

THE WORKER

FOR WORKERS POWER AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

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TROOPS OUT O.K.

'When the child is born, let the child apply for bail' That's what a 19 year old pregnant mother, Josephine Dowds was told. Josephine was applying for bail for herself from an arch bigot Unionist judge, Lord Gibson, in the Belfast High Court. She was turned down.

There are not many innocents around the North these days. Juryless courts, RUC brutality, British Army murders make sure of that, Increasingly the H Block issue is no longer just about the prisoners. It's about how the whole nationalist population of the North is treated.

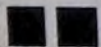
Every time Maggie Thatcher says that the prisoners are criminals, she is in fact saying that anyone who is politically opposed to her system in the North is a criminal. Every time she says that she will not budge an inch on the H Blocks, she is telling thousands of others that discrimination, repression and the bigotry of the likes of Lord Gibson is their lot for life.



And that is why, hundreds of thousands who support the prisoners are beginning to say: We have only started on the road. It's the whole British presence that must go with the H Blocks.

Things cannot be the same again. It's no wonder The Northern state has reacted viciously to the H Block campaign. Another judge claimed it was an understandable error to shoot dead a young lad who was painting graffiti. Kids who take to the streets to riot from anger are now prime targets for murder from plastic bullets.

But if we are to win, there is only one force that can guarantee victory. It is the organised power of the working class, North and South. The power to halt industry, to damage profits, to threaten stability - that is what will make Thatcher concede.



So far magnificent strides have been made. In towns like Drogheda, Dundalk and Waterford, workers have shown themselves willing to move on the issue. They have broken years of Southern isolation.

But more needs to be done. The arguments



have to be raised week by week. They need to be class arguments. And there needs to be a real organisation built in the workplaces to support the prisoners.

That's why we say:

Build the shop steward committee against H Block
Fight for mass industrial action to beat Thatcher.

Nora Connolly O'Brien dies



MRS NORA Connolly O'Brien, daughter of James Connolly, died on June 17th.

She was not just the daughter of James Connolly but a fighter all her life for national freedom and social justice. During the civil war she was imprisoned by the Free State, she joined the embryo Labour Party but resigned when it gave up the objective of a workers' republic.

Though well into her seventies, when the troubles erupted again in 1969, she was still active, speaking at socialist and republican meetings.

In her will she asked for a republican funeral, a fitting tribute to a great fighter from all her friends and comrades in the Socialist and Republican movement.

Unholy alliance

'BE on your guard'. That's the message workers must take from the formation of a new Coalition government.

They're going to put the country right, they say, yet they have already selected their scapegoats.

If you are on Social Security expect a massive hike in prices — but don't look for any compensation.

If you are a Trade Unionist look forward to a new round of centralised wage restraints.

If you are involved in the H Block Campaign, just look at the record of the last Coalition.

Anger

Garret Fitzgerald has sneaked into office on the back of a dying Labour Party. How far has the working class party of James Connolly come now the smart-ales are singing the bosses' tune about

'putting the economy right' and 'cracking down on subversives' in the hope of a few minister's cars.

There's a tough struggle ahead. The Coalition sees the only way out of the mess through attacks on the working class, especially public sector workers.

Fight

Garret's team plan to hold down these wages — to do a Thatcher on anyone who doesn't work directly for private enterprise.

We cannot let them get away with it. The defence of jobs, living standards and working conditions is a must.

The struggle against the H Block and the British presence must continue.

In the workplaces, the rank and file must organise to create a movement that can meet this bosses' Coalition head-on.

Labour takes a pasting

THE DAY after the elections, Tom McGiolla of Sinn Fein the Workers Party, said that 'this election represents a swing to the right, and a downturn in the working class vote'. And on the face of it, with the Labour vote falling from 11.6% in 1977 to 9.9% and SFWP from 3.3% to 1.6% it appears to be true.

But the real facts of the elections show something else, the fantastic vote for the H Block candidates show that where the working class are given a real choice to express where their interests lie they will do so.

The Labour Party were wiped out in Dublin and have now their base only in the rural cities and towns. Since 1969 their vote has fallen by over a third to its lowest level since the war.

The lesson of this election for the Labour Party and for all of us must be that, if you compromise with the parties of big business then you have no right to expect the

support of the working class vote. Why vote for the junior partner social democratic Labour Party, when you can vote for the senior partner, Fine Gael. The hypocrisy of the Labour Party in giving O'Leary's European seat to Cluskey, a man decisively rejected by the electorate says more about their attitude to democracy than anything else.

Far more interesting is Sinn Fein the Workers Party. They went into the election claiming to win four seats and hold the balance of power in the Dail. Only Joe Sherlock was elected in Cork, very much on a personal vote with 14.6% of the vote. But elsewhere, they did far worse than in 1977 when they obtained 3.3% of the popular vote. No doubt what harmed them most was the intervention of the H Block candidates, who probably lost them another seat in Waterford. SFWP are against political status in the H Blocks, though some of the their own members

enjoy special category status since before 1976, and have adopted a stagist theory on the national question, closer to the concept of Two-nations, as expressed by Jim Kemmy and other like him. Yet despite this, a significant number of people transferred votes between SFWP and H Block candidates, perhaps showing that in people's minds they are still closer to the Sinn Fein tradition than they would like.

SFWP now see the possibility of replacing the Labour Party as the party of the working class. This means that socialism must be far sharper in putting forward criticisms of the reactionary ideas of SFWP in the working class movement.

The most spectacular achievement was that of the H Block campaign, in achieving 15% of the vote and two candidates elected. After the victory of Bobby Sands in Fermanagh-Tyrone nobody can say that the H Block issue does not have popular support. Their vote came from young working class people, many who would not have voted at all, from Labour supporters, and managed to tap that deep-rooted support which exists for this issue around the country.

But votes by themselves mean nothing, unless that support is transformed into a mass movement, the expression of support could sink back over the coming months. Everyone who voted H Block should join their local group. Details from the National H Block Committee, 29 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1.

PAUL O'BRIEN

FIRST PREFERENCE PERCENTAGES FOR PARTIES
TEN GENERAL ELECTIONS: 1948-1981

	FF	FG	LAB	Others
1981	45.3	36.5	9.9	8.4
1977	50.6	30.5	11.6	7.2
1973	46.2	35.1	13.7	5.0
1969	45.7	34.1	16.9	3.2
1965	47.7	34.1	15.4	2.9
1961	43.8	32.2	11.6	12.5
1957	48.3	26.6	3.1	15.9
1954	43.4	31.9	12.1	12.6
1951	46.3	25.8	11.4	16.6
1948	41.9	19.8	11.3	27.1

CONSTITUENCY

Cork East
Tipperary South
Dublin West
Dun Laoghaire
Dublin South
Dublin North East
Clare
Dublin South East

TRANSFERS

Barry (FG) - Noonan (Labour) 1%
Farrell (FG) - Acheson (FF) 3%
McStay (Labour) - Robinson (Labour) 56%
- Lamass (FF) 5%
Dillon-Byrne (Labour) - Barnes (FG) 14%
- Boland (FF) 3%
- Elliot (FG) 7%
Fitzgerald (Labour) - Fennell (FG) 10%
Kelly (FG) - Malone (Labour) 6%
McCarthy (Labour) - Taylor (FG) 31%
Noonan (Ind) - Freehill (Labour) 30%

Women's vote - does it exist?

MUCH was made of the 'women's vote' in the period coming up to the elections. Assuming that there was such a thing as the 'women's vote', a number of women's groups took the offensive and attempted to lay the ground rules.

