

THE WORKER

FOR WORKERS POWER AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

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WAGE CUTS, DOLE



Haughey: The bosses man.

QUEUES, and BIG PROFIT

YOU WOULD think that the bosses are out with the begging bowls. Their plight is enough to make you weep. The customers of fancy restaurants, like the Mirabeau, are looking into the eating delights of the local chippers.

Day after day, the gloom is spread. We are living beyond our means. The country is broke. It's time to tighten our belts again. And those damn greedy unofficial strikers are getting in Charlie's way of solving the balance of payments. It's like an old gramophone record that has got stuck.

It's a load of codswollop. Here is Michael McStay of Unidare speaking: "It is the most successful year ever for the company." And small wonder with profits up 46% to £3.3 million. Then there is General Roadstone with a one third jump in profits from £18m to £24m. And the TMG group hasn't been doing so badly with a hefty jump from £1.73m to £2.56m!

Those of us who see a third of our wages taken out by the PAYE would do well to look at the examples of the banks. The combined profits of the AIB and the Bank of Ireland come to £88 million. But the clever sharks managed to pay only a measly £4 million in tax. This con, however had nothing on that of the oil companies. BP turned in a cool four-fold increase in profits, thanks to the oil shortage.

But it's a different story for those of us at the bottom of the pile. The message is that we must "save the economy" by taking a smaller slice. And it will be a smaller slice of the jobs, wages and social services.

Capitalism is plunging into a new crisis. It knows no other way out of it than attacks on the working class. Yet even those attacks cannot keep afloat the sinking ship.

But the Haughey and Thatcher governments are determined to make the effort. Unemployment is being allowed to creep up North and South as the textile industry totters under American competition. Even the cosmetic job creation schemes are being let run down. The wild utopia of Trinity wizzard, Martin O'Donoghue, on creating full employment, has been thrown out the window.

On top of all that, Haughey has got the axe out for the cuts. Today, thousands of working class kids crowd into miserable overcrowded classrooms and take bread

and jam for their free school meal! But the Lord of Kinsealy thinks they are sponging too much off his state. It's the same with the health service. Year Long delays for eye and dental treatment, six month delays for an operation, stretcher beds in public wards, beds in corridors. But a few million can be saved for our "balance of payments."

Unfortunately, our union bosses are lapping it all up. The merry go round on a new Wage Understanding has already begun. Covered with a bit of sugar, that understanding is designed to firmly fasten our belts.

More than ever, we need a vehicle that can bandwagon a firm response to the bosses. Whenever there is talk of the system's troubles, our union leaders rush in calling for restraint. "Shore it up and we'll reform it later," is their motto.

That response can begin with the building of a shop stewards movement. A movement that links together all those prepared to fight with or without the support of our union leaders.

A movement which says: it's THEIR crisis; it's THEIR responsibility; it's THEIR anarchy!



THERE ARE 32 women political prisoners in Armagh Jail on protest. Like the men in H Block, they are demanding political status. They demand free association, not to have to do prison work - but as women prisoners never have to wear prison uniform, they have not been on a blanket protest.

They are locked in their cells 23 hours a day and endure worse conditions than other prisoners. In early February they were forced on to a dirty protest when the prison

authorities denied them toilet and wash facilities.

These H Block like conditions were imposed on them not chosen by them.

Against this background 400 women and men picketed Armagh Jail on International Women's Day, March 8th.

Feminists from all over Britain, Italy, France and Norway travelled to Northern Ireland to support the women political prisoners and demonstrate the connection between anti-imperialist and women's struggle all over the world.

THE WORKER

Why the Socialist Workers Movement?

THE SOCIALIST WORKERS MOVEMENT does not arrive on the scene with a new formula for winning a new socialist Ireland. The members of the new organisation are already involved in the activities for which we are seeking wider support and new members.

SOME OF us have come out of the Socialist Labour Party because that organisation — as a Party — would not adopt the priorities and methods which — we are convinced — are essential for the building of mass support for socialism within the working class.

We are launching a new independent group — and in a sense returning to an earlier independence — to bridge the gap between the ultimate aim of socialism and the consciousness of the mass of our fellow workers and oppressed.

The point is that socialism means the liberation and coming to power of the working people themselves and that it will be achieved from the starting point of their struggles within the capitalist system.

Capitalism oppresses people on a number of fronts, against which they rebel, often in disconnected struggles, for example: the fight for higher wages; jobs and fair taxation; the struggle against sectarianism; repression and the British troops; the movement of women for equality; the campaign against the dangers and waste of nuclear power, etc.

The nub of this oppression is the exploitation of the working class through the theft of the surplus wealth produced by our labour and that all the other abominations — unemployment, H Blocks, Castlereagh, heavy gangs, housing shortages, the obstacles to women's rights to work and over their own bodies — flow from this or are directly or indirectly related to the efforts of the ruling class to maintain this theft.

The working class is not powerless, especially in the workplace where we can act collectively to stop production and out of which workers have organised the trade unions. THESE ARE basics. The basics of Connolly, of Marxism and of the workers' struggle world-wide and for two hundred years at least. And basic consequences for political action flow from them, consequences which, unfortunately, are lost or set aside by many on the left.

Some struggles are less important overall than others. But none of the main areas where capitalism makes its attacks or where numbers of people — workers and non-workers — make an active response, can be ignored or neglected for socialist intervention. There can be no "pure" revolution in this country.

To ignore the anti-imperialist struggle, for instance, in order to concentrate on "economic" demands, is to hide your head in the sand and hope that the troops miraculously disappear from West Belfast leaving the people there ready for agitation on jobs or housing or that discrimination can be stopped while the UDR patrol the streets. We need, however, to fight to bring the working class as an organised political force, to the leadership of the National Question.

It also follows that there is one area of activity that requires the greatest priority from a socialist organisation: industry and the trade unions. And here most of the revolutionary left in particular have been blind. Without dropping any vital activities outside the purely industrial sphere, the workers party has to be built initially within the ranks of workers already organised.

Rather than being a sterile dogmatic sect with its "programme", it aims to group together those workers prepared to give a fighting lead to their comrades.

The workers' organisation doesn't simply present its platform to the world and ask for "mass support". It has to work for active support through the example of its members and sympathisers as activists, leaders, militants in the class.

