off from support networks and deprived of access to proper legal advice.

In local rural area businessmen and supporters of Fianna Fail have taken up the cry 'not in our back yard' as if asylum seekers were a burden as loathsome as an incinerator plant.

Disgusting speeches have been made at public meetings associating asylum seekers as carriers of disease.

Already the effects of this racist hysteria are seen in a wave of violence against black people. Almost every African shop in Dublin has been attacked. The African Refugee Network

recently reported that 90 percent of those they surveyed had suffered some form of abuse.

Fianna Fail is hoping that this racism will divert people's attention from the real problems in Irish society.

*They want working people to blame refugees for the housing crisis, for example. But it was they who cut back on the local authority-building programme to fund the tax cuts for the rich.*

However, the wave of racism can be beaten back. Racism is not something that is natural or eternal in Irish society but has been whipped up from the top.

Anti-racists must organise to take back the initiative.

An important start can be made by winning thousands of signatories for the anti-racist declaration that has been sponsored by the Anti-Nazi League.

Take the declaration around your workplace and your community. Raise collections to pay for ads in local papers.

Encourage people to make a stance against racism.



Police attack demonstrators in London

## We're going to shake this system

**MAY DAY protests around the world were much bigger this year as a new anti-capitalist movement starts to take shape.**

In Dublin 1,500 people marched to express their abhorrence of racism.

In Galway 150 people attended a People and Planet rally while in Waterford nearly 200 people attended the first rally held in years.

Around the world many targeted the institutions of global capitalism.

In BRAZIL 600,000 joined a 'Union Force'

music concert calling for the working week to be cut from 44 hour to 40 hours and an increase in the minimum wage.

About 100,000 people joined a May Day march in Vienna, capital of AUSTRIA, to protest at the presence of the far right in government.

### Truncheons

In LONDON, police tore into anti-capitalist demonstrators with truncheons and riot shields.

In a brilliant symbol, the statue of the arch imperialist Winston Churchill was decked out with a Mohican

hairstyle.

JAPAN held one of the biggest May Day protests of all with hundreds of thousands protesting against unemployment.

Japan, the original miracle tiger economy, is still gripped by an economic crisis.

**Over 20,000 protesters clashed with the police in Seoul, capital of SOUTH KOREA, as they demonstrated against job losses in Daewoo motors.**

Right across the world there is a movement growing that is going to shake this system to its very roots.

**'We the undersigned, wish to protest at the torrent of abuse that has been stoked up against asylum seekers.**

**The most vulnerable group of people fleeing persecution, oppression and war are being blamed for the ills of Irish society.**

**The housing crisis and the poor state of our health service were not caused by the arrival of a few thousand refugees. These problems result from the failure of successive governments to adequately fund these services.**

**Instead of attacking refugees, we should condemn politicians who led an opulent and corrupt lifestyle while they told the rest of us to 'tighten our belts'.**

**A media who uses terms like 'floods' of people is now inflaming racist sentiment. Yet the reality is that there are less refugees in this country than there were Irish 'illegals' in Boston in the eighties.**

**We particularly condemn attempts to associate refugees with medical illness. People from divergent countries with different experiences should not be de-humanised in this way.**

**The forced dispersal policy of the government and their decision to confine refugees to a voucher system has helped to fuel this racism. Instead of treating refugees as a burden, we call on the government to give them the right to work.**

**We believe that asylum seekers deserve our compassion and help. We call on everyone who wants to see a tolerant and multi-cultural Ireland to oppose this wave of racism and to make their voices heard.'**

**SOME THOSE WHO have already signed the statement include:**

Prof. Farrell Cocoran DCU, Patricia McKenna MEP, Eddie Conlon TUI executive, Mick O'Reilly Regional Secretary ATGWU, Councillor Finian McGrath (Independent), Marnie Holborow, President SIPTU Education Branch; Jimmy Kelly, Executive Member ATGWU; Eamonn McCann journalist and Author; Deidre de Bura (Green Party Councillor), Kieran Connolly SIPTU Branch Secretary; Larry O'Toole (Sinn Fein Councillor); Dessie Ellis (Sinn Fein Councillor); Michael D Higgins TD, Fintan O'Toole Journalist and Author; Peter Bunting General Secretary NRBU; Carolann Duggan Waterford SIPTU; Brendan Archibald National Official MANDATE

Add your name and that of your organisation. Send to Asylum Statement, Anti-Nazi League P.O. Box 4007, Dublin 1 E-Mail: anl@ireland.com



Voters reject Blair... Livingstone & left gain in London election

# Labour hits crisis point

**TONY BLAIR** and the smart suited New Labour party have experienced their most humiliating and bitter defeat to date, as Ken Livingstone comfortably won the race to become Mayor of London.

The Labour candidate, Frank Dobson, won only 13 percent of the vote and was well behind the Tory, let alone Livingstone's 39 percent of first preferences.

Downing Street fought a dirty campaign to try and keep Livingstone from the job. A rigged election narrowly managed to prevent Livingstone from being the official Labour candidate. A constant barrage of press attacks tried to smear Livingstone during the campaign. But London's voters have shown that there is massive discontent with the policies of New Labour.

Despite Livingstone's efforts to get support from business, his core support came from workers. He tapped into the support that exists for public transport by focusing the Mayoral election focused on the issue of whether London's tube should be privatised.

"Electors votes against the privatisation of the tube," said Livingstone after the result was announced, "and the government

should respect the voters' views."

Blair is absolutely committed to the market. But this dedication to the needs of business conflicts with the hopes of those who voted Labour in the last general election in order to kick out the Tories. Now the mood of the country is clearly turning against Blair's policies.

The debacle at Rover, where the Government stood helpless while BMW pulled out - threatening massive devastation to the Midlands - triggered an enormous protest. A hundred thousand people marched to defend the jobs at Longbridge.

At the same time Blair and Brown's pledges on education and health are a sham.

Labour has pandered to racism in an effort to shore up its sagging popularity. Labour seems to be copying directly from Fianna Fail in labelling refugees 'bogus' and refusing them equal rights to welfare.

This is a very dangerous strategy as a race scare will benefit the Tories and even fascists far more than the Government. The Tories picked up nearly 600 council seats in the local elections that took place alongside the Mayoral election. However, they lost 700 seats in 1996. Tory votes in London were up just 2 percent on their general election defeat in 1997. And in the Romsey by-election the Tories experienced a disaster, losing the seat to the Liberal Democrats.

Ken Livingstone was the one

## Socialists win 90,000 votes

**NEARLY 90,000 people voted for socialist candidates across London in the election for the Greater London Assembly.**

The combined socialist vote on the London-wide top-up list was 87,859, some 5.3 percent of the total vote. The combined vote of left and Green candidates on the London-wide list was a marvellous 271,769.

The vote shows that

tens of thousands of people in London were prepared to vote for socialist candidates.

The London Socialist Alliance (LSA), standing on a clear anti-privatisation, anti-racism platform, did better than any other socialist group or candidate in the elections.

In the individual constituencies LSA candidates polled a total of 46,530 votes.

candidate who did not play to the anti-refugee hysteria and was seen as opposing it. His election is evidence that as New Labour sheds support, much of it is looking to the left.

Although Livingstone has a basic commitment to public transport, he has been quick to try to avoid being perceived as being too radical. His comment on the demonstrations in London on May Day was that those behaving in an unruly way "could find this mayor distinctly uncuddly."

He has been wooing business and the police, describing the

head of the hated Metropolitan Police, John Stevens, as someone for whom he has "genuinely high regard."

But the very fact that someone to the left of New Labour has taken on the Blairites and hammered them can only give confidence to those wanting to challenge the government on its many failures to address the needs of workers.

In every part of the country there are thousands of people who can be won to an alternative which bases itself on standing up to Tory racism and to New Labour's Tory policies.



## Round up

### —Norway—

### General strike against social partnership

**OVER A hundred thousand Norwegian Trade Union workers are taking strike action after rejecting Social Partnership.**

The country's largest union ordered 84,600 members out on strike after the rank and file voted to reject their equivalent to the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness.

Public transport, newspapers, the construction industry, hotels and road freight are among the sectors affected, and some supermarkets are reported to be running short of food.

Workers are furious that they were asked to accept small pay hikes while business leaders got huge pay raises during the current economic boom.

Workers had voted to reject the National Pay Deal which included a four percent pay rise. The union leaders had recommended the deal but had to call action due to the militancy of the membership.

As *Socialist Worker* went to press the strike was escalating as other workers were set to join the dispute.