Four more women (eleven in all) were elected to this Dail than sat in the last. However more women stood this time than ever before and the gains made by Fine Gael tended to benefit women candidates as they had fielded the most - 16. Fianna Fail put up 10 and Labour 9.

Status magazine, in February, had organised an open conference to draw up a list of demands to be put to candidates by women of every constituency.

Later in the spring an Ad Hoc Women's Committee was formed with the aim of doing more or less the same thing - monitoring the extent of support by prospective TDs for a number of women's demands.

The group was responsible for the bright yellow posters carrying the slogan 'What will they do for women? Check before you vote'.

Then there was the Women's Political Association valiantly giving their indomitable support in the form of public meetings and leaflets to all women candidates on a 'why not vote for a woman' basis. This they have done in previous elections.

Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, also presuming there was a 'women's vote', took the precaution of putting up women in a considerable number of constituencies. In some cases where their selection conventions had already turned them down as candidates. Much of their

advertising was also directed specifically towards women.

So was there then a discernible 'women's vote' in this general election?

If we take, as a crude rule of thumb, that the 'women's vote' means support for women candidates across party boundaries then there is very little evidence that such a vote existed. Especially when the semi-coalition arrangement between Fine Gael and Labour is taken into account.

Nine constituencies had more than one woman candidate. With two exceptions, no more than 18 per cent of any woman candidate's second preferences went to a woman in another party (see the table).

The first exception was Labour candidate Patricia McCarthy in Clare who gave 31 per cent of her transfers to Madelaine Taylor of Fine Gael. But as she had no Labour running mates and as 80 per cent of her second preferences went to Fine Gael anyway this is not very significant.

The second exception was Liz Noonan in Dublin South East who was running as an independent lesbian feminist.

All this apart, the question is, now they're in there, will the new women TDs take up the fight for women's rights in the Dail, as expected?

That question was clearly answered on a Women Today radio programme shortly after the elections when all of the women TDs, except Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, were either in the studio or on the phone.

Eileen Desmond (Labour) started the ball rolling by suggesting

that they all get together and form a women's caucus in the Dail. The listener was then treated to the sound of the others falling over themselves to assert that they had NOT been elected as WOMEN and that they intended to work for all their constituents equally.

What is so sickening about this is that most of them welcomed the extra publicity they got as women candidates and many of them were prepared to be fielded by their party leaders to win the women's votes despite the acrimony this produced, in the local branches.

Now they are elected they only want to be known as Fianna Fail, Fine Gael or Labour, accepting the whip of parties which have never shown anything but indifference to women and obsequiousness to the Catholic church.

Nuala Fennell, that renowned feminist, further added that radical women had done them harm by raising nasty issues like abortion. Gosh we're terribly sorry, Nuala!

That's what wrong with this strategy for winning reforms for women. Inevitably the party line - whatever it is, and it is not determined by women or in the interests of working class women - demands their allegiances. And Fianna Fail and Fine Gael in particular, as the parties of the ruling class, can have no commitment to women's rights outside of what's forced on them by outside pressure.

Even the most uncompromising independent feminist like Liz Noonan could do little in the Dail.

As long as women believe that the best strategy for achieving change is an electoral one, we'll see no changes in our favour.

MARY GORDON



Thatcher's support dwindles

ISN'T MARGARET Thatcher beginning to find herself more isolated than she claims are the IRA? Her grim confrontation of criminalising the prisoners - despite their elections and their deaths - may just rebound on her in Britain. And voices of opposition have already been heard.

In the face of Concannon and Foot, who haven't budged an inch on Ireland, some Labour MPs have spoken against the shamefully fixed move to ban 'convicted' prisoners from Parliament. Benn in the wake of Sands' election victory, called for an end to partition and the withdrawal of troops from the North. Even the Daily Mirror has said that the simplest solution would be to call the troops home.

For the last ten years, Labour and Tory have been united on Ireland - both Mason and Whitelaw, the direct-rulers, have stood over Diplock Courts, British Army terror and indeed the building of the H Blocks. So any breakdown, however small, of that grisly alliance is to be welcomed. But just how much is Benn's call a real departure?

The truth is that as it stands it isn't. He suggests, in the same breath that he spoke of the crimes against Ireland, that UN troops should be brought in to replace the British.

Troops out for new troops in? And does Benn really believe that the United Nations

is some sort of neutral body? The lesson of the Lebanon, where UN troops defended Israel's boundary against the 'terrorists', proves just how 'neutral' they would be in the North. Any idea of a peace-keeping force, furthermore, does no more than sustain and reinforce sectarianism between the Catholics and the Protestants, upon which the Northern state itself is built. The UN troops, used to defend the Northern State would be scarcely less criminal than the British presence itself.

The problem is that Benn, not unlike the SDLP or even Haughey, believes that a simple agreed solution can do the trick as far as the six counties are concerned. But neither calls to the European Commission, nor any Anglo Irish summits, nor appeals to the UN, can reform the Northern State out of existence. Increasingly the H Block struggle is becoming a struggle about British withdrawal.

That will only be achieved by a mass movement that relies on nothing but itself.

Benn's solution does not offer a lot on that score. But it does open a new audience for raising a troops out movement in Britain, and that is an opportunity to be seized by all socialists to really build that campaign.

MARNIE HOLBOROW

Polish bosses change tack

THERE are more ways to kill a cat... is the saying now in Poland. For it has become clear over the past few weeks that an important section of Poland's bosses are attempting a 'softly, softly' approach to the independent trade union, Solidarity.

This is not to say that Communist leaders now accept independent trade unionism - quite the reverse.

The intensely unpopular regimes of the Russian bloc rely for their continued power on ruthlessly crushing all vestiges of opposition.

But the more intelligent Polish leaders now understand that it would be more dangerous to drown Solidarity in blood than to try and tame it. Brute force remains, of course, a real possibility.

Top party official Andrzej Zabinski, spoke of the plan at a private party meeting, a transcript of which was leaked in the independent press in Poland.

Concessions to Solidarity - like more television time - would be made in return for the union disassociating itself from the left radical group KOR, which acts at the

moment as the union's advisors. This would make Solidarity's leaders 'easier to work with'.