The SWM will therefore fight on a number of fronts: Industrial and Trade Union Work:-

Within the Trade Unions we oppose the sell-out policies of the trade union bureaucracy — the privileged full-time officials. Individual officials may be "left wing" and "progressive", but their life style is far removed from the workers they represent and as a whole this bureaucracy has not the stomach for a fight, preferring an easy compromise between the workers and the bosses. Anything more militant than "orderly industrial relations and procedure" threatens their privilege.

Our aim in the workplaces and the unions is to bring together those militants who, with or without the support of the trade union leaders, are willing to fight the attacks of capitalism on their living standards.

We must place ourselves in the forefront of such struggles in order to advance them in a socialist direction. Each victory strengthens the confidence and organisation of workers and their understanding of the final task.

Therefore we must support, strengthen and build open, democratic rank and file organisations in the unions and across workplaces, support shop steward organisation and work for the coming Conference of Shop Stewards, organise practical solidarity for strikes, etc.

We call for trade union officials to be elected, recallable and to be paid no more than the average of the workers they represent.

Women's Work:-

This must be central to the work of a revolutionary socialist organisation. We must support the right of women to organise themselves, but it is our task to convince women activists that only socialism can end their oppression.

Therefore we must help build the women's movement and work to ensure that it turns to working class women, issues and methods.

Anti-Imperialist and Anti-Repression Work:-

The fight to end the military occupation of the six counties and to smash the Orange regime is a central part of the struggle for socialism. While we believe that only the working class can finally rid Ireland, North and South, of imperialism in all its forms, and are therefore critical or republican strategy and method, we make these criticisms only as fellow anti-imperialists.

That means that we must publicly defend the Provos and other republicans and socialists against state repression. Therefore we must participate in the Smash H Block Campaign trying to persuade our fellow participants to broaden it out and raise its issues in the labour movement as we see the way forward at the present time as a united front of republican and working class organisations in the struggle against imperialism. We must raise the issue of repression in the broad labour and trade union movement.

These are not the only areas for our work. Many aspects of capitalism move people to fight back. One example is Nuclear Power. Our task must be to take part in the fight and to demonstrate the connection between the nuclear industry and the anti-human nature of capitalism. Socialists do not oppose nuclear power because we oppose economic growth (as some environmentalists do). We are for a growth in the production of goods that working people need. Rather we oppose the system of profit that foists a "destructive barbaric technology of death on people because of capitalism's ugly rapacious logic.

If you agree with us and want to join in the fight why not fill out the coupon in the bottom right hand corner of this page?

PAYE

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Ever been conned!

Hundreds of thousands of Irish workers have struck and taken to the streets on the tax issue.

But one Daltun O Ceallaigh, an unelected 'information officer' of the ITGWU announced at the beginning of March "that farther agitational action" on tax was over. The reason — Haughey's budget. Instead the ICTU Tax Reform Committee would concentrate on making submissions to the new Commission on Taxation.

On the other side of the fence "an overwhelming majority of businessmen thought the budget was largely right" according to a survey in Business and Finance. And its no wonder. If you happen to be in the £15,000 a year bracket — and who isn't in that lot — you have just saved yourself £1,800 a year — that is £35 a week.

The concession to the PAYE workers in the Haughey budget are minimal. There is no automatic indexation of tax allowances and with inflation running at 20% that matters. Only those single people with an income less than £1,700 a year are excluded from tax. But even the none too radical Associations of Chambers of Commerce demanded that those earning under £3,000 should pay no taxes.

But the bosses have certainly something to be cheer-

ful about. In January 1981 the corporation tax on profits falls to 10%. That is in effect, a no tax situation.

The campaign for a fairer tax system — which the ICTU are now trying to slide out of — arose from a feeling that the wage earner was paying more than a fair share of government income. The bosses, the farmers and the self employed were seen to be getting off lightly.

In 1978, of the £605m collected in income tax, £15m was paid by the farmers and £35m by the self-employed. The large companies, even at the moment are getting off scot free.

They avoid paying tax by offsetting their profits against exports and by claiming depreciation on machinery. And the banks get in on the act by setting up fake 'leasing agreements' in order to make huge chunks of their massive profits tax free.

Nothing has fundamentally changed with the Haughey budget. It is a con man's job to take the sting out of the PAYE campaign. Changes take place mainly within the PAYE sector, but the overall burden remains.

But the campaign should go on. The demands must focus on the tax freedom of exporting companies; the reduction in corporation tax on profits in 1981 and the call for automatic indexation of tax allowances.

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Perhaps you would like more information on the activities and policies of the Socialist Workers Movement, if so fill out the form and tick the box.

I wish to subscribe to "The Worker" and enclose £1.30 for six months/£2.50 for 1 year. (Cheques etc made out to Socialist Workers Movement.)

I am interested in SWM and would like more details.

I would like to join the Socialist Workers Movement.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....



Why H Blocks must GO!

Reports by Hugh Macpartlan, Kieran Allen and Ray Coady.

POLITICAL OR special category status was won in 1972 as a result of a hard-fought hunger-strike in Long Kesh supported by mass demonstrations on the streets both North and South.

As a result of this victory, won by Republican prisoners, the compound system was set up. Dormitory type accommodation in Nissen huts, free association, educational facilities, etc, were an everyday fact of life for those convicted of political offences.

This was to change with the publication of the Diplock and Gardiner Reports, the basis of the criminalisation policy.

As and from March 1976, any one convicted of political offences was to be treated as a common criminal.

As such, political offences did not exist from that date. There was an inherent contradiction in the criminalisation policy. Special courts – the non-jury Diplock courts – were set up to try the offenders. Special interrogation centres were set up and staffed by special squads of highly trained interrogators.

These interrogators were used to process the suspects for trial by the special courts.

The standard treatment given to suspects included: torture to extract "confessions;" long periods of remand to weaken suspects and eventual "trial" by special non-jury courts.

Between 80 and 90 per cent of those suspects convicted by the non-jury courts have been convicted solely on signed confessions.

Those "convicted" of crimes committed after March 1, 1976, which previously were considered political were now considered criminals.

The first person convicted under the new British policy was Kieran Nugent. Nugent decided not to wear prison uniform nor to do prison work.

Refusal to wear prison uniform meant he had no access to toilet facilities and so began the blanket protest.

Others convicted after that date followed Kieran Nugent's example and the campaign within the H Blocks escalated.

Refusal to wear prison uniform meant that prisoners could not leave their cells to slop out and this resulted in a deterioration in cell conditions. Locked in these cells 24 hours a day in foul conditions, the prisoners health gradually deteriorated. To use the exercise yard, they would have to wear prison uniforms.

