

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

inside:

Interview: Nazma Akter:
**Fighting
against
child
labour in
Bangladesh**
—page ten

1953 East Germany:
**When
workers'
power
rocked the
state**—page eight

The bishops have no right to rule our lives...



DIVORCE: IT'S A CIVIL RIGHT

TURN TO PAGES SIX AND SEVEN

Refugee bill not so liberal

THE GOVERNMENT is trying appear liberal with its new Refugee Bill which extends the definition of a refugee to include people fleeing persecution as trade unionists.

But the bill allows a Minister to deport an asylum seeker to the first EU country they entered regardless of their fate after that. This will result in more cases like that of a Somali family expelled from Belgium in May.

The European Council for Refugees reported that the family were 'chain deported' to the Czech Republic, to Slovakia and then to the Ukraine where UN support agencies lost track of them.

The bill does not guarantee the right to work for asylum seekers.

It also allows the authorities to jail asylum seekers for having false passports even though this may be necessary for them to evade the regime from which they are fleeing.

Labour's Joan Burton says the bill's restrictions are needed to prevent applicants from fleeing economic hardship instead of 'genuine' persecution.

In reality the bill only makes cosmetic changes to the Irish authorities' appalling treatment of refugees.

Behind the liberal rhetoric the Coalition is signing up for Fortress Europe where the barriers to refugees are being built up higher than ever.

Lowry affair reveals... Politicians' cosy cartel

AT A time when CIE was demanding more cuts from its workforce, its chairman spent £54,256 on foreign travel.

This scandal was only revealed when Michael Lowry came under pressure in Dail Eirinn.

The Chairman, Dermot O'Leary went to South Africa and Australia. The Australian trip involved golf, sightseeing and a visit to a wine district. He had no official meeting despite travelling over half the world.

Fianna Fail are defending O'Leary and businessmen like Owen O'Ceallaghan because they donate heavily to party funds.

Appointed

O'Leary is a millionaire who made his money in the plant hire business and has always been described as 'a very strong Fianna Fail member' who is active in his Comhairle Ceanntair.

He had been appointed to seven different semi state boards by Fianna Fail Ministers.

When semi state workers in TEAM or Irish Steel are under attack, there

is no outrage from the TDs—but when one of their own friends is messed around, there is all hell to pay.

Lowry's allegations that there is a 'cosy cartel' among semi-state managers has opened a hornet's nest.

Reward

Ever since the foundation of the state, Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and Labour Ministers have used semi-state boards to reward their own supporters.

There are 2,400 people appointed to these boards and it gave politicians a huge gravy train they could control. Up to recently, the rule of the game was that each party kept quiet about what the other was up to and did not chuck out their appointees.

But this broke down when a Fianna Failer revealed that the Fine Gael Minister for Defence, Coveney, was trying to influence Bord Gais to give a contract to his friends.

Lowry's sacking of O'Leary and his allegations of a 'cosy cartel' is a way of Fine Gael biting back.

Lowry has no interest in removing corruption among semi-state managers. He just wants a bigger share of the gravy train for FG cronies.



Lowry: A hypocrite who wants more Fine Gaelers on semi-state boards

The breakdown of the TD's cartel has given a small glimpse of the web of corruption that lies behind those who are attacking semi-state workers.

Why drug clinics are welcome

RIGHT WING politicians have whipped up a scare over a new drug centre in Blanchardstown.

Liam Lawlor of Fianna Fail and Councillor Sean Lyons are delighted to speak on platforms where they can scapegoat drug addicts and whip up a HIV scare.

Lyons' track record includes opposing contraceptive rights for local women—he backed his wife Dr Janina Lyons when she refused to prescribe the pill.

Lyons and Lawlor are exploiting real fears about drug abuse and crime but they ignore the benefits that the clinic would bring.

Instead of using dirty needles and risking HIV infection, drug users would be able to exchange their needles for new ones.

This would minimise the fear that children could be infected if dirty needles are

left lying about. The methadone programme would help to get some addicts off of heroin.

Many people recognise the need for such a clinic in the area but they argue that it will cater for addicts from outside the area who will converge on Blanchardstown.

Benefit

Drug clinics should be set up in every area—it would benefit the people who need to use them.

But opposition to the clinic in Blanchardstown will give the Eastern Health Board an excuse not to set up other centres.

That would not be a victory for people in working class estates—it would be a step backwards.

Rich drug users like Ben Dunne can avail of top class treatment centres in London.

Working class people deserve the same.

inside the system

★ A LARGE number of young people do not trust the Gardai according to a recent survey.

Almost one third of school leavers in Clonmel associated the presence of a garda with 'trouble or bad news'. Over 40 per cent believed the gardai had 'no interest' in their welfare.

The gardai's idea of improving relations has been to step up harassment of young people going to raves and nightclubs.

The guards have even resorted to strip searching party-goers, no doubt aided by Nora Owen's 'law and order' crusade.

★ LABOUR Environment minister Brendan Howlin recently bought a £175,000 mansion in Wexford.

But it overlooked a tee-off point at the local golf club.

After a quiet word, Wexford golf club have agreed to give him special treatment and plant trees to block the view.

★ THE Business Plan for Irish Press Newspapers has vindicated sacked journalist Colm Rappale.