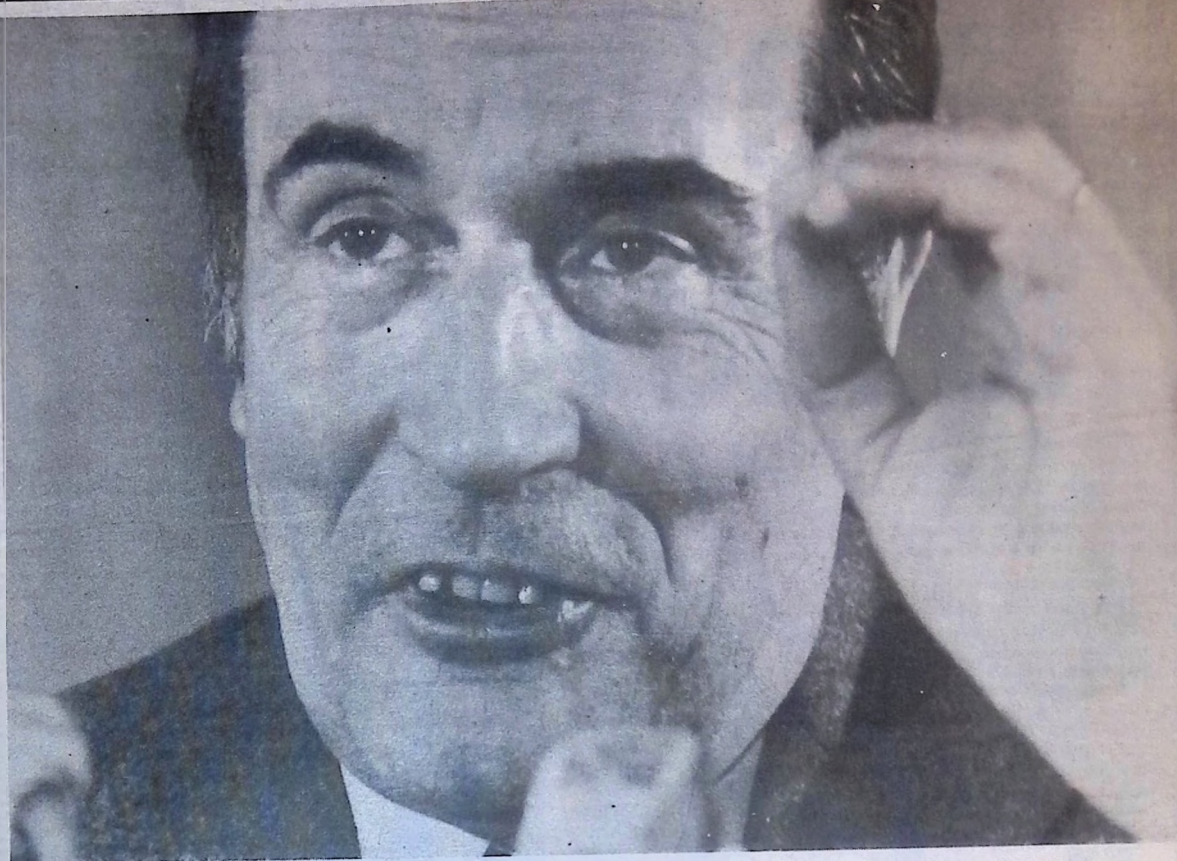
A leaf would then be taken out of the West's book in an effort to tame Solidarity. Its local leaders would be involved in decisions like who would be sacked when redundancies arose, etc... the familiar strategy of responsibility cooling firebrands.

Familiar too, to Western trade unionists, is the following means of softening up union leaders. Zabinski says 'They have to get a taste of power. We have to make quarters and meeting places equipped with every luxury available to them.'

Zabinski's speech continued 'I don't know many who would not be corrupted by power - it is simply a matter of time and degree.'

'We can already see it among them. Easy access to money, taxi rides to Gdansk, telephone conversations, contacts with top Party officials, etc...'

Already many rank and file



MITTERRAND promises, promises

'THE BIGGEST victory for the French Left since the revolution of 1789' claimed one Socialist Party leader after the results of the recent French elections became known.

While it is unfortunately rather unlikely that Giscard will be guillotined, the results are certainly a crushing defeat for the assorted right wingers who have governed France for the last 25 years.

The gerrymandered electoral system created by the Gaullists in 1958 seems to have backfired. Rigid constituency boundaries gave the Right a built-in majority over the years.

But once the left passed the 50 per cent mark the see-saw swung the other way and gave the Socialists a landslide victory. French workers have given Mitterrand a chance to prove himself.

Hence the enormous swing of Left voters to the Socialist Party. A few years back the Socialists were getting less votes than the Communist Party, now the Communist vote has been virtually annihilated.

Mitterrand's victory was that of a clever political operator taking advantage of a favourable situation. He is no red revolutionary, indeed Mitterrand was a minister on no less than eleven

occasions under the Fourth Republic and showed himself to be a loyal agent of French capitalism and of French imperialism.

When the Algerian national liberation struggle began on November 1st 1954, Mitterrand was Minister of the Interior. It was his responsibility to organise the dispatch of riot police to Algeria to try to suppress the rising.

Mitterrand was one of those who insisted from the beginning that there could be no question of independence for Algeria.

'The only negotiation is war,' he told the National Assembly on November 4th 1954 and on November 22nd he elaborated: 'We want the Algerian people to be more and more integrated into the French nation, and it is because we cannot allow it to be separated that we are having recourse to force, as the ultimate means of maintaining national unity.'

As a Cold War minister in the Mendes-France government he was responsible for banning the traditional Communist Party July 14th demonstration.

The press has been fascinated by his appointment of Regis Debray as a presidential advisor. Debray achieved cult status in the sixties among middle class radicals with articles from Cuba and South America on guerrilla warfare. He visited Che Guevara in the jungles of Bolivia, was

later captured and spent three years in jail charged with supporting the guerillas. Times changed and so did he.

Debray will add a bit of colour to Mitterrand's team. But he is only an advisor. Debray may propose but more sober individuals will dispose. People like Michel Jobert, who seven years ago was Foreign Secretary under the right wing Pompidou and has now turned his coat to be Mitterrand's Minister of Foreign Trade.

Worse still, one of the top officials in the Ministry of the Interior is to be Maurice Grimaud. Grimaud was Chief of Paris Police in May 1968, and was responsible for the riot police who clubbed and teargassed thousands of demonstrating students.

Nonetheless, French workers have given Mitterrand and the Socialists their head, looking expectantly to them to solve the problems of French capitalism. The Socialists came to power on a wave of promises about jobs, low pay and nationalisation. The question is can they deliver?

The world recession is proving a harder nut to crack than most commentators thought a year or two ago. With a world crisis in capitalism all the nationalisation in the world won't deliver more

jobs and all the huffing and puffing about a minimum wage won't be translated into reality when the whip of unemployment allows employers to name the price.

Revolutionary socialists, like us in the Socialist Workers Movement, have always said that it is not possible to reform capitalism, that workers power is the only answer.

French workers, in their majority, have showed by their votes that they are prepared to give the reformist road a chance. When all the election hullabulloo has died down and accounts have to be settled we will see who is right.

STEPHEN GREEN



Solidarity members have bitterly criticised the over conciliatory and moderate leadership of Lech Walesa and Polish party bosses are quick to see the possibility of incorporating the Solidarity leadership. They are keen to reorganise the structure of the union which at present includes all the various enterprises in a town.

This facilitates rapid generalisation of action and party chiefs would like to see a tame union organised on a branch basis so that disputes are self contained and easier to handle. They hope that as the fighting structures of

Solidarity wither, party members would achieve positions of importance and the old party controlled unions would re-emerge.

All this depends on a big if. Only if the political situation is stabilised can this strategy succeed. Meanwhile Poland faces a grave economic crisis that shows no signs of resolution. The objective fact is that to secure even the most meagre reforms, Polish workers are

forced to confront the Polish state. While the present stand-off continues, the 'hawks' in the bureaucracy are pressing for tougher action against Solidarity and Russia is losing its patience, because they fear a spread of the ideas of independent unionism to other parts of the Russian empire.

The West too is keeping an anxious eye on the situation, for, despite the sabre-rattling statements from Reagan and other Western leaders, they understand that Western banks have a lot of loans at risk in Poland and their

interests are only going to be served by getting the workers back in the factories and off the streets.

Not the first time, Zurich bankers, Pentagon generals, White House cow boys and the stone faced monsters of the Kremlin have an identity of interest. To tame the workers of Poland.

KEVIN WINGFIELD

Take the H-Blocks to the factories!

