Socialist Worker

For a Workers Republic and International Socialism 40p

Inside:

Can there be a socialist alternative?

see pages 6 & 7

WANTED

- Broken promises on Aer Lingus
- Social Welfare cuts



- Jobs for Relatives
- Collaboration with Fianna Fail
- 1% levy on PAYE workers

DICK SPRING
FOR

BETRAYAL

St Ita's nurses scapegoated

A number of staff in St Ita's Hospital, Portrane, have been accused of mistreating patients. St Ita's is the largest psychiatric hospital in Ireland.

Management want to scapegoat nurses for the effects of the health cuts.

One psychiatric nurse told Socialist Worker,
"We work with very severely disturbed patients
and it is one of the most stressful jobs imaginable.
"Often other hospitals won't admit patients who
are taken in Portrane. But there has been little or no

are taken in Portrane. But there has been little or no expenditure on staff training.
Funding for the hospital has been cut in recent years while £22,000 is spent per patient in private hospitals, only half of this figure is available for patients in St Ita's. With 25 patients in each open plan ward, there is severe overcrowding.
Tony Murray of Parents Association of Mental Handicap blames lack of funding, not the nurses, for the problems.

Unemployed driven to suicide

Unemployment drove two young mento suicide in Co. Limerick last month.

Gerard O'Sullivan (19) and Sean Kelly (23) turned a car exhaust on themselves after failing to find work. Gerard had come back

ber after losing a job as a machinist

from England in Novem-

Morale

Sean had only recently signed on the dole, having been reluctant to do so.

Sean's aunt-Gerard's mother—said that signing on had affected their mo-

Gerard's brother Tom said that Gerard had spent most of his £49 dole looking for work.

He added, "There you are, week after week, driving miles and miles wast-ing petrol looking for jobs that aren't there, and trying to live on the dole and never a hope of anything better".



"If the government don't open their eyes there's go-ing to be a lot more like Gerard and Sean."

Gerard O'Sullivan

which they would lose under the SES programme. Quinn reversed his decision after protests from the ICTU. Meanwhile Albert Reynolds made a speech in New Ross committing the government to the PESP area partnerships. He didn't know that Ruairi Quinn was abolishing them. It seems that Labour are so anxious to att. ac workers that they are even doing it behind Fianna Fail's back! Eleven ministers spent St. Patrick's day abroad at a cost of £120,000—and we will

INSIDE

COALITION

ment Minister Ruairi Quinn tried to axe a Community based en-

terprise scheme funded

But Quinn's aim was not to provide real jobs instead he just wanted to cut benefits.

wanted to cut benefits.
The scheme—agreed in the PESP—involved EC funded "area partnerships" and allowed people to keep certain benefits which they would lose under the

by the EC.

Labour's Employ

have to pay the bill.

Top of the big spenders was Justice Minister Maire Geoghegan Quinnwhose trip to Australia cost us almost £30,000.

Labour ministers also took part in the holiday freebies.

Ruairi Quinn's bill for his trip to the US cost £10,996.

And "left wing" Culture Minister Michael D Higgins' trip to Canada cost us almost £7,000.

The tigures covered grade A hotels and Business Class flights for the ministers and their hangers-on.

Government departments have to pay the bill.

Government departments refused to confirm the figrefused to confirm the fig-ures. But according to a gov-ernment spokesman, Bart Cronin, "It would take two or three civil servants to calcu-late it. That takes time and money."

They said:

"We weren't so bad at dish ing it out ourselves so we can hardly complain now."—A Labour minister's response to the anger over the party's be-trayals.

"I suppose its an early elecrisupposetts an early elec-tion and the overall major-ity now."—Dick Spring to Albert Reynolds, on hear-ing that Fianna Fail had gained at Labour's ex-pense in the opinion polls.

Stopping sexual harassment

JOE Treacy resigned as boss of the First National Building Society after a woman employee reported him for sexual harass-

Other workers in the First National have backed the woman's evidence.

Meanwhile, according to

Meanwhile, according to a trade union survey, one in eight women civil servants have been sexually harassed at work.

Many women fear that if they report harassment they will be victimised—especially if the culprit is a manager.

But if male and female workers unite against sexual harassment we can get rid of more pests like Joe

Irish Permanent scandal shows...

It's one law for

Edmund Farrell has been getting some help with his mortgage—unlike the rest of us.

But then Farrell was the boss of the Irish Permanent the country's biggest building society.

Homeless hounded in North

BETWEEN 1987 and 1991, ninely-one people were prosecuted for begging in Northern Ireland under the Va-grancy Act (1824).

Most people were lined about £10 or £20, in England and Wales three thousand people a year are convicted.

Ten years ago the Vagrancy Act was little used in England, but as homelessness grew so did prosecutions.

hess growthons.
Although there are fewer convictions for sleeping rough, it is often used as a way of moving people on and clearing the streets in England.

land,
Sleepingrough should not
be a crime, Nor should beg-

te a crime. Nor should begging.

And homelessness will increase if house repossessions keep rising.
In 1990 repossession orders were granted for 2,599
houses. Since most cases
never come to court this is
only the lip of the iceberg.

The "official" reasons for
homelessness are young
people not getting on with
their parents and relationship
breakdown. But the root
causes are unemployment,
low pay and poverty.

The Tories have nothing
but contempt for the homeless.

less.
Housing Minister Sir
George Young commented
that homeless people "are
the sort of people you step on
when you come out of the

pera".

Now the government wants to blame people for laving no place to live—but stee Torleswho are to blame

SANDRA DANIEL

He took out three mortgages on his fancy house in Foxrock, Dublin, for totals of £43,000, £70,000 and £95,000.

Farrel repaid them in 1987, but only after the company agreed to buy the house off him for £275,000.

The Irish Permanent wanted the house for "entertainment pur-

Guests

So they spent £440,000 doing it up to make it look nice for their VIP guests.

By 1991 the house was worth £600,000 but Farrell bought it

back for £275,000—the same as he had sold it for.

he had sold it for.

Of course had been paying £17,500 a year rent on the house. But over four years that still only came to about £70,000—a lot less than the refurbishment costs.

tess than the returnishment costs.
The Insh Permanent also gave
Farrell £300,000—known as a
"golden handcuff."
This was compensation for his
agreeing not to work for a rival
society for at least a year if he ever
left the Irish Permanent.
Farrell pow has an annual sal-

Farrell now has an annual sal-ary of £150,000 and his contract ontinues until 1996. So even ifhe has to resign over

the scandal he'll still rake it in for another few years.

...and another for workers

Mortgage holders are paying the price of the Irish Permanent scan-

While Edmund Farrell gets special payments, workers face higher mort-

possessed 91 houses in 1992—up from 31 the previous year. The Irish Permanent re-

And many more people

hand back the keys when they can no longer afford

the repayments.
Building societies charge fines when people fall into arrears.

And if a house is repossessed and then sold at a loss, the mortgage holder has to make up the differ-

Soits one law for Farrell and his pals and another for the rest of us.



Anne Frank was one of the six million Jews who died in

Anne Frank was one of the six million Jews who died in Nazi concentration camps.
At the age of 13 she went into hiding but was captured and sent to Bergen-Belsen camp where she died in 1945—aged only 15.
"Anne Frank in the World" is an international exhibition at the Dublin Central Library, ILAC Centre, Henry Street until 14th April.

Goodman reveals

At the Beef Tribunal Larry Goodman re-vealed his relationship with Fianna Fail.

"I did have access, and I did use it to the best advantage for my com-pany any time I could...

"If I felt it gave our com-pany an advantage, i wasn't womied about the

competition in Ireland," he stated.

This "access" paidrich

In 1987, less than a month after FF took office they reintroduced export credit insurance for Iraq. Goodman got £6 million of this million of this.

month Goodman's insurance went up to £45 million. It was raised again several times in the following months and years.

■ Fianna Fail told the ambassador in Iraq to help Goodman's rivals as little as possible.

A jobs clause was dropped from the IDA development plan to make Goodman the main beef

Put simply, FF agreed to his every request while impeding his competi-

Goodman identified the Left as his main op-ponents, which makes it all the more sickening that the Labour Party is now in government with Fianna Fail.



Larry Goodman

WE THINK THE ROAD TO NOWH

a four year old in Warrington is indefensible.

Bombs which have as their potential targets ordinary British workers do nothing to end oppression in Northern Ireland.

They only help to create an atmosphere the Tories and the racists can try to deflect the anger that is building up in Britain as it faces a reality of 4 million out of work.

After the bomb there was an attempt to burn down the Irish club in the town. The Tories also used the IRA bombing campaign to justify the notorious Prevention of Terrorism Act which has allowed the police to hold thousands of people in custody for up to a week.

The Tories condemnation of the

* British and US war planes mur-dered hundreds of children in their bombing raids on Iraq.

British soldiers have recently been in court for assassinating young teenagers for joyriding.

Anger

The IRA has emerged out of the bitterness and anger that grew against the activities of the British Army and RUC in Catholic working class areas of Northern Ireland.

As long as these forces are engaged in harassment and repression there will be resistance to them. That is why thousands of people in these areas give support to the IRA.

But the republicans offer no way forward today.

What is needed in Northern Ireland now is an organisation that starts from the fact that it wants the unity of Catholic and Protestant workers

The best way that unity is forged is in struggle against the Tory attacks on all workers. The fightback against the Tory plans to privatise the hospitals and the Direct labour unit of the Housing Executive is a great start.

But to build that unity fully, political questions cannot be ignored. The issue of discrimination and harassment against Catholic workers has to be taken on.

Every worker has a direct and material interest in fighting oppression. Once we are divided, we all lose out.

You cannot, for example, fight effectively against the job losses in Shorts if bigots like Peter Robinson get a hearing for their call for a "vetting system" on the

Catholic workers in the factory What is needed in Northern Ireland is a socialist organisation which shows there is a far better way of getting even with the

In the 1930s, the small Revolutionary Workers Groups played a magnificent role in bringing together the Falls and the Shankill to fight unemployment.

The SWM is building an organisation to continues that tradition today.



No wonder there is a wave of bitterness against the Labour Party.

When they were in opposition:

They attacked Fianna Fail "Golden Circle". But now they have their own "Family Circle" where top jobs are given out to friends and family.

They told Aer Lingus workers they would save their jobs. Now they are backing the hatchet man, Bernie Cahill who were redundancies and wage. who wants redundancies and wage

■ They said that PAYE workers were paying too much of the tax burden.
Now they demand that we pay an
extra 1% levy.

They attacked the hospital charges.

Now they have increased those charges.

In the General Election in 1992, workers looked to the Labour Party to bring about change. Thousands broke from FF and voted on class lines. Today their hopes have been betrayed.

