

Socialist Worker

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Unions must act now!

JAIL THE CORRUPT POLITICIANS



Liam 'Mr Big' Lawlor

Don't blame the refugees

Jail the corrupt politicians

If this is Mr Big, who is the mafia boss?



Liam Lawlor

MEET LIAM Lawlor, Fianna Fail's Mr Big of political donations.

● Lawlor got £40,000 from Frank Dunlop, who specialised in dispensing money from builders

● Lawlor also got £3,500 a month from Tom Gilmartin, another property speculator.

Lawlor claimed these were 'consultancy fees' but Gilmartin denied this saying 'I would not have that man consulting on a shit-house'.

● Lawlor was also on the board of Larry Goodman's meat company. At the same time he was chairman of the Oirteachtas Joint Committee on State sponsored bodies when Irish Sugar was being privatised — and the main prospective buyer was Larry Goodman.

● Lawlor also had close links with George Redmond and Jim Kennedy, a prominent FF businessman, who ran the Laurels pub in Clondalkin.

● Lawlor owned twenty-three acres of land on Newcastle Road Lucan, which he sold off in 1995. It was part of a large tract of agricultural land, which was re-zoned

for housing by the South Dublin County Council.

Yet despite all these strange donations, Fianna Fail are not going to expel Lawlor.

Instead they drew up a 'special report' which was sent to Ahern.

In the past Ahern did nothing about Ray Burke because he knew that if Burke started to talk the full story on FF's corruption would come out.

Even though Lawlor has been identified as Mr Big, he still has something on the FF leadership. That is why the Mafia bosses who run the party will play for time.

Labour's shame

THE REVELATION that Pat Rabbitte got £5,000 from City West is a disgrace. City West needed government support to build their campus in West Dublin.

Rabbitte was a key politician who the businessmen knew might have a say in how government money was spent.

Yet he claims that it was 'just a normal donation' with no strings attached.

But Rabbitte is not the only Labour TD to have taken money from property speculators.

Party leader Ruairi

Quinn has received £10,000 from the property speculators Treasury Holdings. They were involved in trying to build the Spencer Dock Development in Quinn's own constituency.

Labour's fund raising is not a patch on Fianna Fail's. But they want to play the game of managing capitalism.

They have pulled their punches on the corruption scandal because they know there are skeletons in their own cupboard. And that is also why FF still rides high in the opinion polls.

WHO FUNDS SINN FEIN?

SINN FEIN comes a close second behind Fianna Fail for business donations. The main difference is that its money comes from US businessmen rather than Irish businessmen.

No wonder Sinn Fein's TD, Caimhín Ó Caoláin voted with FF not to ban business donations.

Sinn Fein attacks the main parties for being corrupt and in the pockets of big busi-

ness. But if it is funded mainly by big business itself, it will eventually do their bidding.

The Socialist Workers Party does not receive a penny from any capitalist.

They know that our aim is to overthrow their rule.

Nor do we ask Irish tax payers to fund our activities.

The money for our activities comes from the dues of our members and special collections from supporters.

Unions must call action

"WE HAVE to associate with criminals who are pushing up house prices and who are in Dail Eireann because we are in partner-

ship. It's a bit like David turning up to meet Goliath without his slingshot."

This is what Dennis Purdue, a Limerick delegate told the Civil and Public Services Union

conference. He and several other delegates attacked the union leaders for not having mobilised their members over the corruption scandals.

Last year's SIPTU called on the ICTU to hold a national demonstration to demand the jailing of corrupt politicians. Yet nothing has been done.

The reason is that the union leaders are in partnership and do not want to rock the boat.

But the rank and file can turn on the pressure. The key is for one union or one trades council to take the initiative and involve others.

Pass this resolution:

We call on our union to initiate a major demonstration to demand the jailing of corrupt politicians. We shall raise this call at the local Trades Council and with the ICTU but in the event of their refusal to act, we shall make practical arrangements to organise the protest ourselves.

Looking after their own

JUDGE HUGH O'Flaherty has been given a plum job as vice-president of the European Investment Bank by Fianna Fail.

The Finance Minister says O'Flaherty — a former speech writer for Haughey — was given the job because of his 'integrity'.

But this is the same judge who told 20-year old Sabrina Walsh that she would have to serve a six year sentence for stealing a handbag.

Sabrina, from Ballymun in Dublin, was a heroin addict who did not realise that the bag she stole contained £10,000.

O'Flaherty said bag snatching was a "cancer" in society and the court had to send out a message "loud and clear" that such

offences would carry stiff sentences in future.

After this O'Flaherty lobbied for the release of Philip Sheedy on "humanitarian grounds".

But the real reason Sheedy went free was because he came from a 'respectable' upper class background.

In the 1970s, O'Flaherty also helped to draw up guidelines for the non-jury Special Criminal Court which jailed hundreds of republicans on the word of a Garda Superintendent.

When O'Flaherty had to resign after the Sheedy affair he got a pension of £40,000. He will now add £147,000 for his new European job.

Next time a Fianna Fail politician says we have to 'look after our own first' you now know what they mean.

inside the system

THINGS THEY SAY

"My home is burnt. If your government thinks its OK for me to go back to nothing then so be it."

■ Isak Berisha, a Kosovan refugee who is to be deported along with his wife and three children

"We had an extremely strong friendship. He always made clear he was enjoying good fortune and out of affection and other reasons he had no objection to my sharing some of it."

■ George Redmond explaining to the Flood Tribunal why builder Tom Brennan paid him £250,000 over 20 years

"I was never offered or requested one penny, not to mind a sizeable financial contribution to influence my vote"

■ Fianna Fail TD Liam Lawlor, denying he is 'Mr Big'

"There was no need to be shooting at anybody. The Iraqis couldn't surrender fast enough. The war was over."

■ Lieutenant-General JAMES JOHNSON on the US military's attack on retreating Iraqi conscripts in 1991

Nazi third secret

MORE SCANDAL hit the Church after the Pope's visit to Fatima in Portugal.

The Virgin Mary is supposed to have appeared there in 1917, and the shrine is visited by Catholics from across the world.

But the parish priest of Fatima was forced to admit recently that the shrine's refurbishment had been financed by the sale of Nazi gold. The gold had been stored at Fatima during the Salazar dictatorship which ran Portugal until the 1974 revolution.

It had been received from the Nazis in payment for goods supplied to Germany during the Second World War. The sale of the gold between 1982 and 1986 paid for Fatima's refurbishment.

★ THREE CHEERS for black US golf star Tiger Woods.

He was due to film a commercial for Nike, but faced picket line when he turned up to shoot.

Actors are striking over pay arrangements for their work on commercials.

Woods and his agent refused to cross the picket line and the filming was cancelled.

★ MEMBERS OF the garda unit brought in to deal with last month's siege in Co. Longford, in which John Carthy was shot dead, were undergoing a course in marksmanship at the time.

The four-week course has since ended and it is understood that seven of the nine taking part failed. An army source criticised the fact that no "less than lethal" weapons were available on the day.

★ A McDonalds worker in France was sacked for giving food he had paid for himself to a Roma refugee.

He used his lunch allowance to pay for cheeseburgers which he gave to a Roma refugee who came into the restaurant to beg. Remy says he even asked for his supervisor's permission and thought the gesture would be positive for the company's image.

He was shocked when he was sacked a few weeks later, and says a boss told him, "For the sake of McDonald's image, we do not give to Gypsies."

The demonstration the media ignored

Anti-racists march against FF bigotry



"I've been living here for two years and although my own situation isn't so bad (I have a work permit), nearly everyone I know has experienced some form of racial abuse. People are very afraid. It's really true we did something about it, which is why I came out today."

■ LARRY (NIGERIA)



Just part of the Anti Nazi League march

ON MAY 13th anti-racists came together in their thousands to protest at the hysteria being whipped up against refugees. But the only newspaper to report on the demonstration was the *Irish Examiner*.

The Independent Group, the

Irish Times and RTE deliberately ignored the 3,500 strong march.

Yet for the past month they reported every small protest meeting against refugees. They carried interviews with racists who linked refugees with all sorts of disease but they ignored the thousands who marched for a multi-cultural Ireland.