### —Vietnam—

**TWENTY-FIVES years after the end of the Vietnam war, during which the US Air Force C123's sprayed 76 million litres of herbicides over 14 percent of the land surface.**

More than 300,000 children born long after the war are suffering from mental retardation, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, immune deficiencies, liver damage, nervous system disorders, tumours and other cancers.

The US refuse to accept reason-

ability for the ill effects of Operation Ranch Hand which doused trees and rice paddies in the acid and fuel mixture from 1962-1970.

One of its by-products is dioxin, possibly the world's most dangerous molecule, which has entered the food chain through soil, fish and ducks, according to the Hatfield Consultants, a team of Canadian experts who surveyed Quang Tri province in central Vietnam last year.

They found that nursing mothers had levels of dioxin in their breast milk 300 times more than it is estimated would kill a laboratory animal.

### —France—

**THE DECLINE of the National Front was accelerated when the French government banned Jean-Marie Le Pen from sitting in the European parliament, of which he has been a member since 1984.**

Le Pen who five years ago was

seen as a possible member of a coalition government has been struggling.

There has been a massive shift to the left as the country has been gripped by a series of massive strike waves.

Just recently 800,000 teachers and education struck against government underfunding in schools.

## Zimbabwe in revolt: Time for real change

**As Mugabe regime enters into a period of unprecedented crisis, the opposition party Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) has become central to the future of Zimbabwe.**

The MDC is the product of three years of sharp class struggles. Since 1995, the acute economic and social hardship has driven workers and peasants into clashes with Mugabe.

But in order to please international financiers Mugabe has continued to hold down public sector pay and restrict the right to strike.

### Protests

Despite this protests and strikes continued to grow. Workers and peasants demanded that the Zimbabwe Council of Trade Unions (ZCTU) take an initiative and set up an opposition party - MDC.

Right from the beginning the MDC was enormously popular with ordinary people.

The MDC were crucial in defeating Mugabe's new constitutional proposals that would have given him almost unlimited power.

But the growth of the MDC terrifies Mugabe and he has become increasingly violent. His supporters have killed more than 18 supporters of the MDC since March.

Although the MDC talk of their mass base

of workers, they are increasingly courting businessmen and multinationals. Many capitalists, unhappy Mugabe, are ready to back the MDC as long as it doesn't threaten their profits.

The MDC moved to the right after Mugabe tried to build support by encouraging the occupation of white owned farms. So now broad sections of white landowners are ready to back them.

They should have supported Mugabe's call for land seizures with slogan's such as "Take all the big farms from peasants - including the farms of Mugabe's cronies". It should have attacked Mugabe for taking 20 years to begin any sort of land seizures.

Instead they have called for "law and order" and backed white farmers.

The mass base of MDC still want what change and are prepared to fight. This terrifies the MDC leaders and they have imposed candidates on the party for the forthcoming elections.

But where elections were allowed workers and trade unionists have won practically all nominations.

In the capital Haare a member of the Socialist Worker's sister organisation won the election to be the MDC candidate. As he said "Workers choose a socialist because they want to see real change which will transform Zimbabwe in the interests of the masses."

Such tensions mean that the MDC remains unstable.

Those at the top seek deals with capitalists and landowners. Those who make up the base want as a minimum jobs, decent wages, health and land reform.



# Eamonn McCann

## Debating... deals, deadlines & decommissioning

The IRA's willingness to put its guns beyond use has given the pro-Agreement parties real hope that the Northern Assembly will be restored on May 22nd.

Whatever the Ulster Unionists decide at their latest special conference (how can they be special when they happen every few weeks?) debate will continue as to whether the IRA move represents an admission of failure or the consolidation of success.

Within Republicanism, argument will be polarised between those who want armed struggle for a united Ireland resumed, either immediately or at some point in the future, and those who see the Agreement as a stepping stone to a united Ireland and the best that can be hoped for in the foreseeable future.

In terms of practical politics, the deal, if that's what it turns out to be, is based mainly on the fact that neither the Adams nor Trimble leaderships have any alternative to the Agreement. Having come this far, Adams cannot revert to a "Brits Out" stance. And it's not open to Trimble to start singing again from the same hymn-sheet as Paisley.

**Having come this far, Adams cannot revert to a "Brits Out" stance. And it's not open to Trimble to start singing again from the same hymn-sheet as Paisley.**

The Agreement sets the shape of any arrangement which will involve both Sinn Fein and the Ulster Unionists. So, runs the logic which Blair and Ahern have been pressing on the Northern parties, why not cut the cackle, and make the deal, now?

The problem for the past two years has been that the Republicans and the Ulster Unionists sold the Agreement to their supporters on separate and irreconcilable bases.

Neither Trimble nor Adams came clean with their grass roots about the compromises they had implicitly made.

Events on the margins of the talks which gave rise to the May 22nd target threw interesting light on the nature of the compromise. As Tony Blair flew in to Hillsborough, a NIO official was leaking a memo which, claimed Unionists, showed Brian Cowan acting as a front-man for Sinn Fein.

The memo quoted Cowan insisting that, under the Agreement, the "Britishness" of the North would henceforth be reflected only in the fact that the Six Counties would remain part of the UK. In relation to the apparatus of the State — the civil service, the police, courts, flags, emblems, etc. — the North wouldn't be "British" in the conventional sense of the term.

### Ranting

But the indomitable "No" men were wide of the mark in their ranting that this showed the Dublin Government endorsing the Republican position. In fact, Cowan was smothering the concerns of the Republican rank and file in greenery precisely to ensure that the Republican Movement doesn't slip back into anti-State activity.

Insofar as any recent Dublin Government has from time to time looked so green as to glare in Unionist eyes, the purpose has been to keep Sinn Fein coralled within conventional, constitutional politics.

In historical terms, the significance of the latest IRA statement lies in the extent to which it confirms that the Fianna Fail Government has succeeded in this task.

Viewed in rational perspective, Cowan's view of the Agreement was no more than common sense anyway. The North is to remain within the UK for as long as a Northern majority wishes.

But within the North itself, Britishness won't be dominant over Irishness. Just as the Agreement envisages balance between "the two communities" on the economic and social levels (the same level of cuts in services to each side, for example), so there must be ideological balance within the machinery of the State, too.

Big difficulties remain — how to reflect this balance in arrangements for policing, for instance. But Cowan was marking the limits of what Sinn Fein can hope for in any resolution of the remaining difficulties. Same rights for Irishness as for Britishness within the UK.

Maybe this time, it will work. Certainly, the mass of people on all sides don't want war. But there's not much in the deal for workers of any religion or none. And not a lot for Republicanism either.

# Stop Raytheon... Stop Raytheon...

## Derry doesn't need an arms plant

**Social workers fight back**



John Hume receives the freedom of Derry for his "contribution" to the town

**Anti-arms campaigners in Derry are joining forces to expose the fact that one of the world's biggest weapons manufacturer is opening a plant in the city.**

Raytheon Systems Limited makes missiles, ammunitions and radar systems for warplanes and civil aviation.

The company came to Derry at the invitation of Nobel Peace Prize winner John Hume who's consistently denied that the Derry plant will be involved in military production. It's a lie.

Raytheon's chief executive Daniel Burnham, speaking at the official announcement, said the Derry plant would produce the software for Britain's very own Star Wars system called ASTOR, or Airborne Standoff Radar.

Its partner Shorts in Belfast is manufacturing the hardware. ASTOR was ordered by the Ministry of Defence in June of last year, with the final bill expected to top £700 million.

Raytheon is a well known arms manufacturer. It produces Tomahawk and Patriot missiles for the United States war machine.

Its plant in Fife, Scotland, supplies key components for the Tomahawk, which was recently used against ordinary people in Kosovo, Bosnia and Iraq.

ASTOR supports war planes on bombing missions. Raytheon itself says that ASTOR provides "24-hour, all-weather ground surveillance and target detection for the UK."

It facilitates the targeting of precision weapons such as missiles and ground attack aircraft.

The ASTOR system will give a significant advantage to UK forces in all conflict scenarios.

Now the company is bidding to supply the BVRAAM missile system for the Eurofighter, which may very well be produced in Northern Ireland, too.

### Missile

The BVRAAM is an air-to-air missile which, Raytheon says, "will contribute to the air superiority requirements of UK and NATO operations."

The New Labour government has set aside £800 million to buy this latest bit of military hardware — while hospitals and schools are crumbling.

John Hume and David Trimble have displayed nothing but hypocrisy in rolling out the red carpet for

Raytheon, while harping on about the need for paramilitary decommissioning.