Many now believe that the Labour Party is a corrupt bunch of careerists. Others think that they have been contaminated by Fianna Fail.

explanations. But there is also much more to it.

The fact is that all Labour Parties who have been in government re-cently have behaved exactly like the

cently have behaved exactly like the Irish Labour Party.
In France, thousands danced for joy in the streets when the French Socialist Party was first elected to government twelve years ago.

ment twelve years ago.

But there will now be the biggest

right wing majority in the French Parliament since 1815. And the fascists have got 13% of the vote.

The right wing did not get any more votes than when they lost the last election. It was simply that millions of former Socialist Party voters stayed at home in dispust at home in disgust.

Attacks

They were sick of the same type of attacks that the Irish Labour Party and their FF partners are mounting on Irish workers.

Every Labour Party turns on its own supporters when get in to gov-ernment because they want to manage capitalism.

But today capitalism is a sick sys-

in the 1980s, capitalism needs to reduce workers living standards.

The Labour Party believes in curing capitalism before it starts reforming

That is why it always attacks workers first and then promises a better

There are a number of dangers in

Demonstrate

Outside Labour Party

Conference, Saturday

April 3rd

Called by Waterford Glass Workers

Buses leave Liberty Hall, Dublin

9.00am

Telephone (01) 722682 for details

activities of the Labour Party can breed cynicism and a belief that there can be no real change. This is the sort of atmosphere in which FF thrives.

Or worse, the right wing bigots can start to get a hearing here just as they have in Europe. In the 1980s, the SPUC bigots won two referenda on abortion and divorce with arguments like "Jobs not Divorce"

The bigots are, however, far weaker than they were in the 1980s. Irish society is changing fast and the defeats they suffered recently have demoralised them.

There challenge now is to build a socialist alternative to the Labour Party. There are already small signs that can be done. * The Labour Party conference in Waterford should find itself facing hundreds of protesting

The Socialist Workers Movement has also started to grow seriously

This is why we appeal with some confidence to our readers to join the SWM by filling in the coupon on page

Major struggles are on the cards in Ireland. The strike of 1,800 Eastern Health Boards workers to stop the appointment of the relative of a former FF's Ministers secretary shows how struggles can blow up suddenly.

The well of bitterness and anger caused by the recession and Labour's betrayal makes this inevitable. The first serious revolutionary socialist organisation in decades can now be built.

There is some truth to both these tem. To restore profit levels and pay Nolan workers tight

ployed by Nolan Trans-port in New Ross have been on strike since January fighting for a living wage and the

Shorts Aircraft Fac-tory in Belfast is ax-

ing seven hundred

Management and govern-ment are blaming the end of the cold war for the lay-offs

as Shorts is a major manufac-

jobs.

Thirty of the company's 55 drivers joined SIPTU and sought talks with management on wage rates, which are as low as £2 to £2.50 per hour.

turer of military and civilian

Plant

However, a Shorts produc-tion worker told Socialist

horts hit

Worker:

The company responded by sacking two of the drivers. SIPTU held a ballot and the men voted for strike action.

Workers on the picket lines have been attacked by company thugs wielding iron bars and ham-

IODS

"The only part of this plant that isn't hit is guided

Workers at both Shorts and Harland and Wolff agreed to send delegation to the march

in Belfast to defend the NHS at the end of March

weapons.

mers The attackers have been reported to the gardai, and SIPTU has demanded that charges be brought. So far the gardai have done nothing. One of the scabs is Fianna Fail

One of the scabs is Fianna Fail Councillor Jim Dwyer, who claims that the work force is being prevented from doing its work by a small minority.

The Strike Committee told Socialist Worker.

"Dwyer represents nobody but himself and he should now justify his remarks to our faces. We have nothing to hide

"We also find it ironic to see we also find it ironic to see Councillor Dwyer crossing the picket line when it is known fact-that in 1976 he played an active-part in defending the right of workers to join a trade union and go on strike."

The strikers were invited to meet the Waterford Crystal Shop Stewards Committee, who agreed to supporting the strike and contributed to the strike fund.

The key to winning this strike is to have all Nolan Trucks—which carry the logo 'Movin' On'—blacked from loading and unloading. This blacking needs to be extended to the ports.

Only through this type of soli-darity can Nolan be forced to pay decent wages and recognise the

Medical Council overrules X-case

Council's guidelines on abortion are an attempt to roll back on the gains made since the "X" case.

The Council has "woken up like Rip Van Winkle to deliver a statement more appro-priate to the old certainties of forty years ago," wrote two Ballyfermot

Not surprisingly, the guidelines have been welcomed by the Catholic hierarchy and anti-abortionists.

The new guidelines will make laws allowing limited abortion meaningless. A doctor per-forming a legal abortion under such a law would also have to justify it to

the Fitness to Practice Committee of the Medical Council.

'Any doctor who proceeded to perform an abortion under this guideline may as well take the old euthanasia capsule."

"He would be professionally dead," was the was the comment of one council member.

Messages of protest should be sent to the Medical Council, 8 Lower Hatch Street, Dublin 2.

'Pro-life' killers

THE killing of a doctor in Florida by an anti-abortion activist has exposed the hypocrisy of those that call them-

selves "pro-life".

The more respectable elements of the anti-abortion cam-paign are trying to dis-tance themselves

described as an "isolated incident" and the work of a "nut-case".

But in reality it is logical culmination of a decade of attacks on abortion clinics.

These attacks have included blockades, fire bombings, chemical attacks and nighttime gunfire.

EVIL'S

The Bigots of the Month award goes to Ballymena District Council.

They tried to ban a concert in the town by the rock band ELO.

DUP councillor, Roy Gillesple wanted the gig stopped because he thinks

ock music is "devil worrock music is "devil wor-ship dressed up as enter-tainment."

Gospel

and I am very worried about the hypnotic effect this evil can have on young

"I stand firmly against rock music," he said.
"It is the gospel of Satan.
It is against God's word "If any of our readers has played ELO's "Diary of Horace Wimp" backwards, please let us know if it contains any evil messages!

Italy: Anger explodes against the government

'They steal our money AFTER just nine months in office the Italian id our votes' The "Tangentopoli" corruption scandals have forced four ministers to resign in the last month.

government is near to collapse.

And workers have demonstrated against the corruption shouting "this government steals our money and our votes" Corruption scandals first blew up around the Socialist

Party in Milan a year ago.

All the major parties are involved—even the Communists.

For years Italian industry has systematically bribed politi-

cians for government contracts. And working class people have paid the price.

Devastated For instance, the Irpinia region near Naples was devas which killed three thousand people. Since then \$45 billion has been spent on reconstruc-

has been spent on reconstruc-tion, but thousands of people

are still living in shanties.

Prime Minister Amato tried

to protect his friends with an

amnesty which proposed sus-pended sentences and a limited ban from public office for those

But this provoked such anger that even President Scalfano

The Tangentopoli scandal

came at a time when workers living standards are under at-

tack. Unemployment leapt to 9.5 percent last year—and savage spending cuts have fuelled

Now both major parties—the

Christian Democrats and the

Socialists—are losing popularity rapidly. The Socialist Party

is referred to as the "dead party

refused to sign it.

the bitterness.

political life.

Leading industri-

alists—including senior bosses of the giant Fiat

Corporation— are in jail. Seven

suspects have

committed sui-

Rulers fuel hate

India:

THE horrific bombings in Bombay and Calcutta threaten to revive communal hatred in India.

Over three hundred people died in the Bombey blasts and at least sixty in Calcutta.

The Congress government tried to blame Pakistan, in order to whip up anti-Muslim hysteria.

der to whip up anti-Muslim hysteria.

Last December two thousand people were killed in rinting between Hindus and Muslims after the Hindus and Muslims after the Hindus and Muslims after the Hindus chauvinist BJP Parly destroyed a Muslim mosque.

The BJP wants to expel Muslems and create a Hindu state in India. They are allied with nazi organisations like the RSS and Shivsena.

During the 1980s the ruling Congress Party encouraged the Hindu extremists by whipping up Hindu nationalism to win votes.

And the state discretize the contraction of the Hindu state in the state discretize the state of the Hindu state of th

ping up Hindu nationalism to win votes.
And the state discriminates against Muslims. Just 3 per cent of public employees are Muslim, although they form 12 per cent of the population. In the December riots at least 150 of the two hundred Muslims killed in Bombay were shot by police.
But communal violence is by no means inevitable. When workers are fighting together the chauvinists are marginalised.

the cnausilised.
marginalised.
This happened, for instance, during the 1961-82 textile strike which involved 225,000 workers and lasted

over a year.
Unity can exist when workers join to fight their common enemy—the boss.

by the Italian press.
In the recent town council Since then Tangentopoli elections both the right and the has exposed corruption in left gained support. every area of business and

The right-wing Northern League and the fascist MSI both increased their vote. But so did the anti-Mafia RETE and the ex-Communist

by SIMON ĞILBERT

parties. More impor-tantly, a wave of one day general strikes and mass demonstrations has

wept the country. This follows the public sector general strike last October.

February saw one day general strikes in many regions— Piacenza, Lombardy, Piedmont, Reggio Emilia, Campania

and Sicily.

There were demonstrations of 100,000 in Naples and 300,000 in Rome and miners in Sardinia have been occupying their pits in a fight against job

The anger over unemployment has been directed at the corrupt politicians. As one dem-

onstrating worker put it,
"It is hard enough already.
I have had no job for ten -all we see now is corruption, just corruption. They are using the money they take from us in taxes to feather their own nests."

Last October's strikes saw the re-emergence of the consigli—or work place councils—first formed during the 1970s. It was these councils who called the huge Rome demonstration despite the opposition of union leader Bruno

One SWM member who has just returned from Italy told

Socialist Worker:
"A general strike has been

Italian workers could topple the corrupt government

called for 2 April. But they want it to last only four hours. "Over the last six months unofficial strikes, occupations and protests have gone ahead despite the union bureaucrats. The Italian papers carry a list of strikes and protests every day.

Unity

"But the problem is that there is

"But the problem is that there is no cohesion or co-ordination or connection between the protests. Each area is protesting alone and on different days.

"The union bureaucracy who called the general strike will not provide this unity. They only want to regain control over the spontaneous wildcat action.

"The danger is that the only organisations exploiting the anger are the neo-Fascist MSI and the right wing Northern Leagues. The

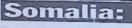
right wing Northern Leagues. The

fascists standup in parliament with a banner 'Get rid of the Thieves'

and 'Stop Immigration.'
"The revolutionary left need to start organising fast. In the 1970s, revolutionary socialists organisa-

tions numbered their members in tens of thousands.

They need to break from hanging about the Communist party and its splinter groups and build quickly on the anger".



UN: Restoring

THE real face "Operation Restore Hope" was shown in Somalia last month when US troops shot dozens of demonstrators, killing at least

twenty.