The May 13th demonstration was organised by the Anti-Nazi League and was led off by the

Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin, Brendan Carr.

Des Geraghty, President of SIPTU told the march that "racism is always used as a device to divide the working class. We won't accept it as an election issue, even though they will try to make it one. Our union stands for the right of immigrants to work in this country".

Deputations from several unions came on the march



"We saw a racist attack in Summerhill a few weeks ago. We went down to Store St. to report it to the Gardai, but they weren't interested. That convinced us that we had to come out on the streets and do something about it. Ed travelled up from Clare to be here today."

■ NIAMH (Dublin), ED (Clare)

including the Psychiatric Nurses, the National Rail and Busworkers Union, MANDATE and the Dublin Trades Council.

Michael Farrell of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties summed up the mood when he said, "this is a defining moment in the history of this country."

"Are we going to go down the road of racist filth like in the 1930s when governments closed the door to refugees fleeing Nazi terror?"

"The Minister of Justice revels in the image of being the hard man of FF. I want to repudiate his description of 80 percent of asylum seeker as bogus"

The aim of the march was to instil a new confidence into the anti-racist movement. And it worked.

Afterwards one hundred and fifty people joined the Anti-Nazi League and pledged to take an



"I'm very concerned at the level of racism in Dublin at the moment, even from my colleagues. Our union is strongly opposed to racism and has a good tradition of opposing it. Quite a few of our members came today."

PETER, (a MANDATE member)

anti-racist declaration around their workplaces and neighbourhoods.

The racist hysteria has been stirred up by politicians who are mired in corruption. But the fight back against them has begun.

BACK THE DECLARATION

SUPPORT FOR an anti-racist declaration has grown dramatically since it was launched. Almost all the Labour Party TDs, including the party leader Ruairi Quinn, have backed it. So too have prominent musicians such as Sinéad O'Connor and Christy Moore.

Scores of delegates at the recent CPSU annual conference signed up, including the newly elected president, Dennis Keane.

The organisers in the Anti-Nazi League aim to collect thousand of signatories in the next few weeks and then take out an ad in a national newspaper.

Melisa Halpin of the ANL said, "Gathering signatories for this advertisement will harness the powerful anti-racist sentiment that exists in this country. It will help turn the tide on those who are stirring up intolerance."

Put your name to the declaration, send your name and a donation to Anti-Nazi League PO Box 4007, Dublin 1 or e-mail: anl@ireland.com. Get more copies of the declaration from the same address and take them round your job or community.

SPONSORS SO FAR INCLUDE: M.D. Higgins, Labour Party Ruairi Quinn TD, Labour Party; Michael D Higgins TD, Labour Party; Emmet Stagg TD, Labour Party; Patricia McKenna, Green Party MEP; Joe Higgins TD, Socialist Party; Councillor Larry O'Toole, Sinn Fein; Councillor Dessie Ellis, Sinn Fein; Senator Joe Costello, Labour Party; Senator Brendan Ryan, Labour Party; Kieran Allen, Socialist Workers Party; Professor Farrell Corcoran, Dublin City University; Councillor Finian McGrath, Independent; Councillor Deirdre De Burca, Green Party; Raymond Deane, Composer; Gavin Kostick, Playwright; Fergus Johnston, Composer; Leland Bardwell, Aodana; Mick O'Reilly, Regional Secretary ATGWU; Des Geraghty, President SIPTU; Brendan Archbold, National Officer MANDATE; Peter Bunting, General Secretary NBRU; Jimmy Kelly, Executive member ATGWU; Eddie Conlon, TUI Executive; Phillip Hadden, President USI; Marnie Holborow, President SIPTU Education Branch; Carolann Duggan, SIPTU Waterford; Brian O'Shea TD, Labour Party; Jan O'Sullivan TD, Labour Party; Liz McManus TD, Labour Party; Mary Upton TD, Labour Party; Willie Penrose TD, Labour Party; Eamon Gilmore TD, Labour Party; Sean Ryan TD, Labour Party; Derek McDowell TD, Labour Party; Pat Rabbitte TD, Labour Party; Brendan Howlin TD, Labour Party; Breeda Mcynihan-Cronin TD, Labour Party; Dr Colin Coulter, NUI Maynooth; Dr Steve Coleman, NUI Maynooth; Sinéad O'Connor.

"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 was 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 treated 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."

A VINDICTIVE GOVERNMENT

THE DEPT. of Justice is stepping up its war against refugees when O Donoghue travelled to Romania to organise a special deal whereby Romanian police officers will help Irish Garda deport asylum seekers.

The Romanian police, who were often trained under the old Causescu regime, have been accused by even the US State Department of numerous human rights abuses against Roma gypsies.

According to Amnesty International, Romanian police have specifically targeted gypsies and gays and beaten them up. They have also failed to investigate numerous attacks against these groups.

But this has not stopped O Donoghue inviting them here to interview people who may be sent back to their care. This disgrace move will finger asylum seekers to their persecutors.

Meanwhile, the government has also turned on Kosovan refugees. During the NATO bombing campaign the refugees were feted by politicians and the media. But now that they have served their purpose for Western interests, they are being thrown out.

Each Kosovan refugee has been sent a circular from the Department of Foreign Affairs telling them they will have to leave. The letter was so crude that Junior Minister Liz O'Donnell had to apologise for its tone. But she has not withdrawn the vindictive letter.



news of the world

- Zimbabwe

'We have the strength to topple Mugabe'

THE HEADLINES about Zimbabwe in the Western media have all been about the plight of white farmers who often own up to 50,000 acres of land.

Yet the real opposition to Mugabe is coming from the working class. Socialist Worker spoke to Gwenai Matsiva an active socialist who is a member of the Movement for Democratic Change.

"MUGABE has lost the confidence of the working class.

"People are looking to the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). He has no support in the cities, but more than that, he has lost the confidence of big business. The state is in a shambles, unsure how loyal to Mugabe to be.

"So to hold onto power Mugabe is striking out. He is attacking workers, the farmers and even the business community.

"The problems started for Mugabe after the collapse of the Eastern Bloc. Mugabe had to look elsewhere for support, so he turned to the West and accepted the IMF programme for the country.

"So the imperialists started to get back into the country. This meant attacks on workers, as Mugabe privatised as much as he could and drastically cut back on spending on social services especially on hospitals.

Confidence

"This hit workers and the poor hard. In 1996 there was a revival of working class confidence and there was a general strike, of civil servants, nurses and teachers.

"It was the start of a generalised opposition to the regime. 1997 started with food riots by housewives and the urban poor.

"The protests were in part fuelled by the extent of the Aids crisis and the fact that the government, while

cutting money for health, was increasing money for the military.

"There were also national protests in the colleges against the regime and uprising of peasants for land.

"The war veterans started to organise to demand their pensions.

"For 17 years they had received nothing. But then the government gave in to them and now uses them as stormtroopers for the regime.

"The ZCTU (Congress of Trade Unions) called another general strike. But in the following year there was a clampdown by the state on opposition activists.

"The government sent in the army and the police to clamp down on the protests. It didn't stem the protests fully — there were huge stay aways, for instance.

"People moved towards looking for a workers' party, with local committees pushing for the formation of a party.

"In September last year the ZCTU along with a lot of NGO's formed the Movement for Democratic Change.



Celebrating the defeat of Mugabe over the constitution earlier this year

'Take the land but do not vote for Mugabe'

"MANY PEOPLE thought the MDC was going to be a workers' party. But the union leaders set out to include business elements. Business and the land owners and the West aren't convinced that Mugabe can hold on to power. So they are trying to take-over the opposition.

"Mugabe is trying to win traditional chiefs by giving them money and using the War veterans.

"This is why he has raised the land issue. He has done nothing over the fact that a tiny white minority own nearly all the land for 20 years.

Deal

In fact, Mugabe made a deal to make sure the land was not taken from the farmers at the moment of independence.

"He is pretending to be the champion of the landless but peasants and workers know that he cannot deliver and that he is using it as a gimmick in the elections. Our slogan is 'Take the land, but don't vote for Mugabe'.