THE H Block campaign has reached a new level. Despite a lull in activity after the deaths of four hunger strikers, it has shown itself able to move onto the centre of the political stage in the South.

The two H Block TD Kieran Doherty and Kevin Agnew represent the tip of the iceberg. The votes for the prisoners came from those with a real grievance, in the absence of any reformist alternative those with a real grievance against the system. And the symbol of that grievance, in the absence of any reformist alternative has become the H Block issue.

■ ■ ■
The campaign has now come to a crossroads. Does it step back from mass mobilisation or does it build for massive industrial action?

There are elements who wish to use the electoral base won on both sides of the border as a means for organising a thoroughly respectable campaign.

The failure of the H Block Committee to organise a national march on the opening night of the Dail was one sign of that.

Instead it was left to the Dublin Central Committee.

The renewed talk of taking the issue to the United Nations or of looking into the proposals from the Church-backed Commission for Justice and Peace are more worrying signs. The latter is aiming to provide a vehicle for negotiations to commence on the five demands - as if they oppose political status.

They are responding to a mass movement. For that reason the H Block Committee should realise that they can deliver nothing more, and, in fact, a good deal less - than

the power of the masses on the streets and in the factories.

Electoral victories should be seen as an opportunity to step the level of mass activity rather than the reverse. They do not make it easier to pull more people onto demonstrations. They do make it more realistic to talk of massive strike action. But only if we organise. Where do we have to organise?

The key weakness for the campaign still remains in the workplaces and within the organised trade unions. There have been significant strikes - but not enough to shift Thatcher or the Southern government. As long as the campaign believes that its priority lies in lobbying TDs and Northern elected representatives, that weakness will not be overcome.

Unfortunately, there is every sign that despite the passing of a resolution saying that 'industrial action is the key to victory' at the last H Block conference that resolution has not been taken seriously. We are still waiting for a call for a national conference of shop stewards and union reps from the leadership of the campaign.

■ ■ ■
There has not been and there will not be a purely spontaneous response from workers. Many believe that the fantastic strikes and the election of Kevin Agnew somehow came about spontaneously because it was a 'border county' that's rubbish. They happened because a genuine shop steward organisation was built; because it took up the arguments on H Block week by week through its own trade union literature.

Behind every 'spontaneous' response there is organisation. And if we are going to get the level of

strike action that is needed to break Thatcher - that organisation must begin now.

The key lies in the building of local shop steward committees. If we are talking of massive strike action, then there is no point one shop steward reporting a call from some central body to their work-mates. The first question they will

be asked is 'what is the factory down the road doing?'

A shop stewards committee that can organise collective action; that can back up the call for strike action with the signatures of local trade union reps; that can produce its own leaflet - is the only means of breaking down that isolation. Again that policy has been

been carried out at the H Block conference - but to date no movement on it.

Any action that is being proposed must be able to command a reasonable degree of response. The major problem the campaign faces when it comes to workers action is the imbalance around the country.

Some areas can come out almost

Others, particularly Dublin have not really moved. To overcome that, the campaign must work for a major national day of action to save the prisoners rather than a response to a death. And it must seek to extend that one day stoppage in the strong areas with a view to bringing the country to a standstill,



Taking the H Block Campaign to the workplaces, Bernadette on tour of the Waterford Glass Factory during the recent election.

How the trade unions must mobilise

THE H BLOCKS issue is a matter for individual decision rather than organised Trade Union action. That is what John Dwan claimed in a circular he has sent to his members in the Waterford No 1 ITGWU Branch.

Dwan had got the Branch Committee to hold a referendum among their members to see if their members were in favour of having the Waterford Trades Council organise demonstrations, marches or other activities in support of the H Block campaign.

What is John Dwan on about?

■ ■ ■
Around the country there are a number of trade union bureaucrats who are getting worried by the response of workers to the H Block campaign. For the first time in a decade workers in the South have moved as workers, to support the struggle in the North. Not the majority of the Southern working class but a significant minority. And that type of response does not fit in with the gradual peaceful road of reform that the likes of John Dwan advocate.

But they aren't oppose the H Block movement directly in towns like Waterford. So the trick Dwan

has come up with is the brilliant device of the referendum. Nothing could be so democratic... or could it?

In fact it is nothing of the sort. John Dwan's claim that the H Block issue is a matter for individual decision rather than organised trade union action runs against every tradition of the founder of the union, James Connolly. Are we now to believe that the Special Criminal Courts, the anti-union proposals or the Forcible Entry Act are also matters for individual conscience?

Of course they are not. The trade union movement must defend its interests politically. And when all is said and done, the H Block issue is one that directly stems from discrimination and oppression of Catholic workers in the North. And any union worth its salt cannot stand idly by allow a that to happen.

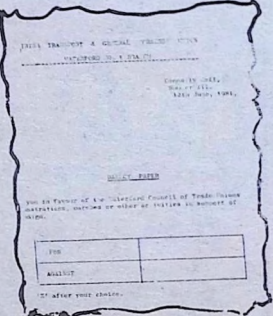
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But you don't have to go back to Connolly to know that. May be John Dwan would prefer to listen to the likes of John Carroll. At the ITGWU Conference he called on the British Government to concede the five demands on

humanitarian grounds. Now John Carroll is no radical. But the point is that he was speaking at the union conference, as a union officer and not as an individual.

We are of course, for democratic decisions by ITGWU members on the issue. But union democracy doesn't have to work through Maggie Thatcher's recipe: the postal referendum. Besides, this conversion to union democracy is quite a turn up for an officer of a union whose paid hacks seem to regard the membership as sleeping partners whose sole function is to pay their dues and shut up.

■ ■ ■
If Dwan wants an open democratic decision on the issue as we do, he should be organising an open branch meeting where there is a full and democratic discussion before the vote - rather than through a referendum based on biased recommendations with no chance of discussion or argument.

While he is at it, maybe he should be organising more of those regular branch meetings anyway - if he really is so concerned with democracy.



Dundalk success

DUNDALK is one of the strongest centres of the H Block campaign in the South, not least because it has produced massive industrial action on several occasions in support of the prisoners. It is the capital of the South constituency which returned Paddy Agnew to Dail Eireann. And in that

election campaign the backbone stemmed from the Dundalk labour movement.

The Dundalk Shop Stewards Committee has organised itself around support for the H Block prisoners, and gave a lead to workers in the town to show their support for the five demands.

The Worker interviewed Philip Toal, ITGWU shop steward and a member of the Dundalk Shop Stewards Committee who told us of the background and development of the Committee.

The Committee began late last year as a sub-committee of the H Block campaign in Dundalk. It soon became an independent body within the overall campaign. It has organised 'umpteens' stoppages since December 10th last, including complete day-long closures of the town.

The Dundalk Shop Stewards Committee arose out of that. There is a number of Dundalk Trades Council members on the Shop Stewards Committee. The Trades Council has come behind the Shop Stewards Committee. It called the stoppages and the Trades Council supported them.

The formula of a body of shop stewards independent of the general H Block campaign has

worked, Phil believes, in Dundalk and in Drogheda. The Committee is representative of workers in every major industry in the town.

People see workers' representatives proposing aims and action that would not be received so well from others. Since the death of Francis Hughes however, workers' action has been difficult to achieve. There has been no way forward shown by the national leadership of the campaign.

The industrial support for the H Block issue was not built overnight. The Shop Stewards Committee had to put plenty of explanatory literature into the factories. Some of this was signed by local shop stewards, with whom workers could identify.