But why should trade unionists support a politically motivated campaign to win political status for the H Block and Armagh prisoners?

The answer is simple.

Any attempt by the state to criminalise political struggle is a direct threat to those whose interests lie in political change and that includes trade union activists.

In the South, a prime example of this is the Forcible Entries Act, used against the Liffey Dockyard workers and the Bru Chaoimhin strikers.

The number of cases of criminal proceedings being brought against trade unionists for fulfilling their responsibilities.

A recent court case involving a shop steward in Cork charged with obstruction and harassment during an industrial dispute (that is going about his rightful duties as a trade unionist) was claimed by the presiding judge to have

been an appropriate case to have been dealt with under the Offences Against The State Act.

The relationship in both cases is obvious.

Criminalisation of political struggle is a direct threat, North and South, by the state against the hard-gained rights of trade union and political activists.

This is the basis on which the H Block campaign must be supported and fought.

Not on any watered-down, liberal, humanitarian lines. As trade unionists we have a duty to support the men and women on protest.

It's a political fight

THE STRUGGLE in the H Blocks has just passed its fourth year. That fact alone points to the level of political discipline and morale which ordinary prisoners would find it hard to sustain.

But in that period, the struggle has gone through many stages.

Initially, the demand was for prisoner of war status. Later it was for political status. Now the campaign is based around five simple humanitarian demands.

Though the demands of the campaign have softened considerably, the actual tactics of the prisoners have escalated to the highest point of endurance.

The impetus for the H Block campaign came originally from the relatives of the prisoners. It was they who launched the petitions and sit-ins.

Convinced that the military struggle alone would end in victory, the Republican movement failed to tackle the overall criminalisation strategy of the Brits.

That strategy represented a political offensive – an offensive designed to detach the mass of Catholic workers from an open anti-imperialist position.

To do so, it was necessary to portray the struggle in Northern Ireland as one between a "normal democracy" and a bunch of criminal terrorists.

It was a strategy that failed. But that failure had more to do with the basic fact that the Northern state could not survive without some form of internment than with an active political response from the republicans.

The fact is that the H Blocks were not made the focus of a united campaign against the political attacks of British Imperialism for a long time.

Instead, the Provos insisted that only those who supported



struggle is being fought.

Concessions on those demands, brought about by the intervention of Catholic bishops or the SDLP, are therefore a further card which the Tories can play – if and when it needs to bolster up the Middle class parliamentarians in the anti-Unionist population.

The Provos have argued that this non-political platform is the only way to achieve a broad campaign.

Jumping from one extreme to the other, it is claimed that supporters of the campaign need to avoid stressing political points.

Forced by these ideas to hide the political basis of the campaign, many of the spokespersons fall back on appeals to "basic Christianity" or the wise words of John Paul.

All of this is in a vain attempt to win the liberal middle class. Many seriously be-

lieve that the problem will only be solved when a few "influential people" put the word in Haughey's or Thatcher's ear.

But there is a big hole in that strategy. The liberal middle class in Ireland died long ago. The continuing struggle on the National Question combined with the need to re-infuse a weak and stagnant economy with a heavy dose of Catholicism helped bring about their end – if they ever existed. Their death is evident by their absence from the present campaign – despite some vigorous coaxing.

The working class has not only the strength but also the interest in defeating imperialism – as no other class has.

But the politics of the National Question and H Block need to be argued inside the Labour movement. For too long the ICTU has had a clear run for its "peace" policies because of the neglect of anti-imperialists.

The active support of the Labour movement cannot be won by appeals to humanitarianism. Humanitarianism stops short if you do not believe in the right to oppose the British army.

Though there is, to put it at its mildest, a deep suspicion of the British army, that has not been translated into a defence of those who resist it. A campaign on H Block needs to take up the political arguments without imposing the precondition of support for the present military struggle.

It needs to point to the role of the Northern "security forces". It needs to patiently explain the disguised internment of the conveyor-belt system. It needs to argue that the labour movement cannot stand idly by and allow the strengthening of the state through its ability to brand any struggle a criminal one.

The avenues to the trade union movement are many. But the precondition is a level of democracy in the H Block campaign and an openness to non-republican trade unionists. The suggestion of a trade union delegation to Long Kesh could act as a major launching pad.

Through the circulation of a trade union compiled report the issue would be raised in many trade union branches. The National H Block campaign needs to produce a list of trade unionists in the H Blocks in order to support a campaign to get prisoners adopted by union branches. The tactic of pushing trades council sponsorship of public meetings has also had some success.

All in all, there is a need for a major reorientation of the present H Block campaign. Without that change, there is the danger of a weak compromise that politically benefits those who wish to see the struggle end.

The prisoners in H Block have suffered too long for that.

Action in the unions

THE LAST month or so has seen renewed attempts to raise the issue of H Blocks in the unions.

In many cases, supporters of the prisoners get told "We are not here to discuss politics." But the tide is turning.

The Waterford Trades Council has given a real lead on what can be achieved. In early February, a group of local H Block activists wrote to the Trades Council asking for their sponsorship for a public meeting on the H Blocks.

True to their usual form the main opposition to the sponsorship

came from the SFWP. But the issue was carried among the delegates by a narrow majority.

But the Trades Council didn't just leave it at that. They circulated all the affiliated union branches for support for the public meeting on March 19.

In Cork, the Trades Council also passed a resolution supporting the prisoners in the H Blocks. And at a massive public meeting in the town, many ITGWU members called for the campaign to be continued inside their union.

In Limerick, the Trades Council agreed to a request to meet a delegation from the National H Block Campaign to discuss the issue.

But resolutions are only a first step. We need to involve the unions in a permanent active campaign on H Blocks.

Through the Trades Councils and the union branches the call should now go out for

• an officially convened Trade Union

Delegation to Long Kesh to put the full facts of the case before the union movement;

• the withdrawal of the ICTU representative from the RUC police authority;

• the adoption of trade union members in H Block by union branches who can keep well informed on and publicise their cases.

There were also attempts to introduce H Block resolutions at INTO meetings in Dublin North City and Wexford but they failed to get a proper hearing. But the Derry and Limavady branches passed similar resolutions for the Northern Ireland Congress. This points to the growing demand in the union for a stance on the issue.

Many years ago the Irish army was the butt of a good few jokes. If the Russians came we would have to depend on the air squadron, the FCA or the mounted bicycle brigade. But today it is a bit different. During the last decade, it has developed into a highly sophisticated armed force. It now stands at an all time high of 15,000 men.