About a thousand people protested outside the US embassy, chanting "Go home America".

They fought with their bare hands, stones and knives against the US forces' machine guns, rocket launchers and grenades.

The US and the UN are bitterly resented in Somalia.

Following the overthrow of the

Following the overthrow of the brutal dictator Siad Barre in 1991, the Americans abandoned

Then President Bush ignored the famine until he wanted an

the famine until he wanted an excuse to send in troops, by which time it was largely over.

Now the US is trying to handpick new rulers. Last months demonstration was called after American and Belgian troops

hope...

allowed General Morgan's gun-men to enter Kismayu city. Morgan is Siad Barre's son in

And the troops have not protected aid workers. UN figures show that more have been killed since the invasion than during the whole of 1992.

Every day people are subjected to humiliating searches, treated like criminals and pushed around as if they don't matter, explained one aid worker.

"Its not surprising that even those who cheered the Americans when they first came are now very cynical."

Dr Hangun—a surgeon at Bensaadir hospital in Mogadishu—summed up the situation.

"The US were welcomed here with flowers, but they will leave with blood on their uniforms".

...or defending

NEWSPAPERS have recently American oil firms interest in Somalia.

Siad Barregranted Conoco, Amoco, Chevron and Philips exploration rights during the 1980s.

The Los Angeles Times says

that these companies hope the decision to send US troops to Somalia will help protect their multimillion dollar investments

Conoco kept its office open in Mogadishu throughout the civil war and allowed it to be used as a "de facto US Vy bassy"

Russia:

emocracy under th fascists. They are sup-ported by former bureau-crats who lost out when claimed that market re-

THE Russian government is tearing itself apartasthe country's economic crisis deep-

The Congress of Deputies is bitterly divided between "conservatives" led by Ruslan Khasbilatov and "reformers" led by president

Both sides support some form of market economy backed by authoritarian rule.

thoritarian rule.

Their disagreement is about howto bring it about. The inflighting came to a head over Yeitsin's call for a referendum on who rules Russia—the president or the Congress.

Congress has the upper hand, stripping Yeltsin of many of his

powers.

This Congress was elected in March 1990 under the old Soviet Union. Eighty-two percent of the deputies elected were Communists.

The key tigure is per-

The key figure is par-liamentary speaker Khasbulatov—a former Yeltsin supporter who has allied himself with the conservative farm bosses and industrialists.

The ex-Communist bureaucrats are now mak-

reaccrats are now making huge profits out of the market.

But they complain that Yeltsin's government can't deliver on their agenda of cracking down on workers on workers

Army

The "conservatives" want the army to intervene to stop Russia splitting into separate states. Their model is China, where the market is being introduced under a dictatorship.

Behind the conservatives are groups of exterme nationalists and

lapsed.

But Yeltsin too is prepared to use "emergency powers" tostrengthen his position.

"I am an advocate of strong presidential.

the one-party state col-

am an advocate or strong presidential authority in Russia, "hesaid.
Even If Yeltsin gets rid of parliament, the US government will still support him. One US official stated

stated,
"If Yeltsin suspends an anti-democratic parliament, it is not necessarily an anti-democratic and".

Two years ago, Yeltsin

claimed that market reforms would improve everyone's life. But for most people it has been a devastating fallure. Real wages have fallen forty percent and inflation is running at thirty percent per month.

Most people no longer trust any politician. One poll showed that only 34 per cent would bother to vote at all in Yeltsin's proposed referendum.

But Russlan workers will have to fight to defend their hard won freedom to organise and their light to free speech.

Otherwise there is a real danger of outright clvil war.

As anger grows about sexual abuse...

W do we e **Prisons** e violence! Solution

MANY people were horrified at the recent Kilkenny incest case.

The 27-year-old woman had been repeatedly brutally attacked over a period of sixteen years by her father, leaving her with numerous injuries.

But a solicitor for Dublin Rape Crisis Centre says there are at least four incest cases of equal or worse brutality due before the courts in the coming months.

The number of rapes and sexual

The number of rapes and sexual assaults reported to both rape crisis centres and the gardai has risen dra-

When the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre opened in 1979 it dealt with 76 cases. By 1991 the figure had increased to 1,660.

And the Department of Health's figures for "confirmed" cases of sexual abuse rose from 73 in 1983 to 600 in 1990.

There's evidence that many more

cases remained hidden for decades.
The largest group who contactrape crisis centres are adult survivors of child sexual abuse. They made up 62 percent of total Dublin Rape Crisis Centre cases in 1991.

These abuses happened between ten and seventy years ago, and were completely hidden before the 1980s. Roisin McDermott from Women's

"In all of these areas—rape, child abuse and battering—what were seeing is a break-up of the silence." The 1980 Report of the Task Force on Child Care Services didn't even

mention sexual abuse. The first public discussion on the issue took place in 1983 at a social workers confer-

Deadly

The woman in the Kilkenny case was a victim of the deadly silence surrounding sexual abuse.

The case shows up the reality of life for many working class people—

especially women.

We are told that the family is the
"ideal" arrangement—and for many
people it is a real source of warmth in a harsh world.

But people often find themselves trapped inside the family when things

Children are told they must obey their parents—which is why many abused kids feel that they are the 'guilty" ones when their parents at-

A perverse sense of "loyalty" can stop women and children from looking for help.

And neighbours don't "interfere" because what goes on in another man's house is "his business".

For working class neonle it's hard

For working class people it's hard



The Kilkenny incest victim

to escape the trap.

Kids can't leave because they are not meant to have a life independent of their parents.

Trapped

And women are trapped because they depend on their husbands' in-come and because divorce is not an option in Ireland.

But women are now angrier than ever at their treatment.

Women like Lavinia Kerwick and

the woman in the recent case have broken their silence about rape and abuse.

And thousands more have marched to demand abortion rights.

People are sick of the narrowminded, repressive attitudes that dominated Ireland in the past.

The government claims it wants to improve the lot of Irish women.

But they refuse to spend money to help women who are victims of violence in the home.

There are only six refuges for

women in the South, with fewer total spaces than exist in Belfast alone.

The Eastern Health Board says this accommodation is adequate—but in 1991 the Rathmines refuge had to refer 357 women elsewhere because it was full.

The people who run society don't give a damn about working class women's mental and physical health.

We need a complete change in society to improve the lot of women and children and to end domestic THE Kilkenny incest case has led to more calls for longer

prison sentences for rapists.
The Criminal Justice Bill will allow people to appeal prison sentences that are deemed too lenient.

It also increases the maximum sentence for incest from seven to twenty

But it's a mistake to look to the courts and prisons for a solution to rape. courts have always treated rape victims in a disgusting way, often placing them on trial with questions about their past.

They have continuously ruled against women—denyingwomenaccesstoabor-tion information and preventing a four-teen-year-old rape victim from going to Britain for an abortion.

And only 11 per cent of reported rapes end in convictions compared to 51 per cent of assaults on the gardai.

Given the trauma of rape, it may seem a short-term solution to lock offenders away. But there is no treatment pro-gramme for offenders in prison. Even the

judges agree that prison is no answer. Justice Flood said that: "sex offenders are just placed in prison and left to rot, then they are tipped out onto the public

Ireland's only rehabilitation programme—at Arbour Hill prison—was dropped in 1990. The scheme had been introduced by prison staff themselves with little or no help from the Department of Justice ment of Justice.

International evidence shows that sex offenders who don't receive treatment are 80 percent more likely to re-offend than those who do.

But the courts are more concerned to protect the rich than to help ordinary

people.

They are part of the system which oppresses women so they can't be relied on to offer protection.

THE right-wing bigots—who claim to be "pro-life"—are now trying to put a halt to a school programme aimed at

school programme aimed at preventing child abuse.
Four hundred people—mostly members of Family Solidarity and SPUC—attended a "Parents Against Stay Safe" meeting in UCD recently.
The Stay Safe Programme encourages kids to say "no" to any action or attention that makes them feel uncomfortable.

makes them feel uncomfortable.

The vast majority of teachers and parents are in favour of the

have tried to block efforts to

The vast majority of teachers and parents are in favour of the programme.

The programme doesn't even mention sexual abuse once but the bigots are up in arms.

They say that it will encourage children to be disobedient, evade discipline and fabricate stories of sexual abuse.

They insist that the schools shouldn't interfere in 'moral' matters.

This isn't the first time bigots have tried to block efforts to help victims of abuse.

Groups like Family Solidarity and the Responsible Society have opposed the opening of rape crisis centres, accusing them of being "sex-obsessed". Their members on health board committees have continuously used their positions to block funding of the centres.

When the Limerick refuge, Adapt House, asked SPUC sympathiser Michael Woods for

funding he denied the need for a refuge because "women had access to barring orders".

But barring orders can some-times take up to a year to get, especially for women depend-ent on legal aid.

When it comes to domestic violence the bigots are part of

the problem.

Their "family values" silence women and children and force them to stay in dangerous situations.

ories singl

ON APRIL 5th, the Child Support Order becomes law in Northern Ireland.

It is supposed to "encourage absent parents" to take responsibility for their children.

In fact, it's a cynical cost cutting exercise that will benefit no one except the Tories.

A Child Support Agency has been established to implement the new law. It will have the power to take absent parents to court to get them to pay maintenance for their children.

If the payments aren't made the agency has the power to make an attachment order on the absent parent's wages and have the money taken out of their wage

For nearly a year, lone parents in Northern Ireland—95 per cent of them women—have had an opportunity to see how the law will work.

They have got letters threatening to cut them off Income Support unless they help find the absent parent.

One woman received a letter demanding that she tell

would have her benefit cut.

Women who are unwilling to name the child's father can have their benefit reduced by 20 per cent a week.

Some of these women have said they don't know who the father is the father is.

Many of these women have arrived to Citizen's Advice Bureaux or Women's Centres in tears. The most intimate details of their lives have been probed.

Anne told the Agency that the child had been conceived on a holiday.

"I couldn't believe my ears" she told Socialist Worker.

"They asked me to bring in a photo of him and any letters he had written"

When Paula a teenager who lives in her parents

When Paula, a teenager who lives in her parents house, said she didn't know who her child's father was, the Agency official asked where her child was conceived.

"Here in Derry" she said.

"I mean in the back of a car, or where" replied the official.

Paula says, "I was treated like a prostitute. I made a mistake, but I want to get on with my life. If I admit who the father is, they'll tie me to him for the rest of my life and I don't want that."

A meeting of 200 women in Belfast last year revealed the level of harassment that goes on.

Most women at the meeting admitted that they received some sort of support from their children's fathers. But it was mainly shoes, winter clothes, school uniforms and toys at Christmas rather than money.