The DSSC intends to take up trade union and economic issues but at present all energies are going into the H Block campaign. But Already the Trades Council bigwigs fear this rank and file development.

The DSSC did not support Paddy Agnew's candidacy 'politically' as a group. But as individuals they worked for his election; The Agnew vote was a working class vote on the national question. The shop stewards in the town were heavily involved in the campaign, and working people could identify with them.

Picture: Eamon Dwyer IFL/Report

Lump strike

THE working conditions brought about by the Irish National Painters and Decorators strike are proving fruitful.

John Byrne, spoke to a spokesman on the J, Green site in Clondalkin, who told him about some of the issues and what conditions were achieved. 'The numbers of painters on this site have increased enormously due to the INP&D union's sterling work in abolishing the paint rollers, thus saving tax payers thousands in dole payments.

The number of apprentices have also grown, taking unemployed boys off the streets and giving them a worth while start in life.

I would also point out the very high standard of the homes that fellow workers are moving into, thanks to the diligence of painting shop stewards who monitor the standards at all times insuring the respect gained during the strike.

These improvements plus all the basic allowances laid down by the CIF now being adhered to, are a very good improvement on the painter's working week.

Most important of all, men who were once employed by the outrageous 'lump' system can now hold their heads up and go from strength to strength.'

Picket power at Switzers

THE workers on strike at Switzers in Grafton Street, Dublin are determined. Determined to win a claim put in by their union, the ITGWU, for disturbance money.

One hundred and forty porters and drivers for the past month have been picketing all branches of Switzers seeking £2000 disturbance money from the company for porters, display staff and craftsmen in Grafton Street. It's an important issue. The Grafton Street management recently closed the underground tunnel which the porters used to transport goods from Switzers warehouse in Clarendon Street to the main store in Grafton Street while building alterations are going on.

The porters and drivers now have to transport goods across the streets, through the busy traffic and in all kinds of weather.

When the men put in a claim for disturbance money, the capitalist press done the dirty as usual on the strikers with headlines such as 'Workers want £2000 to cross the road'.

The truth of the matter is that after Labour Court proceedings which got nowhere, the porters and drivers themselves through frustration at the new system which totally changed their working conditions, put in a disturbance claim. The new personnel manager at Switzers, who recently left Clerys shop in O'Connell Street, a renowned anti-union shop, is determined to 'clean up' industrial relations in favour of the bosses.

The men on strike are being supported by canteen staff and electricians who are refusing to cross picket lines. An 'all-out' picket is likely from Congress. Every pressure must be put on the IUDWC bureaucracy (the union representing the sales staff during the recent Pennys strike) to bring its members out in support and not to stop their members supporting the strike.

The strikers in Grafton Street are determined to win despite moves by management to bring in deliveries late at night, and doing the duties of canteen staff who are supporting the picket.

For more information and offers of support contact the picket line at Grafton Street.

DAVID BYRNE

Bang a beer bottle!

LIAM'S A great man for the culture. He never stops speaking Irish every chance he gets. He beams a smile into the television camera and switches from Irish to English at the drop of a hat, as he introduces the priests, nuns, politicians, GAA leaders and the boys and girls who dance the jigs and play the tunes.

His smile captured the interest of the big wigs in RTE who made Liam O Murachu presenter of *Trom agus Eatrom* and also gave Liam his own radio show. He fits nicely with the desires of those who control RTE, mainly because Liam personifies everything that is rotten about official 26 county Irish culture.

Liam is Nationalist - but always dodges the question of Northern Ireland; Catholic - to the point that his television show is usually packed with nuns and priests with funny stories; middle class to the point where he never fails to affirm his great respect for Irish business millionaires and reactionary to the point that on his radio show he condemns workers on strike for not thinking about 'Ireland's future' and the 'National Interest'.

Drop down to the Comhaltas in Belgrave Square, Monkstown and you are bound to bump into him. Yes, he's a great man for the Irish traditional music.

Luckily enough not all traditional music fans like him. The sessions though, have something with Liam's type of attitude. The culture of Ireland seems to surround those gathered to play and drink like a huge halo. The sessions are confined to the few dedicated 'culture lovers' and there is no room for elements who do not 'love the music'.

Most people would take as a starting point of the trad-

itional music upsurge recently as being the ballad boom at the beginning of the sixties. There was indeed a connection. The Clancys and the Dubliners though came out of a traditional music - or more correctly, folk music - renaissance that had been taking place for some time.



In the early fifties, Seamus Ennis had cycled from Dublin to Connemara to collect traditional music and songs. Nobody has ever counted the songs and tunes he wrote down from people, many of them since dead. Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann was founded in 1951 and the first Flea Cheoil was held in Mullingar during the Whit weekend of the same year. Hundreds of forgotten musicians took to the streets of Mullingar, Boyle Ennis and Buncrana. The early days were what folk music is all about.

Thousands came to listen and play. Accordians, bongos, guitars, soup-spoons, two-shilling pieces and beer bottles were used to batter out reels, jigs and hornpipes.

The songs were good too. Many of the songs over the next decade were to become associated with the Dubliner and other folk groups. The music though was to change.

There had never been a clear dividing line between the folk ballad - for example Sam Hall or Joe Hill - and the playing of a group of people armed with a variety of instruments.

The latest traditional boom was to change all this. At a Sunday morning session, a rebel song or the Leaving of Liverpool is not welcome. 'Ugh' someone will say, 'That's the Clancys'. To explain the reason why we have to return to the early sixties.

Sean O Riada invited eight good players to his flat in Galloping Green in Co Dublin. His intention was to try out a new way of presenting Irish folk music. The group he formed became known as Ceoltoiri Chualann. What O Riada did was both to put new life into Irish music and to create a new type of audience. This new audience was far different to the Flea bottle-bangers.

On stage in front of government ministers, students, diplomats and well to do farmers, he began to talk about the Gaelic chiefs and poets who ruled before Kinsale. It was nice music but more elitist, with the emphasis on the

cultural 'goodness' of it all.

Some year later the 'experiment' of O Riada became the general rule. The Chieftains, De Danonn and the Bothy Band, were all to focus on O Riada's new way of presenting the Irish music.

Although folk music is a general term and takes in the songs and airs created by the working class and rural poor, what happened with the new traditional boom was the limitation of Irish folk music to one particular 'pure' form. It's rather like saying that all Southern United States folk music has to be blue grass.



There was an additional reason for the boom in the seventies. Gaelic Ireland was on its last legs so to speak. Ireland was now in Europe and strictly capitalist and cosmopolitan. It was easy then to promote abstract Irish culture, particularly in music. It was a safe scene promoted by those firmly committed to the morals and standards of capitalist Ireland.

And the new refined and

more 'pure' traditional sessions began to draw a new audience. Folk songs began to leave many a Dublin pub as a respectable middle class audience mainly young, poured in. Although the Dubliners continued on with a working class following, as did the Wolfe Tones, who hammered out rebel ballads, the new refined audiences were insisting on harp and concertina to play a particular song as the music became more and more distant from workers and the trades more elitist in attitude.

At last, though, its beginning to change. The music is coming together again as the realities of life - particularly the Northern struggle - keep hammering away. That is how it should be. Folk music is not elitist. It is the songs and airs of the working class and those who work the land. It is not a refined orchestrated music for a few 'respectable' purists.

So next time you're away on a weekend and join a session, make sure to sing the Leaving of Liverpool and bang a beer bottle with a ten pence peice while you're at it. If anybody says 'Ugh it's the Clancys' tell them to get stuffed.