The old jokes had a good deal of sense. It was always impossible to get the idea that the Irish army existed to defend us from the foreign invaders. Its purpose was, and is, to serve as a powerful repressive instrument of the state.

The organisation of the army betrays its purpose. The insane discipline of goose stepping or button polishing is designed to breed an atmosphere of total conformity. That conformity is enforced by the isolation of the army in the barracks. The barracks cuts off the working class soldiers from the pressures of their environment. Soldiers are supposed to show total servility to their officers.

That servility is stressed at all times. Clicking of the heels and a salute is expected when a soldier meets an officer. That discipline has a purpose. It helps to turn the ordinary soldier into an instrument — an instrument that can be used effect-

A is for Army Arm of the state

SOCIALIST ABC

ively and efficiently by the officer class. The level and rigidity of the discipline is a reflection of the class divides in the army — a divide that has to be straddled if the officers are to use it as a tool.

But who are the officer class? Unlike their British counterparts, the Irish officers are not drawn exclusively from the ranks of the ruling class or from elite schools. Most come from an agricultural background or are the sons of doctors or solicitors. But they are trained in an atmosphere of total privilege. Their connections are with the ruling class in this country.

The law they protect is the law of the privileged. The fanatical love

for 'order' they develop is the order of capitalism. Increasingly their 'professionalism' involves them in following and analysing the political trends

The pressure for 'professionalisation' comes from their contacts with the British and NATO armies. The standard weapons of the Irish army are now NATO issued weapons. During the last couple of years, Irish officers have been receiving anti-guerilla training from the British army and are prepared to put it to use. The massive operations witnessed after the escape of 19 Provos from Portlaoise and during the Herrema kidnapping saga have brought home that cold message.

They make no secret of the fact that the enemy is 'subversion'. Today that fight against subversion is confined to intimidation and harassment. The presence of armed troops in full riot gear when workers marched against repressive legislation, and more recently, dur-



ing an unemployment march in Waterford, are meant to prove its commitment to fulfilling that role.

The ruling class in our society can never depend on the power of its ideas. It needs the threat of force. The army is that weapon of

organised and controlled brutality on which that class depends. Its role today may be confined to intimidation or professional scabbing, but its potential for the rich is far greater.

Seven years ago many workers in Chile woke up to that reality.

Who's going to look after the kids?

The Employment Equality Act is a sham. Women cannot have equal access and opportunity to work because if they did who would mind the kids? Its too bad if that means that women are doomed to an oppressive and inferior role. A woman's function is to look after her children and husband. She must reproduce the next generation of labourers and she must resuscitate the present generation so that it can go into work, revived, each day. Otherwise society, as we know it, would collapse. Precisely.

The inferior position of women is necessary to maintain a system where the fact that workers have families can

be ignored. The Capitalist economy can ignore people's needs because they are taken care of by the unpaid labour of the woman in the home. The role of mother/housewife is oppressive because it means that the woman is isolated in a servile and financially dependent position, which allows her husband dominance over her. As Connolly said, she is the slave of the slave. Marriage based on this arrangement is never an equal partnership.

Women are encouraged to stay in the home both through direct methods such as low pay, the lack of any

tax incentives (and the Haughey budget subtly maintains the same attitude to married women working as the pre-Supreme Court case position), and article 44.2 of the Constitution; and indirectly through the propaganda that children need to be reared by their own mothers. This second type of method is reinforced further by the fact that in Ireland there is no real provision made for any alternative arrangement.

The propaganda that women should rear their own children is often very successful. Many women accept that it is their private responsibility and do not see how it lets the economic system off the hook. Of course it is not true that children have to be reared twenty four hours a day by their own mother. Children need love, affection and attention, yes, but these do not have to be provided in the context of the nuclear family. However, the demand for child care facilities is incomplete if it does not include the question of standards. Nurseries and creches must be properly financed to ensure proper facilities, equipment and trained, fully paid staff.

Child care is a class issue. Professional women or women married to wealthy men can afford to find and pay for a child minder or private nursery. A professional woman still makes enough money for it to be worth her while to deduct a childminder's fee. But for working class women who cannot afford private nurseries or childminders what facilities are available?

At present the Health Boards provide financing (of 65% — 100%) for a number

of nurseries. There are approximately 27 of these in Dublin (catering for 400 — 500 kids), with a few more around the rest of the country. They are specifically designated for children "at risk" and their purpose is to provide alternative care and pre-school education for them. They are not designed to facilitate parents, although they do, but there are long waiting lists for places in them.

Under the Community Development Projects Scheme local authorities encourage parents to set up local playgroups which are then almost totally run and financed by the parents and other voluntary workers. In Dublin the Corporation provides an initial grant of £100 and a yearly maintenance grant of £50 and employs a small number of supervisors. The parents usually pay a small fee and the playgroups operate for two or three hours a day. There are a large number of these (27 in Ballymun alone) but the conditions are normally primitive and they depend on the commitment of the local people to function. Because they are,

therefore, not reliable and because they are only open a couple of hours a day they do not facilitate working mothers.

Clearly, the above services, and that is all there is, go nowhere towards giving women the freedom to work. And as long as child rearing (and the other work done in the home) is seen as the function of women, rather than of society then women will continue to be oppressed.

MARY GORDON



Picture: Derek Spiers (IFL)

SUPPORT THIS CONFERENCE

On April 19th, in Dublin, a Conference of Shop Stewards and other trade union representatives will take place. For a year now a number of shop stewards, have been attempting to convene such a gathering in order to provide some sort of solid launching pad for a Shop Stewards Movement.

Beginning in April '79 a number of public meetings were held against the National Understanding and for the building of a movement that would present an alternative voice, within the trade unions, to the sell-outs of the union leaders. In February, Matt Merrigan of the ATGWU, Charlie Mooney of AGEMOU and Pat Murphy, victimized ex-President of the NO. 13 Branch ITGWU, spoke in Dublin after the tax march on the need for such a movement.

In their leaflet the Committee say: "Massive price rises, closures and job losses, Government and local authority spending cut-backs, increased 'indirect' taxation: all these are facing trade unionists as we come towards the end of the first National Understanding - an Agreement that was to defend and improve our living standards, employment, social welfare, education. The trade union leaders were as enthusiastic in selling this disastrous mis-Understanding as the Government and the Employers were."