Hume says the north west of Ireland needs the jobs.

But it's worth bearing in mind that Raytheon has already sacked thousands of workers across its plants in the US.

Meanwhile, chief executive Daniel Burnham earned \$23.7 million (around £14 million) for six months' work from July to Decem-

ber 1998.

In Derry, socialists, environmentalists and other activists have formed an Ethical Investment Campaign to highlight that many people here don't want jobs at any cost.

A public debate is planned with pro- and anti-Raytheon speakers, the local media will be approached and more activities are in the pipeline.

Ring (3531)8722682 for details of campaign

**FAMILY AND child care social workers in Foyle Trust have voted unanimously to ballot for industrial action.**

This follows social workers in North and West Belfast Trust who won a major investment in jobs and resources through the threat of action.

### Risk

After years of cuts, social workers across the North have seen their workloads rise to crazy levels and are quite simply burnt out.

"As a result, in Foyle," according to Lee McDermott NIPSA Branch Secretary. "Some children are being put at further risk than need be."

"This is not an issue of social work pay but rather one of social workers being able to respond to children and families in need by providing them with decent services."

## Fire fighters victory on pay & conditions

**NORTHERN IRELAND firefighters won a brilliant victory at the end of April, defeating management plans to employ new recruits on worse conditions than existing staff.**

Firefighters were

balloting for strike action when the local fire authority caved in and agreed to employ all firefighters on the same contracts, restoring their right to be paid the NI Allowance and other established conditions.

### Significant

Fire Brigade Union leader Jim Barbour told Socialist Worker, "Victories for the labour movement have been like hen's teeth in recent years. We believe that this is a very significant victory."

"There's a lesson in what we did. We've secured our conditions because we were prepared to strike to defend

them." Support for industrial action among fire fighters was running very high.

Even though most fire fighters were not directly affected by the cuts in conditions, five years of cuts and the blatant attack on their union galvanised support for strike action.

"We've won this round. But this particular dispute is only the start of our campaign to get a decently funded fire service," said Jim Barbour.

"Fire deaths went up from 16 in 1998 to 28 in 1999. "We believe that there is a massive shortage of firefighters here and we intend to lead a public campaign to reverse the underfunding of the service."

**Fight the 11+ — join the campaign**

**Campaign  
Against  
Selection**

For further details:  
Phone CAS on  
01846-660011  
or E-mail:  
Campaign\_Against\_Selection@hotmail.com



## Inflation

# We need higher pay

**THE PRICE** of goods in Ireland is increasing faster than anywhere else in the EU. Officially the inflation rate is now running at 5 percent.

But this figure under-estimates rise in the cost of living. Inflation is measured through a Consumer Price Index (CPI). This is a basket of items, which are tracked regularly to see how prices are changing.

But the index does not properly include some huge items of expenditure. The most obvious one is housing. The C.P.I. measures the interest component on the mortgage but not the overall level of the mortgage that workers have to pay. When interest rates are low, the C.P.I. will show a low cost for buying a house - even if the actual prices of houses have soared.

This has led to a ridiculous situation recently where the housing component of the C.P.I. pulled down the official rate of inflation.

The C.P.I. also does not adequately reflect the cost of childcare. The Celtic Tiger has brought a huge transformation of the workforce with the number of younger women in paid employment reaching average EU levels for the first time. But the state has made little provision for childcare.

### Childcare

The result is that Irish parents pay a higher proportion of their earnings on childcare than workers in other EU countries. One recent estimate claimed that childcare costs represented 20 percent of the average worker's wages.

Yet the C.P.I. calculates childcare costs as just one item belonging to a category known as 'other services'. The total for these services amount to only 1 percent of the total C.P.I. index. Other items in this category include ear piercing, chimney sweeping, and dress hire!

All this is bad enough, but official union representatives have compounded the problem by assuring workers that there is no need to worry. Against growing evidence, they claim that Irish inflation is set to come down.

This is simply untrue. Three major factors indicate that Irish inflation is set to rise or stay at the present high level.

First, the Irish currency is tied to the euro, which is continuing to plummet on world financial markets and is now valued at way below the US dollar and sterling.

by **KIEREN ALLEN**

One direct effect of this is that goods that come from Britain cost a lot more. Check out your local Tesco store and you will see the effect.

Second, two major items — oil and interest rates — are rising on a global level. Last year personal debt in Ireland rose by 35 percent because many people bought expensive houses or more cars because of the woeful public transport service. As interest rates rise, many will be crucified.

Third, every capitalist boom generates domestic inflation. No one ever planned some years ago to have an adequate supply of raw materials or proper port facilities to help supply an industrial boom. So there is now a scarcity of these items and prices are rising.

According to union leaders like SIPTU's Des Geraghty, the worse thing that workers can do is to put in extra pay claims to compensate for all this. He seems to have accepted the bosses argument that wage rises cause inflation.

Yet it is quite easy to disprove this theory. Most workers will not get their first increase under the new Partnership for Prosperity and Fairness programme until October. Until then we will be confined to a mere 2 percent rise.

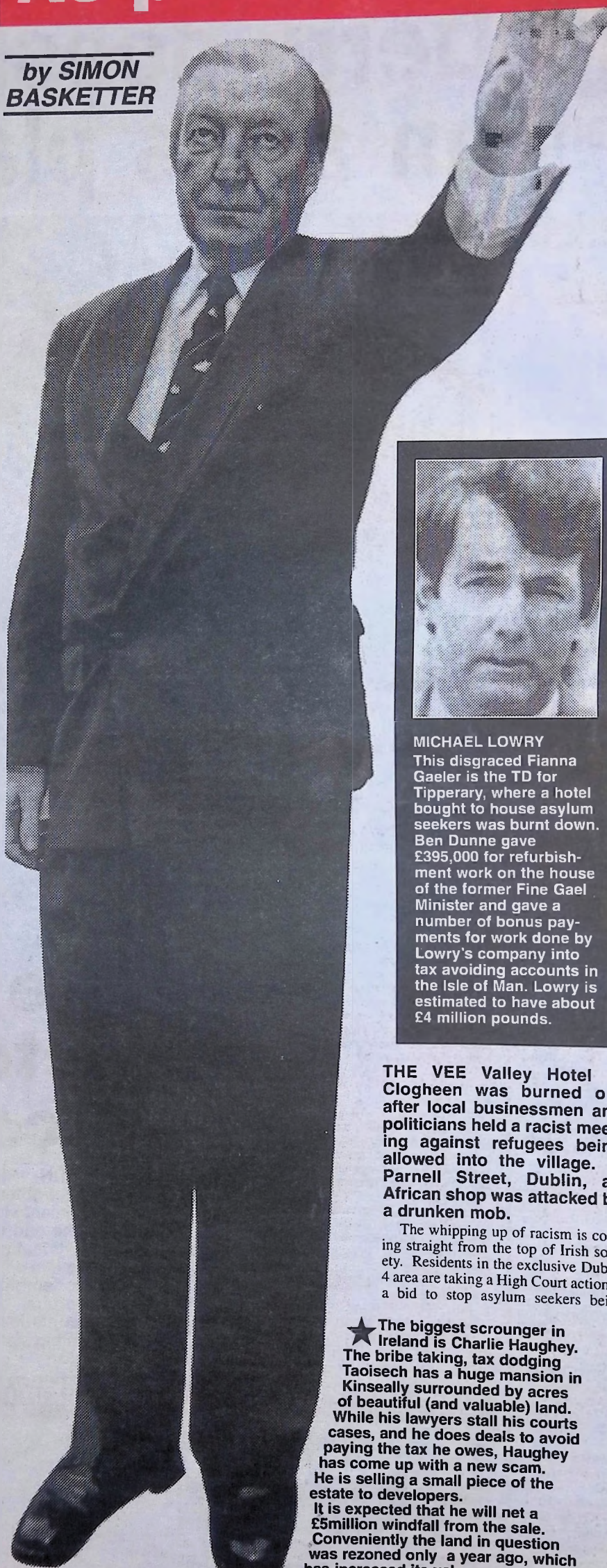
Yet it is precisely in the period when wages have been most pegged down that inflation has risen dramatically. The reality is that even if Irish workers agreed to live on soup and porridge for the next year, it would not affect most of the factors that are pushing up inflation.

Wages have traditionally followed price rises. Far from being the cause of these rises they are a sensible and rational response to them.

That is why workers are absolutely right to regard the recent partnership increases as just down payments - a baseline from which to demand increases to cover the real rate of inflation and the huge productivity they have given.