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

When WE take over...

Dublin jobless Action Group set up

WELL, the election is over for all that matters. But one thing remains certain - the result will leave the unemployed as badly off as ever.

The Haugheys and the Fitzgerals, just like Thatcher in Britain, don't give a damn about workers on the dole. So it's up to us - the unemployed - to do something about it and get the unions to replace empty words with action.

A start has been made in Dublin with the setting up of an Unemployed Action Group a few months ago. The group took part in the May Day Right to Work demonstration and placed a picket on the Fianna Fail head office the day before the election.



The May Day March was called by the Dublin Trade Council. This was a welcome initiative but the pressure need to be kept on them and the leaderships of the various unions to make sure that they take further action and give support to unemployed groups.

In recent months workers have shown the way in the fight to keep jobs. The Talbot workers faced the full wrath of the Courts when they opposed redundancies. The Dublin Unemployed Action Group will give any help they can to workers fighting for jobs. An example has been set for all workers who have been made redundant by the workers in the Number 16 branch of the Federated Workers Union of Ireland who formed an unemployed section when they lost their jobs.



Coming activities of the DUAG include a lobby on the ICTU Conference in Cork in the second week of July. We want to shame the Union Bureaucrats and show those delegates who really care that the unemployed will not sit idly by while the dole queues grow even longer. We are also having a benefit concert in the Lourdes Hall, Sean McDermott Street on Thursday July 9. Contact DUAG, c/o ATGWU, Marlborough Street Dublin 1. KEVIN CALLINAN member of the DUAG.

NORMALLY the idea of kicking out the bosses and taking over yourselves does seem a little far-fetched. After all it is the bosses who own the place and it them that pay the wages. Sure, the wages are usually lousy and the conditions worse. So you fight to make them better, but actually getting rid of them - that's something else. Normally. But one day the bosses find they're in financial difficulties and the 'only solution' is to shut up shop. Years of slaving away for lousy pay and lousier conditions and suddenly the whole bloody thing begins to sink. And its the bosses pulling the plug out not you. They're off to the Canary Islands and you're headed for the dole queue.

Suddenly the situation is anything but 'normal'.

In these circumstances, reacting 'abnormally' makes a lot of sense. In 1972 the workers at the Fisher Bendix plant in England were faced with just such a situation. Stewards and

management were discussing the imminent redundancies when a group of angry rank and file workers burst into the boardroom. The room was packed with workers and the management, scared out of their wits, were covering in a corner. At that point, the convenor reacted very 'normally'.

Anger

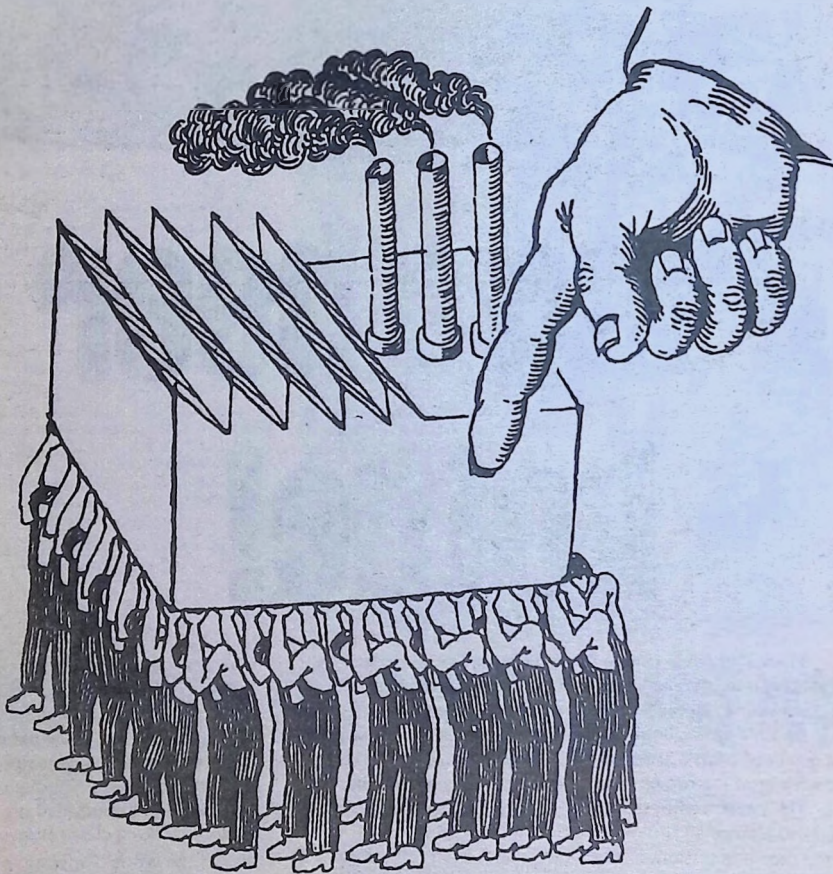
He simply said to management 'Eight years ago there were 2500 people working here, now there are 700. We're giving YOU formal notice now, in our own way - we've got no official papers or anything - but as from today you're redundant. For years whenever there's been any trouble it's always the workers who've been been out the gate. But here - and elsewhere in the future - its the management who are on on the street.' And within five minutes they were, the factory was occupied and five weeks later new owners were found

with all jobs and conditions guaranteed.

Making the bosses redundant, that's the key to it. After all it's them who are pulling out, not you. If they can't get any more profit out of the place, that's their problem - when did you ever see any of the profits? As to the plant and the machinery are they really? Without labour party - your labour power - the things are useless. Everything in the factory is there because of your effort or the effort of other workers, the bosses never did anything. They're yours by RIGHT - the right of working people to own and control all that they produce.

Hammered

That's one of the reasons us socialists are always on about occupations. In the normal course of events, these very reasonable truths are hidden from workers. It app-



HB workers love the sun

EVERY time the sun shines it helps the HB Ice Cream workers in Rathfarnham, Dublin.

They have been on strike since the beginning of June for a £5 proficiency deal which was actually conceded to them by management in August 1980. The factory floor put in for it when the craftworkers got it last year with no strings.

But then management thought they'd ram through a few little odds and ends in the form of a package for an extra couple of pounds on top. This package contained such gems as security checks on bags and clothing, closed circuit tvs, having to be checked out by the company doctor if absent sick for 20 days and instant dismissals for participating in an unofficial stop-

page. And it was a case of all or nothing. Is any money really worth this?

The 250 workers out on this strike have the official backing of the FWUI and the ITGWU. Half the factory floor workers are women and more than 100 are temporary workers, brought in every year on a seasonal basis.

A threat made by the FUE that there could be redundancies as a result of this strike was considered a joke when it is taken into account that the

company lays off workers every year as a matter of form anyway.

The strike at Rathfarnham and Ballymount (where there are garages and storage fridges) is solid except for a few craft

workers who are passing the pickets.

Needless to say there is bad feeling about them. The strike committee have been busy getting stores of ice cream in Tallaght and Middleton depts blacked and now keeping the picket on Rathfarnham going around the clock so that management can't shift the stores out at night.

The next step is an all-out from the ICTU to make sure that none of the small depts around the country can be touched;

Help with blacking, collections, messages of support etc. Send to: HB Strike Committee, c/o No 1 Branch FWUI, Bernal Square, Dublin 1. WARY GOREN

ears that nothing could function without management there to provide the jobs and wages. But when the jobs are set to vanish and the wages stop, its a different ball game. You then have a choice. Accept the logic of their system and join the dole queues with maybe a few extra bob over the statutory if you're lucky. Or simply say no, we have a right to work at decent wages in decent conditions, you're redundant not us. Once that step is taken everything appears in a new light. What socialists have been saying all along, doesn't look half so crazy after all.