The Government are seeking a wider and deeper 'Understanding' this year, and the Congress leaders are likely to support another one, despite their complaints about the Budget. It is clear now that unless union members develop new ways of organising and new answers in the battle to defend wages and jobs, then the collaboration of trade union leaders with the Government and the employers will bring even harsher wage restraint, rationalisation and redundancies and new laws to stamp out union militancy.

The leaflet also refers to the leadership failures on tax reform, redundancies, union democracy, threats of anti-strike legislation and equal pay. The Conference will discuss these issues and how to build a real network of union militants which can do

something about them.

It is the firm intention of the organisers that any shop stewards movement will have deep roots within the unions and the workplace and, of course, any such movement should not be the plaything of any political group.

...And here's a reason why

WORKERS in three factories in Dublin have this month joined their third union in an attempt to get proper trade union representation.

And a row over "poaching" is threatening to break out among the two biggest trade unions in the state.

Last September, 270 workers from Dataproducts, Kilroy Bros. and Telecommunication Ltd, left the Number 13 Branch of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union disgusted at the years of neglect and bad service for which that branch is infamous in Dublin.

They approached the automotive Union AGEMOU and were accepted as members. But their troubles had just begun.

Within weeks, the management at Dataproducts victimised a Shop Steward for representing his members.

The workers struck, and after a long and bitter dispute won the right to have an "in house agreements" procedure and the reinstatement of their sacked Shop Steward.

The ITGWU No 13 Branch officials distinguished themselves by visiting the homes of strikers, many of them young women, and persuading their parents that they were being intimidated into striking and trying to get them to turn to work.

A few strikers did return, but the majority stayed solid. Despite the ITGWU-organised scabbing the strike was partially won.

But all three managements refused to recognise AGEMOU. Instead, they agreed to recognise the workers shop stewards and negotiate with the workers over pay and conditions - the "in house" procedure, WITHOUT allowing any role for AGEMOU officials.

All three managements let it be known that they would "not now, or ever recognise AGEMOU, a non-Congress union."

"We are convinced that the management response was coordinated by the FUE," one of the workers told "The Worker."

What makes them so sure is the almost identically worded statements from the

three companies on the matter. The three firms are not financially linked in any way.

Meanwhile, the ITGWU had not given up hope of regaining its lost members and subs.

Telecommunications workers sought and gained an injunction in the Courts to restrain Liberty Hall "from purporting to represent workers it did not actually have."

This was on November 19, 1979. But as late as February, 6, 1980, Michael Mullen, General Secretary of the ITGWU wrote demanding the return of these AGEMOU members as follows:-

"The action of your Union is contrary to good trade union practice and in effect creates divisions and problems for the trade union movement which by no stretch of the imagination can be justified and only leads to a deterioration in relationships and fragmentation of trade union structures."

"Again we ask that your trade union desist from accepting our members without reference to the normal procedures of good trade union practice as the contrary would, as already stated, be a retrograde step and certainly would not be to the advantage of our respective unions in either the long or the short term."

"My National Executive Council would even at this stage, be anxious to ascertain and clarify the policy of your union in this matter. Your response, which we hope will be positive would be appreciated at an early date."

And "at an early date" the Executive of AGEMOU met, three weeks later, at the end of February and passed by a majority of one, a motion to "give Mickey Mullen back his members."

All the argument of Charlie Mooney, the organiser for the workers concerned and himself an executive member, could not retrieve the situation. The reactionary wing of the AGEMOU leadership had out manoeuvred him and these workers were going to be ditched.

In an astounding piece of hypocrisy, Laurence Doyle, General Secretary of AGEMOU wrote to the workers at each of the three factories expelling them from membership.

We quote from the letter sent to the Telecommunications workers:-

"TO ALL MEMBERS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS LTD" "I am directed by my Executive Committee to advise you that as this union has been unsuccessful in achieving negotiating rights with Telecommunications Ltd,

The Shop Stewards Organising Committee have already got the sponsorship of several dozen representatives throughout the country - from shop steward level upwards - and they are seeking wider support. So if you agree with the need for change in the unions and such things as National Understandings you should add your name to the list by filling in the coupon from the Committee's leaflet, which we reproduce here.

we can no longer claim to be in a position to provide you with the services and the representation your interests require.

"Accordingly, my committee has decided to release you from membership of this union.

"You will readily appreciate that your application for membership in the first instance was accepted in good faith. It was assumed at that juncture that the recognition necessary to initiate negotiations with the Company on your behalf would follow in due course. "Regretably, this development did not materialise. In the circumstances it would be inconsistent with the concerned policies of this union to retain you as a member without being able to effectively service your industrial needs."

This letter was dated March, 3, 1980. Similar letters were sent to the members in Dataproducts and Kilroys.

This week, the workers at Telecommunications and Kilroys applied for and were accepted into membership of the British-based Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union, which is affiliated to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

It seems likely therefore, that the managements will take steps to recognise this, a Congress Union, but the trouble need not be over yet.

Recently, 125 of the 169 workers at Centronics, Drogheda, transferred from the ITGWU to the ATGWU.

A bitter dispute for recognition followed which was won, but friction between the top-brass of the ITGWU and the ATGWU is said to be at boiling point.

As far as the workers at Telecommunications, Kilroys and Dataproducts (where as we go to press the situation is unclear) are concerned, the ATGWU has now to earn its spurs.

But it is clear that both the ITGWU and AGEMOU leaderships are more concerned with administrative convenience than the wishes of their members.

Workers have a right to choose and control their union. The horse trade that the big (and not so big) unions indulge in is only possible when the trade union bosses are left to manage the affairs of their members.

This wont be changed overnight. Against the crippling weight of the corrupt Liberty Hall mafia, rank and file organisation is the only lever.

Small unions like AGEMOU have been seen to behave in bureaucratic ways too.

A cross union, cross industry Shop Stewards Movement, spearheading an attack on low wages, unemployment, and the like could provide the impetus to once again make our unions fighting instruments of the rank and file. KEVIN WINGFIELD

Students Unhappy with Leadership

TREMORS of discontent are beginning to shake the Student Unions.

The Sinn Fein the Workers' Party-oriented leadership of USI received the first real blow to their authority in years at the Annual Conference in Wexford last January.

The dissension triggered off moves for the Emergency Congress which is to take place in Dublin on April 8.

The clash, which led to the mass walk-out of delegations representing over 50,000 students, was over the method of election of the USI representative to the Prague-based International Union of Students.

Yet the fact that such a minor issue was the focus of the conflict raises questions about what form opposition to the leadership should take.