If the Agency started to force their ex-partners to pay a regular amount, these small benefits would be cut off.

This highlights the most disgusting thing about the

Whatever the Child Support Agency collects from absent parents, it won't mean an extra penny for their

The parent with the child will get exactly the same amount. The Tory government will pocket the money it got out of the absent father.

The Tories hope to save about £1.5 million in the first year of the Agency's life. This is after they pay for the cost of the massive new bureaucracy involved in the Child Support Agency.

Child Support Agency.

Liz's story proves the point. She was unemployed for nine months and during that time, her ex-partner was hassled on a weekly basis to pay maintenance.

"I told him I preferred that he took the kids at weekends and bought them clothes. I know he has very little money and I need the break from them"

"He was getting nervous" said Liz, " and we were sure that in April, when the law came in, they'd take him to court. The letters were arriving to his flat, to his mother's house and even to my address and they started to phone him"

But in February, Liz got a job. Since she signed off

But in February, Liz got a job. Since she signed off the dole, her ex hasn't heard a peep from the Child Support Agency.

It has no interest in Liz's case now that there is no money that can be saved in benefit from her.

The Tories say that they are trying to shore up "traditional values" and protect the family. But these values can only mean misery for working class people.

Can there be socialist alte

The world has hardly ever been a in a greater mess. Wars, famines and unemployment dominate the lives of millions.

In Africa, the average income has fallen by a quarter since the 1980s.

The continent is producing a third less food than it did a quarter of a century ago. From the Sudan to Angola, millions are dying in unreported famines.

But still Africa has to pay back huge loans to the Western banks. Last year Africa spent four times more on servic-

ing its debt than on its health services.

The working class of the developed countries get no

benefits from Africa's misery,

The longest recession since the thirties has put 35 million people on the dole in the OECD countries. Wage cuts—which many believed were a thing of the past-have returned.

But the rich are still living it up. Last year imports of caviar went up by 7 per cent in Ireland while champagne increased by 8 per cent.

There is little doubt about the obscenity of capitalism.

But could there be a socialist alternative?

What would socialism achieve?

FIRSTLY the inequality of the system would be redressed. Ireland today is one of the most class di-vided societies in the world.

The top 10 per cent of the population owns half the wealth, with the top 1 per cent owning 20 per cent.

At the same time low pay and poverty are growing. About 27 per cent of full time employees are now earning less than £150 a week.

A recent survey showed that 20 per cent of the population did not have a washing machine, another 20 per cent did not have a colour television, 48 per cent had not have a colour and 68 per cent did not take a holiday away from their own home or that of a relative.

The tiny minority at the top of society would lose their privileged position and their wealth would be directed toward the needs of the majority. Put simply, no longer would millionaires own hotel chains, while homeless people are being forced to sleep on the streets.

Secondly there is tremendous wastage in the system. Advertising, distribution and financial speculation account for half the economic activity in the world.

Instead of this useless activity workers could use the resources to wild heave and make

build houses and hospitals and make the washing machines, televisions and other goods people lack. The obscene waste of the arms race would be stopped.

Scientists could concentrate on curing AIDS and cancer instead of finding ways to kill other human

Thirdly, recessions which throw millions out of work could be ended. The driving force for new goods being produced now is the race for profits by rival capitalists.

When the system is booming there is a frenzy of unco-ordinated investments until there are is a flood

When demand falls and profits are hit, the burst of activity suddenly halts. Thousands are thrown out of work.

Only after the recession has wiped out their rivals will the surviving firms find it profitable to invest

If workers were to take over the running of society, then this madness could be halted. Democratic planning could end the waste and misery capitalism causes.

In a socialist society we would

work out how many houses needed to be built or how much food needed to be produced and plan how to allocate resources to these areas.

It is often argued that workers could never control society, because it is too complex. But the way the capitalists organise production makes it seem more difficult than it could be.

Today small groups of privileged people make decisions in boardrooms, on the basis of predictions about the market and profits.

It is because firms all do this separately that the world system seems beyond anyone's control.

Discussion and debate by millions of people directly involved in production would lead to a society where production is much more simple and effective.

For example, the shipyards of Belfast have been run down for years, throwing people with valuable engineering skills onto the dole. Yet at the same time the world's shipping fleet is ageing and half the world's ships are over fifteen years

of goods which cannot all be sold.

would find good use—ships would berefitted and new saferships would be built.

duction could be improved.

If anything you have to be careful not to give the bosses an excuse to sack more workers or increase the

But would anyone want to work without the incentive of money?

in THIS society you are always told that greed is the only way to motivate people. But when it comes to pay there are double standards.

Directors are given large salaries because they "need an incentive". But workers who look for higher wages are told that they are just lazy and need to give more productivity instead.

The truth is that already many workers give a lot more to their jobs than simply being there to earn money. Hospital workers, teachers, and those who risk their lives in jobs such as firefighting are motivated by concern for other people.

It is capitalism that takes the inold.

Most oil tankers still do not have double hulls. In a planned world economy those workers' abilities application that takes ut a centive out of work. When you are turning up to work to be bossed around, there is no reason why you should show an interest in how pro-

once production was controlled by workers it will be possible to release people's co-operative feel-

ings.

Workers would be producing to meet the needs of society and they would have a say in how it's done.

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But would socialism be democratic?

IT IS often argued that be-cause there was a one party dictatorship in Russia, that socialism is to against democracy.

But Russia was not a socialist country. It was run by a privileged elite who were engaged in mili-tary competition with the 20 USA and who kept their as workers down.

Genuine socialism would be far more democratic than the present

Today you can elect people only every four years. If they lie to you during the elections, as Dick Spring did, there is nothing you can do about it.

You just have to wait until they no



Karl Marx: Believed in a society based on human need

by **CONOR** le a **KOSTICK** ternative?



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decide to call an election and then elect another set of liars.

Democracy in our society stops at the factory gate or the office door.
You can vote for your government in a limited way but you have absolutely no say in how your work is organised.

The great difference between a workers' government and all other ones, is that instead of being organised from the top down, it would be based on every workplace—control would go from bottom to top. The way it could work was shown in the 1905 revolution in Russia. the 1905 revolution in Russia.

A print workers strike turned into a general strike. Workers from the engineering, cabinet-making and tobacco industries sent delegates to meet with printers and decide upon their actions. their actions.

The first workers council, or soviet was born. Within days other towns were doing the same.

Soon soviets became the most important bodies in the land, and hundreds of thousands of workers joined the movement.

At its height the Petrograd soviet had 562 deputies representing 200,000 workers. It became known

as the worker's government.
Each deputy to the workers council is elected from a workplace.
This means they have to report back to their electors and can be re-called on a regular basis.

on a regular basis.

It is the same way that strike committees or occupation committees are elected and re-elected.

This principle of rapidly being able to call a deputy to account does not exist under any democracy to-

day.

But in workers' revolutions—like the one in Paris in 1871—it is extended to cover the whole government. All officials, without exception, are subject to recall at any

So long as the working class is strong, nobody can become privi-

leged at the expense of anyone else.
The reason why the 1917 revolution eventually failed was because the mass democracy was under-mined by years of war and famine.

But won't a revolution be violent?

LET'S look at a simple case. In 1956 there was a revolution in Budapest in Hungary. Here is how one participant described the

"Further along the road, a group in the crowd decided to visit the City Park where stood a 26 foot, bronze statue of Stalin, the Man of Steel. Two or three thousand people peeled off from the body of marchers and joined them.

"They were in great spirits, sing-ing and laughing. When they reached the statue, a ladder and a tough rope were put against the pedestal. Up climbed two men. A rope was placed around Stalin's neck. It was grabbed by hundreds

of eager hands. It tautened. The

of eager hands. It tautened. The statue grated and creaked as it bowed slowly to the crowd. "With a final screech, it fell from its pedestal. There was an ear splitting roar of hilarious laughter. The whole thing was ludicrous. It was absurd. The plinth now looked even more grotesque. Still firmly planted on the pedestal were Stalin's sixfoot-high jack-boots. "The rest of the statue was taken away by lorry and dumped in front

away by lorry and dumped in front of the National Theatre, where a laughing crowd soon smashed it to

Workers' revolutions are moments of tremendous liberation from oppression. Every great revolution begins with an festival-like atmosphere like that in Budapest as thousands of workers realise how powerful they are, and how weak are their rulers.

The fact that the capitalist class are such a tiny minority, means that they have to rely upon organising other classes to defend them.

In order to create a sizeable army they have to recruit workers. But this means that in revolution they cannot rely upon the soldiers to defand them.

So long as the revolutionary movement is united and strong, the sol-diers will feel confident to mutiny, and the ruling class can be toppled with very little resistance. The best example of this is the Russian revolution of 1917.

From the beginning of the revolu-tion in February the soldiers were united with the workers in sending deputies to the soviets.

By October there was such a ma-jority of soldiers and workers who were determined to carry through the revolution that the Government was overthrown with virtually no opposition.

In fact so delighted were the victorious revolutionaries at their easy victory that they let Generals and Ministers go free on the promise that they would no longer oppose the revolution.

Violence in revolutions is always the result of the old rulers refusing to give way. Because they are such a weak force, the capitalist class need to resort to massive violence to restore order in the face of revolution.

Counter-revolutions such as that which followed the Paris Commune of 1871, through to the suppression of Tinananmen Square in 1989, have always been utterly brutal.

It is for this reason that a pacifist approach will not succeed in trans-forming society. In fact the more cautious and hesitant the revolution, the greater danger of bloody

A successful revolution will rely on its strength of numbers, and its support amongst soldiers to transform society. It will not be able to renounce arms until the old rulers are definitely defeated.

But once workers successfully hold power across the world, then the need for arms and prisons will disappear. As Marx and Lenin put it, the need for repression will wither

DAVE McDONAGH Teach yourself Marxism

Does 'human nature' prevent change?

Socialists want to the species and some form of create a classless society where everyone is equal.

Most people say that this is all "fine in theory" but can never work in practice.

In other words human na-ture is seen as a barrier to socialism.

And certainly there are many examples of greed in

many examples of greed in society.

Who hasn't seen people ruthlessly competing for promotion, or been let down by a friend, or frustrated by peoples apathy and selfishness?

The bosses use the idea of human nature to justify the free market.

Capitalist firms compete in the marketplace with one aim—to maximise profits.

The bosses tell us hat this competition is "natural" because human beings are inherently competitive.

And certainly the capitalists themselves are extremely competitive.

themselves are extremely com-

Their ruthlessness has led to huge business scandals—from Greencore to Robert Maxwell to the recent scandal

in Japan. It has thrown millions on the dole and has led to war and

famine. But "human nature" is not

If anything, most people emain remarkably humane espite the rottenness of the

There are countless exam ples of self sacrifice, courage

ples of self sacrifice, courage and caring. Some make big headlines— like the protesters in Tiananmen Square in China who bravely faced tanks in 1989.