"Land is a real issue all across Africa because of the

history of imperialism.

"The land was stolen by Cecil Rhodes and his bandits. It is time people got it back but Mugabe won't deliver.

"Unfortunately because the MDC have courted the business elements and are looking to the West to back them they are only calling for a commission on the land rather than for occupations.

Future

"But the future of Zimbabwe won't come from Commonwealth leaders, the IMF or the UN. The answer is within Zimbabwe itself. It lies with taking the wealth from the imperialists and Mugabe.

"That means getting rid of Mugabe and going further than the leaders of the MDC want.

"There is now a battle of ideas going on over whether the opposition will look to the left or to business.

"As the fight against Mugabe continues that debate will intensify.

"We will be arguing that the power to change Zimbabwe lies in the strength of the protests and strikes of 1996-7.

"If that strength is used then the land can belong to the people and wealth of the country can be owned by the people."

- Sierra Leone

Thousands die to save diamond firms

The British army are pouring soldiers and guns in Sierra Leone. But instead of bringing peace it is only adding to a catalogue of horrors.

The British cabinet is debating sending more ammunition in order to help one side win the civil war.

At least 50,000, and perhaps 100,000, have died in the fighting in the last decade. In every street in the capital, Freetown, there are people without arms or legs or ears or a nose.

Around another 100,000 people have been mutilated by one or other of the warring gangs that have fought for state power and the wealth it brings.

Since diamonds were discovered in Sierra Leone in 1930, they have dominated the country's politics.

The Wall Street Journal, summed up the situation: "What appears to lie behind the breakdown of the peace process in Sierra Leone was US and British determina-



Mutilated by warring gangs

tion to wrest control of Sierra Leone's rich diamond mining areas from the RUF rebels.

For several months Washington and London have been leading efforts to break the financial power base of the RUF by trying to centralise the diamond trade.

The key role of mining interests in the fighting is nothing new in Sierra Leone.

Rival mining companies, security firms and merce-

naries from South Africa, Britain, Belgium, Israel and the former Soviet Union have poured weapons, trainers, fighters and cash into the country.

They have backed the government or the rebels in a bid to gain access to the country's high quality gems."

On 22 March the US embassy in Sierra Leone sponsored a meeting for multinational diamond firms and Sierra Leone's government.

"If you want to know the value of a diamond here you should take all the arms and legs they chopped off and put them on one side, and all the diamonds dug up over the past ten years and put them on the other side, and then you divide one into the other. That is the value of a diamond in Sierra Leone."

■ JONAH DUMBUYA, whose arm and ears were hacked off by one of Sierra Leone's militia groups in 1997

The US bluntly told the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) that it was going to lose the billions of dollars worth of production it was then controlling.

This declaration of war on the RUF plunged the country into the latest round of chaos.

Blair

As well as directly serving the diamond firms, Blair and Clinton will also want to clear the way to further interventions by NATO, by apparently acting in a humanitarian way in Sierra Leone.

If the United Nations "peacekeeping" initiative fails in Sierra Leone, it will be much harder to mobilise the proposed UN troops for Congo, where more massive mineral deposits are at stake.

Immense fortunes are made from the diamond trade.

In 1998 the international industry produced an estimated 115 million carats of rough diamonds with a market value of £4.25 billion. These became 67 million pieces of jewellery worth over £315 billion. The US and Britain are determined to protect these profits at any cost.

Eamonn

McCann

4th secret of Fatima

TO MOST people, this Third Secret of Fatima business seems ridiculous. But then, the pope isn't most people.

Standing on a hill-top in what was once a tiny Portuguese village on May 13th, John Paul II commanded a billion Catholics to believe as a literal fact that a woman who allegedly lived 2,000 years ago had miraculously appeared to three local children on the same date in 1917 and passed on three messages from god which they were instructed to keep secret.

Fatima isn't a tiny village any more, but a sprawling town packed with gullible tourists pouring money into the coffers of local business. Perhaps this is what the pope had in mind when he spoke of the "blessings" which heaven has showered on the area.

Strangely enough, the first two Fatima secrets weren't kept secret at all.

The minute the local bishop had coaxed them from the "visionaries" they were proclaimed to the world. The first was a vague prediction about the course of power politics—that the First World War, then in its third year, would end, but that there'd be another and even worse war at some time in the future.

The second secret was that the Bolshevik Revolution gathering momentum in Russia would spread evil across the world—an endorsement of the propaganda gushing forth at the time from every anti-socialist politician and parasite in Europe.

That's the main thing to remember about "Our Lady of Fatima"—that she was politically motivated from the outset and stood on the far Right. Which is why John Paul II has eagerly promoted her cause since coming to power in the Vatican in 1979.

With two of the mysteries out of the bag, John Paul had only one left to play with. And on May 13th this year, he made his move.

Gullible

The gullible had always been led to believe that the Third Secret was so huge in its meaning and terrifying in its implications that only the Pope himself could decide when to unveil it. So what sensational news emerged when the long wait of the wondering world ended earlier this month?

Turned out "Our Lady" had foretold that a bishop clothed in white would be shot by an assassin as he moved amid the corpses of the martyred dead.

And who might this martyr be?

'Twas himself, the pope modestly admitted. The predestined assassin was Mehmet Ali Agca, who shot and wounded John Paul in Peter's Square in 1981—on May 13th. The coincidence of the date was all that John Paul needed to read the mind of the Mother of God.

Common-sense people will be tempted to dismiss all this as risible nonsense.

But there's politics in it, too.

A bishop dressed in white gunned down as he moves through ranks of martyrs...the figure which surely leapt immediately to many minds was Oscar Romero, bishop of San Salvador, gunned down in 1980 by an assassin as he distributed communion in the cathedral where he was to preach, as he did every week, about the "martyrdom"—and he used the term—of his people by a Right-wing, pro-American regime.

At the time of his death, Romero was locked in bitter dispute with the Vatican over the role of the Church in the face of Right-wing dictatorships.

When John Paul travelled to El Salvador three years after the assassination, he adamantly and explicitly refused to characterise the murdered Romero himself as a martyr.

Now Catholics are implicitly being told that the far-Right views of the John Paul regime have been endorsed by "Our Lady".

The fact that this whole business is utterly irrational shouldn't blind us to the fact that it's being put to rational use by politically-motivated prelates in Rome.

Latest crisis in the peace process



"What are we called?"

Not an inch Unionists whip up sectarianism

A POLL for the BBC Hearts and Minds programme after the new IRA statement on decommissioning found that over 72 percent of people in Northern Ireland wanted the Assembly and the Executive set up on 22 May. This included over 66 percent of Ulster Unionist Party voters.

Yet in the weeks since the statement, the small hard right-wing members of the Ulster Unionist Council have gone all out to wreck the Agreement.

Even worse, they have been allowed to set the terms of the new deal, demanding extra concessions over the

flying of the Union Jack on public buildings and retaining the name of the RUC.

Both Trimble and the British government have bent over backwards to accommodate them. SDLP leader Seamus Mallon estimates that the new Police Bill will require 44 amendments to bring it back into line with the Patton Commission recommendations.

This means that the British government are prepared to water down even the modest proposals for changes to the RUC.

Concessions

Far from placating the right-wingers, the drip of concessions has only encouraged them.

While Trimble stalled, the anti-Agreement Unionists organised to wreck the UUC vote. They were led by

Jeffrey Donalson, former Grand Master of the Orange Order Rev Martyn Smyth and barrister Peter Weir, who leads the young Unionists.

They got financial backing from the Orange Order, which has 120 seats on the UUC. Within days they were joined by UUP deputy leader John Taylor.

Taylor is known as the 'weather vane' of Unionist politics because he waits to find which way the wind is blowing before joining the winning side.

What unites all these figures is their fear of losing their electoral base.

Most ordinary Protestants in the North want peace and are prepared to accept a government with nationalists.

But to treat Catholics as equals, rather than 'the enemy

within' undermines the whole purpose of Unionism, the idea that all Protestants have to stick together to defend 'their' state. Protestant workers have precious little to show for loyalty to right-wing politicians.