The problem with the USI is the general lack of democracy. Arising from this is a rigid bureaucratic leadership which abstains from militant struggles

by local Student Unions. Instead, they attempt to channel all protest into ritualistic once-a-year Fees and Grants campaigns. Politically, the USI is hooked on the "Peace, Jobs and Progress" policy which shuns the recognition of the anti-imperialist struggle in the north.

Thus, because of the issues involved, there should be no alliance with the right-wingers against the stalinist USI leadership.

Despite the large extent of the walk-out, which was led by the left, some of the participants had tabled very strong anti-abortion motions. Indeed, an anti-repression on H Block was passed purely on humanitarian grounds with no mention of political status.

Whatever the outcome of the Emergency Congress, which has an extremely limited agenda with only one motion allowed per delegation, changes must be made back in the colleges.

Students should fight for an end to the present unworkable structures and FOR regular mass meetings to decide real policy and the recallability of all elected representatives in order to build meaningful internal democracy.



Nick Riley, Sheffield Strike Committee addresses an AUEW - TASS meeting of ESB workers.

Picture: Eamonn O'Dwyer (IFL)

BUILDING WORKERS in Waterford are organising to overcome bad conditions, health hazards, lack of continuity in employment.

And their rank and file paper appears this month. In it the first of a regular series of health and safety columns gives this worrying information on the effects of cold on building workers:

An English study of building workers in the Winter suggested that most men don't last beyond the age of 50 because of diseases related to the cold including Rheumatism, Bronchitis and heart disorders.

"Building Worker" goes on to report that low body temperature leads to higher accidents rates and more illness. And construction workers are 22% more likely to get arthritis and rheumatism and

18% more like to get bronchitis than average workers.

An editorial in "Building Worker" calls for continuity of employment and a register of workers to be kept by the trade unions to ensure an end to the casual nature of this type of work, which allows employers to victimise workers who try to organise improvement in conditions on sites.

With news and comment written by the workers themselves, "Building Worker" looks set to fill in a hole in Waterford, and with luck could expand to other parts of the country.

OPEN CONFERENCE FOR THE BUILDING OF A SHOP STEWARDS MOVEMENT

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

TRADE UNION.....

BRANCH..... T.U. position.....

For more information or credentials send this coupon or write to:
Shop Stewards Conference Organising Committee
c/o Frank Bambrick, c/o AGEMOU,
North Frederick Street, Dublin 1.

Teachers: another brick in the wall?

MARY COYLE

The recent threat of industrial action by the ASTI on the salaries issue has highlighted a number of the major problems facing teachers' unions at the moment. The first and most important of these is the fact that there are three separate unions representing teachers rather than one big union. Secondly there is the old problem of full-time officials and their ability to effectively play off one union against the other so that no real gains are made by anybody. And finally the fact that the INTO and the TUI each have a representative on the executive of ICTU means that the Congress line on Wage Agreements (and the complete avoidance of any claims which be outside the terms of the National Understanding) is generally adhered to. All of these factors combine to make the teachers' unions an easy pushover for

the Minister when it comes to calls for more money.

The claim for increased salaries for teachers started seriously well over a year ago. At that time some efforts were made to ensure that the three unions would have a joint approach and agree on similar demands. However, when it came to naming figures it did not suit the INTO and TUI to pursue the 40% claim which the ASTI adopted. The bureaucracies of the TUI and INTO at the special and annual Congresses ensured that the 40% figure was defeated or that figure naming motions were composited into a motion which they sponsored calling for restoration of the purchasing power of teachers and an equitable share of the increase in the national wealth - whatever both of these might mean in concrete terms. In the meantime the ASTI were

pressing ahead with their claim (now reduced after the National Understanding to 17.3%) with no support from the other two unions.

In January of this year the TUI and INTO suddenly came up with the threat of one day strikes if the Minister did not grant a Review Body on Teachers' Salaries by February 1st. This was a fairly safe bet and, as expected, the Review Body was quickly granted. The ASTI, at this stage, was calling for a payment on account in addition to the Review Body and, in the absence of any offer, arrangements were made for strike action. The action was to take the form of a one day strike on March 4th with selected branches being brought out gradually until 2,000 secondary teachers were on strike. A few days before the strike was due to start the Minister announced

that the terms of reference of the Review Body precluded any special pay increases to teachers' unions while the review was taking place. The ASTI Executive then decided by 62 votes to 39 to drop the proposed action in order to participate in the review.

One of the lessons learned by rank and file members of the three teachers' unions is that they will need to organise themselves to counter the conservative policies of their respective bureaucracies. They will also need to be aware of the career ambitions of some full-time officials who are merely 'passing through' the teachers' unions on their way to bigger and better things. Because the rank and file of all three unions have been sold out by their executives' acceptance of the terms of reference of the Review Body. The

Review Body means another year of waiting, with absolutely no guarantee of a favourable offer. Inflation running at approximately 20% (the likely result of Haughey's budget) and another possible Wage Agreement will already have neutralised any offer to come out of it. The proclulsion of industrial action means that the unions have tied their hands during the sitting of the body and therefore do not have any control over the outcome. Any hope of an interim award with the report next September is totally unfounded and simply represents a fake carrot to silence the members and obscure the sell out. Come next January, we will be back where we started and the decisions on what action to take will have to be made all over again.

Now more than ever the militants in the unions



Minister for Education John Wilson.

need to come together to fight these sell outs. The Teachers' Action Alliance is the vehicle which can draw the isolated militants in all three unions together. Already, in the last few weeks two meetings succeeded in attracting a large number of rank and file members disillusioned by the acceptance of the Review Body. The TAA, by uniting militants across the three unions, can help put an end to the bureaucrats' game of playing militants in each union off against each other.

STEEL APPEAL

Britain's steel strike is 12 weeks old and the strike committees are rapidly running out of money. Groups of strikers have gone on trips abroad to raise funds. Four members of the Sheffield strike committee spent 3 days in Ireland. In Dublin, two of them met shop stewards and officials of the ITGWU, ITGWU, FWUI, AUEW - TASS and representatives of the SWM, the CP and the SFWP.

Collections were made in Datsun, Volkswagen and the Beaumont Hospital in Ballyfermot. Two others went to Belfast and collected in Harland and Wolff and Shorts.

Their chief aim was to raise money and they went home with over £300 in their pocket and promises of more to come.

This money is vital if the strike is to succeed. The steel strike is a test of the Tory offensive against the British working class. If the bosses win, British workers will be under their thumb for the next few years.