But there are many every day examples—from parents who devote their lives to caring for handicapped children to fire fighters who take risks to save others.

Human behaviour contains extremes—from aggression and apathy to concern and

The way people behave depends on their conditions of life and not on human nature.

But Marxists don't deny the existence of human nature. It consists of a number of basic needs and capacities.

Humans need food, clothing and shelter. We need sex to propagate

ongoing parenting, since humans take longer than other animals to become self suffi-

Humans have certain unique capacities like the ability to walk upright and a hand that can perform precise tasks.

But human beings are not simply a part of nature like other animals—our unique capacities have allowed us to transform nature to meet our

We developed the art of toolmaking which in turn led to machinery and modern tech-

nology. Unlike other species, humans developed complex lan-guages, sciences and culture. This allowed knowledge to be passed on from generation to

generation.

All this goes hand in hand with the fact that humans are

with the fact that humans are "social" animals—we exist and survive by working together.

Different methods of production have led to different ways of organising society.
The first humans were hunters and gatherers and lived in small groups.

Slavery

Then agriculture developed—that brought withit the slave societies of ancient Greece and Rome.
When these societies disappeared there was feudalism. Serfs tilled the land and were at the mercy of landlords and allpowerful kings and queens.
Capitalism is only the latest form of social organisation—as such it brought tremendous

as such it brought tremendous progress over what had gone before.

before.

But two points prove that capitalism is not the "natural" way of things.

Firstly there was no such thing as capitalism for over two million years of human evistence.

existence.

Secondly the capitalists had to fight to take control of society—in both Britain and France they had to chop off kings heads in violent revolutions.

If capitalism was part of human nature it would have always existed and humans would have accepted it with-out a fight

would have accepted it with-out a fight.

Far from being an expres-sion of human nature, capital-ism takes the most important and distinctive feature of hu-man nature—the capacity for human labour—and distorts it. People work together to

produce things but they have no control over their work.

Workers sell their labour power to a boss who then decides what is to be produced, how much and when.

Even then you have to be able to pay for the goods in order to have them.

But most people can't af-

But most people can't af-ford very much because to make profits the capitalists pay workers as little as possible and deny millions the right to

Under capitalism we can onder capitalism we can produce enough to satisfy human need but human need is never satisfied—look at the grain mountains that exist while millions starve.

Under socialism the majority of people will control pro-

ity of people will control production in the interests of the

duction in the interests of the majority.

But isn't there a danger that some people will still want power over others and will rise to the top?

Again we need to look at history.

For ninety-nine percent of human existence people lived.

history.

For ninety-nine percent of human existence people lived in small nomadic bands.

They did not own property and only found enough food to help them survive.

When the supply ran out they moved to somewhere else. In these hunter-gatherer societies there were no rulers. Some examples of this type of society still exist—like the !Kung San in the Kalahari Desert in Southern Africa.

When asked by American anthropologist Richard Lee if they had headmen they answered:

Of course we have headmen. In fact we are all headmen—each one of us is a headman over himself.

This type of egalitarian society is the pendal men and the second or the second in the

This type of egalitarian society is known as "primitive com-

munism".

Of course, socialists don't propose going back to a life style which is entirely dominated by the search for food.
But its existence proves that class society is not "inevitable" or that humans have an innate desire for control over others.

The notion of a minority ruling society only came about with the rise of class society.

A ruling class came to power

A ruling class came to power to control the surplus produced by society. And ruling classes have taken different forms as society developed—from slaveowners to feudal lords to modern capitalists.

Each uts turn belied to

Each in its turn helped to break the shackles of the previous "order" and drive society forward. But class society has outlived its role—modern capitalism can't meet human needs.

It is now both necessary and desirable to abolish class rule.

Out Now!

Is Human Nature a **Barrier to Socialism** by John Molyneux

> from SWM branch bookstalls or SW Books, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8

The Teamster Rebellion 1934

e pattet

by VASCO **PURSER**

"THIS is in support of the labour movement." That is how Jack Nicholson describes his new film Hoffa.

The film traces the life of Jimmy Hoffa, leader of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters—the biggest and most powerful union in the United States. Hoffa began as a militant organiser of the Teamsters—the US truck drivers. They

feathers—the Os thick divers. They fought huge battles with the police and scabs in the 1930s.

But Hoffa was ambitious and corrupt. By the end of his life he was closely linked with

Eventually he was jailed and disappeared

mysteriously after he got out of prison.
But the lessons of the Teamsters' struggles in the 1930s are important for socialists

Many workers have suffered defeats during the present recession. Some have even had to take wage cuts.

The present recession is the longest since the 1930s. Some trade unionists believe it will take years of recovery before the labour

movement regains its strength.

But the extraordinary events that happened among the Teamsters in Minneapolis, USA in 1934 show why this need not be the

case.

Mineapolis was then a town of about half a million people in the middle of an agricultural region.

Like Dublin, it had little heavy industry but there was a large food and transport

industry.

Minneapolis was run by the Citizens'
Alliance to which all the major employers

belonged.
In the 30s recession unemployment was

In the 30s recession unemployment was rife and relief was minimal.

Those in work earned ten to eighteen dollars for up to ninety hours and risked being fired if they complained.

F. D. Roosevelt, who became the US President in 1933, launched a New Deal with the unions.

FDR claimed to be a "friend of labour" but behind the reforms the New Deal's main aim was to salvage American big

A handful of truck drivers—members of the trotskvist Communist League of America (CLA)—began to argue within the Teamsters Union for a different way out

recession.
The Teamsters were part of the giant merican Federation of Labour (AFL), a

The AFL believed in "business union-ism" or "social partnership" as it would be called today.

called today.

Workers were supposed to accept the idea that they had a vested interest in helping their employers make profits. The union spent its time calling for more produc-

The AFL was organised along narrow craft lines. In Minneapolis the truckers were organised separately according to what targo they carried—coal, timber, groceries etc. The rules and procedures were endless. The trotsky

demand higher wages.

Farrell Dobbs, one of the trotskyists



US workers fought back in the 1930s-often in the face of police brutality

involved describes how they organised the

strike,

"Each evening a general assembly was held... Reports were made by strike leaders, guest speakers were invited from other unions to help morale through an expression of solidarity and some sort of entertainment usually followed.

"A loudspeaker system was installed so that packed meetings could hear what was said as could the overflow crowds which often numbered two or three thousand"

The union organised food kitchens and from farmers. Committees were also setup to look for donations to support the strike.

All of this happened before the national union officers had sanctioned an official

When the strikers did look for backing the union refused. But two days later they had won the strike! As the Citizens' Alliance began to back-

track on its promises following the strike, Local 574 struck again in May and again in July-August 1934.

The strikers elected a committee to run

the luly strike, leaving many of the estab-lished officials powerless.

Again it was a model of how a strike can be run and won - mass meetings every evening so that strikers were kept informed and active, and effective mass picketing organised by nicket captains

organised by picket captains.

The strikers slogan—No trucks shall be moved! by Nobody!—was enforced by cruising pickets who also kept all picket lines in regular contact with each other and with the union HQ. Any truck that did move in Minneapolis had to display a union regular.

permit.

The strike HQ soon had a canteen, a

hospital, its own radio station, and a repair yard. Strikers' talents and abilities were all utilised.

A women's auxiliary played a vital role.
Working farmers organisations were kept
informed and in return supplied the canteen with free food.

The unemployed were encouraged to get involved and were unionised.

A daily newspaper—The Organiser—was founded which put the workers' side of the story. Help and information poured in from everywhere.

from everywhere.
Nurses offered to help wounded strikers.

Construction workers and taxi drivers struck in sympathy.
Students, secretaries and waitresses slipped bits of information to The Organization.

The bosses' Citizens' Alliance was not used to this sort of trade unionism. They pursued a twin strategy to break the strike.

Red Scare

They tried to create a red scare over the fact that most of the rank and file leaders were members of the CLA.

They also tried to use police violence to break the strikers morale. Over forty strikers were shot and two died on 20th July 1934—known as "Bloody Friday".

Both these strategies failed. The strikers saw their strike committee as eminently sensible and honest—not as "alien reds".

The police violence provoked massive outrage. Forty thousand workers turned up to the funerals of strikers murdered on Bloody Friday.

Bloody Friday.
The workers armed themselves with clubs to fight back against the police.
The National Guard was sent in to seize

the strike headquarters. Dobbs tells what

ever ended in deteat.

The events in Minneapolis and elsewhere in 1934 reinvigorated the unions, paving the way for the formation in 1935 of the Committee of Industrial Organisations The CIO was later to organise six million American workers—transforming the

happened.
"A series of control points was set up

around town mainly in friendly filling stations, where cruising squads could enter and leave without attracting atten-

"Couriers scouting the neighbour-hoods were used to report scab trucks to

hoods were used to report scab trucks to picket dispatchers.
"Cruising squads were then sent to the reported locations to do the necessary and get away in a hurry."
When the key strike leaders were ar-rested, the missing gaps on the strike com-mittee were easily filled. This was because the democratic numing of the strike hod

mittee were easily filled. This was because the democratic running of the strike had given everybody a sense of leadership.

Minneapolis was declared to be in a state of insurrection and put under martial law. But after two weeks individual employers began to crack under the cost, and after some pressure from Washington the Citizens Alliance caved in.

While these events were happening in Minneapolis, two very similar strikes were won—the first, by longshoremen in San Francisco and the second, auto workers in Toledo, Ohio.

Like Minneapolis, both strikes were led

Like Minneapolis, both strikes were led by radicals, breaking beyond the notion of a narrow craft union towards the idea of a

In 1933 a series of strikes had emerged across the US, reflecting a growing feeling that workers had had enough. Most how-

general industrial union

ever ended in defeat.

whole character of the US labour movement in the process.

The revival of US labour after the recession was far "gradual". The bitterness ex-

ploded into a mass wave of anger.

In this situation the union bureaucrats could be by-passed. The tactics of revolutionary socialists were shown to work.

The comparisons with Ireland today are worth mentioning.

Here too there is a continuing recession. There is a feeling for change—typified by the vote for Labour in the last general

There are a small but significant number

of strikes beginning to erupt.

And there is a highly bureaucratised trade union structure involved in deals and

agreements like the PESP. In these circumstances a surge of rank

and file militancy is not ruled out.

Revolutionaries can find themselves cutnevolutionaries can find themselves cut-ting with the grain, with revolutionary ideas making sense and reaching a far wider and more sympathetic audience than we might think possible.

Out Now

The Teamster Rebellion by Farrell Dobbs £6.95 + £1 postage

from SW Books, P.O. Box 1648, Dublin 8.