The emergence of parties like the PUP, talking about peace and addressing social issues, terrifies the middle class Unionists who benefited from sectarianism.

The fact that opportunists like John Taylor use flags and the name of the police to rally supporters around the Unionist cause demonstrates how little they have to offer working class people.

Whatever happens with the vote at the UUC, Taylor and Donalson will use every opportunity in the Assembly to bang the same empty drum and renew the sectarian divide.

True face of the RUC

THE BLAIR government has once again made concessions to the Unionist Party over the RUC.

But one recent case shows just how rotten the RUC is.

Bernard Griffin, a Catholic from North Belfast, was arrested and falsely charged with disorderly behaviour in early 1998. RUC officers threatened to get the LVF to kill him and said they were going to drop him off on the Shankill Road.

The police landrover he was taken in was driven at high-speeds, causing him serious injuries.

Shortly after he took the case against the police, RUC officers raided his home and claimed to have found a coffee-jar bomb in the attic.

Griffin spent four months in prison on remand before the case against him was mysteriously dropped.

One of the policemen in the landrover at the time exposed the frame-up.

Jail

Two RUC officers were sent to jail for two years.

They are the first RUC officers to be imprisoned since the beginning of the Troubles, despite numerous investigations into collusion with loyalist death squads, shoot-to-kill policies and sectarian behaviour.

Bernard Griffin's successful action against the police is however, an isolated example.

Only days after his case was heard, the Independent Commission for Police Complaints announced that the RUC officers accused of threatening to murder solicitor Rosemary Nelson would not even be facing disciplinary action.

Four months ago all charges against them were dropped.

Wearing the fur coat of Unionism

JOHN TAYLOR is one of the key politicians who plays with sectarian fire to bolster the Unionist base.

He is also one of the richest men in the North. He is a millionaire with a civil engineering business, who owns a string of local newspapers. He has three homes, a mansion in Armagh, a house in London and one in northern Cyprus. He also owns office buildings in central Belfast and Armagh.

After the first killings of Catholics by British troops in Derry in 1971, Taylor said, "I would defend without hesitation the action taken by the Army authorities in Derry against subversives during the past week or so when it was necessary in the end to actually shoot to kill. I feel that may be necessary to shoot even more in the forthcoming months in

Northern Ireland."

Within months of this statement, Taylor was part of the top-level security committee who order the paratroopers into the Bogside on Bloody Sunday.

In the 1990's, Taylor praised the work of Loyalist paramilitaries, saying that they had "achieved something which perhaps the security forces could never have achieved"

Today the former heartlands of Unionism like East Belfast are wracked with unemployment and bad housing. But Taylor is an extreme conservative who has nothing to offer Protestant workers.

Last month Taylor told a television audience that the shipyard workers at Harland and Wolff "had only themselves to blame" for the threatened closure of the yard, because they were too unproductive.

Austria

Vienna still resisting

AUSTRIANS TEND to describe their political parties in terms of colours -and not only the greens; each party has its own distinct shade.

For example, for the past 15 years the government had been a red-black partnership of Social Democrats and Christian Democrats.

But the most controversial party of them all is the bright blue Freedom Party.

In February 2000, a new cabinet took office: a blue-black coalition between the Austrian People's Party (VP) and the Freedom Party of Austria (FP).

This alliance of the Christian Democrats, hitherto the long-time junior government partners of the Social Democrats, with the extreme right-wing party sparked major demonstrations throughout Europe.

The FP is widely associated with the racist and nationalistic remarks of its effective leader, Jorg Haider.

Haider fell from power in his first term as governor of the southern Austrian state of Carinthia after praising the Third Reich's employment policy. He has

addressed former Nazi soldiers on a mountain top in the Alps, and claims that because collective guilt does not exist, that no-one can be held responsible for World War II atrocities.

The FP's recent election materials placed the blame for Austria's ills on immigrants, social parasites, EU policy and pinkos.

Since the daily protests peaked in a mass demonstration on 19 February, where 300,000 people gathered in Vienna, you don't hear much about the situation in Austria. But there is huge and abiding resistance within Austria to the new regime.

Most public is the ongoing culture of demonstration. Every Thursday and Saturday, thousands gather on the streets to protest. The method is rather unusual; the organisers call it *wandern*, where protestors 'wander' through the streets, with regular updates of their whereabouts available to interested parties via website, e-mail, mobile phone and (independent) radio.

People are encouraged to bring their ghettoblasters, and during live broadcasts of demos, the noise is apparently deafening. Saturdays attract a younger crowd, who bring their skateboards and scooters and are led by a truck carrying a team of DJs - this is called *Volkstanz* (literally 'people's dance').

The effect is more street party than political rally, but the message is clear enough:

by YVONNE WOODS

whatever about the old status quo, these people do not like the new one.

Artists, film-makers, celebrities of all description, opposition parties, trade unions, student activists, and the common folk have organised petitions and protests of all description.

Over the internet, you can find the Virtual Government of Austria (www.government-austria.at), the virtual demo assembly place (www.ballhausplatz.at), and the campaign for fresh elections (www.demokratische-offensive.at).

The FP ministers, who make up half the cabinet, have been plagued by problems in their first 100 days in office. The Defence minister was forced to resign after a magazine interview where he reminisced candidly about his debauched college days, but he cited bad nerves as his reason.

The Social Affairs minister was unable to answer basic questions on pension reform on prime-time TV, saying it was rather a topic for the Finance ministry.

The Foreign minister bemoans her embarrassment at home and abroad at Haider's anti-EU rantings.

This week FP Viennese party chair Hilmar Kabas dubbed Austrian President (and Christian Democrat) Thomas Klestil 'lump' (or 'dump' or 'hump' - he isn't sure anymore). Incidentally, Mr Kabas was also victim of a vicious pie attack whilst giving an interview for the national TV station.

In Carinthia, Haider recently sacked a socialist member of the provincial government because she opposed his new children's allowance policy. He says politicians who go against the welfare of the state can expect to lose their mandates. She merely says his plan cannot be financed.

The government plans to cut spending on civilidienst, a move guaranteed to turn young men away from this alternative to compulsory military service.

One of the new regime's first acts was to abolish the women's ministry, and funding has been cut to scores of organisations deemed unworthy, unnecessary or anti-Austrian. Any loss in momentum for the Austrian protest movement could prove dangerous indeed.

Brown envelopes, bribes and co

THE BUILDING BOSSSES WOULD RUN FIANNA FAIL

FRANK DUNLOP, who spilled the beans on planning corruption, worked as a spin doctor for the Construction Industry Federation.

This is the building bosses organization which hounded workers through the courts for trying to get rid of a black economy based on sub-contract labour.

The CIF fought against every improvement in safety legislation and opposed all the plans for social housing.

Yet they happily employed a man who by his own admission, is a crook.

Nothing sums up better the ruthlessness and gangsterism that lies at the heart of Ireland's building industry.

The building bosses have always been close to Fianna Fail. They funded their TDs and provided transport for the party at election times.

As a back up, they also gave money to Fine Gael and to a lesser extent Labour. But Fianna Fail was their favourite - and they did well from them.

Dunlop was a typical messenger boy who did their bidding.

He greased hands to get planning permission for the property speculators and made sure any local opposition was defused.

He worked for the Spencer Dock Development whose boss Harry Crosbie declared of the people of Dublin's East Wall "They eat their own young down there."

But the links between Fianna Fail and the building industry do not stop at messenger boys like Dunlop.

Bertie Ahern, for example, received all expenses paid trips to

McCreevey's Builder

SEAN DUNNE is a builder who completed a six bedroom house and stables on a 12 acre site in Clane, Co Kildare for Finance Minister Charlie McCreevey.

Dunne is also a prominent Fianna Fail supporter. He has attended a number of FF fund-raisers, including ones for Bertie Ahern.

His company DCD Building Ltd donated two cheques totalling €85,250

to FF.

The chairman of another of his companies, Manorbrook Homes, is Jim Lacey. Lacey resigned from his position in National Irish Bank following a scandal surrounding the banks overcharging on customer accounts. Lacey was also a prominent fund-raiser for Bertie Ahern.