The militancy of the pickets has taken the Tories by surprise. With money and solidarity from other workers, the strike will succeed. The steel workers got such a warm welcome here that they hope to return to address trades councils and gain more widespread access to factory floors.

SEND DONATIONS TO :
Steel Strike Support Fund,
c/o The Worker.

Rank and file bus drivers and conductors in Dublin began again publishing "Busworker" at Christmas.

Since then, three issues have sold out their print run.

Previous issues have dealt with shift work, pay and the crisis in CIE and pressed for an end to discrimination against women.

This month, with the print order rising to a thousand and the net spreading outside Dublin, "Busworker" takes the lid off the Van Hool scandal.

Copies of the "Busworker," price 15p + postage from:
c/o Site 10, Glasnaon Road,
Dublin 11.

The present dispute in C.I.E. over the proposed bus building venture in Shannon has its basis in a decision taken in the early 1970s to sell off valuable sections of C.I.E.

One of the first areas to be sold off to private enterprise was the bus building section at Spa Road, Inchicore. It was here that all the requirements of C.I.E.'s bus fleet were met; in effect C.I.E. built its own buses. All this was to change when Van Hool MacArdle bought the engineering works at Spa Road. Van Hool promptly set about producing buses to a new and untested design. Despite some comments from their workforce about flaws in the design, Van Hool continued in production.

For some time all went well with Van Hool. Their workers, who were mainly worried about the gradual erosion of demarcation between skilled and semi-skilled workers, were contented. Then in 1977 C.I.E. decided not to renew their contract with Van Hool for buses. The reason given by C.I.E. was the high maintenance cost of Van Hool buses, which was a direct result of their inbuilt design flaws. But Van Hool depended on the C.I.E. contract for survival - without that contract they could not make a profit and profit was the only reason they took what they saw as a chance to get rich quick.

In April 1978 Van Hool laid off its workforce of 300. Less than half of them were accommodated by C.I.E. - only the original workers who had remained on when Van Hool took over. The closure resulted therefore in the loss of 200 jobs.



Picture: Derek Spiers (IFL)

CIE's WHITE ELEPHANT

HUGH MACPARTLAN

The reason why the history of the Van Hool disaster is so important is because C.I.E. appear to be about to make the same mistake again. Despite warnings from the C.I.E. shopworkers trade union group, they have invited, with Government approval, an obscure French-Canadian consortium called Bombardier to set up shop in Shannon, Co. Clare. In response to this the C.I.E. shopworkers trade union group called on its members to vote on a resolution calling on C.I.E. to build its own bus and rail rolling stock. The workforce voted in favour of the resolution by a majority of four to one.

The case against Bombardier is substantial. Their experience of bus building operations is extremely limited, being confined to single deck buses, while their main lines of production have been snowmobiles and in the clothing industry. Secondly, evidence suggests that the nature of the workforce will be semi-skilled, as opposed to the traditional balance in the bus industry of skilled and semi-skilled. Thirdly, due to the geographical position of the plant, it will not be able to provide employment to those workers laid off by Van Hool. Fourthly, the craftworkers group of unions is worried

that a Farenka type union deal may be imposed by management. Traditionally the bus building section has been strongly represented by the ATGWU and it is feared that any change in that system could severely retard the building of a strong union base amongst any potential workforce. Finally and most important of all is that the buses will be built by a private enterprise and not by C.I.E.

The case for C.I.E. building its own buses is impressive. C.I.E. built buses lessen the risk of redundancies amongst C.I.E.'s bus maintenance

workers. A C.I.E. bus building plant would absorb the surplus of workers in the Bus/Body Maintenance Section - a surplus created by an influx of workers taken in by C.I.E. when Van Hool closed down. C.I.E. built buses would be cheaper as reliability and not profit would be the motivating force. Inter-union solidarity would be sustained and even strengthened. A succession of defeats and half-hearted compromises have left C.I.E. workers demoralised - a victory on this very important issue could be the boost to their confidence. That will spur them on to even greater achievements.

THE WORKER

Back on the track of the arms race

If war games were included as an Olympic sport, Margaret Thatcher would be a dead cert for a gold medal. If she competed, that is.

More than anyone else - more, even than Jimmy Carter - she has made the running in the boycott stakes, black-mailing and threatening athletes, lobbying her friends on the Right, lashing out at anyone alleged to be Left, using the Games to whip up holy hysteria about the Russian invasion of Afghanistan.

What the Russians are up to in Afghanistan is, of course, indefensible and has nothing to do with socialism. What it has to do with is Great Power politics. Its main and most lasting effect will be that in one more country "communism" has come to mean military re-



pression, the Red Flag something that flutters from a bayonet-point aimed at your breast.

That is not, needless to say, the reason Thatcher and her allies object so stridently to the Moscow Olympics. (And her allies include, apparently, the Fine Gale leadership and some among Fianna Fail.) Thatcher wouldn't withdraw from a whist-drive in support of any nation's right to self-determination. She represents a ruling class which has trampled all over the rights of other peoples literally for centuries. And which, today, still stands ready to ride roughshod over any people - like the people of the tiny state of Oman - who refuse to lie down to be walked over.

And Thatcher's hand-wringing hypocrisy about human rights in the Soviet Union itself should also be treated with profound contempt. It suits the political purposes of Tories everywhere - and we have more than our fair share of the species in Ireland - to wax eloquent about Dr. Sakarov and his group, to parade in their hand-knit twin-sets to the Soviet Embassy in Orwell Road with plaintive petitions. Or, as in Thatcher's case, to explain on television that you have been "deeply moved" by the exile of Dr. Sakarov to Gorky.

EAMONN McCANN



None of these elements seem to lose sleep over denials of civil rights in their own countries. Guiseppe Conlon wasn't just exiled. He was left to wither away in misery and finally die in jail. And never a cheep from those whose lower lips tremble daily with distress over repression in the Soviet Union. Indeed, none of these doughty campaigners for decency seemed overly concerned either about denial of civil rights in Argentina when the World Cup was held there in 1978. Latest estimates by Amnesty suggest that upwards of 10,000 citizens have been murdered by the Videla regime. Yet apart from the revolutionary Left no-one in these islands urged a boycott of the World Cup.

As she rails against the Russians, Mrs. Thatcher has just resumed diplomatic relations with Chile. A new British Ambassador has just waded knee-deep through the blood of Chilean working class to take up residency in the Santiago Embassy compound.