Students lose benefits

March the govern-ment introduced a bill which means that students are no longer able to claim benefits for three months after finishing school or a college term.
This prevents students

from signing on during the summer between years. The excuse given for the legisla-tion is that students are abusing the dole system.

The reality of the bill is that it is a massive blow to work-ing class families. Last sum-mer 10.000 students were entitled to benefits, only after a passing a very stringent means test, even then they were not able to claim rent allowance - refuting the myth that they make false rent claims. It is these, the poorest section of students who will be directly affected and be directly affected and thrown back on into their

Dependency on the family creates great difficulties, espe-dally as those families affected can least afford it. In one case a Trinity student unable to

mother whose only income is a widow's pension... There is no provision to increase the familiary of the seaffected. The no provision to increase the fam-ily income of those affected. The additional fact that school leavers will not be able to claim for three months poses further burdens to all families and will discour-age those who can least afford it from esting a higher affect from getting a higher educa-

"It's disgusting! Especially for a government with La-



port. The government should be concentrating on creating jobs - not attacking those without them." Commented Louise Tierney, Trinity College Student's Union Welfare Of-

The plans are meeting resistance. The Thursday before the bill, approximately 40 students marched from Galway RTC to a dole office where a rally was held. Antone Rafferty, SWM and Presidential candidate addressed the rally, and pointed out that the was also preparing the for the Governments talked about workfare

heme.
A future Social Welfare bill plans to force under 21 year olds to go on FAS schemes in order to get their mainte-nance. As Antone explained "this proposal is going to be a move towards making every-body work for their dole. It's not that students don't want to work - but the real jobs aren't there.'

The Union of Students of Ireland (USI) are backing a campaign against the bill. Already they have organised a national demonstration which protested at the Dail.

We Think USI affiliation

A debate is taking place in most colleges as to whether their students unions should join the national organisation, the Union of Students of Ireland (USI). In UCD the right wing

campaigners, linked to pro-life organisations, forced a referendum in an attempt t disaffiliate from USI.

Their proposal was de-feated by two to one. Other pro-life candidates standing in a number of colleges such as Queens and Trinity were also for disaffiliation.

In Tallaght, the RTC voted the join USI this month, and in the aftermath of the Trinity occupation the question of reaffiliation is being debated there. bated there

But right-wingers are also trying to break up the national student un-There is a proposal University students alone to have representa-tion with the Higher Edu-cation Authority via a new

organisation. The SWM believes that all students should be af-filiated to USI. The reason why the pro-life move-ment want to see USI smashed is that they recognise it played an impor-tant role in the fight for abortion information.

Attack

As the recent government attack on students shows, a national body is needed to help connect every student who wants to fight back.

USI is not a substitute for a group of activists in every college, but the stronger that USI is, the more effective national protests will be.

protests will be.
The alternative body is an extremely divisive proposal. As TCD president Orla Costello explained:
"The idea of another national organisation of students based on the unit.

students, based on the unistudents, based on the universities, is extremely elitist. All students whether in RTC's, DIT's or Universities should be united in one union, and that is USI."

What we stand for

Workers create all the wealth in capitalist society. A new society can only be constructed when they collectively seize control of that wealth and plan its production and distribution.

FOR REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM FOR REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM
The present system cannot be reformed out of existence. Parliament cannot be used to end the system. It has to be overthrown.
The machinery of the capitalist state—parliament, courts, army, police etc.—is there to defend the interests of the capitalist class, not to run society in a 'neutral' fashion.
To destroy capitalism, workers need to smash the state and create a workers' state based on workers' councils.

based on workers' councils.

FOR REAL SOCIALISM, EAST AND WEST: FOR REAL SOCIALISM, EAST AND WEST:
The SWM welcomed the break-up of the
USSR and the end of the East European
dictatorships. These states were not socialist but were run by a state-capitalist class.
Workers' revolutions are needed to win real
freedom in the East.
We are against the domination of the globe
by imperialist powers and we oppose their
wars. We are for the right of all nations, East
and West, to self-determination.

FOR AN END TO ALL OPPRESSION
We oppose all forms of oppression which
divide and weaken the working class. We
are for full social, economic and political
equality for women.
We stand for: free contraception and free,
legalised abortion and the right to divorce;
the complete separation of church and state,
an end to church control over schools and
hospitals; an end to discrimination against
gays and lesbians; an end to racism and
anti-traveller bigotry.
We argue for working class unity in the fight
against oppression.

FOR WORKERS' UNITY IN THE NORTH:
Northern Ireland is a sectarian state, propped
up by the British Army.
Catholic workers are systematically discriminated against by the state. The division
between Catholic and Protestant workers
weakens the whole working class.
Workers' unity can only be won and maintained in a fight to smash both the Northern
and Southern states.
We stand for the immediate withdrawal of
British troops. Violence will only end when
workers unite in the fight for a workers'
republic.

FOR A FIGHTING TRADE UNION MOVE-

Trade unions exist to defend workers' interests. But the union leaders' role is to negotiate with capitalism—not to end it.
We support the leaders when they fight but oppose them when they betray workers. We stand for independent rank and file action.

FOR A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY: To win socialism socialists need to organise in a revolutionary party. This party needs to argue against right-wing ideas and for overthrowing the system. The SWM aims to build such a party in Ireland.

What's On

Branches of the SWM-meet around the country at the following times and venues

Belfast

Meets every Monday at 8.00pm in Central Hall, Rosemary St.

5th April What kind of revolutionary party do we need? Speaker Jim Larmour

12th April Has there always been women's oppression?

19th April What did Leon Trotsky stand for? 26th April The politics of

Cork

Meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm in the Anchor Inn, Georges Quay.

6th April Will revolution mean violence?

13th April Imperialism today. Speaker Uli Meyer-Sturnburg

20th April Socialism and Religion. Speaker Emer Burke

27th April What kind of Party do we need?

Derry

Meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm in Badgers Pub, Orchard st.

6th April Reform or Revolution. Speaker Eileen 13th April Trotsky's legacy. Speaker Kevin Wingfield

20th April Do Animals have rights? Speaker Johnny Joyce

27th April Marx's view of history. Speaker Malachy

Dublin North

Meets every Wednesday at 8.00pm in Conways Pub, Parnell St.

31st March Can Protestant workers break from Loyalism? Speaker Linda Moore

7th April What do socialists say about Law and Order? Speaker Ger Tuohy

14th April State and Revolution Speaker Brid Smith

21st April Have women always been oppressed? 28th April What kind of revolutionary party do we need?

Dublin South

Meets every Thursday 8.00pm in the Trinity Inn, Pearse St.

1st April Can Protestant workers break from Loyalism? Speaker Linda Moore

8th April What do socialists say about Law and Order?

Speaker Ger Tuohy

15th April State and Revolution Speaker Brid Smith

22nd April Have women always been oppressed? 29th April What kind of tionary party do we

Galway

Meets every Wednesday at 8.00pm in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square.

31st March Malcolm X and the fight against racism

7th April Rape and Pornography: what do socialists say?

14th April What kind of

21st April Gay Liberation and the struggle for socialism

28th April The politics of Leon Trotsky Waterford

Meets every Thursday at 8.00pm in ATGWU Hall,

1st April What did Leon Trotsky stand for?

8th April Has there always been women's oppression?

15th April What kind of revolutionary party do we

22nd April Will revolution mean violence?

To contact the SWM in Bray, Coleraine, Cookstown, Drogheda, Dundalk, Kilkenny, Limerick, Navan, write to SWM PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Phone (01) 722682

SWM News

Malcolm X meetings packed out

This month saw another very successful speaking tour for the SWM. Leading black socialist and SWP member Gary MacFarlane spoke on the subject of "Malcolm X and the fight against racism".

The interest on this issue in Ireland was reflected in well attended meetings all over the country - including over 40 people at the meeting in Belfast, and 130 in Dublin

In Waterford, SWM members learned that the Labour Party conference would be held in their town. They have been pushing the unions to organise a lobby of the conference in protest at the attacks upon workers since Labour entered

government. The branch has also



been organising solidarity for the Nolan's strike (see reports) and has arranged a fund raising gig for the strikers. All the Northern

KOREAN JAIL PROTESTS The activities coincided

with the inauguration of South Korea's new

Campaigners for the release of South Korean political of South Korean political prisoner II Bung Choi picketed the South Korean Embassies and airline offices in London, Boston, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, Cincinnati, San Diego, Iowa City, Madison, Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Dublin and Athens last

month.
Campaigners in
Johannesburg are circulating a petition.



president, Kim Young-Sam. Despite an amnesty which has released others from Ilhas released others from in-Bung Choi's trial, he is being kept in jail under a two year sentence for publishing books freely available in the

books freely available in the West.

Fox letters of protest to the editors of the following Korean daily newspapers: Han-Kyoreh Shimnum (010) 82 02 710 0310, Dong-A Ilbo 82 02 361 0434, Joong-ang Daily News 82 02 757 5388.

branches of the SWM helped to advertise and build for the demonstration in defence of the Health Service. In Dublin, SWM members argued that workers North and South should unite in defence of our

health. The SWM put on a coach from Dublin to the demonstration.

The Galway branch of the SWM organised the town's only protest meeting at the closure of the Digital factory. In Galway RTC SWM

member Antone Rafferty is standing for president of the Students' Union, on a socialist platform, and on the need to demonstrate and campaign against the attacks on students (see

Join Us!

4	If you would like to join the SWM of	
ı	receive more details, send this slip to)
1	SWM, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Tel: (01	
1	722682	

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	-	

Phone

Drugs, war and profit

by BRENDAN DONOHOE

DRUG use and abuse is on the rise in Ireland.

The reasons are straightforward enough.

The recession makes the world lousy for the vast majority of people.

Drugs provide temporary personal relief from a life of struggle and alienation.

Those who supply this relief make fabulous profits. And it is not only "illegal" suppliers who benefit.

The "legal" drug industry—alcohol and tranquillisers—in the US can be more profitable than any other legitimate business according to a *Financial Times* report Times report.

A profit of 45 cents for every dollar of sales is possible with a successful drug.

In Ireland drugs have become more popular among working class kids facing a future of unemployment or low paid jobs.

Dropping an "E" and going to a rave is attractive not be-cause the drugs are so good but because the rest of life is

Rounded-Up

The "solution" from right-wingers—and some Labour politicians—is to call for ad-dicts to be rounded up and

Drug users are scapegoats for society's ills.

Small-time pushers and users are arrested while major suppliers go free.

Working class kids get mandatory sentences for having cannabis while Ben Dunnecaught with a huge amount of cocaine—is showered with sympathy and "understanding".

In fact, our own rulers have long been involved in the sup-ply of drugs—with the "civi-lised" West leading the way.