He was sacked in May for saying that management needed to be replaced.

This was a month after the board prepared the Business Plan which said that the top management team, including Vincent Jennings, would have to be removed.

Workers discover underwater timebomb

WORKERS laying a gas pipeline along the main ferry route between Scotland and Ireland have called for work to be stopped.

They fear that some- ing thousands of weap- ons which were dumped there by the

British Ministry of Defence.

The area is known as Beaufort's dyke, a 1,500 foot trench which contains over a million tons of explosives disposed of over the last 50 years.

ported at the time that it had disposed of it further out in the Atlantic.

It was not until 1986 that George Younger, the Scottish Secretary, admitted the ship carrying the waste hadn't reached its destination.

Recently bomb disposal experts had to be called in to clean up several beaches on the west coast of Scotland when 1,000 phosphorous bombs were washed up. Bombs have been washed up onto the Antrim coast in the past.

Disposed

In 1981 over 2,000 tons of nuclear waste were dumped there when a disposal operation was interrupted by bad weather.

But the British Atomic Energy Authority re-

No pay freeze for bosses

A SURVEY of Irish Executives found that their pay has been increasing faster than ordinary workers.

In the 12 months to July, their salaries jumped by 6%.

At the same time workers had to make do with a 2.5% increase.

Bonus

The average salary of a managing director is now £67,362.

On top of this they get a bonus of £18,290.

Apart from the huge salaries most executives get perks such as free life insurance and VHI cover. They also get a free telephone, subsidised lunches and a free car.

These overworked bosses get an average holiday of 24 days a year.

Recently the government threw out a proposal to give Irish workers 20 days statutory leave.

★ LOUISE (not her real name) was sacked from her job in a Dublin company for being 'too friendly' with staff even though she worked in Personnel.

Management had already tried to set her up by asking for confidential details of staff members' earnings.

Her other 'crimes' included taking off her shoes at work because of blisters on her feet.

Louise was sacked at 7.30 am and was 'escorted' to the front door before she could tell anyone what had happened.

Same old sectarianism

A CATHOLIC member of the Ulster Unionist Party is taking a case against it claiming that she was discriminated against because of her religion.

Patricia Campbell says that she wasn't fairly considered for the post of the party's public relations officer because she is a Catholic.

She had previously worked as personal assistant to James Molyneaux, the former party leader. She recently called on Catholics to join with Protestants in the UUP in support of nationalism and transform our society into a United Northern Ireland.

But now she has condemned the party as narrow minded and sectarian.

CLASS SIZES OVER THE LIMIT

ACCORDING to the Department of Education figures nearly 6,000 children are in classes of 40 pupils or more.

The department itself recommends a maximum class size of 37.

The Irish National Teachers organisation says that it is "close to impossible" to provide decent teaching in classes of over 35 pupils.

The problem of oversize classes is particularly acute in larger schools in urban areas. The INTO has called for the employment of more teachers in order to tackle the problem.

we think The two faces of the new loyalists

ON THE first anniversary of the loyalist ceasefire, 15,000 people turned up to a demonstration called by the Progressive Unionist Party and the Ulster Democratic party.

Over the last year these parties have been praised by many commentators for breaking with traditional loyalism and taking up left wing politics.

But the march on October 13th showed that they are still wedded to sectarianism. UVF banners and UFF banners were carried

by marchers and the PUP spokesperson, David Irvine, appeared on the platform flanked by 24 men in paramilitary style uniform.

We can only assume that they were members of the UVF or the UFF—organisations that have murdered 950 people, mostly

Catholics, in the 25 years of conflict.

Loyalist paramilitaries by their own admission are still active.

Training

In a recent interview UFF leaders said "we are still training and recruiting, we still have to defend the people of Ulster, we stand ready".

He claimed that UFF members "still have a terrible lot more to offer".

Statements by the PUP and UDP that they oppose poverty must be viewed alongside their open association with these sectarian thugs.

Defending the health service and beating Tory attacks can only be done in opposition to sectarianism because it depends on a united working class.

The existence of the UVF and UFF can only make that harder to achieve.

The fact that thousands of people took to the streets shows that there is a dangerous political vacuum in poverty stricken areas like the Shankill that needs to be filled by a genuine socialist party that brings workers together rather than deepening sectarian divisions.



PUP and UDP leaders (top): But have they broken with the UDA? (below)

The mask slips

MUINTIR na hEireann is a right wing fringe party which has been campaigning against divorce.

At a recent press conference they denounced two politicians in Dail Eireann, Mervyn Taylor and Alan Shatter for not being 'members of the majority religion'.

These bigots claimed that these politicians may 'not have a full understanding of Christian marriage.' It was a reference to the Jewish background of the TDs.

As they get more desperate, the mask of the bigots is starting to slip. They are not just fighting on divorce, or contraception or

abortion.

These people want to build a far right movement in Ireland that tells people to respect their "betters". To do that they will try to stir up every possible prejudice.

Admirer

Already the leader of Muintir na hEireann, Richard Greene has described himself as 'an admirer of Le Pen', the French fascist.

The new chairperson of the No to Divorce Campaign is Rory O'Hanlon, a

former High Court judge. He recently argued that parliament had no right to go 'against the law of God'.