# As politicians and the m

by **SIMON BASKETTER**

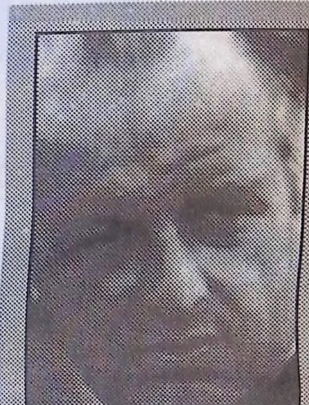


# The spo



**MICHAEL LOWRY**

This disgraced Fianna Gaeler is the TD for Tipperary, where a hotel bought to house asylum seekers was burnt down. Ben Dunne gave £395,000 for refurbishment work on the house of the former Fine Gael Minister and gave a number of bonus payments for work done by Lowry's company into tax avoiding accounts in the Isle of Man. Lowry is estimated to have about £4 million pounds.



**JOHN MAGNIER**

John Magnier is one Charlie Haughey's good "friends". He controls 42 percent of the British and Irish thoroughbred breeding industry through Coolmore stud in Co Tipperary. Income from breeding horses is tax-free. This occurred as a result of a legislative change introduced by Haughey. Magnier is a prominent supporter of Fianna Fail. Magnier was also appointed by Haughey to the Senate in 1987.

**THE VEE Valley Hotel in Clogheen was burned out after local businessmen and politicians held a racist meeting against refugees being allowed into the village. In Parnell Street, Dublin, an African shop was attacked by a drunken mob.**

The whipping up of racism is coming straight from the top of Irish society. Residents in the exclusive Dublin 4 area are taking a High Court action in a bid to stop asylum seekers being

★ **The biggest scrounger in Ireland is Charlie Haughey. The bribe taking, tax dodging Taoiseach has a huge mansion in Kinseally surrounded by acres of beautiful (and valuable) land. While his lawyers stall his courts cases, and he does deals to avoid paying the tax he owes, Haughey has come up with a new scam. He is selling a small piece of the estate to developers. It is expected that he will net a £5million windfall from the sale. Conveniently the land in question was rezoned only a year ago, which has increased its value.**

housed in their area. Residents in another exclusive area, the Cork suburb of Rochestown are threatening to copy the Dublin householders by taking a similar court action to stop the exclusive Havisham House Hotel being used to accommodate refugees.

But the rise in racism is being opposed. In towns around Ireland the pickets don't represent everyone. There are reports in Clogheen that motorists driving past constantly heckle the pickets.

It is the same in Rosslare Harbour, where a racist picket is outside the Devereux Hotel. "It is appalling what those fools are up to."

I went to England and America and was a bogus asylum seeker," one dockworker said. "Its not about resources it is just racism."

A truck driver agreed, "I see how the asylum seekers are treated when they arrive. They are tired and often upset. Yet all that happens is they are put in a bus and taken off to be processed like they were animals - its sick."

### Victory

But the best example is in Tramore, where local people have scored a victory against local business interests who attempted to stir up racism.

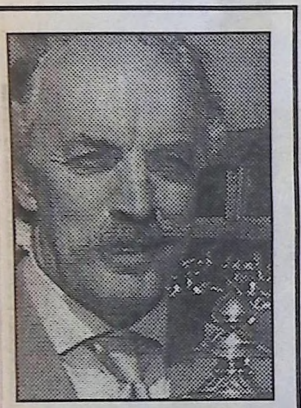
When the Southern Health Board held a meeting to talk about proposals to house 90 asylum seekers, local politicians tried to



Media scapegoat refugees...

# These are the real danger

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**DERMOT DESMOND**  
The financial "wizard" made his fortune out of building the tax-avoiding haven of the Financial Services Centre. Desmond had considerable financial dealings with the Haughey family. His firm, National City Brokers used to receive lucrative state contracts. He lives offshore to avoid paying tax.



**MICHAEL SMURFIT**  
He owns the plush K Club where the rich and tedious go to play golf, drink, and unwind after a hard days tax evasion. A night in the Viceroy room of the K Club costs £1,000. Smurfit was on the board of AIB when Haughey was allowed run up huge debts. His personal wealth is £170 million he also lives offshore to avoid paying tax.



**DENIS O'BRIEN**  
While talk show hosts on radio stations like FM 104, stir up false debates blaming refugees for housing crisis these stations are owned by the anti-union Denis O'Brien who has £200 million in personal wealth.



**JOHN DORRANCE**  
The mysterious and reclusive John Dorrance has over one and half billion pounds. He used to be the boss of Campbells food company. He had no problem gaining asylum in Ireland in 1994. He immediately became an Irish citizen when he arrived and so avoided over £500m in American taxes.



**TONY O'REILLY**  
The independent group of newspapers are constantly trying to stir up racism with lurid headlines and fake stories. Yet their owner Tony O'Reilly doesn't live in Ireland so he can avoid paying tax. He spends most of the year in the Bahamas in order to protect his £1.2 billion fortune.

been business types but at the second meeting ordinary people came in and it was they who were supporting the refugees.  
Ben Gavin, Fianna Fáil chairman of Waterford Harbour Commissioners and the owner of the Splashworld complex, is the man behind the campaign against the refugees. He said holidaymakers did not want to be "hassled by 15 people on the prom selling the Big Issues". Tramore Tourism, a group representing business and tourism interests in the town, then backed him up.

## Bribe taker blames refugees

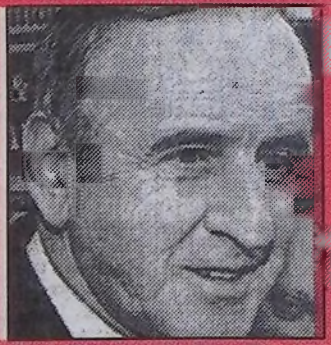
As one worker in Splashworld told Socialist Worker, "I get really badly paid, and there are no refugees. It is not foreigners who are screwing me, but the businessmen who make up Tramore Tourism."  
One worker on the amusements said, "This place only exists at all because of visitors from outside. If the residents don't want any outsiders, then nobody should visit this summer then watch them complain."  
It is crazy all along that beach there are people trying to turn themselves a darker colour. But the councillors don't want black people here."  
Local businessmen may have other reasons for stoking up a campaign against refugees. The Ocean View hotel is in the heart of the part of Tramore that has been zoned for development under the Urban Renewal Scheme.

**C O L M McGRATH, the councillor for Clondalkin is one of the new breed of racist politicians.**  
McGrath stood in the last General Election and sent around leaflets to houses attacking refugees claiming that they were taking resources from Irish people.  
He even claimed that refugees organised the 'ritual slaughter'

of animals in their own back gardens.  
But McGrath has his own reasons for encouraging people to blame refugees.  
He is a small businessman, running a security company, Essential Services. He has used his role as a councillor to make connections that helps his business.  
He has admitted receiving money from the property developer, Owen O Callaghan, to help get the Liffey Valley shopping centre established. Then when it was set up, McGrath's security company won the contract for centre.  
McGrath is just a small fish who has learnt to follow the Fianna Fail tactic - attack refugees to divert attention from the bribery and corruption that runs the party.  
But the McGrath case shows how this racism is just a filthy cover to divert attention from their bribe taking.

## Some foreigners are welcome

**FIANNA FAIL politicians may hate refugees but they used to sell passports to any one with enough money.**  
Charles Haughey and Ray Burke oversaw a scheme where for £1 million you could buy an Irish Passport.  
One businessman who obtained an Irish passport for his wife and son invested £1.1 billion in C&D Foods, the company of ex-Fianna Fail Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds.  
Reynolds is also a close friend of the former Mexican dictator Carlos Salinas who lives here in order to avoid charges connected with drug dealing and murder.  
It is only the poor and persecuted immigrants that Fianna Fail hates



The dictator's friend

### Rumours

There are rumours that at least some of the businessmen who have commercial interests in developments nearby and wanted to buy the hotel for themselves.  
After being opposed at the meeting the town commissioners, including Ben Gavin have backed down, and have voted to accept all the asylum seekers.  
"Since the meeting everything has calmed down because we argued with them," said Eddie. "The whole atmosphere has changed, all the hysteria has gone. We are holding an anti-racist meeting in the town. And a number of young people have come up to me and want to organise an anti racist concert."  
"By having the arguments about treating the refugees as people, and standing up to the business types we have turned the situa-

turn the meeting into a racist rally. But a substantial number of those present stood up to the racists and said asylum-seekers should be welcomed.  
The same happened when the racists organised their own meeting a few days later.  
Only 90 people attended the second meeting. And there was applause for sev-

eral people who spoke in favour of welcoming asylum-seekers.  
Eddie Walsh, member of Tramore Town Commissioners who is suspended for refusing to pay the water charges spoke to Socialist Worker, "There was a really positive reaction from the floor when a number of us spoke up against racism in favour of the refugees. At the first meeting it had just

**Anti Nazi League** Public Meeting  
Thurs., May 18th, 8:30pm, Grand Hotel, Tramore.  
Speakers: Eddie Walsh Tramore Town Commissioner, Green Party, Labour and SWP



Ten years on from Gulf war ...