In the 1850s Britain went to war with China over the importation of opium from Bengal—which the East India Company owned and controlled

Britain won the "Opium

Wars" and created fifteen million opium addicts in China.

From Borneo to Burma opium dens were controlled by the colonial authorities. In India—the "Jewel of the Em-pire"—the administration drew one-sixth of its income from

The French used drugs to finance war against Vietnam.

The US followed suit. In Laos the US supported Vang Po, a drugs warlord, against his ri-

He in return supplied mercenaries for the secret war against left-wing Pathet-Lao

Refineries

The CIA flew drugs from the poppy fields to the refineries in Hong Kong and encouraged all arable land to be turned over to opium production.

The US-backed Contras made about \$40 million in drug running operations between Costa Rica and Miami—all supported by the CIA.

The pilot who delivered the The pilot who delivered the mines for the mining of the Nicaraguan ports in 1984 was paid by being allowed to fly on to North Colombia where he picked up 6,000 lbs of mari-

Hypocritically, George Bush made the "war on drugs" a key issue while he was US president. He used it to justify invading Panama and to whip up racism against black drug users in the US itself.

Socialists are against the hysteria and hypocrisy about drug use and abuse. It is a myth to say that experimenting with drugs will turn you into a "junkie".

The Surgeon General of the US pointed out that you are as likely to get addicted to to-bacco as you are to heroin. Heroin ishighly dangerous but still causes far fewer deaths than the legal drug, tobacco.

Socialists don't advocate drug taking—we want to see people fighting the system rather than "escaping" from it.

But we oppose the scapegoating of drug addicts. Real anger should be focused on the system that breads the

Blade Runner—the Director's Cut: Reviewed by Richard Boyd Barrett

ALL films bear the hallmark of the time in which they made and Ridley Scott's Blade Runner is no exception.

Although set in the fu-ture, few recent films more accurately portray the enormous contradictions that lie at the heart of the system under which we live.

Rather than presenting the future as a squeaky clean technological utopia, Blade Runner shows luxury and splendour ex-isting side by side with urban decay and poverty in 21st century Los Ange-

les.
The city is controlled by a small elite of rich entre-preneurs and state apparatchniks. The plot centres around the giant Tyrell corporation which produces robots for use as slave labourers and shock troops in the Earth's colo-nies in outer space. The "replicants"—orro-

bots—stage a rebellion in the colonies and return to the colonies and return to earthhoping to extend their life-span which is limited to just four years. Rutger Hauer plays the Replicants' leader while Harrison Ford plays a

Harrison Ford plays a Blade Runner—a professional replicant killer—forced out of retirement to eliminate the replicants.

Despite his intimate relationship with one of the female replicants the "Blade Runner"—afraid of the wrong side of get on the wrong side of the authorities—proceeds to carry out his mission in a quite brutal fashion.

a quite orulal lashion.

As the plot develops it becomes clear that the "Blade Runner"—far from doing society a favour—is, in fact, the repressive arm of a regime that will brook no expression to its. brook no opposition to its rule or its drive for profits. "Our only goal is profRebels and Replicants



Harrison Ford and Sean Young in "Blade Runner-the Director's Cut"

its", says Tyrell to Harrison Ford, although the com-ment could just as easily have been made by the

management at Digital or Aer Lingus. Similarly, the replicants here could be any group of workers forced on to the scrap heap when they ask for more than the bosses want to give.
The replicants are show

ing signs of having their own needs and emotions and as workers know to

their cost such things don't figure on the profit and loss account of capitalist concerns.

The strength of the new version of Blade Runner—the Director's Cut is its removal of parts of the earlier cut which tended to

soften the presentation of the systems brutality. A cliched happy ending which obscured the tragedv of the replicants mur-der has been taken out.

Also an over-dubbed

commentary by Deckard—the Blade Run-ner—has gone. This fur-ther shifts the balance of sympathy towards the replicants and away from Deckard—the liberal cop with a conscience!

The one fault with this

otherwise brilliant and visually spectacular film is its wholly pessimistic view of the possibilities fortheexploited and down-trodden to overthrow their

In this respect, Blade Runner very much reflects the demoralisation and weakness of much of the left in the 1980's and to-

left in the 1980's and to-day.

The recent rebellion of
Black, Hispanic and White
working class people in Los
Angeles where the film is
setshould therefore remind
us of the huge possibilities
for mass struggle against a
dehumanising system that dehumanising system that tries to make Replicants of

Book Review

PAUL O'BRIEN reviews: God's Bits of Wood by Sembene Ousmane, £4.75 + £1 postage from SW Books, PO Box 1648, **Dublin 8**

SEMBENE Ousmanes visit to Dublin to discuss his films during the re-cent film festival coincided with the reissue of his greatest book, Goods Bits of Wood

Ousmane was born in Senegal in 1923 and after workingasaplumberand bricklayer moved to France after the war.

He became a docker and trade union activist. Out of these experiences he wrote his first book, Black Docker in 1956. He became a full time writer and film maker.

In 1947 the railway workers on the Dakar-

Niger line came out on strike. The strike lasted six months and despite starvation, army beat-ings and lack of water in theintenseheatthestrike

Gods Bits of Wood is the story of that strike.

Most people's horror at famine in Africa leads them to conclude that Western intervention is

western intervention is the only way out.

Gods Bits of Wood completely undercuts this view. It shows an urban working class that is even more dominant and powerful today than and powerful today than in the late 1940s when this book was written.

Even more impor-tantly, it shows African workers as fighters tak-ing control of their own



lives, rather than waiting for "favours" from Western imperialism.

It is also a book that can stand beside any of the great novels of the West. It reminds me of James Plunketts

Strumpet City and Zolas

Germinal in the way that it draws you into the

Though set in Sen-egal, it has a universality that anyone can identify

Althoughitsonly available in the African Writers Series, I am constantly amazed at how

often it is mentioned when people get to talk-ing about their favourite

Iread it again after the miners strike in Britain in 1984/85 and was struck by how similar the story was—the confidence of the rail workers, the camaraderie and mutual support that grows during such momentous times, the transformation ofattitudesthathappens asworkers see the world in reality.

In both strikes we see communities that had traditional attitudes towards women being transformed as wives, daughtersandgirlfriends are drawn centrally into the strike.

Aboveall, this is a great story that gives flesh to the idea that working dasspeoplecan change theworld, and in the proc-ess change themselves.

Read it and pass it on to your friends.

Why the Irish Labour **Party Fails**

by Conor Kostick from PO Box A Socialist Worker pamphilet

Why Labour sells out and why we need a genuine socialist alternative £1 from SW paper sellers, SWM branch bookstalls or 1648, Dublin 8

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Nearly 2000 workers in the Eastern Health Board went on strike in

The strike centred around the transfer of an official from the Department of Health

Members of the IMPACT union felt they had been robbed of a promotion opportunity. The transfer also broke agreements about open competition for vacancies.

A striker told Socialist A striker told Socialist
Forker: "This was not the first
time the EHB broke written
agreements. There was a lot of
ill feeling among clerical workers towards management."

Although the civil servant was
married to former Health Minister
John O'Connell's private secre-

TE:CHERS

Primary school teachers in the South won improved treatment for substitute teachers by threatening a strike.

The 800 substitute teachers needed every day are paid 10 per cent less than full-timers, their pay is of-ten delayed and they have

They are also denied sick pay, holiday pay and maternity benefit.

Theteachersunion, INTO,

had demanded the setting up of panels from which substi-tuteteachers would be drawn.

For two years, until the end of March, the Department of Education refused.

Four days before teachers at sixty schools were due to strike, the Departmentagreed to set up the panels.

ESB day workers at the Poolbeggeneratingsta-tion held a sit-in for four days in March.

The dispute was over the use of a private contractor to do maintenance work. Management said ESB staff lacked the training to do the over the contract of the

training to do the work.
But they refused to provide the necessary training, despite union requests to do so for the

The dispute has since been referred to the Joint Industrial Council. The workers expect the management's decision to overturned.

The ESB workers action shows that it is possible to fight this tide of "creeping privatisa-

tary, the government and EHB denied that there was any political favouritism involved

ornied that there was any political favouritism involved.

The branch officials postponed escalation of the strike while they heldtalks with management. Then they recommended acceptance of a deal that would have left the civil SCTVAIN there he are:

servant where he was.
Servant where he was.
But the strikers voted overwhelmingly to reject this deal and
to escalate the strike immediately.
One said: "We were not willing
to accept anything less than a total
victory."

victory."
The strikers ensured that emergency services would not be affected. However they felt the union was far too lenient in determining what was "emergency".
Four days after the escalation, the EHB agreed to let the civil servant transfer to another job in the health service.

servant transfer to another job in the health service.

This complete victory for the strikers shows that rapid escala-tion of strikes to involve other workers can win

&

Maintenance workers in B&I sought an all-out picket in a strike over

The company wants to transfer their work to a con-

privatisation.

Aer Lingus:

'They want to screw us into the ground'

Aer Lingus workers are angry at the com-pany's cost-cutting plan which involves: 450 redundancies

a freeze on pay rises due this year

a 10 per cent pay cut

changes in work practices.
This is the latest in a series of attacks on wages in Aer Lingus. In 1991, payment of the first phase of the PESP was deferred for a year. Even then, only a 2

group." Workers in other unions

voted to support the strik-ers. Pickets are in place in Dublin Port and on B&I's

The crew of the Guinness ship Lady Miranda occupied the ship in a dispute over early redundancy. Irish Marine Services, which operates the ship for Guinness, decided to terminate their contracts in March, six weeks earlier than agreed.

STRIKE

head office

4 per cent.

Aer Lingus workers will not be paid their arrears until 1994.

By then some of them will be owed up to £1000.

As one worker said: "They want to screw us into the ground."

The government has refused to say how much state funding it will give. It wants management and unions to agree on a rescue plan first.

A mass meeting of 1000 orkers in March voted not to discuss any proposals until the government gives a commit-ment about how much equity it

Bartering

A shop steward told Socialist Worker "Without this commitment we'd be sitting down to cut our own throats."

"We're not in the position of bartering away jobs and condi-tions."

Speakers at the union meet-ing said that the Labour Party

should not be let off the book. It made many promises before the election and now was the

Another speaker called on SIPTU to follow the example of the miners in Britain.

They organised massive

demor rations against pit clo sures. The marches got the back-ing of other workers, and a quarter of a million people marched to support the miners. SIPTU leaders should build for a similar demonstration here.
Thousands of Aer Lingus

workers are angry at the way the government istreating them. Other workers would support them if they took action.

The government has found

LABOUR'S BROKEN PROMISES

m in October 1992, Albert
Reynolds proposed selling off 49 per cent of the
government's shares in
Aer Lingus.
Labour opposed this privatisation, calling for an
injection of state equity.