When bricklayers were taken on at one of Dunne's sites they asked to be put on PAYE direct employment. They were threatened with a High Court injunction and eventually sacked.

football matches in Manchester at the invitation of the property speculator Norman Turner.

This is the same Turner who offered to put €30,000 for a Dublin city councillor into a Cayman Islands bank account in return for his vote in favour of planning permission vote for the casino development.

Ahern had no problem taking money from this sort.

But these are not the only links Ahern has to the building trade.

Deceit

One of Ahern's big financial backers is the auctioneer John Finnegan.

Finnegan used to organise property deals for Haughey and is one of the key figures in the Ansbacher scam.

In 1998 Bertie Ahern opened Brooks Hotel on Drury Street, Dublin.

The hotel had run into a number of planning difficulties after Dublin Corporation had recommended against the six storey building.



Building bosses are making millions from the boom but the l

However, after Bertie Ahern wrote to planning officials stating "I would be very grateful if you would favorably consider the retention of all 78 bedrooms" the development went through without any further hitches.

Ahern sits on top of a web of intrigue and deceit between planners, builders and property speculators.

One of his associates is John Byrne, a millionaire property dealer who made a fortune in re-developing Dublin and then renting out the property to the state. He gave a fortune to the Haugheys.

Byrne had nearly €6 million in the notorious Ansbacher account and also contributed to Celtic Helicopters which was owned by Haughey's spoilt son.

The building bosses are still giving money to Fianna Fail.

The property developer, Owen O'Callaghan, who bribed FF councillors Liam Lawlor and Colm McGrath, gave €50,000 Fianna Fail in 1998.

Officially twelve property developers gave Fianna Fail €432,501 in 1998 but this is only the tip of the iceberg.

Two of the biggest donors to Fianna Fail are Crampton's and McNamara's. Both of these companies have tried to break unions and enforce a black economy on their sites.

McNamara's has won a host of state contracts - even though it was engaged in a long and bitter dispute with the bricklayers union.

Far from being a people's party, Fianna Fail has always been run by big business, with the builders and property speculators forming the backbone.

THE

ONE OF THE BEST OF THE BUILDING BOSSSES WAS A COMPENSATION PLAN.

If they bo and ha rationed they w apply for plan permission.

If the plan permission turned down

Noam Chomsky speaks to *Socialist Worker* about...

Global resistance to corporate power

Noam Chomsky (left) and an anti-capitalist protest in Chicago on May Day (below).



NOAM CHOMSKY is the best known left winger in the US today. He has written on many subjects, including the role of the media and NATO's war in Kosovo. Here we re-print a slightly shortened version of an interview he gave to the *British Socialist Worker*.

HOW SIGNIFICANT were the protests in Seattle against the World Trade Organisation and in Washington against the International Monetary Fund and World Bank?

VERY SIGNIFICANT. I don't recall anything like it. For a long time there have been vocal protests against what's misleadingly called globalisation, this particular mode of corporate-run international integration which has harmed a great many people — probably the majority of the population of the world.

This has led to local protests over specific issues. But in the last couple of years the protests have become integrated.

Seattle was a major protest, and the major institutions had to back down. In Washington it was again the same story.

The variety of constituencies involved in these protests is remarkable.

They involve people who in the past did not have much to do with each other, like steel workers, gay activists and environmentalists.

The protests also have an international character, bringing together people from movements like the landless workers' movement in Brazil, the peasant movement in India and working people in the US.

IN WASHINGTON the movement seemed to be deepening and becoming more politicised. People were making links in a way that we haven't seen for a long time.

YES. THE protesters know what they are talking about. People are asking more fundamental questions. People

who call the protests reformist are missing the point.

For one thing the reforms are good — if you can achieve them, they help people. But also when there is a limit placed on reforms it helps you come to understand the way the world works, and that's important.

You begin by calling for a minor reform. You find you can make a little progress on that, but then you face an iron wall. That teaches you something. You ask questions about why there's an iron wall and you look a little deeper into the way the system works.

Then there's more pressure and sometimes more reaction. Part of the point of the protests is that they educate the protesters. You learn about where the institutions will be willing to bend and where they will not. That sharpens the protesters for the next stage.

AMONG THE protesters there seems to be a sophisticated understanding of the way corporations are choking the life out of the world, and also a vision of essentially a socialist society.

IT IS true of some of them. And those people are to a large extent people who have learned that through the experience of trying to carry out corporate reform.

You start by going to an investors' meeting and calling for socially positive investment. You find you can make a minuscule difference, but you can't go too far. You ask why you can't, and you get to what you're describing.

WHERE DOES US foreign and military policy fit into the picture today?

IT'S THE same story. One interesting index is arms

transfers.

The main countries that get arms are Israel and Egypt. Egypt gets them because it supports Israel. That has to do with US domination of the Middle East's oil resources. Turkey is also a leading recipient of US arms.

Turkey is a NATO country and was on the frontline of the Cold War.

But the level of arms transfers was fairly steady and not all that high until 1984. Then it went much higher and stayed high. The peak year was 1997. In that single year Turkey got more arms from the United States than in the entire period of 1950 to 1984.

This was because in order to crush the Kurds the Turkish state needed a huge flow of US arms. So US arms were pouring in for massive ethnic cleansing operations and massacres in south-eastern Turkey.

By 1998 they had suppressed the Kurdish movement, so the arms sales declined. Until then Turkey was the leading recipient of US arms apart from Israel and Egypt.

In 1999 it was replaced by Colombia. Colombia had been the leading recipient of US arms in the western hemisphere through the 1990s. It also had one of the worst human rights records in the 1990s.

Why? Because Colombia has a powerful guerrilla movement which the state has not been able to crush.

HOW DOES NATO's bombing in the Balkans last year fit in?

WHEN NATO bombed

Yugoslavia it was not because of human rights problems.

They don't give a damn about human rights. NATO did it because Serbia didn't follow the rules. Milosevic is doubtless a war criminal and a gangster.

But the US and Britain have no problem supporting war criminals and gangsters—they do it all the time. Take Saddam Hussein.

Tony Blair and the United Nations tell you he is the only monster in history who has not only developed weapons of mass destruction but evenused them against his own population.

All that's missing is, "Yes, he used weapons of mass destruction against his own population, but with the SUPPORT of the US and Britain."

The real reason they are after Saddam Hussein is because he disobeyed orders. Now that's a crime. You can gas Kurds if you like—we don't care about that—but don't disobey orders! That's the way great powers work.

The United States works that way. Britain, which is by now more or less the attack dog of the United States, works that way. Russia is doing the same in Chechnya.

HOW DO the big corporations fit into this picture?

STATES ARE to some extent independent actors. But overwhelmingly they reflect the concentration of power inside them. That concentration inside contemporary industrial countries is concentrated corporate power.

This concentration of power

is extremely high in the US but it is also international—although big corporations are rooted in, and heavily dependent on, their own home countries.

What's called globalisation, a development that has taken place in the last 25 years, is a real power play on the part of concentrated corporate power and the states that are linked to that. They are trying to develop a particular form of global integration which is in the interests of financial institutions.

What happens to the population is incidental. In fact, what happens to economic growth is incidental. You get a lot of excited talk about how wonderful the economic record has been in the last 25 years.

It's total nonsense. In the period from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s economic growth in the industrial countries was cut by about half.

Wages have either stagnated or declined in most of the industrial countries, and primarily in the US. Working hours are going way up. Benefits are down. Although growth has slowed there is highly concentrated profit.

In the Third World the growth rate in the 1990s is about half what it was in the 1970s.

That's one of the effects of one particular form of globalisation, traceable in substantial measure to the financial liberalisation.

These changes in the last 25 years have had the effect of harming the international economy. It still grows, but not like before. And it concentrates wealth and power far more than before, and undermines democratic processes.

There are other ways of

undermining democracy. Take the European Union.

One of the crucial parts of the European Union is the transfer of power to unaccountable central banks. That's a tremendous attack on democracy.

In fact, it's so extreme that even conservative sectors in the United States have been shocked by it.