# Sanctions kill 5000 children every month

**I**N OCTOBER 1999, the United States government faced a "dilemma" in Iraq. "After eight years of enforcing a 'no-fly zone' in northern Iraq, few military targets remain," explained the Wall Street Journal. "We're down to the last out-house," one unnamed US official protested. "There are still some things left, but not many," noted another Pentagon source.

America's war against Iraq had entered a new phase in January of that year. It had shifted to a low level sustained onslaught, targeting military and economic installations. It still inflicted an enormous toll on civilian lives.

The silent low key bombing campaign is driven by the same strategic objectives that caused the Gulf War of 1990-1991. It is designed to guarantee US domination over Middle East oil supplies.

A new book, *Iraq Under Siege*, reveals the impact of the US policy of war and sanctions against Iraq. Contributors include a host of international campaigners including Naom Chomsky, John Pilger, Robert Fisk and Howard Zinn.

Iraq has the second-largest proven oil reserves in the Middle East. Only Saudi Arabia holds more oil in a region that accounts for some 11 percent of the world's oil. As a result the US has long attempted to dominate the region, not out of concern for democracy but with the aim of controlling the profits associated with the region's essential resource. Oil is critical to the functioning of capitalism globally.

Up until its invasion of Kuwait in 1990, Iraq proved useful to US interests and they were quiet happy to do business with Saddam Hussein, while he brutalised his population. After he took power the CIA supplied him with lists of socialists which he murdered and tortured.

All this changed with the invasion of Kuwait, when overnight Saddam Hussein found himself transformed into the "new Hitler", the greatest living threat to world democracy.

At the end of the Gulf war in 1991 the Kurds and Shiites rose up in a democratic challenge to Saddam Hussein regime. Yet the US government stood aside and watched as Hussein violently crushed the uprising. "Our policy is to get rid of Saddam, not his regime," explained Richard Haass, Former Director of Middle East affairs on the National Security Council.

Today the US government, as part of its program to overthrow Hussein, is

funding a party that seeks to restore the Iraqi monarchy, so great is their concern for democracy.

Yet the effect of the sanctions has been precisely to shore up the strength of Hussein. The sanctions have devastated people and have driven people into a dependent relationship with the government. As one Iraqi said "Any doubts I had about Saddam are gone ... Now I want him to stand up to the US for taking away my power, my running water, and my daughter's childhood".

*Hussein is certainly a tyrant, but the US continued to support equal or greater thugs, including Suharto in Indonesia, Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire and a long list of dictators in Latin America.*

The US bombed Iraq back to the state of a pre-industrial society. Their 'clean' or smart bombs were only supposed to hit designated targets but many, if not most, missed their targets.

The targets hit included water treatment plants, sewage treatment plants, electrical generating plants, and communication centres. The fact that the 22 million people of Iraq might be denied clean water was an acceptable consequence.

**A**fter the bombing campaign the sanctions imposed by the US prevented attempts to repair the damage. Food supplies, equipment that might restore the power grid, the water treatment plants and the telephones are all outlawed.

The sale of medical supplies, such as heart and kidney machines are outlawed, along with water pumps and agricultural supplies. Safety and fire equipment are also banned, as they may contribute to the construction of weapons of mass destruction.

The US government seems to think that Saddam Hussein might make weapons of mass destruction from wheelbarrows.

In May 1996, US Secretary of State was asked on CBS 60 minutes if the death of more than half a million children was a price worth paying. "We think the price is worth it" she replied.

UNICEF reported that Iraq in 1990 had one of the healthiest and best-educated populations in the world. Its child mortality rate was one of the lowest. Today it is among the highest on earth.

UNICEF has also reported that more than 5,000 children under five have died on average every month in Iraq, in part because of the "prolonged measures imposed by the Security Council and the effects of war" on the population.

These horrific sanctions continue despite the fact that the former UN Special Commission Chief inspector Scott



Ritter stated, "From a qualitative standpoint, Iraq has been disarmed. Iraq possesses no meaningful weapons of mass destruction".

Ritter also goes on to state that Iraq does not even have the capabilities to build such weapons.

Denis Halliday, who ran the UN oil-for-food program in Baghdad, until he realised that thousands of Iraqi children were dying every month because of sanctions, resigned his post with the declaration that "we are in the process of destroying an entire society. It is illegal and immoral."

*The US itself possesses and keeps on alert more nuclear weapons than the rest of the world combined. Israel, a US ally, possesses more than 200 thermonuclear weapons and has violated scores of UN mandates, yet the US remains silent on the UN floor with regard to this violation of international law.*

As if contending with genocidal sanctions is not enough, the use of depleted uranium by the US during the 1991 Gulf war has resulted in a fourfold increase in cancer.

Tens of thousands of these projectiles were fired at the Iraqis in February 1991 in the fields south of the city of Basra, the fertile lands from which millions of Iraqis acquire their food. Many of the children who are now dying of leukaemia and lymphoma cancer were not even born when the war took place.

Madeline Albright even admits the sanctions are not harming Saddam. But

these sanctions are not about so much about hurting Saddam as they are about asserting US control in the region.

**U**ntil recently, US strategists believed that at least temporarily it was a good idea for the US to keep Iraq oil off the world market. Introducing Iraqi oil on the market could force down the price of oil, which would be harmful to energy producers, which are mostly US-based, and this would hurt profits.

Secondly, France and Russia currently hold the inside track on oil development in Iraq, not the US-based majors. So this was another reason to block their oil supplied.

However this could change. James Akins, an old oil hand who is the former US ambassador to Saudi Arabia, recently said that when the price of oil gets up to \$30, Saddam will turn into Mother Teresa.

The destruction of Iraq through bombing and sanctions has become such a common feature in the life of the Iraqi people that one recent visitor noted that people speak about being bombed "as though they expected rain".

The war on Iraq is the longest sustained US air operation since the Viet-

nam War. But just like the anti-war movement in the sixties, the campaign to end the bombing and sanctions is gaining momentum.

Student activists have successfully passed resolutions against sanctions in major universities across the US.

In January and February of this year activists from around the US protested in New York and Washington, some of them staging a hunger strike to dramatize the impact of sanctions and to pressure Congress to lift the sanctions.

**• IRAQ UNDER SIEGE: THE DEADLY IMPACT OF SANCTIONS AND WAR. PLUTO PRESS, EDITED BY ANTHONY ARNOVE.**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**Denis Halliday**

(former UN humanitarian coordinator for Baghdad)

**Wed 17th May 8pm  
Boylan Community Centre  
Dun Laoghaire**

organised by citizens for the defence of neutrality

by SINEAD KENNEDY



## in my view

### Monster profits from little monsters



WHEN THE American stockmarket crashed - or corrected, as the experts like to say - one company's shares held strong.

Perhaps the owners of a dot.com company? A gold mine? An arms manufacturer? No. Rather bizarrely the company that rich investors had no doubts about is the toy maker Hasbro. Hasbro employ very cheap labour in Indonesia. But the real bonus is that the company makes Pokémon.

"Pokémon is a modern-day adaptation of traditional playground games such as marbles, conkers and football stickers," a spokesman for Hasbro claims. "Children have always loved to have their own playground currency and now someone has looked at these key games and put all that together in one package."

And is making rather a lot of money out of it. The craze for collecting, trading and "training" 150 pocket monsters has carried all before it. It is driven by a multi-media cross-promotion, the like of which children's merchandise has not seen before.

It started with a computer game. Players can trade or fight Pokémon with one another over two linked Gameboys. Nintendo produced two versions of the game - Blue and Red. Each one contains 140 Pokémon - if you want to collect all 150 you have to trade with a friend who has a different colour cartridge.

Nintendo goes on about how this helps to instil "community spirit" in players. However the rest of us can probably see it's a rather good way of selling twice as many games and of making sure that others start to play it in the schoolyard.