Because it doesn't stop there. With the bosses gone and the workers in control, things begin to change rapidly. Firstly, it is very quickly seen just how useless the bosses were. But organising the occupation itself brings out just how easily it is for workers to run things when everyone is pulling together for themselves.

Everyone can get involved

in picket duties, catering, discussions, delegations to other factories, entertainments etc. Stories abound on all occupations of how people never wanted it to stop because, often for the first time in their lives, they were in control - and enjoying it. That's another reason why socialists go on about occupations - it's a glimpse, however short, of what society could be like if there were no bosses at all.

Instead

But there are problems. The first is simply this. You may have got rid of your bosses, but the boss class as a whole is not going to sit back and let you get away with it if they can help it.

What if the tactic spreads? What if every workforce threatened with redundancies kicked out their local bosses and held all those buildings and all that machinery, all those finished goods out of the grasp of capitalism as a whole? The ruling class cannot afford to take that chance. Enter the law.

Injunctions are sought through the courts to remove the workers from the 'bosses' property and if those injunctions are defied then their agents, the police are sent in to enforce the laws. That's the idea anyway but it doesn't often happen.

Why? How come for example that the Talbot workers were not actually jailed despite two occupations? Because the ruling class is not sure they have the power to make it stick.

Vital

There might be mass resistance to jailings and no ruling class wants that.

So generally the big stick is not used. Instead the bosses rely on propaganda to stop things getting that far in the first place.

The media talk about 'unlawful' and 'unofficial' action. The 'rights of property' are stressed. Politicians, and often trade union leaders, are wheeled on to offer the alternative of 'getting round the table to sort the problem out'.

It's all designed to stop you taking that one simple action, which, through events not of your own choosing, you have come to see as in fact the most just, most truly lawful - the most natural - thing in the world: the occupation of your factory to ensure your right to work. Making the bosses redundant.

JOHN CANE

EBS benefit

Dublin branch of the Socialist Workers Movement organised a benefit social for the EBS strikers in June.

Trade union activists, H Block campaigners and socialists crammed in to the function room of Maguires pub in Dublin to meet some of the strikers join in the session, sink a few pints and enjoy the crack.

But the evening was not just a social success. Strikers appealed for solidarity and explained the issues involved and the evening raised £60 for the strike fund.

Lupton v the AIB

PAUL O'BRIEN (No 2
Branch ITGWU'
personal capacity)

IN LAST month's issue of 'The Worker' we carried the story of John Lupton, who is in dispute with the AIB for the last nine months, over a clear case of victimisation. He has been picketing the AIB branch in Drogheda since October 1980;

Since last month a number of developments have taken place, with the help of many trade unionists up and down the country. The Trades Council of Drogheda are now actively involved in trying to have the matter settled. They have asked for a meeting with Job Stott of the Irish Bank Officials Association (IBOA) asking that they take up his case for reinstatement.



Through 'The Worker' Dinkald Shop Stewards Committee was approached and they have indicated that they would do what they could to help, and one of their members on the Trades Council will be raising it there in the near future.

Similarly, trade unionists in Dublin will be raising this case with the IBOA and any other area where help can be forthcoming. A petition within the banks is being organised calling for support for the people involved.



What this case has shown is, that if organised workers are prepared to give support and solidarity to strikes such as this, then much can be done. This case has not been won yet, a lot remains to be done, so if you would like to help, contact us at 'The Worker' or write to: John Lupton, Sarsfieldtown, Julianstown, Co Meath.



CONGRESS: leaders or policemen?

THE DARKEST hour in the recent history of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, was probably in 1972 when Congress called on other workers to do the work of the striking ESB Shift workers. This extraordinary case of official blacklegging was organised because the Shift Workers threatened to smash up the National Wage Agreement.

THE UNIONS

Other dark deeds were the assurance given to the RUC last year, that they had Congress' full support, and the recent advice from Congress to member unions that they should meekly comply with the Supreme Court ruling in the Talbot case and refrain from any blacking action.

At least one Union the ITGWU, complied. 1977 was a good year for Ruaidhri Roberts, Outgoing General Secretary of the ICTU. As exclusively revealed in 'The Worker' a Sugar Company letter stated how management and the ICTU had been acting together to hold back a Craftworkers pay claim. Ruaidhri Roberts was on the Sugar Co board at the time. The same man in the same year agreed to serve on the Governments cover-up enquiry into the Garda 'heavy gang' phase - without reference even to the ICTU executive. And of course

there was the smothering of the tax campaign.

The Congress leaders greatest sources of power and influence in the trade union movement are the National pay deals - they decide your wages - and the Two Tier Picket, through which all-out support is granted to you or not. Both of these institutions have been used as instruments of officials scabbing, and have greatly weakened the picket-line in their ten-year existence. Congress will hardly ever intervene to build solidarity for a weak or isolated strike, ('we are not a union' they argue) but have clamped down on strikes and Unions which breached national pay norms as negotiated by them. The Two-Tier picket is often used to slow-down or disillusion strike action.

JOBS

Again and again the Congress big-wigs show that they are the 'labour lieutenants of capital'. In 1978 the AGM/OU was suspended from Congress for supporting a democratically-decided strike in Roadstone for a pay-claim above the National Wage Agreement. In the midst of the desperate struggle of the postworkers the POWU were threatened with the same treatment. Last year Congress condemned ten Dublin Airport unions for pursuing claims beyond the National Understanding.

The Two-Tier picket was a

direct consequence of the successful Maintenance workers dispute of 1969. Thousands of general workers were out because of the Maintenance pickets. Congress and the leaders of the major general unions set out to stop this happening again, by devising a system whereby on Union could officially pass the pickets of another.

WAGES

In the process control over many strikes-already removed from the rank and file in some unions - passed into the hands of a few bureaucrats on the Industrial Relation Committee of Congress.

The result has been major divisions between workers - such as the Irish Steel and Undare strikes (1977), Irish Glass Bottle (1980) and Ericsonns (1981) - usually having the ITGWU on one side and craft unions on the other. Trade unionists were being educated out of respect for the picket line.

But the Two-Tier picket works against all workers. In June 1980 41 ITGWU members in Penneys of Dublin struck in opposition to redundancies. The majority union IUDWC, continued to work and the all-out picket was delayed for so long that the strikers gave up in frustration and accepted the job losses. The system through which strikers have to

go to get the precious re-diamond placard is littered with delays and obstructions.

There are various stages, including a full hearing at which the bureaucrats of another Union, not the members, can argue against the granting of the 'all-out'.

So, even official strikes of other unions have been made unofficial - because if you refuse to pass the picket-line, without the all-out, you will get no strike pay and could be disciplined by your own union.

JOBS

What is the answer? To get out of Congress? The MPGWU and the NBU have done so. Neither are any great shakes. No - being in Congress is not the problem. A Congress of all unions is a good thing, to provide unity and strength. The problem is that Congress, like so many unions that make it up, are controlled by non-elected full-time officials whose interests don't always coincide with those of their members. The answer is rank and file control from below, with direct elections to Congress positions. The alternative to the Scabs Charter - the Two-Tier picket - is the right to official strike by majority decision of the rank and file - whether its for themselves or in solidarity with their fellow-workers.

astms

THE Strikers at the Educational Building Society have been picketing close to eight weeks as go to print. The dispute, involving 105 members of ASTMS has been deadlocked for a number of weeks and the management seem determined to break the union organisation on the job, or at least weaken it considerably by pushing the strikers back to work on management terms.