WHAT ABOUT future prospects? Is something shifting in the US working class?

AVERAGE WAGES in the US have only now, maybe, reached the level of 20 years ago. To have a 20 year period when average wages are stagnant or declining when there is still economic growth is probably unprecedented.

US workers have the highest workload in the industrial world. They passed Japan a couple of years ago.

You have to have two members of the family working in the US just to keep food on the table.

You don't have daycare systems for children so you have to figure out what to do with the children. That's not so easy for a working family.

This is a tremendous burden on families. One associated factor, which may well be a consequence, is that things like child abuse have gone up.

By most social indicators the US has declined since the mid-1970s.

People feel that in their own individual lives, but they are also beginning to feel it collectively.

in my view

Genetic concerns

GEORGE ORWELL once wrote, "There are certain things one has to be an intellectual to believe, since no ordinary man could be so stupid."

Charles Murray, the author who has made prejudice respectable with his book *The Bell Curve* has declared that the Left should embrace his ideas about race and intelligence. He did this when he spoke on a platform with British Home Secretary Jack Straw — which says much about where New Labour is these days. His speech got extensive coverage in the *Sunday Times*.

Murray's best-known book, *The Bell Curve* (1994), runs to more than 800 pages but can be summarised in a few sentences. Black people are more stupid than white people: always have been, always will be. This is why they have less economic and social success. Since the fault lies in their genes, they are doomed to be at the bottom of the heap now and forever.

The Klu Klux Klan and the BNP, derived much comfort and pleasure from his work. His insidious achievement has been to make racism respectable by dressing it up in the alluring garb of science and dispassionate scholarship.

Murray's work depends on crude definitions. He thinks that our place in the social pecking order depends on our IQ, which is genetically and racially pre-determined and cannot be much affected by schooling, environment or class. The measure of intelligence used is the Armed Forces Qualifying Test.

Sample questions for the paper include: "If a cubic foot of water weighs 55lb, how much weight will a 75 1/2 cubic-foot tank trailer be carrying when fully loaded with water?" If young African-Americans find it hard to answer these questions, might this have something to do with the quality of their education? Not according to Murray, who attributes it entirely to the curse of their ancient and immutable genetic inheritance.

It can be shown that statistically the children of Catholic families are much more likely to be Catholic than other members of the population. This does not mean that they carry a gene for Catholicism. We are clearly more the sum of our parts.

Camouflage

Behind the scientific camouflage Murray is essentially a rightwing fanatic with an old lie: that nothing can or should be done to ameliorate racial and economic inequality.

In his book *What It Means to Be a Libertarian*, he argued: "In a free society, freedom of association cannot be abridged," he argued. "Implicit in this freedom is also the freedom not to associate. Individuals and private groups may accept, reject, embrace, ignore, hire for, fire from, lease to, evict from, anyone for any reason. In other words, free people must be free to make judgments about their fellows and to act upon them."

Which is merely a rather fancy way of saying that banks, restaurants, doctors and bus companies should be free to stick up signs, announcing: "No blacks will be served."

Murray advocates eugenics — selective breeding to improve the human race. This pseudo scientific doctrine was popular in the 1920s in the US when thousands of women were compulsorily sterilised to wipe out offspring who were 'feeble minded'. In Germany these ideas were taken up by the Nazis who used them to justify the Holocaust.

The barbarism of the Nazis discredited eugenics for a generation after the Second World War. But Murray and others have tried to rehabilitate them.

Our biology does place limits on what we can do as individuals, but it also gives us the capacity to transcend those limitations. Human beings cannot fly, but our biology means that we have large brains and hands that can create a society that can produce aeroplanes.

The greatest limitation on the development of our capacities is the capitalist system. Fortunately our biology and our history have given us the tools we need to change that system. Murray and his sponsors in the Murdoch controlled media empire would, of course, like us to ignore that power.

SIMON BASKETTER

music

Fury at the filth

"IT'S HELL, it's hard, it's horrible," snarls John Lydon, when asked to describe what life as part of a band was like. But he could well be describing what it was like to grow up in England in the mid '70s.

A new documentary *The Filth and the Fury*, tells the story the Sex Pistols and the punk movement.

By the late seventies, Britain's social upheaval was severe. A stagnant economy, unemployment, and racism whipped up by politicians led to a growth in the National Front.

Kitschy popsters like the Bay City Rollers and rock dinosaurs such as Yes and Rod Stewart dominated popular music. The working class was demoralised but annoyed.

Chorus

Punk music was the chorus of the disaffected and the plain fed up.

In 1975, John Lydon was busking on the streets wearing an "I Hate Pink Floyd" T-shirt when he joined a band.

Malcolm McLaren, the entrepreneur wanted a pop band with an outrageous streak, but Lydon, guitarist Steve Jones, drummer Paul Cook and bass player Glen Matlock had other ideas.

"We declared war on England without meaning to," says Rotten. And England fought back. Politicians described the band as "the antithesis of humankind," and "a bigger threat than communism"

Banned

Queen Elizabeth had a Jubilee which Lydon denounced in song. The single was banned by the BBC and was not listed on the music charts — but it still went to number one.

During their frenzied 26 months of existence the Sex Pistols "managed to offend all the people we were f***king fed up with," says Rotten.

The Pistols took the primal power of three-chord rock & roll and ratcheted it up to a level of such deranged,



Johnny Rotten

hurtling aggression that, in their hands, a simple pop song acquired the liberating force of a weapon. And that's what related to people.

The Sex Pistols were formed during a refuse collectors strike and they played for the

last time in Britain on Christmas Day 1977, at a benefit for striking workers and their families.

Punk was a lot more than the Pistols. In Belfast it meant riots and a real music scene. It meant you could form a band and

that you did not have to depend on the big record companies.

A tiny number supported right wing ideas and went on to develop music linked to the far right.

But the Anti-Nazi League pulled this back by organising

best punk bands into Rock Against Racism.

Punk music may have emerged from a swamp of English social misery, but it opened the way for rebellion.

— SIMON BASKETTER

television

UPPER CLASS THUGS

by PAUL MCCARTHY

THE FORMULA for Peter Taylor's documentaries on Northern Ireland is quite simple — point a camera at the subject and give them plenty of time to explain their position. It worked remarkably well for the first two series — 'Provos' and 'Loyalists'.

Several people who had taken part in the wars on behalf of the IRA or UVF explained why they became involved in the conflict, the social factors that drove them towards violence.

Compared with these programmes, Taylor's current series, *Brits: The Secret War*, is disappointing.

He follows the same formula, stepping into the background and allowing his subjects to do the talking.

The trouble with this series is that this means we have to endure hours of upper-class English army offi-



The reality of the Falls curfew

cers on how they 'took a crack at the Mick.'

They appear to be devoid of any understanding of the conflict they were involved in. Anthony-Farer-Hockley, Commander of the Land Forces in the early 70's, defends internment and the curfew on the Falls.

One of the few ordinary privates Taylor interviews described the operation as "utter lunacy."

Even a high-ranking lieutenant admitted that their behaviour

actively encouraged nationalist youth into the IRA.

Beatings

Another corporal talked of the serious beatings administered to random Catholics. "It was the law of the jungle," he sneered. Robert Andrew, who was the private secretary at the Ministry of Defence defends the use of torture in the holding cells.

Completely without irony, Frank Cooper (MI6) blurted that "we

are a democracy. You can't just shoot people you suspect of being terrorists."

Taylor has done us a service in exposing the barbarity and ignorance at the heart of the British army's operations in the North.

The problem is, he tends to glamorise their operations and make heroes out of these upper-class thugs.

• *Series continues BBC2, WEDNESDAYS, 9:30 PM.*



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.

Fianna Fail's Thatcherite agenda

Action can stop privatisation

M A R Y O'ROURKE has announced her intention to break up CIE into three separate companies by the end of the year and eventually to sell them off as private companies.

She has proposed a bizarre franchise system that will be a combination of both the London and Scandinavian models.

Every route will be up for tender every year and sold to the highest bidder.

Her aim is to allow no single operator to gain a monopoly on the

routes by restricting the number of routes that any one operator can control.