This is why it is so important that they are stopped. A powerful YES vote will rock these bigots to their foundations and show that they belong to the Ireland of the 1950s.

It will destroy their confidence and help to break up the little right wing conspiracies that have gone to the very heart of the Irish state since it was founded.

Up to now the Bishops have been hiding behind their fanatical foot-soldiers.

They are so discredited by the child abuse scandals, that they decided to delay their statement on di-

vorce.

But in the last month of the campaign they will use every pulpit in the country to hammer home their anti-divorce message.

They will hope to take revenge for the recent revelations.

Hospitals

But the Bishops can be beaten this time. Every socialist should be campaigning actively for this mild piece of legislation on divorce.

If we succeed it will open up new questions: like why do the Bishops control our schools and hospitals or why is taxpayers money being used to fund religious

chaplains in our community schools?

The main obstacle in the way of divorce is the cowardice of Labour and Democratic Left.

They have accepted the four-year restriction claiming that 'quicker divorce' would scare off the electorate.

But hundreds of people have signed *Socialist Worker* petitions supporting the Yes campaign but opposing the four year waiting period.

It proves there is a large pool of people to the left of Labour and Democratic Left.

We urge those people to become part of a real socialist alternative.

Marxism



30 meetings
Highlights
includes:

A weekend of political meetings organised by the Socialist Workers Party

FRIDAY NIGHT:

- ★ The case for revolution, Eamonn McCann & Chris Bambery
- ★ Fifty years of Animal Farm—The politics of George Orwell
- ★ The myth of Michael Collins

SATURDAY MORNING:

- ★ World War 2: Was it a war for democracy?
- ★ Whatever happened to women's liberation?

SATURDAY AFTERNOON:

- ★ Prof. Brian Manning on Cromwell
- ★ The Politics of the famine
- ★ Debate with Sinn Fein on Where's the peace process going?
- ★ Can Green-peace save the planet?

November 24, 25, 26, Ormond Multi-Media Centre, Ormond Quay, Dublin
With over 30 meetings, here are some of the highlights

SATURDAY EVENING:

- ★ Forum: Is art political?
- ★ 1936: The Spanish Civil War

SUNDAY MORNING:

- ★ Church and state in Ireland;
- ★ Darwin and human origins
- ★ Forum on drugs with Dr Paul O'Mahony and Mary Smith

Get the full programme

'Marxism 95 arms you with the ideas to fight back and is a must for everyone who wants to see a better world'—Bernadette, Dublin

SUNDAY AFTERNOON:

- ★ The Black Panthers with Nicky Johnson (black British socialist);
- ★ Freud, madness and civilisation
- ★ Final Rally: Building the socialist alternative with Kieran Allen and Jim Larmour

Please send me full details of Marxism 95

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Post to Marxism 95, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Tel: (01) 872 2682

RUC MOUNTS DERRY SHOW TRIAL

Defend the right to protest

IN A blatantly political prosecution, 31 people have been charged with offences ranging from riotous behaviour to assaulting police officers during John Major's visit to Derry last April.

The charges could carry prison sentences for many of those involved.

During Major's visit, republicans staged a protest calling for all-party talks while SWP members protested at Tory attacks on the NHS. A peaceful sit-down protest was organised.

The RUC attacked the demonstrators in an attempt to clear the streets before Major arrived.

One demonstrator told *Socialist Worker*, "They drove a cordon between us and started pushing us about. I saw this middle aged woman who was fairly well dressed get a full scale whack from the fist of an RUC officer".

Glory

Major cannot go anywhere on these islands without encountering demonstrations of people who are sick of the Tories.

But he had to come to Derry to bask in the glory of a peace he had done nothing to help.

The last thing Major wanted was television shots showing that he was as hated in the North as he is at home.

This is why the RUC attacked the demonstration.

Once again they proved that the right to peaceful, democratic protest is only available to some in the North.

Contrast

Only a handful of people were arrested on the day of Major's visit but in the weeks afterwards the sectarian nature of the RUC was shown when they arrested other protesters—all of whom just happened to be republicans.

This is in stark contrast to the treatment of Orange demonstrators who blocked all access to Larne harbour for 36 hours in July.

Not a single protester was arrested.

Or look at David Trimble and Ian Paisley. They led the Orange Order through Drumree to insist on parading through a Catholic area.

But for the RUC, this form of protest is perfectly acceptable.

The people facing this show trial are determined to fight it on political grounds.

One of the defendants told *Socialist Worker*, "We



RUC attack protesters last April

want to fight it as a political case... if they want a show trial, then that is what

they will get" Most of those charged have laid counter charges

against the RUC who can be easily identified through videos and still shots.

In a deliberate move to frighten people, the Crown has issued subpoenas for all photos and video footage.

But this isn't 1968 and the RUC and the Crown Prosecution Service cannot be allowed get away with such a blatantly political trial.

PROTEST AT THE SHOW TRIAL Monday 30th October 10 am Derry City Courthouse

Letters

Voice from Death Row

I AM on Death Row in Texas for a crime I did not commit.

The US legal system is racist. Not only are blacks disproportionately represented here but we also have the highest murder rate, infant mortality rate, poverty rate and incarceration rate.