The game was followed by an animated television series. Then there are the cards, which allow children to collect all the monsters. Pikachu, the cute (!) yellow one, is an electronic mouse if you were wondering. Of course, the merchandising doesn't stop there: T-Shirts, toothbrushes, lunchboxes and about 1,000 other licensed items are expected to earn about \$6 billion this year.

#### Logo

Virtually anything that can have a logo stuck on it has: Volkswagen is producing Pokémon Beetles for its new range, and Nagatanien Corporation is making sachets of Pokémon Fish Spice.

The catch-phrase of children is "Gotta catch 'em all" but it is not easy. Hasbro has limited the numbers of certain cards, making them extremely rare and all the more desirable. It means you have to buy a lot of packets of cards to get a full set. Some cards are selling for as much as £200 in online auctions.

In the case of the Burger King, 57 seven toys are "given" away with meals at £2.50 a go. That is a lot of burgers and a big dent in a family's disposable income.

Capitalism is about making a profit and if that means manipulating and exploiting kids then so be it. Selling useless stuff to children is far from new but it has reached a pinnacle in Pokémon. To compare it with last year's irritating thing: The Teletubbies were developed by a focus group - sort of a Blairite third way toy. Pretty annoying, nasty under the cute exterior, and they didn't really live up to the hopes the kids put into them.

But Pokémon represents the combined forces of the evil empires of Hasbro, Nintendo and Rupert Murdoch's Fox Network. It's the sort unbridled multinational capitalism that makes people break up McDonalds.

There is also quite a sinister side to it all. In 1997, for example, 120 children in Japan were treated in hospital after the cartoon about Pokémon triggered convulsions. More than 700 children were effected. The sequence lasted only five seconds but it provoked fits, vomiting, eye irritation and breathing difficulties.

I believe the kids' metabolisms were rebelling against the monsters (I mean Hasbro et al not Pikachu). But they are only children and they shouldn't be blamed for giving up in the end. The only redeeming feature of all this is if there's a cupboard in your house full of discarded Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, yo-yos, Buzz Lightyears, Tellytubbies and Tamagotchis, clear some space because a pile full of used Pokémon will be joining them in 12 months' time.

by SIMON BASKETTER

## film

# Art versus the capitalists

by KIERAN ALLEN

**CRADLE WILL** Rock is a brilliant left wing film. It is set in America during the 1930s where President Roosevelt had established the Federal Theatre Project to provide work for unemployed actors and theatre workers during the depression. It brought plays to schools and local halls and, because of the growing politicisation; many of the plays were left wing.

The Cradle Will Rock was one such play and forms the centrepiece of Tim Robbins new film.

It was about a fight for union recognition and was directed by Orson Welles, who later made *Citizen Kane*. At the time Welles was caught up in the excitement of left wing ideas.

#### Funding

Funding for the play was suddenly cut when right wing politicians discovered that it slated the employers and US soldiers were even deployed to prevent its opening.

In defiance of this censorship Orson Welles and the actors moved to another theatre and gave a brilliant performance that is captured superbly in the film.

Intertwined with this story, Cradle Will Rock also deals with the famous mural that the



#### Tackling Rockefeller

Mexican artist Diego Rivera painted at the Rockefeller centre.

Nelson Rockefeller was like Charles Satchi today - a rich businessman who thought he could patronise left wing artists and still feel no threat to his opulent lifestyle.

But when Rockefeller found that Rivera had included a picture of Lenin in his mural he was horrified.

In one of the greatest acts of artistic vandalism, he ordered its destruction.

The overall theme of Cradle will Rock is the artificial limits that our rulers place on art.

#### Political

There is a marvellous scene in the film where the newspaper baron Randolph Hearst and Rockefeller discuss switching their support to artists like Matisse rather than the troublesome political artists.

They do not mind great innovations in form

or colour.

Their real concern is that art should not have any content, which might be critical of the profit makers.

Interestingly, after the turbulent period of the 1930s, the Museum of Modern Art in New York went to great lengths to promote the abstract expressionist paintings of Jackson Pollock which were based on swirling lines of colour on gigantic canvasses.

The president of the Museum was none other than Nelson Rockefeller who referred to this type of art as 'free- enterprise painting'.

Of course it does not follow that because rich patrons sponsor a particular artist, this means they produce bad art.

However Robbins film shows that the money lords are the real enemies of artistic expression.

They can talk excitedly about the latest fashion in painting or sculpture.

But as soon as art starts to attack the source of their money, the great collectors cease reach for the police baton.

## book

### Revolutionary tourism

REVIEW OF THE EASTER RISING, A GUIDE TO DUBLIN IN 1916

CONOR KOSTICK and Lorcan Collins' guide to the sights of the 1916 Rising is the type of book we don't see enough of these days. It is an informative history and at the same time is a very accessible read.

Intended as a guide to accompany the tourist, it gives an exciting narrative of

the events of Easter Week, a short background to the growth of Irish republicanism and a biography of the leading figures involved.

There are plenty of glossy photographs of the main battle sites and reproductions of the newspapers and propaganda posters of the republicans, nationalists and the British establishment.

One of the best things about the book is that it defends the Rising against revisionist historians. Easter 1916 is often portrayed as a 'blood sacrifice' carried out by 'romantic' nationalists.

Kostick and Collins show how a large degree of planning went into the Rising, how the execution of the leaders, internment of the Volunteers and plans for conscription galvanised support for Sinn Fein.

In their introduction they describe the immense poverty that existed in Dublin at the time.

They also show how the massive industrial struggle of ITGWU workers in 1913 was crucial to forming the Irish Citizen Army.

If you have some spare time this summer, take this book on a walk around Dublin!

• O'Brien Press, £6.99.

## book

### Talking Seattle

THE LATEST International Socialism Journal featuring eye-witness accounts of the Seattle demonstrations, a profile of activist and writer Susan George, and an analysis of where the anti-capitalist movement is going is out now.

Rob Ferguson exam-



ines Russia's imperialist war in Chechnya and Jim Wolfreys looks at a remarkable 'lost' book by classical Marxist Georgy Lukacs.

All in all essential reading for socialists.





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.

# Service charges 75 percent haven't paid

**OVER 75 percent of people in Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown have refused to pay the service charges.**

It is a clear sign that people are refusing to be intimidated by the local authority's attempt to make people pay a £150.

The Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown campaign against refuse charges held an organising conference attended by over 80 people to build on the success of the campaign so far.

Introducing the conference Richard Boyd Barrett said, "People have already paid for services. Ordinary people pay the overwhelming majority of tax in this country, yet the wealthy who produce the most waste pay the least tax."

**Outrage**

One pensioner expressed the outrage felt across the country against the charges:

"I have been paying tax for 40 years. Every time I go to the shop I pay tax. Yet they have the nerve to ask me to pay again. I'm on £73 a week but the politicians want a £12,000 pay rise."

Charlie, a corporation worker from Bray said, "When Ireland was a Third World country you got your rubbish collected for free. Yet now in the middle of a boom they cut your tax by £3 per week then they take back £6 a week in service charges."

Paddy Burke, from Kilmacud, pointed out that, "Not one councillor mentioned that they were going to bring in these charges when they were looking for our vote at the local elections. They lied and we should remind them the next time around."

A spokesperson from the Drogheda campaign said, "This is not a local tax, it is a national tax on the poor. What we need is unity to defeat them."

"In one area of Drogheda we have over 96 percent of people not paying. That's the way we will defeat the charges."

Joe Higgins Socialist Party TD told the meeting, "They only managed to make the charges legal by rushing through a bill in the Dail in two and half hours. It was a national plan to

attempt to sneak in taxes through local government.

"The examples of Drogheda and Bray when people took to the streets to defeat Privatisation show the way forward."

The conference passed motions arguing to build on the campaign of mass non-payment, to oppose privatisation and to argue for funding for recycling facilities.

The conference ended with the election of local representatives to organise the campaign in the

different parts of the boroughs.

There will be a national conference against the service charges taking place in Drogheda.

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
May 20th  
1:30pm — 6pm  
Bridgeford  
Conference Hall,  
Termonseckin Rd,  
Newfoundwell,  
Drogheda



Protesters oppose refuse Charges

Fax (01) 872 3838  
E-mail swp@clubi.ie

or send to

## letters

PO BOX 1648, Dublin 8

## Global injustice

**ALL AROUND** the globe more and more people are angry about the gross injustice the capitalist system is causing.

We have had Seattle and Washington. On May Day there were many demonstrations supporting workers. Last Wednesday 84,000 Norwegian workers went on strike to demand better treatment.