To say this is, again, not to offer an uncritical defence of the Soviet Union. Those who, like Sinn Fein the Workers Party, parrot automatic apologies for every action of the Soviet regime do socialism a most serious disservice.

Is there repression in the Soviet Union? Yes.

But the way to fight against it is not to ally ourselves with the two-faced Tory tricksters like Margaret Thatcher - which is what supporting a boycott would mean - but to offer solidarity to those within the Soviet Union fighting for genuine civil rights for workers.

In the first instance that means supporting and trying to publicise the rarely-mentioned fighters for free trade unions in the Soviet Union. They are not mentioned by the Right, because the Right doesn't approve of free trade unions. They are not mentioned by large sections of the Left, who refuse to face the reality of class rule in Russia.

"Socialists' reaction to the Afghan invasion must not be support for the dishonest and simplistic slogan "Russians Out". We must seek to link support for Afghan self-determination with the general right of all nations to self-

THE SERVING of the warrant on Marie MacMahon - arrested two years ago for putting up posters - is part of a general campaign of harassment of feminists

which has begun recently, no doubt in response to the new upsurge of confidence and militancy inside the women's movement. Marie's imprisonment,

resulted in three pickets, supported by over 150 women and men - the last of which she attended herself. Here she is with Rita O'Hare of Sinn Fein.

HOUSE
ON MON. 28TH FEB. 8^{PM}
ORGANISED BY IRISHWOMEN UNITED



Picture: Derek Spiers (I-R)

determination.

All nations including Ireland! In relation to which Margaret Thatcher is hardly a supporter of self-determination, and the withdrawal of foreign troops

The cold war-mongering over Afghanistan, human rights and the Moscow Olympics is, in the last analysis, a cover for greater militarism, higher arms spending and a political atmosphere in which any opposition can be denounced as treason.

Back out of the track races. Back into the arms race. That's what Thatcher and Carter want. And what some elements in Ireland want the rest of us to support.

Trade Unions organise against nuclear power

MOLLY O DUFFY

March 22 saw an important new departure for the Anti-Nuclear Movement in this country. This was the setting up of the trade union campaign against nuclear power, which was launched at a meeting in Liberty Hall. It was addressed by Mike Cooley, a prominent British anti-nuclear trade unionist and John Carroll of the ITGWU, the first union to take an anti-nuclear power stand.

Workers are those most threatened by nuclear power. It is only workers through trade union action who can totally block all work on any stage of the nuclear fuel cycle.

Irish unions have an advantage over all others in its battle against nuclear power; whereas the struggle in other countries is directed against already-established nuclear systems which have a self-perpetuating impetus of their own, Irish trade unionists have been alerted to the dangers of nuclear power before its planned introduction here.

The battle is against a plan, a plan which only workers can make operable. However much work must be done to inform all workers about nuclear power and mobilise them against it. The Trade Union Group is the beginning of this hard slog within the Trade Union Movement.

The case which is put to trade unions in favour of nuclear power strikes at the chief preoccupation of trade unionists: Jobs. The argument goes like this: For jobs we need growth; for growth we need

more energy; for more energy we need nuclear power because oil (on which the recent energy boom was based) is running out.

Several of the links in this chain are to put it mildly, suspect: there are alternatives to both oil and nuclear - coal, solar power, wind and wave power, biomass (timber) - we can have growth without an increase in energy consumption - much energy, as it is consumed now is wasted (it goes out the door or up the chimney) so conservation of energy would decrease energy consumption without affecting growth. In any case it is not necessarily the industries that use the most energy which provide the most jobs - high-energy industries are often capital intensive.

It is not just the quantity of jobs but also the conditions of employment in the nuclear industry which concerns trade unionists. Take first the working conditions of uranium miners. These might be the first category of nuclear workers in this country if the uranium prospecting which is going on in Donegal, Wicklow, Kilkenny, Carlow and Cork bears any fruit. When uranium is mined a radioactive gas called Radon is released. When it is inhaled into the lungs of miners it converts into lead after four days and causes lung

cancer. Up to 20% of uranium miners in the USA die of lung cancer; 59% of Australian miners who worked for at least two years in the "Radium Hill" mines in the 1950's died of cancer since 1960. Because radon-induced cancer takes 15 to 20 years to develop, the mining companies can disclaim responsibility for workers who die later. The Australian Council of Trade Unions has responded to the dangers of uranium mining by calling for an immediate end to all mining and export of uranium and it has backed this up with strikes and mass demonstrations. For example, in May 1976 12,000 rail workers in Queensland went on a 24-hour strike in protest against the transportation of uranium. These and other direct actions have led the Australian Labour Party to adopt a position of opposition to uranium mining. The Irish Trade Union movement must adopt this type of action to make sure that uranium stays in the ground.

Conditions in nuclear power plants are equally dangerous for workers. The radiation which is present at all times leads to lung and liver cancer, genetic damage, diseases of the heart, menstruation disorders, diabetes, arthritis and leukemia. Again, because there is a delay of up to twenty years before these diseases show themselves, the companies can deny liability.

Nuclear workers are obviously first in the firing line when nuclear accidents occur. We all heard about the Three Mile Island accident in March of last year, but the big news accidents are only the tip of the iceberg. In an average year in

the US, there are 3,000 reported accidents involving reactor safety systems. These include immediate exposure to the total maximum amount of radiation.

But it is the precautions taken by the nuclear industry, which pose the greatest threat to workers.

There are many clauses which restrict the right to strike "while negotiations are pending or in progress". Trade union officials have not got free access to the plants as is normal in other industries, but must be given security clearance before being allowed in the door.

Even then, they will not be allowed to move freely around the plant. Normal rules about plant safety committees (so vital to nuclear power plants) do not operate.

Workers safety representatives can be denied access to important information. Militants are black-listed or can be shifted into high radiation areas of the plant where they are "burnt out" quickly and can be laid off.

The only kind of work force compatible with nuclear power is a small, tightly selected, docile elite, the only kind of trade union is one which will make such sweetheart deals as will surrender any militancy, activity or independence.

It is up to us to ensure that this type of trade union is never to be found by the nuclear establishment in Ireland. Join the Trade Union Group Against Nuclear Power.

The issue must be raised at every branch, trades council and annual conference.

"Working people have the greatest stake in putting an end to the nuclear menace. It is the workers who must suffer daily exposure to radiation; it is the workers who transport the nuclear fuel and the hazardous wastes; and it is the workers and their families who will be the immediate victims in the event of a catastrophic accident"

Jerry Gordon, Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America,