No doubt this is being orchestrated by the capitalist infrastructure here in corporate "Amerikkka". I personally hate this racist atmosphere.

There is no easy solution to this problem but I know I want to fight this monster killing machine.

I think the struggle to eradicate capitalism and the death penalty must be waged at the same time.

Pawn

The death penalty is a political vehicle. It is a pawn used by politicians to win office using sensationalism to make people believe they are "tough on crime".

Crime is promoted by the system daily. Only a revolution by the oppressed classes will save the exploited and that is some 99.9 percent of the masses. Power to the people.

■BRIAN ROBERSON
You can write to Brian at Ellis No. One Unit, No 886, Huntsville, Texas 77343, USA.

■Petitions in defence of Brian can be obtained from *Socialist Worker*, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8

The Fianna Fail gang

ONCE AGAIN we have seen the cosy arrangements of Irish politicians and the rich in this country.

Forget about the General, the Monk and even Maradona, I present to you the godfathers of them all, the one and only Fianna Fail party, bastions of all that is good in Irish Society.

It has given us some notorious mobsters: Charlie "Gunrunner" Haughey, Bert "Passports for Sale" Reynolds, Dirty Larry "The Beef Baron" Goodman, and now new to the family, the Horgan Quay duo, Owen O'Callaghan and Dermot O'Leary, the jetsetters of the family.

But furthermore there is more, the inner family of this ruthless gang. Commonly known as the "Golden Circle", this motley crew of rich farmers and corrupt businessmen has been doing their hatchwork for years.

The Fianna Fail party have been ripping off the working class in this state for too long. It's about time we smashed the Godfathers, "Fianna Fail". Together we can crack it.

■JEFF ROBERTS, SOUTH LONDON

■GINO KENNY, NEILSTOWN

McDonald's on trial

In Britain there is an interesting libel trial going on which your readers might like to know about.

Helen Steel and Dave Morris handed out leaflets outside the McDonald's restaurants which exposed the goings on of the McNasty and McGreedy company.

Not only is this company renowned for its anti-union activities but the food is not particularly nutritious.

Their ranching activities in Latin America has led to the destruction of vast amounts of forests.

McDonald's were so incensed that they decided to have these two penniless campaigners up for a libel action.

Backfired

The whole thing has badly backfired.

The McLibel trial has been going on for 15 months and it has become obvious that it is the company which is

THE case is embarrassing the company

in the dock.

McDonald's have even withheld official court transcripts from the defendants unless they undertake not to circulate extracts from the transcripts to journalists.

If there is nothing to hide why try and gag



Helen and Davy?

Throughout the world there was recently a day of solidarity with McDonald workers to mark the anniversary of the death of Mark Hopkins who was electrocuted in a McDonald's store.

behind the headlines

The United Nations' bloody 50 year history

by KIERAN ALLEN

ONE hundred and fifty leaders gathered in New York to celebrate the 50th birthday of the United Nations. Among them was President Mary Robinson who praised the work of the UN and appealed for more resources to be given to it.

But the reality is that the United Nations has a bloody history where it has propped up the interests of the Big Powers.

Plans for setting up the UN was hatched in the midst of World War 2.

In 1942, the US Secretary of State, Hull said, "Leadership towards a system of international relationships in trade and other economic affairs will devolve largely onto the United States"

"We should assume this leadership and responsibility that goes with it, primarily for reasons of pure national self interest"

When the Allies met at Moscow in 1943, the US State Department revealed its plans for the United Nations.

They wanted an organisation that gave them the right to intervene militarily anywhere in the world.

The US was determined to break up the power of the old colonial empires.

It set up the UN as the organisation of the victors of World War 2.

The very structures of the UN, which still survive today, reflect the domination of the major imperialist powers.

Cynical

The five permanent members of the Security Council—the US, Britain, France, Russia and China—have a permanent veto over all decisions.

The choice of China as one of the 'great powers' was particularly cynical.

At the time China was run by the US puppet, Chiang Kai Shek and as one US official put it, "in any serious conflict of power with Russia, China would undoubtedly side with our side"

When Chiang Kai Shek was finally defeated by Mao's armies, he continued to hold his seat on the Security Council as Nationalist China, known as Taiwan.

Throughout its whole history the UN was used to enforce colonial rule throughout the world.

UN troops were sent into Egypt in 1956 when France, Britain and Israel invaded that country to stop Nasser nationalising the Suez canal.

In 1960, the UN intervened in the Congo.

The US wanted to stop Belgium taking control of the mineral rich Katanga province—but they also wanted to destroy the nationalist movement led by

Patrice Lumumba.

During the course of the civil war, Lumumba was kidnapped with UN connivance and murdered.

He was replaced by the pro-American Mobutu who ran the bloodiest regime in Africa for thirty years.

In 1990, the UN was used as the fig-leaf to fight the Gulf War.

All the resolutions that were passed condemning Israel's occupation of Arab lands were ignored.

Instead, when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, the power of Western imperialism was unleashed against him.

Hussein had originally been armed by the US and Britain—but now they were determined to make a lesson of him.

200,000 Iraqi troops were needlessly murdered as they retreated from Basra just to show the power of the Western forces.