**Corrupt**

The best part about this rising anti-capitalist sentiment is that people are starting to realise these are not just isolated injustices around the world, but the products of a corrupt capitalist system. The people who are tearing down the anti-racist signs also see the injustices the sys-

tem is causing. However, through Fianna Fail's racist propaganda, they have been led to believe that the refugees are to blame for these injustices. Our job, then, is to reach out to people and

help them realise they should really be angry at capitalism and not refugees. Then, all together, we can unite to fight for a just, equal society.

LIZ FARSACI, Dublin

## Another attack

**JOHN O'Donoghue** has recently been touting the idea of a carriers' liability fine for transport companies found entering the country with undocumented refugees.

It is important that this is fundamentally opposed.

When similar legislation was introduced to Britain by the Tories in 1991, it led to an increasingly desperate pursuit of transportation methods by those fleeing persecution, as well as a terrible response by the transport companies.

Within months, Romanian asylum seekers

were being found dead in toxic compound containers.

Similarly eight Ghanaian men were thrown overboard from a German cargo vessel when discovered by the owners. Only one survived.

O'Donoghue's proposals in this regard add another restriction on those attempting to escape desperate conditions.

It is all the more vicious because the effects of such fines are already well known.

More suffering and death at home, and in transit.

ROB BLACK, Cork.

## Unapathetic youth

**ALONG WITH** other young members of the SWP I attended the founding meeting of Revolutionary Youth in Trinity College on the 22nd of April.

We talked about the disadvantages of capitalism and the advantages of socialism as an alternative to capitalism. We also had a debate on issues in a socialist society, and how to get socialism.

Since then we have

met on Saturdays outside the central bank where we were petitioning for an end to racism and the scapegoating of refugees in Ireland by the government.

Overall we got a great response from this, with many people agreeing that the situation that the government has placed refugees in is inadequate and unacceptable.

Revolutionary Youth is still in its infancy at the moment, but no doubt



with the receptions of the growing amount of people unsatisfied by our present system, we can become a serious organisation of young socialists.

Revolutionary Youth can be contacted on 087- 6235071 or by e-mail at revolutionaryyouth@marxism.co.uk.

MICHAEL FOX

## Join the Socialists

(PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone..... Union.....

E-mail.....

- I want to join the SWP
- I want more information
- I want to get Socialist Worker fortnightly
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Return to SWP PO Box 1648 Dublin 8. Tel (01) 872 2682

## SWP branch meetings

- ATHLONE:** Contact 01- 872 2682 for details
- BRAY:** Meets every Wednesday at the Mayfair Hotel at 8.30pm
- BELFAST CENTRAL:** Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in the WhytesBar.
- BELFAST QUEEN'S UNI** Meets every Tuesday 1pm (see poster for details)
- BELFAST SOUTH:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Queens Students Union
- CORK:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Hairy Lemon, Oliver Plunket Street
- DERRY:** Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in Badgers Bar upstairs, Orchard St.
- DUNDALK:** Contact 01 - 872 2682 for details
- DUN LAOGHAIRE:** Meets every Tues-

- day at 8.30pm in the Christian Institute
- DUBLIN ARTANE / COOLOCK:** Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in Artane / Beaumont Recreational Centre (opp. Artane Castle)
- DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Conways Pub, Parnell St
- DUBLIN NORTH WEST:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in O'Mahoney's Pub, Phibsboro (near Crossguns bridge)
- DUBLIN DUNDRUM:** Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in Dundrum family recreation centre
- DUBLIN RIALTO:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm St. Andrews Community Centre, SCR
- DUBLIN RATHMINES:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm Upstairs in La Touche, 24 Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2

- DUBLIN SOUTH CENTRAL:** Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in Trinity Inn, Pearse St
- DUBLIN TALLAGHT:** Meets every Monday at 8.30pm in Jobstown Community Centre
- ENNISKILLEN:** Phone 01 - 872 2682 for details
- GALWAY:** Meets every Wednesday in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square (beside Cuba) 8.30pm
- LIMERICK:** Phone 01 - 872 2682 for details
- LUCAN:** Phone 01-8722682 for details
- SLIGO** Meets fortnightly on Saturdays, phone 01-8722682 for details
- TRALEE:** Phone 01 - 872 2682 for details
- WATERFORD:** Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the ATGWU Hall, Keizer St.



## Junior doctors

## 98% vote for strike

JUST SEVEN months after the national nurses strike, over 2500 junior doctors across the country have balloted in favour of strike action.

The issue came to a head after the government refused to implement the EU 48 hour working directive, wanting instead to phase it in over a 13 year period.

Junior doctors were outraged. They already work dangerously long hours, that

they themselves freely admit but patients lives at risk.

Daniel, who works in a major Dublin Hospital, told *Socialist Worker*, "Management and the Minister for Health keep talking to the media about how our strike could threaten lives, but I put people lives at risk every night because sometimes

"I'm so tired I can't stand up. I usually work 90 hours plus a week..

The conditions that junior doctors work under are appalling. There is sup-

pose to be a balance between training and service.

But says Daniel, "its all service and no training." Doctors are rostered on for about 65 hours a week but consultants usually expects them to work another 20 or 30 hours on top of this. They are not paid for any of these hours.

At a recent IMO conference doctors named and shamed some of the teaching hospitals where junior doctors experienced the worst conditions. Many of these hospitals including Univerity College Hospital

Cork and St. Vicent's Hospital Dublin refuse to pay doctors for the extra hours they work.

One doctor discovered he had been underpaid by £12,000 but had to pursue a freedom of information claim against the hospital to discover this.

It wasn't until doctors took action in 1987, that they got paid for work done after 40 hours and they are confident that they can do it again.

As Daniel told *Socialist Worker*, "We are doctors not machines. Most doctors are at their wits end and many are leaving the profession. I have a wife and a six month old baby, I can't remember the last time I spent more than a few hours with them.

"We want immediate action and not more stalling tactics and referrals to committees."

## Aer Rianta

## 'It is time to stand up for our rights'

## A MASS meeting of Aer Rianta workers at Dublin Airport took place recently.

Over 250 workers walked out to attend the meeting at the North terminal building.

Even though they traditionally held union meetings in this building, they were refused entrance by management and instead held the meeting in the car park.

The workers were addressed by the worker/directors from both Dublin and Shannon. Workers were told that this would be the first of many meetings across all unions over the next couple of months in Dublin, Shannon and Cork.

The workers are fed up with nothing but net nega-

tive pay increases due to inflation.

"They just keep promising us this pot of gold that never comes through," said one of the speakers at the meeting.

"We want increases in line with other groups of workers like the Gardaí, the Nurses and other public sector groups. We don't begrudge these workers their increases but we deserve them too."

The worker director at Shannon, encouraged the workers to be united across unions in their pay claim.

"We are the union not the people we employ who act like our solicitors" he said. "In Shannon I have never made a secret of telling union officials that I am the elected branch president.

"We have lost ourselves and the meaning of our unions over the year. The first step is to bring this back.

"We have contributed massively to revenue in this company but our pay has fallen behind."

## Control

He told workers that the mass meeting was the first step in taking the union back under their control, stressing the fact that all the different unions in Aer Rianta had to work together.

"Our union matters" he said. "United we stand, divided we fall."

At the end of the meeting workers decided that all elected shop stewards across all unions in Aer Rianta would meet together to decide a common approach.

As one worker told *Socialist Worker*, "This meeting was an important first step for us.

"The introductions of low-cost airlines like Ryanair have been a disaster for airport workers. These companies are viciously anti-union and the pay and conditions appalling.

"Other airport employees are looking to compete any copy their tactics. But we are not going to let them, it is time to stand up and demand our rights."

## Firefighters

## OVER A thousand full-time firefighters in Cork, Dublin and Limerick are set for strike action on May 15th.

Firefighters in Cork have been in negotiations for months with management over a 9 per cent they are entitled to because of a linkage with the Garda.

But negotiations have been so slow the Gardaí have received a further 4 per cent since talks began.

Workers voted 121 to one in favour of action.

This is the second time in less than a year that a national strike has been threatened by full-time firefighters.

## Conrad Hotel

STAFF AT the Conrad Hotel in Dublin have scored a victory in pursuit of a pay claim despite intimidation from management and their own SIPTU officials.

Over the years basic pay in the hotel has fallen behind due to the small increases, yet at the same time the tourist industry is booming and it is proving hard to attract staff, "They are making an absolute fortune" said one worker "these hotels are licenses to print money".

Staff put in for a £40 a week pay claim. The SIPTU official argued against the claim on the grounds that it broke national agreements.