So, for example, if Dublin Bus wins the franchises for 20 routes, they must subcontract 20 percent of these to another contractor.

But competition does not improve the service. In London for example, the bus service is appalling and cutbacks have resulted in huge danger to public safety.

Disaster

The Paddington rail disaster saw tens of people lose their lives and hundreds injured.

The whole aim of privatisation is profit.

The only people who benefit if Dublin Bus



O'Rourke

will be the private operators and management.

Dublin Bus has the lowest subsidy paid to any public transport system in any European country.

The only way to make the service better is to increase subsidy.

If the transport system is private than that subsidy will go to profit not to improving the

system.

Running a bus service costs the same whether that company is publicly or privately owned. The only difference is labour costs. Private operators will be more "competitive" because they will try to get away with paying their drivers less.

"O'Rourke has said that small is beautiful but this only reveals her real agenda," one bus-worker told *Socialist Worker*.

"It's an attack on union organisation. She wants to keep everything as small as possible so there can be no prospect of another transport strike.

Attack

"Despite all her talk about keeping the unions on side and the unions being part of any future changes, this is an attack on the livelihood of drivers."

The response of the union leaders to this looming privatisation is appalling.

"None of them have attacked O'Rourke or condemned privatisation in principle" said one driver. "All they talk about is partnership forums."

"But the rank and file can stop privatisation. They can't run a bus service without us and O'Rourke knows it. That is why she is so worried about keeping the union leaders on side. We went on strike for a pay increase and terrified them. We can do it again and stop privatisation"

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

or send to

Letters

PO BOX 1648, Dublin 8

I'M OVER 70 and I've worked all my life, but I don't get a pension or a medical card because my husband is earning over £360 a week.

I have to pay all my medical expenses. The government and the politicians get pensions easily enough, many of them are millionaires.

The state should look after everyone, regardless of a persons income.

□ Linda

Meath Street, Dublin

THE REAL DONEGAL REFUGEES STORY

ON TO PRAGUE

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank are holding a conference in Prague, from the 26th - 28th September.

The IMF, the World Bank and the WTO organise the world economy in the interests of multinational corporations and the banks.

In Seattle protesters from trade unions, anti-capitalist and environmental organisations showed how the power of these unelected and unaccountable organisations can be taken on.

Inspired by these mass demonstrations a similar event is being planned for Prague. The growing anti-capitalist mood means that wherever the IMF try to meet they will be greeted with huge protests and a demand to cancel third world debt.

Mass protests in the Czech Republic and Europe can shut down this conference, delivering a clear message against poverty and environmental damage.

□ Anna Hudson
Dublin

not the luxury the *Evening Herald* portray.

We took them to the Garda station.

They made no attempt to find an interpreter and made a joke out of the situation.

Two priests and an EHB official turned up.

The priests offered to house

them for the night but the health board wouldn't allow it.

He threatened to take away their children unless they returned to Donegal.

This is blackmail of the most vulnerable people in Ireland.

□ Gina Hay
Dublin 7.

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 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 8.00pm in O'Donoghue's Pub, Drawbridge St
- **DERRY:** Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in Badgers Bar upstairs, Orchard St.
- **DUNDALK:** Contact 01 - 872 2682 for details
- **DUN LAOGHAIRE:** Meets every Tuesday 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
- **LIMERICK:** 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.

Join the Socialists

(PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

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I want to join the SWP

I want more information

I want to get Socialist Worker fortnightly

I want to subscribe to the SWP e-mail network

Return to SWP PO Box 1648 Dublin 8, Tel (01) 872 2682

**Health Service****INO Conference**

Action over agency nurses

Around a thousand delegates of the Irish Nurses Organisation attended the annual conference in Galway. The overall mood of the conference was upbeat, reflecting confidence gained by the organisation of the union's first ever national strike.

Minister for Health, Michael Martin, announced that from next year all nurses, whether studying full-time or part-time, will not have to pay for their degrees.

Contracts

There was a sting in the tail though because student nurses will have to sign contracts agreeing to work for the Public Health Service for an additional year after qualification.

The winning of free fees

is a result of the students themselves campaigning. But some are still worried it is not good enough.

"I have mixed feelings," said Maria, a First Year representative from Tallaght, "people don't want to be tied down."

"A lot of people want to leave nursing after the degree, perhaps to go on to other careers such as physiotherapy."

"I've been talking to people, and some of them would rather pay the £2,000 than work an extra year —

PNA

NURSES IN the Psychiatric Nurses Association plan to escalate the work to rule action.

Nursing officers were balloting for further action as *Socialist Worker* went to press. The action would target the flagship psychiatric units in general hospitals.

The nurses are protesting at the provision in the new partnership deal which sees

if you are planning to leave the country, say to go to Australia, these contracts will tie you down — probably making it impossible to get a visa.

USI, who co-ordinated the student nurses campaign, will be holding a meeting of reps to look at the details of the governments offer.

The other major item at the INO conference was a decision to undertake strike action in those areas of health care where management have not implemented

the agreement made after the national strike.

Agency nurses, for example, have missed out on a lump sum payment and specialist qualifications have not always been recognised.

Military hospitals and some private hospital have also not paid the lump sum.

Liam Doran and the executive of the INO managed to head off criticism of how the strike was ended without a ballot of the members — by presenting a discussion paper and getting the conference to refer back six motions on the subject.

This left some reps furious, one saying that "conference is not reflecting the anger that a lot of members feel about the way the dispute was ended."

SIPTU

DELIVER ON THE RHETORIC

JACK O'CONNOR, a SIPTU regional secretary, won a landslide victory in the recent union election for Vice President when he polled 70,000 votes.

O'Connor was the favoured candidate of the Liberty Hall machine. He managed to swing nominations at small branch meetings and then mobilised the full time officials to get the vote out for him.

However, O'Connor's victory also resulted from a number of other factors.

First, the union had voted to accept the Partnership programme by a higher majority than before. Rising inflation is already eroding that deal which originally looked good on the surface. But discontent with the deal has not yet turned to outright anger.

Second, O'Connor deliberately tacked left. He described himself as a left wing member of the Labour Party. He said he was opposed to privatisation and giving free rein to the market.

All of this is simply

Colmeg Ltd

Locked out but dertermined

OVER THIRTY workers are entering into the fourth week of their lock out at Colmeg Ltd, on Cork Street Dublin.

The company is owned by Brian Tucker who has a long record of closing down factories.

The plant in Cork St has been closed down three times and re-opened under different company names.

It manufactures women's suits for fancy shops like Kilkenny Design and Blarney Woolen Mills. The suits sometimes retails for between £250 and £350 but the workers who made them were often on a basic of less

than £200 a week.

The workers were treated with contempt.

"He just waved the redundancy book at us and told us we were getting only the statutory payments. We were even told to collect our wage packets in a pub. If you worked there for ten years, you would not get much more than £2,500. He wanted to pay out between £28,000 and £32,000 to get rid of his staff."

Disgrace

"But he would get back 60 percent of that from the government. It is just a disgrace how they treat workers," one worker told *Socialist Worker*.

When workers demanded more for their years of service, they were told that the company did not have enough.

"How can that be when the boss has a big house in Howth and a yacht? Maybe he could sell off the yacht," another worker told *Socialist Worker*.

Despite pleading poverty, the company took on a special consultant, a Ken Stafford to organise the redundancies. Stafford who

is reputed to be paid £300 a day, has driven through redundancy programme throughout the textile industry.

An official SIPTU picket has been placed outside the factory. According to one of the locked out staff, "The support from people passing by and local workers has been brilliant. The boss seems to think that you can just throw people away when you decide to move on. But we are determined to stay here until we get a decent offer."

A packed fundraising pub quiz in support of the locked-out workers, organised by Rialto SWP, received a lot of local support and raised £150.

A further £70 was collected at an SWP stall on Saturday on Meath Street — showing the potential for solidarity in the area. The locked-out workers should now be looking for solidarity collections from local workplaces.

SIPTU should get its finger out on this dispute and every branch should be told to organise collections to put manners on this small time employer.