Iraq itself was bombed to bits so that it came to resemble a country from the Middle Ages.

Even today, the UN is being used to torture the people of Iraq.

Resolution 687 imposes an embargo on the country which has forced food prices up.

A Harvard Study Team has estimated that as a result of the war and the subsequent sanctions, 170,000 Iraqi children died in 1991.

Everywhere it has intervened, the UN action has been coloured by racism and corruption.

Bombing

When the UN went into Somalia many people—including Irish development agencies—believed that they would sort out the terrible civil war in the country.

Instead, the US army razed parts of Mogadishu with a ferocious bombing campaign. Groups like Africa Rights revealed that Canadian troops tortured and murdered Somalis for racist reasons.

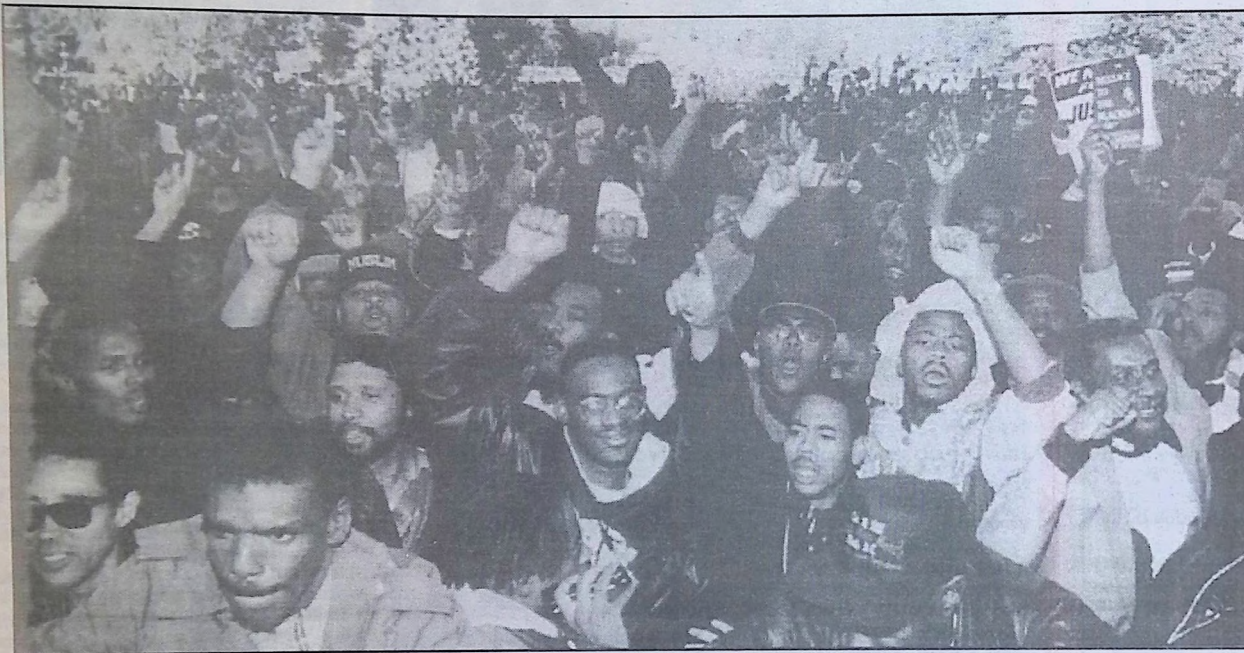
Today many people still talk as if the UN can be reformed and made more democratic.

But the reality is that it was set up to maintain the domination of imperialism.

In a world which is dominated by Western banks and Western armies, there is no possibility of equality and respect for national rights in an organisation like the UN.

MILLION MAN MARCH ON WASHINGTON

The bitterness US blacks feel



Hundreds of thousands of blacks rallied against the racism in US society. But does Farrakhan have the answer?

THE WORLD'S press condemned Monday's "Million Man March" on Washington as a triumph for race hatred. One newspaper branded it the "march of hate".

by **HASSAN MAHAMDALLIE**

They have scarcely paused to ask why tens of thousands of black people supported a march called by Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam.

In truth the marchers were responding to the racism that pervades American society.

In the US black people are twice as likely to be unemployed as whites and six times as likely to be murdered.

One in three black men in their twenties is either in jail or on probation.

While a middle class minority has seen its living standard rise, most blacks are worse off than 15 years ago.

In 1963 250,000 marched in Washington with civil rights leader Martin Luther King in an atmosphere of hope.

They were fighting to put an end to racial segregation.

Yet over 30 years later the British bosses' magazine the *Economist* talks of the resegregation of America.

Deliver

Many black people's hopes that the system could deliver some measure of liberation have been cruelly dashed.

Eleven years ago many thought that Jesse Jackson's campaign for President and the election of more black mayors would improve life in the ghettos.

But today inner city poverty has worsened, leading to an appalling toll of violence and drugs.

Part of the reason why people are attracted to Farrakhan's call is that the traditional civil rights groups have failed to tap into this rising bitterness.

The average income of members of civil rights organisation the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is \$50,000 dollars—way above what most people get.

So Farrakhan has been able to harness the feeling that something should be done about the appalling problems of the inner city life.

And the majority of blacks will be sick of the police racism exposed by the OJ Simpson case.