The staff angrily expressed a willingness to challenge the law and subsequently held further meet-

ings at which the official was asked to leave.

The form of action taken by the workers was a "blue flu" - a stay away for 24 hours from 8am one Friday morning. Almost 90 per cent of workers phoned in sick.

Shortly before the next scheduled stay away was due to take place the management folded.

The new deal gives the workers a £32 a week loyalty bonus for every year of service after 3 years. For many of the experienced workers this amounts to £40 a week.

An impressive level of solidarity was achieved, given that over 20 nationalities are represented among the staff. "The lesson is that staff unity can get results" said one worker.

## Colmeg Ltd



THIRTY workers have been locked out by the management of Colmeg Ltd. on Cork Street in Dublin. An official SIPTU picket has been placed outside the premises.

The clothes manufacturing makes clothes for exclusive labels and supply Arnotts.

Management offered a derisory redundancy package of £4,000. The shop steward for the strikers, Pat Parsons, said "All we were looking for was a fair deal. We might as well be talking to the wall."

## Terms

The firefighters had agreed to 13 points productivity last February, when management suddenly withdrew the offer and produced extra terms.

"Enough is enough" one firefighter told *Socialist Worker*. "We were prepared to give on productivity but they just wanted more and more.

"We are not taking it anymore, we are entitled to this rise, we earned it."

## Teachers

## Mood for unity and action

THE CONFERENCES of the three main teachers unions showed a mood for a united fight on the pay issue.

In the largest union, the INTO, supporters of the rank and file group Teachers United managed to force the 'early starter' issue onto the conference agenda.

In a manoeuvre designed to quell the public sector revolt, the government has offered an extra 3 per cent increase to any group of public sector workers to settle for low special increases granted in a previous partnership deal. They tried to tie this to the recent Partnership for Prosperity and Fairness deal to hype up the figures.

But now teachers and other groups of workers are not having it. The INTO conference passed a resolution calling on their leadership to work closely with the ASTI and TUI to get a far higher settlement. The leadership of the union tried to prevent the

resolution being discussed but when it was put to the floor, they were defeated overwhelmingly.

"It was a vote for democracy in the union", Crea Ryder a Dublin delegate, told *Socialist Worker*.

Anger at the activities of the clique around union leader Joe O'Toole was evident as the Ennis branch reported how the union head office had gotten legal advice to prevent them hearing an opponent of the partnership deal put his views across to the branch.

In TUI, there was an even stronger vote on the early starter issue. Despite opposition from the leadership, the conference voted to hold a ballot among the membership on the early starter issue. The conference also recommended that members do not accept the 3 per cent figure.

Meanwhile, the mood at the ASTI was one of sheer determination as they take a lead on the pay issue. The main disgruntled voices came from a rump of full

time unelected union officials who seem determined to sabotage the mood for unity. After one delegate from Dublin strongly criticised the actions of union officials in a particular local case, the union officials announced that they were staging a work to rule against their own elected officers.

ASTI members should call a halt to these antics. A union is not like a capitalist company and elected officers have every right to sack officials who refuse to accept union democracy. They should now consider exercising that right.

## Corporation workers

## Dublin Corporation

DUBLIN CORPORATION managers and SIPTU officials both got a surprise when bin workers, drivers and sweepers refused to accept the introduction of

## Wheellie bins.

A meeting of the union, to which officials put the package, rejected the proposals by 2:1. Speakers against the package argued that the deal meant a reduction in the

number of carts on the road without adequate compensation for redeployed workers or sweepers who anticipated promotion to the carts.

One driver pointed out that although there was an offer of £600 bonus to those

who did not get to go out on the trucks, the loss of earnings in overtime alone would amount to over £1,000 a year.

By cutting back on staff on carts the Corporation would be saving about £600 per cart per week. This money should be restored to workers in the form of an increase in basic pay.

A driver from the Rathmines Depot told *Socialist Worker* "drivers, binworkers and sweepers have to stick together. With the increasing traffic and difficulty of the job we all deserve a large pay rise.

This deal doesn't add up and the union should never have agreed to it."

## South Dublin County Council

OUTDOOR WORKERS in Dublin South County Council are balloting for strike action after the Council attempted to privatise the road cleaning service without any consultation with the union.

## Dunbarry Shoes

ONE HUNDRED and sixty workers from Dunbarry shoes in Ballinasloe stopped work and marched through the

town last month.

The workers have been on short-term work for the past two years.

The company has also begun to import more components causing an ever greater shortage of work.

The workers are demanding that higher earnings be guaranteed and are also seeking more pay.

The company however has announced that it is seeking forced rather than voluntary redundancies.

refused because they felt it was not profitable enough.

One worker told *Socialist Worker* "This shows the real agenda behind privatisation. It is not about better services it about cherry-picking the most profitable ones."

## North Tipperary County Council

THE REFUSAL of North Tipperary County Council to pay for decent staffing levels has led to strike notice being served for May 15th by council workers who are members of SIPTU.

Around 200 sanitary services and road workers say that they have no option but to strike because of the council's failure to make 40 part-time workers permanent.

A number of the part-time staff in the dispute

have been employed by the council for between 10 and 15 years. As long ago as 1997 the Labour Court recommended that they be made full-time. But the council have refused to budge on the issue.

As one worker told *Socialist Worker*, "We have waited and waited and waited but the council won't listen. Instead they keep threatening us with privatisation so we have to take action."

The strike is set to halt refuse collection North Tipperary, as well as all repair and maintenance work on roads.

★ Irish Examiner Management are threatening the jobs of 33 print workers and about 150 GPMU at the paper. They seem set on setting up a separate company for printing and the workers will have to reapply for their jobs.

One worker told *Socialist Worker*, "There is a lot of fear in the workplace about this as there may be job losses and a general erosion of benefits" - particularly younger workers who have big mortgages and young families

As *Socialist Worker* went to press the workers were meeting to discuss what action to take.



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As the Assembly raises hopes of 'real politics' ...

# IT'S TIME FOR A SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE

**HIGH HOPES** for a revived Assembly, deep disappointment with New Labour, that's the mood across the North as working-class people on all sides look for change.

The issues people worry about are clear: job losses, cuts in health and social services, under-funding of education, tuition fees, low pay and rights at work.

People are looking to a restored Assembly to deliver this change. But all the main Assembly parties take a Blairite approach to public spending and to economic matters generally.

Whether we get change for the better will depend on putting enough pressure on the politicians, on building from below. It's organisation in the workplaces and on the streets that can force the Executive to stop closing hospitals, to scrap the 11 Plus and end tuition fees.

Across the North, people delighted in the anti-capitalist protests in London on May Day and many people agreed that warmonger Churchill looked much better with his green Mohican. The anti-capitalist mood within the North itself was seen in the May Day marches in Belfast and Derry. Both were much larger than usual, with a real 'buzz'.



The organised working class is beginning to flex its muscles.

The firefighters' threat of industrial action scared bosses into withdrawing attacks on wages and conditions.

Social workers in Foyle Trust are following the lead of those in North and West Belfast and balloting for industrial action in support of better services for children and families.

Term time workers in schools across the North are also considering industrial action like their counterparts in the Southern Education and Library Board.

It was Labour that introduced the rule that they can no longer draw unemployment benefit during school holidays.

## NO TO SECTARIANISM NO TO RACISM

**THE BITTERNESS** people feel at New Labour's betrayal does not have to push them leftward. While some workers are starting to fight back and demand a share of the wealth, others listen to scapegoating politicians and turn on the most vulnerable in society.

So, the North has seen a growth in the number of racist assaults, particularly on members of the Chinese community. The few asylum seekers in the North suffer from a racist atmosphere whipped up by press and politicians in Britain and the South.

Sectarian attacks on Catholic and mixed marriage families, particularly in Larne and Antrim, have spiralled. Punishment beatings and shootings by republicans have resumed. The loyalist punishment squads never stopped.

Despite the IRA's commitment to putting its guns 'beyond use', instability continues to threaten the peace process.

And it would be easy for the Orange and Green Tories that are the majority in the Assembly to blame government-imposed spending limits for lack of progress on health, education etc.

In this situation, the role of socialists is vital. We need a strong network of socialists in workplaces, schools and colleges arguing to put the blame for poverty, low pay and the jobs and housing crisis where it belongs. We have to point the finger at the capitalist system and its political managers, not at fellow workers who have a different colour skin, nationality or religion.

We need to build the anti-capitalist movement and arm it with the power of the organised working class. Now is the time to build a socialist alternative to Blair and his big business buddies.