N.I. Social Workers

INDUSTRIAL action by social workers in Belfast has been postponed again as talks bring concessions from management.

Already, extra resources have seen more social work jobs created and improved residential care for children.

Meanwhile, meetings of children's services staff in Foyle Trust were told of cuts in staff and services that have a terrible effect on the lives of children and families.

The burden of the cuts falls not on management but on workers on the ground.

Ann, a NIPSA member in Foyle told *Socialist Worker* "the support is there for industrial action. What's needed now is to get beyond the talking and strike while the iron is hot."

"But industrial action

should not be limited to children's services staff", she added. "All social care staff have heavier workloads with fewer resources. This action is about improving services and that's needed across the board."

Campaign Against Selection

A PUBLIC meeting organised by the Campaign Against Selection attracted some 100 people recently.

Speakers outlined the case for the abolition of the 11+.

Apartheid

Headteacher PJ O'Grady said it was "lamentable that nobody is making any move that resembled leadership in ending educational apartheid in Northern Ireland".

Elizabeth McAllister, a teacher from Newry revealed that nearly 90 percent of people surveyed in the Newry & Mourne area were opposed to the 11+ system.

A decision was taken to set up a steering group to organise the activities of the campaign.

The proposed action included a lobby of the Assembly and building a major march of trade union groups to Stormont in November.

For more details of the CAS ring 02892-660011 or email: campaign_against_selection@hotmail.com.

Junior Doctors

The strike by junior doctors has been averted at the last minute.

Under the settlement the doctors are to be paid overtime rates worth about double the existing rates. Talks on procedures to eliminate their excessive working hours are to be concluded by June 16th.

Under the terms of the agreement, doctors will be paid time-and-a-quarter for every hour they work over the basic 39 hour week, up to a limit of 54 hours. They will be paid time-and-a-half for every hour over 54 hours.

In return the IMO has agreed the function of rostering of doctors and that a senior manager will be appointed in each hospital

to oversee it.

While the doctors had agreed to accept the proposals they said they did so in the interests of patients. One junior doctor, told *Socialist Worker*: "The increases in overtime are a good sign but there is still a long way to go. The real issue of the excessively long hours is far from over and there doesn't seem too much movement by management on that."

"A lot of us are extremely annoyed that the whole has been put off. This has been going on for over 13 years since the last strike by junior doctors. The only way they are going to notice us is if we go on strike like what happened in 1987."

CPSU

DESPITE THE fact that CPSU members had voted to sign up to the new partnership agreement there was a lot of anger at the way PPF was pushed through at the recent conference in Tralee.

There was a general feeling that the workers had benefited little from the Celtic Tiger.

There has been a huge shift to the left in CPSU over recent months.

The new president Denis Keane is a leading socialist activist and was a prominent

member of the Campaign against Partnership in the CPSU. He won 47 percent of the vote after the favoured candidate withdrew due to lack of support.

Three new anti-partnership activists were also elected onto the executive for the first time and left generally increased its vote.

Many delegates pointed out the complete hypocrisy of the government asking workers to sign up to successive partnership deals while so many prominent politicians were taking bribes.

A motion condemning corruption and the trade

union leaders silence on the issue was enthusiastically endorsed. But it was the demand that the union actually take immediate action on the issue that was at the forefront of most members minds.

Fifty leading CPSU activists put their names to the ANL Anti-Racist Declaration.

Club M

OVER THIRTY bar and lounge staff in Club M in Dublin have been sacked by the new owner of the club and hotel.

The owner, Martin Keane, who bought the Bloom's hotel and nightclub for £13.5 million, sacked all the staff at 4.30am May 20th. No notice or reason was given. But staff suspect that the boss wants to avoid having to pay people while the club is closed refurbishment. One staff member said, "We have worked in Club M for years now, and take in thousands of pounds every night, and now we're sacked without as much as a thank you. It's not as if he can't afford to pay us during the refurbishment. He just bought a luxury apartment in Temple Bar."

Service charges

SOME 100 people attended the conference called by Drogheda Campaign Against Service Charges.

The conference brought together activists from around the country including Cork, Limerick Waterford and Dun Laoghaire.

As one speaker said, the introduction of service charges was not just a local tax but a national tax on the poor.

A series of motions were passed condemning the government's attempt to introduce service charges as another form of

double taxation. The conference advocated the tactic of non-payment as was agreed at a previous conference in Dun Laoghaire. Donnacha Mac Raghnaill from Drogheda condemned the Labour Party's approach calling on people to pay the charges.

"We should not pay these charges even if it means breaking the law. There would be no trade union movement if the early trade unionists had obeyed the law. Women wouldn't have the vote if the suffragettes had obeyed the law."

Anti-racism

SOME 40 people attended an Anti-Nazi League public meeting against racism in Tramore. Previously business elements had tried to whip up an hysteria against refugees.

But Eddie Walshe, the local town commissioner said, "People should be welcome here no matter how little money they have. The rich were welcomed under the passports for sale scandal. So why should the poor and the persecuted not be given a warm welcome?"

The meeting decided to organise a multi-cultural musical event to celebrate the anti-racist sentiment that exists in the town.

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

50p

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The furcoat brigade who run Unionism page 6-7

Solidarity price £1

While politicians squabble over names and emblems...

Fight on the REAL ISSUES!

We need jobs NOT flags

RITA KEYES is a GMB shop steward in the Coats Viyella plant in Derry. On the June 20th, 300 of the 440 workers will come off shift for the last time because Coats Viyella is closing down.

She says: "We'd have a better voice if the assembly was up and running — although it's probably a bit late for Coats Viyella."

All that talk about flags is a disgrace. Jobs should be more important."

Firefighter Jim Barbour, who is on the national executive of the Fire Brigades Union.

The FBU recently won a massive victory against cuts in conditions after a 93.3 per cent vote for strike action. Jim says: "With the assembly, we hope that local politicians would be accountable in a way that hasn't happened before."

"The fire service and the whole public service are hopelessly underfunded."

WITH A health service in crisis and thousands of jobs lost in the textiles sector, Northern Ireland's politicians are bickering over flags and a new name for what'll be the same old police service.

Many are asking where the next bit of cash is coming from for their hospital, not what flag will be fluttering over Parliament Buildings.

And for the 124 textiles workers who're losing their jobs in Daintyfit in Plumbridge on the first of June, the name of the police service is likely to

be of secondary interest.

In Catholic and Protestant working class areas unemployment and poor housing continue to make people's lives a misery. Almost 18 per cent of the population here are on income support, compared to 12 per cent in Britain.

Waiting

And in Derry alone, 1,540 families are on the housing waiting list, 953 of them urgent cases.

Yet the British government has just cut the housing budget for Northern Ireland by £13.7 million, despite over £50 million being raised from the sale

of council housing here.

It's no wonder that the majority of people simply want the politicians to get on with it, in the hope that local government will be more accountable than New Labour.

Whether the politicians deliver on such hopes is another matter. Sean Farren, SDLP former Minister for Higher Education, told a meeting at Queen's University last week that there was no money available to get rid of student fees and restore maintenance grants.

Queen's student activist Alan Murray, who was at the meeting, says: "The politicians are accepting Blair's argument that the money is not there."

"They're expected to play off housing, health and education against each

other. They should be demanding more money from London, like they did in Wales.

"They could raise the cap on National Insurance contributions, over the current £35,000. That would raise millions for social welfare."

Resources

Teacher John Price, secretary of the Campaign against Selection, says the fight against the 11 Plus is an equally pressing issue. "The assembly should make an immediate declaration that the 11 Plus will go."

"Schools also desperately need more resources for smaller classes, more qualified teachers, and enough

books and resources."

The assembly politicians won't deliver on any of these issues without a fight-back on the ground.

The unionist politicians who harp on about flags and emblems are simply whipping up sectarian divisions, a tactic they'll continue into any new assembly.

They have no intention of dealing with the problems that blight the lives of working class people.

Working class people in Northern Ireland, Protestant and Catholic, should draw the lesson quickly and campaign to get these issues to the top of the agenda.

That is the surest way to push sectarianism to the margins and highlight the real divide between rich and poor.