But the tragedy is that Farrakhan has little to say about this and other issues.

The idea of black men marching to show a positive

image strikes a real chord when more young black men are in prison than in college.

But Farrakhan's answer, that black men should take responsibility for the problems they suffer, lets the real criminals off the hook.

Right wing republicans like Newt Gingrich are tearing up the welfare system.

They blame unemployment and crime on a "dependency culture" and on black single parents.

Farrakhan talks of black pride.

But then when he says the answer is that blacks should pull themselves together and "sort out" their community he opens the door to Gingrich's scapegoating.

The march did not protest against attacks on equal opportunities or cuts in government programs for the poor.

Because Farrakhan doesn't challenge those who really hold power in the US he falls in to a hopeless strategy of attacking other oppressed groups.

His outbursts against Jews and gays have nothing to do with black liberation. Jews are not responsible for racism, indeed they are victims of anti-semitism.

To attack gays is to line up with the racist Christian Coalition as well.

Majority

Those who have turned to Farrakhan are rightly desperate for change.

The tragedy is that the Nation of Islam cannot deliver for the majority of blacks, impoverished by US capitalism.

Farrakhan calls for economic empowerment through setting up small businesses.

But economic power lies in the hands of major corporations like Ford, IBM and General Motors.

A movement which set out to reverse two decades of attacks by the rich and really fight racism would be a massive step forward.

Many of those who joined Monday's march would be open to building such a movement.

The tragedy is that Farrakhan won't mobilise the kind of fightback that could strike at the root of the racism and inequalities in US society.

What is the Nation of Islam?

■THE NATION of Islam was founded in 1930, it preached that those blacks who followed Islam would inherit the earth from decadent "white society".

■Its first leader, Elijah Mohammed, advocated the separation of black and white and the building up of black business.

■As the civil rights movement

grew in the southern states the Nation of Islam grew in the North. By the early 1960s it had 100,000 members

■The Nation of Islam's most famous leader is Malcolm X. He split from the Nation of Islam in 1964 over its inability and unwillingness to fight racism. Farrakhan condemned Malcolm's action.



Louis Farrakhan

■Malcolm X was assassinated in 1965. The Nation of Islam was then overtaken by more radical groups such as the Black Panthers.

■With the failure of the struggle of the 1960s and 1970s to deliver for anyone but the black middle class, the Nation of Islam has regained support.

international news

USA

BOEING GROUNDED

by **SAM ASHMAN**

SOME 32,000 workers at Boeing in the US, the world's largest aircraft manufacturer, went on all out strike against new contracts.

The action began at the start of October and affects over three states of the US.

The workers, members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), are saying no to new three year contracts that amount to an all out attack on job security, healthcare insurance and pay.

"This contract is an insult" one Boeing worker

told local reporters. "You can't let them push you around," said another. Workers voted to strike by almost four to one.

The action follows a week of plant protests and a spontaneous 2,000 strong march at the company's largest jet factory in Seattle.

Boeing bosses have cut the workforce by 16 per cent in the last two years. Now the union is demanding controls over the use of subcontractors.

Bosses also want to cut healthcare benefits and charge workers \$550 a year for health insurance.

And they want to replace pay rises with lump sum bonus payments for the first two years of the contract.

Boeing bosses say they have to cut \$600 million to "remain competitive".

But airplane orders are up, as are bonuses for management.

As a Boeing worker says, "We're working our butts off. These guys are in their offices, they're not building planes—and they're getting their million dollar bonuses."

LIBYA

Palestinians expelled

COLONEL Gadhafi of Libya has hit the headlines again—this time for expelling thousands of Palestinians from his country.

Libya has been subject to a US imposed embargo because of the Lockerbie airline bombing some years ago.

But many of the families of the victims believe that Western intelligence was deeply implicated. Certainly the bombing was used as a pretext to isolate Libya, which the US always regarded as a 'rogue state' that would not comply with its wishes.

Gadhafi's new move to

expel immigrants is a disgrace. He says that he is trying to expose the Israel-Palestinian peace accord and wants to put pressure on Arafat.

The reality is that he is trying to stir up racism to maintain his weakening power base. The Palestinians are being used as scapegoats for the economic ills of the country.

By his actions, Gadhafi has shown that he has no interest in really fighting imperialism. He is simply another tyrant who will use any means to hold onto power.

Where is Greenpeace going?

THE CAMPAIGN against nuclear testing in the South Pacific has put massive pressure on the French government.

But it has also led to a crisis in Greenpeace with the sacking of its nuclear disarmament co-ordinator, Thomas Schultz.

The organisation has, until now, been following a twin-track strategy of lobbying politicians and industry on the one hand, and carrying out dramatic stunts to win media attention on the other hand.

Up to now it has been very successful.

Greenpeace is the largest environmental movement with a membership of two million worldwide and a budget of approximately \$150 million—bigger than that of the UN Environmental Programme.

Green politics internationally are dominated by the "lobbyists"—sophisticated organisations whose chief executives are lawyers earning as much as their highly paid counterparts in industry and commerce.

In the words of one writer, a caucus of the Big 10 environmental leaders could be similar to a meeting of the World Bank, with a dozen or so men in smart business suits.