B On 28th October, Dick
Spring said it would be "an
act of national economic
reachery" for the government not to intervene.

Labour's election manifesto said: "if additional
equity is required...no new

equity is required ... no new government should be al-lowed shirk that responsi-

bility."

Former Labour chairman Jim Kemmy said: "as a party, we have committed ourselves to doing anything possible to support Aer Lingus and its workfore." workforce."

WHERE ARE THEY

plenty of money to fund "spe-cial advisers" and jobs for its relatives. Yet it refuses to save

relatives. Yet it refuses to save jobs in a company of which it is the only shareholder.

A national demonstration could apply pressure on the government to act to save Acr Lingus workers' jobs and pay.

TEAM workers show the way

Militant action by workers in TEAM, Aer Lingus' maintenance subsidiary, forced management to

drop plans to attack jobs and pay.

The plan included 375 redundancies, cuts in overtime and compulsory "retention" of 15 per cent of workers' pay by the company for 8 weeks.

TEAM shop stewards rejected the plan immediately.

Management went ahead and tried to change the allowances for shift work. They also tried to scrap a weekend working allowance.

allowance.

These actions would have cost workers up to 20 per cent of their take-home pay. They responded by imposing an overtime

After less than a week, management backed down. A TEAM

w they can't do enough for us. Everything is back the way

it was."

Workers at Airmotive, another Aer Lingus subsidiary, took strike action after management tried to redeploy workers.

tractor. Although the disputewas being examined by a third party, the bosses went ahead with the transfer. The B&I workers were then placed in a "surplus pool". The englineering union, AEEU, described this as "unprecedented conduct". District Secretary Eamonn Devoy said; "the only defence available to us is a united trade union March, six weeks earlier than agreed. Seven workers began the sit-in. The ship's officers and other crew members voted to join the protest. **N.I. TEACHERS** FIGHT TESTS

Teachers in the North have voted overwhelminglytoboycott Tory tests for 13-year

olds. Members of the
NASUWT voted 88 percent
in favour of the boycott in a
UK-wide ballot.
In the North - with a higher

turn-out - the vote was a stag

ering 95 percent.

The tests, called CAIs, will lead to pupils spending three whole days sitting intensive exams in English, Maths and

rk the tests which for a class of thirty pupils could take up to twenty hours. twenty hours.

The proposed boycott has boosted teachers' morale. The

NUT - the biggest teachers un-ion in Britain - looks set to

boycott the English tests but there is growing pressure to widen the action.

The Tories aim to make schools compete with each other for resources and pupils. That means schools have to publish exam results and are under pressure to kick out undesirable pupils.

AMoripollrecently revealed that in the UK more than 65,000 pupils had been stopped from attending school in the past two years.

Over forty percent of educa-tion authorities blamed the in-crease on the climate of compe-

The Tories want to return to education system that brands orking class kids as "failures" from an early age
If all the teachers' unions

unite to boycott the tests, Major and Co. can be stopped in their tracks.

CAHILL'S WINDFALL

AER Lingus are complaining that they have to cut back because of the recession.

But while workers' jobs and wages are under threat the company plan to give hatchet-man Bernie Cahill 570,000 a year.

As Executive Chairman.
Cahill will also get a bonus of 20 per cent and a company car.

Andlong after Aer Lingus workers' dole money runs out, Cahill will be enjoying free first class flights on all major airlines for the rest of his life!

His fees from director-hipswill now total £110,000

The government sees Cehill's enormous tees as money well spent in making Aer Lingus workers pay for the company's crists.

But if also proves that Reynolds, Spring and Cowen are lying through their teeth when they say that they can't afford to ball out the airline.

Privatisation hits Housing Executive depot in Belfast said:

Tory privatisation plans have left 730 maintenance workers redundant at the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

The jobs were in the Direct Labour Organisation (DLO), which is closing because it can't get enough work through competitive tenderThe Executive is transfer-

ring contracts worth £2 million to private contractors. The workers showed their anger by taking to the streets.

There was a protest rally out-side the Executives Belfast of-fice as well as a march by two hundred workers to Stormont.

A spokesman for the 180 staff at the Grosvenor Road

"They told us we had to become more competitive and we worked hand over fist to make sure we measured up.

"There were massive job cuts in all depots and some centres closed down altogether, but we were prepared to make this work.

"They set productivity tar-gets for each man and we all

did our hest

"We've won almost 2 mil-lion worth of contracts. Now we hear it's not enough."

The experience of the Housing Executive workers shows that sacrifices are not a safeguard against privatisation.

The way to fight was shown by security men and council workers in Derry, whose strike action halted privatisation plans.

ISSUES FOR THE LABOUR MOVEMENT by Kieran Glennon

bs crisis: Is indigenous industry the answer? per cent plan to let workers go this year. The average grant per

SINCE the loss of 780 jobs at Digital, many trade union leaders are calling for the government to focus on indigenous Irish compa-

nies to provide jobs.
They want the coalition
to turn away from trying to
attract multinationals to
Ireland.

They point to the tendency of multi-nationals to "take the money and run". In 1991 alone,£2.4 billion was repatriated abroad in the form of profits and divi-

After taking advantage of grants, many of these firms then shut down when their profits fall.

Digital is the latest of 19 computer companies to dose since 1980.

However, 40 per cent of grants paid to industry go to Irish firms. The IDA started an Enter-prise Development Pro-gramme in 1979.

By 1989, half the Irish firms helped by this scheme had shut.

Irish companies got £52 million from 1979 to 1984. Twenty seven million of this wentto companies that went

While foreign companies take advantage of low Cor-poration Tax, many "indig-enous" firms don't pay any Larry Goodman's meat empire paid only 1 per cent

of its Corporation Tax bill in So Irish bosses are just

as likely to take the money

Miserable

The record of job creation by "indigenous" industry is also miserable.

also miserable.
From 1981 to 1990, Irish firms were paid £669 million in grants, on top of EC aid. But these companies *cut* 2,000 jobs.
The bosses getting those treats had progressed to creek.

The bosses getting those grants had promised to create 185,000 jobs. But only 7,000 actually materialised. A Sunday Tribunesurvey of small Irish companies found that for every two that took on more workers last year, three cut jobs. And 18

job for foreign companies is £7,400. For native-owned companies it is £12,500.

Even ESB boss Patrick Moriarty admitted: "this ef-fort with respect to indig-enous Irish industry has been something of a fail-

Workerstakenonbysmall Irish companies are also paid less.
The head of the Small

The head of the Small Firms Association said that while the average industrial wage in the country Is £13,800, in small firms it is only £8,500 to £9,500.

This is the record of indigenous industry: ripping off workers and the state, and failing to deliver on jobs.

Sowhydo the union lead-

ers look to indigenous in-dustry as the solution to

unemployment?
One reason is that it disguises their failure to lead esistance to redundancies. They wring their hands over the nasty multinationals and appeal to Irish bosses' eco-nomic patriotism.

Struggles

Top union officials seem more interested in negotiating redundancy settlements than they are in organising struggles to save jobs. Talks and more talks only involve the union officials' negotiating skills. On the other hand, a strike or sit-in gives ordinary workers a

gives ordinary workers a chance to determine their own futures.

willing to fight to save their jobs. The task of union offidals should be to lead such fights, not to defuse them.

fights. not to defuse them. Saying that indigenous industry is the answer to unemployment is just an excuse to get union officials off the hook. "Buy Irish" will not save jobs - leading a fightback will.

Union leaders responded to the Digital dosure by turning to economic nationalism. But this pathetic pleading for more indigenous in-

ism. But this pathetic plead-ing for more indigenous in-dustry had nothing to offer Digital workers. Instead of encouraging Irish and Scottish workers to compete against each other, links should have been made to build a com-mon fight grainst Digital mon fight against Digital

It doesn't matter whether a company's headquarters is in Dublin, London or Boston. They are all part of one world economic system.

When that system is in crisis, as it is now, bosses the world over act in the sameway. They protect their profits the only way they know how and wages.

This is what is happening in Waterford Glass and Aer Lingus. Both are prime examples of indigenous indus-

planning 500 redundancies and Aer Lingus is planning

Placing misguided hopes in indigenous industry is not the answer to the jobs crisis.

Organising to fight against the system that creates this crisis is the only way to ensure work and a decent standard of living for all,

For a Workers Republic and International Socialism 40p

here be a socialisi alternative?

see pages 6 & 7

Y TO BEA WORKERS UNIT

THIS rotten Tory government is out to kill our health service.

And there's no doubt that people are angry at the attacks.

Twenty thousand marched in Downpatrick against the closure of Downe Hospital in Septem-

Three thousand health workers protested in February against the Royal Hospital opting out of the health service.

Thousands have attended public

meetings and demonstrations across

Northern Ireland.

Margaret Dunham of the Royal
Group of Hospitals Joint Shop
Stewards' Committee told Socialist Worker:

"People don't know what's going to happen to their jobs.
There is a mood of anger in the hospitals. People are determined to fight the cuts tooth and nail."

A City Hospital nurse said: "Everyone's worried about their jobs, from the consultants to the cleaners.'

She also described how hospitals are starting to compete with one another:

"Before the talk about trust "Before the talk about trust status everyone worked together. If we were short of supplies we would ring over to the Royal. Now everyone is working against each other, fighting to see who can get the patients."

The Tories want health care to be subject to market greed.

subject to market greed.

They are creating a two-tier

health service.

Those who can pay will get the best health care that money can buy, while those who can't afford treatment will be left to suffer on waiting lists.

Savage

Workers in the Royal and Craigavon Hospitals have over-whelmingly voted against trust sta-

And local communities have set up action committees to protest at these savage cuts.

In Belfast an action committee was set up by staff and patients to defend Jubilee Maternity Unit where three thousand children are

born every year.
The Health Board says that these babies will now have to be born in Lagan Valley Hospital, ten miles outside Belfast, or at the Mater Hospital whose Catholic ethos denies women family planning ad-

So much for the Tories' Patients' Charter and its talk of "patient choice".

The kind of anger witnessed over the last few months in Downpatrick, in Armagh and in

Belfast must be built on.

The health unions should use the power of health workers to make the Tories back down

Mass demonstrations, ward oc-cupations, and strike action are the only way to beat the Toriesand other workers should be involved alongside the health work-

ers.
Tory privatisation plans have already meant job cuts at Northern Ireland airports and the Royal Mail.
After they finish the sell-off of electricity in June they will move on to privatising our water.
Workers at Shorts and the Housing Executive know only too well

what privatisation means

Six hundred and fifty-five Shorts workers have just been put on the dole, while seven hundred Housing Executive labouring jobs have been axed because of private tendering

dering.
The Tories want to do the same to health service workers—we need to unite to stop them in their tracks.