The dispute began at the end of April when the ASTMS members demanded parity with workers in the Irish Civil Service Building Society. Scabs have since been keeping on a limited form of business. To date, the only escalation of the dispute by the ASTMS has been the blacking of EBS work in all other banking and insurance institutions where there are ASTMS members.

The effect of this on the bosses though has not been as great as some of the strikers expected. At a social held for the strike fund by 'The Worker' one of the strikers Mary Cassidy, from the main picket in Westmoreland Street explained - 'The blacking of insurance claims and mortgage transactions by the union has been somewhat successful. The EBS has lost business. Funds taken in from customers have also been hit. The problem, however, is that it has not had the effect of pushing the management towards a decent settlement.

'They seem intent on beating us. We therefore need lots more solidarity and help from other trade unionists in order to win. We need a mass picket outside the EBS offices to show the management our determination to win. None of us wants to be walking up and down here for months. We have had help so far from some socialists and trade unionists. Now we need to start collections everywhere we can and involve members from other unions with ideas on how we can win.'

Send collections, messages of support etc to: Mary Devine, c/o EBS Strike Committee, ASTMS, 38 Lower Leeson Street, D2.

DAVID AND DERMOT BYRNE

WORKERS in Dublin Corporation plan to take strike action to defend 150 jobs facing the axe because of lack of government cash.

Last April, the Environment Works Section of Dublin Corpo was threatened with closure due to lack of additional funds from the Government.

For several months this money had been promised but the Corporation has received nothing. As a result they have had to go to the banks with the usual enormous interest rates involved.

Now the Corporation say the section will have to close at the end of June unless additional funds are provided by the Government.

A meeting with the Minister for the Environment was requested by the Union - Irish Municipal Employees Trade Union - back in April, but the union is still waiting.

This is a very worthwhile and important section of the Corpo. They clean canals and vacant sites on both the North and South sides of Dublin. Approximately 150 men are employed in this section.

The Corpo proposes to transfer 50 men from the Environment Section to the Cleansing Department for temporary Summer work. At the end of three months 50 men would be laid off, but to avoid making it too obvious, the men being laid off would not be those men transferred in from the Environment Section.

But the Union are not going to be fooled by this kind of carry on and are determined to keep the section open.

At a meeting in early June they decided to take strike action to protect the 150 jobs at stake.

by CHARLIE NOLAN

THE WORKER

FOR WORKERS POWER AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

Charging up the batteries

THE GIGANTIC battery manufacturer, Lucas, are involved in a major con-job with the IDA. And in order to get the maximum amount of free grants, they have stuck 34 workers at their Coolock plant in Dublin on a near permanent lay-off.

In August 1980, Raphael Burke (EF) opened a new Coolock plant and claimed there were 30 new jobs. In fact the workers that took up employment had on average of 10 years service to Lucas already in, mainly their Portland Street depot.

Lucas had been approved for a new industry grant in 1978. They received the final payment of the £237,200 in December 1980. One condition of the new industry grant is that employment must be maintained for ten years or the grant must be repaid. Workers at the factory also claimed that they received an additional £30,000 in ANCO grants for re-training.

Seven months later on the 20th March, the workers were laid off. They were told they would be called back in 6 weeks time. They were not. Instead they were told that the situation would be reviewed twice a month. Eventually they were told that they could not be called back until August at the earliest. And even that was not definite.

The company was putting them on a near permanent lay-off in order to protect their grant. Shop steward, John Keswick, takes up the story: 'It was a scandal the way that men with over 340 years service were treated. We had enough of it. We decided to take action to at least force the company to tell us about their plans'.

In early June, the workers moved in to occupy the plant. They have been there for over two weeks. The latest offer the company came up with was 'voluntary redundancy'. The aim appears to be to keep on a minimum staff in order to protect their grant.

The occupation is not actually about saving jobs. But as the struggle develops, and as the unemployment figures mount up, workers may think twice about simply taking money. It could turn into a fight to defend jobs and expose the wheeling

Waterford watershed

THE WATERFORD Trades Council have taken a major initiative on unemployment. They firstly sent forward a resolution to the ICTU Conference in Cork which called for:

- *full membership rights for the unemployed
- *for the ICTU to organise a full unemployed union open to all jobless school leavers
- *for the setting up of unemployed Centres in local towns.

But they didn't just stop at passing a resolution. They agreed to sponsor and pay

for the hire of a bus to take 50 of the unemployed down to the ICTU Conference. That way a lot of comfortable bureaucrats can be reminded of the realities of unemployed life.

It's a major start. At the same conference there will also be the resolutions from Galway Trades Council against double jobbing. But that of course doesn't mean that the ICTU is going to steam full ahead to build an unemployed campaign.

Last year they passed a resolution on the 35 hour week

Nothing came of it. This time the Waterford resolution at least ties them down to something specific that is within their power to organise. But more is needed.

A militant Right to Work campaign that advances an aggressive policy on fighting unemployment. A campaign that gives its full support to the workers of Talbot, of the New Ross shipyards and Lucas who have all occupied for the right to work. And a campaign that aims to unite the unemployed with a strong militant trade union movement.



and dealing of the giant multinational Lucas.

Workers foil the Unidare axe

SINCE mid April 31 workers in the Foil Section of Unidare, Finglas, have been resisting the axing of their jobs. Unidare are ceasing the manufacture of aluminium foil and substituting imported foil from Alcan, one of their major shareholders. No recession, just ruthless rationalisation. At first the workers were fighting the closure but since their Union (ITGWU) officials at top level betrayed them and advised them to accept this unjustifiable closure the workers have been fighting for adequate compensation before moving out of their section.

The company wants to deploy them throughout the site before compensation and earnings guarantees are settled.

The Union leaders also unbelievably refused a call to organise official blocking of imported Unidare foil in compliance with the Supreme Courts ruling in the Talbot case. Despite the militant rhetoric on the subject at the ITGWU Conference held at practically the same time.

On Tuesday 16th June, Dick Wickstead was suspended for refusing to move out of the section. Since then the section have been on sit in strike with the full support of the Unidare Section Committee. As we go to press the IDA, the Committee are formulating proposals and formulas for the initiation of an official strike. It is a delicate balancing act between the impossible redtape of ITGWU procedures the long suffering frust-

ration of the Foil workers, the clever timing of the company (just prior to the Summer holidays) and the intransigence of Unidare management.

However on June 22nd there was a dramatic show of solid support for the Foil workers. The occasion was the visit of top executives from Philips in Holland - Unidare's controlling multinational.

They were visiting the Unidare site to inspect the progress of the major expansion programme in the Cable division which will expand (with the help of IDA taxpayers money) to cater for the development of the phone service.

As they arrived the entire production section (No 14 Branch) staged a protest march behind the foil workers in front of the main office section. For one hour between ten and eleven, they paraded around sending up the cry 'What do we want - we want our jobs' up to the offices where the visitors and Unidare management were in conference. The foil workers alone repeated the exercise at lunch hour. Other protests in their long campaign have been held at various times outside the Unidare shareholders AGM, the Springshow and the

DES DERWIN
ITGWU STEWARD
(Personal capacity)



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