The Big 10 choose to work this way, feeling that they can be most effective and convincing when meeting bankers on their own terms and putting them at ease.

Align

Organisations like the World Wildlife Fund, for example, have begun to align themselves with the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, and have started to blame the poor for being the most direct threat to wildlife.

Not surprisingly

by
CATHERINE CURRAN

then the World Wildlife Fund received \$50,000 each from the Chevron and Exxon oil companies in 1991.

On the other hand, those environmentalist groups who have concentrated on violent disruption of the industrial processes have been marginalised or sidelined—although their confrontations have been at times spectacular.

Closed Down

Groups such as the Sea Shepherds which closed down the Icelandic Whaling industry one night in 1986 by blowing up two of its ships and destroying the refrigeration system of its whale processing plant are now very weak.

Greenpeace has always ruthlessly expelled those of its members who showed tendencies to go too far in this direction.

One such member Pete Watson, a former founder member of Greenpeace Canada was expelled for his radical tactics, commented:

"Pardon me for my old fashioned ways but I believe that respect for life takes precedence over respect for property which is used to take life."

It is clear that the present crisis within Greenpeace, which resulted in the sacking of Thomas Schultz is related to the contradictory strategies of the organisation.

Greenpeace sacked Schultz for allegedly talking to the media about the internal wrangle.

He spoke of a struggle between the "media types" and the "action types".

For the "media types" the success of the campaign depends on winning public opinion—and getting their lobbying power to influence conferences such as the Earth Summit.

The "media types" are also worried about the assets of the organisation, believed to be valued at several million pounds.

Impounded

This is why their "court martialled" the activists who let the MV Greenpeace be impounded by the French.

They think that too much radicalism could result in Greenpeace being excluded from organisations such as UN Conference on Environment and Development.

At the same time Greenpeace recognises that their attraction for thousands of young people lies in their confrontation with the forces of law and order.

They need confrontation but they don't want it to get out of hand.

Hence their recent announcement that their new members will be trained in the tactics of non-violent confrontation.

Overall though, the organisation is being pulled in the direction of "global environmental management".

This means working with industrialists and governments, not confronting them.

Unfortunately the message for many Greenpeace activists, is "not to go too far" in challenging the power of the world's multinationals.

The new tensions in Greenpeace show why it is necessary to bring environmental issues into the working class movement and build a force from below that will attack the multinationals who are destroying the planet.

Don't let the bishops

Divorcee civil rights

'Only five years for murder but I'm still imprisoned in a broken marriage 15 years later'

NED and Mary have been living together for several years now in their corporation flat in Rathmines.

Ned who works part-time as a docker in Dublin port has been legally separated from his wife for thirteen years.

They talked to *Socialist Worker* about how the ban on divorce has affected them.

"I actually separated from my

wife in 1977 but didn't get a legal separation until 1983. I want the right to remarry but am still not allowed after all those years. I would have been out after only five years for murder but I'm still imprisoned fifteen years later."

Ned and Mary also pointed out how the ban on divorce affected them financially.

"While I'm working and paying tax I'm treated as a single person but when it comes to the social welfare, we're treated as a

married couple. Mary can lose her medical card when I'm working even though legally I'm not obliged to pay for her medical."

Money

As Mary put it, "I exist for the social welfare but don't for the tax office. It actually saves them money that we live together but they won't give us the recognition."

When asked about the role of

the church Ned says angrily, "Don't mention them to me. Valera gave them the right to tell everyone how to behave but different when it comes to their own behaviour. It's a real case of 'don't do what I do—do what I say.'"

Himself a father, Ned also rejected the anti-divorce campaign claims that divorce would affect children. As far as he is concerned any affect on children is a result of the trauma of marital breakdown which is going to happen anyway.

"If someone walks away, they're going to walk away anyway."

He points, however, to the stigma that the church and society attaches to the children of second marriages.

"Children of second marriages

Study exposes divorce myths

A NEW study Marital Breakdown and Family Law in Ireland by Tony Fahey and Maureen Lyons explodes many of the myths peddled by the anti-divorce lobby.

The Anti-Divorce Campaign claim the Irish family is still based on the model of a male breadwinner, a stay at home mother and dependent children.

But huge numbers of married women are joining the workforce. Since 1987 there has been an increase of 40% in the number of married women in paid employment.

Conflict

Fahey and Lyons' study now shows that only one-fifth of all those who seek legal resolution of marital conflict conform to the traditional marriage based on a male breadwinner and a dependent housewife.

Two-income families and those with both partners unemployed make up the vast majority of people who want marriage conflict resolved.

The Anti-Divorce Campaign also pretend that separation and divorce bear heavily on women.

But Fahey and Lyons show that any money and worries women have are greatly outweighed by the suffering they endure in bad marriages.

The study found that 75% of the instigators of legal action on marriage are women.

The right wingers say that the

removal of the ban on divorce will cause an increase in marital breakdown.

But the Fahey and Lyons study shows that legally-registered breakdown rates in Ireland are already on a par with the low divorce countries of southern Europe.

In Ireland there are 0.95 mar-

riage breakdowns per every thousand people. But in Spain and Greece where there is already divorce, the marriage breakdown rate is lower at 0.6 per thousand.

The bigots claim that divorce is only a middle class issue.

But the new study shows that there is a two-tier system of family law in Ireland which operates

against the working class.

More than twice as many cases of marital conflict end in barring orders in the District Courts as end in legal separations.

Stop-gap

Protection and barring orders are crude stop-gap measures that

Build the Yes vote!

EVERY socialist should be out campaigning for a YES vote. If you want to help you can:

- Get copies of the *Socialist Worker* poster for your area.
- Order the our leaflets which argues clearly for divorce while pointing out that the government is wrong to restrict access.
- Join the canvass teams.

Every week SWP branches have organised to knock on doors in their areas to bring out the YES vote.

If you can help out, phone 872 2682.

Now is the time to break the power of the bishops in this country. Get active, get involved.



bring... But the... media... than t... regain... At... such... beyor... work... Thi... divor... There... tions... A B... ber 2... winni... But... for a... more... year... tion... Sh... Demc... allow... cide... mater... right... Un... fight... divor... efits... paid... ties, t... reap... chang... ■ blah... kjgla

shops run our lives...

ce is a

ight

the church Ned says angrily. "Don't mention them to me. De Valera gave them the right to tell everyone how to behave but it's different when it comes to their own behaviour. It's a real case of 'don't do what I do—do what I say.'"

Himself a father, Ned also rejected the anti-divorce campaign's claims that divorce would hurt children. As far as he is concerned any affect on children is a result of the trauma of marital breakdown which is going to happen anyway.

"If someone goes away, they're going to walk away."

He points, however, to the stigma that the church and society attaches to the children of second marriages.

"Children of second marriages

should be given recognition. Up until now they have been stigmatised—treated as bastards."

Opposed

Mary and Ned are also opposed to the government's plans to include a four year waiting period.

"It doesn't matter to me on a personal basis, I've been separated so long now. But a marriage could be broken down for quite a while before you even apply for a separation. That's what happened to me. And then you have to wait another four years. That's wrong."

Mary also rejects the argument that divorce undermines other marriages.

"That's nonsense, if you are secure in a relationship you won't want a divorce."



WE SAY

What is at stake

FOR DECADES, the Bishops of the Catholic Church held supreme power in Ireland.

Their authority in the church was hardly questioned.

This power was used to suffocate any voices that rose in protest—over women's rights, civil rights or workers rights.

And the authority of the church was, of course, beyond the law.

Now, that supreme authority is being challenged on every front.

Thousands of working class people feel outraged

at the hypocrisy of the bishops and their defenders.

The Bishops are on the run. But the servile attitude of the government—and of the Labour and DL TDs who are propping it up—could give them another chance.

Opt-Out

While prominent members of Fianna Fail, and also some Fine Gaelers, are openly campaigning against divorce, the left parties in the Dail refuses to attack them.

Paddy Cooney, former FG minister and MEP, has just joined the anti-divorce

campaign, claiming there was an opt-out clause for FG members who were conscientious objectors.

Left wing parties should be attacking this hypocrisy instead of trying to build a consensus with Fine Gael and Fianna Fail.

But they refuse to do this, because they too are afraid of the radical mood in Irish Society.

This situation will continue so long as the Labour Party and Democratic Left seek to find a place for themselves at the heart of Ireland's political establishment, instead of trying to get rid of that establishment altogether.

what do socialists say?

Workers and the sporting life

ALL AROUND the world hundreds of millions of working class people love sport.

This is because sport provides moments of drama, excitement and glory that are all too absent from most people's everyday lives.

In sport your team or your hero, even if they are not that great, gets to win far more often than you do in the course of the daily grind.

And in sport sometimes miracles happen and fairy tales come true.

Jesse Owens wins four gold medals at Hitler's Olympics.

Joe Louis knocks out Max Schmelling in round one.

A kid from the backstreets of Belfast—a George Best or an Alex Higgins becomes in their own way a great artist.

Of course the same thing happens in the movies but in the movies you know it is all fixed in the script.

In sport it is "real" and often hangs in the balance till the last ball of the last frame, or the last second of extra time.

For the fans on the terraces or watching at home the only drawback is that it is not actually happening to them.

But you get over that by identification with the team from your area, or the underdog or the outsider.

If this is true of many sports it is supremely true of football.

Football, at its most basic, can be played in any playground, on any waste ground or in any backstreet.

Even at professional level football is more closely linked to towns and to particular working class communities than any other game.

Supporting your team is a collective activity—you go to the match with your mates.

But of course this is only one side of sport. We live in a capitalist society which makes a business of everything from caring for the sick to painting pictures.

Look at the record: Maradona, Tyson, Best,



So sport is big business run by big bosses, and it is big politics too.

It is exploited and manipulated for money and prestige by multinational companies, media moguls, petty dictators and tyrants, old foggy aristocrats and right wing politicians the world over.

They are delighted to be able to take all that working class fervour and channel it in directions that are safe, profitable and nationalistic.

Yet still they fear it. That is why the world of sport is so hierarchical, so authoritarian, so dominated by officialdom and so totally undemocratic.

Look at the difference in attitude to fouls and violence in rugby and football. It is a class thing.

When the ex Glasgow Rangers, player Duncan Ferguson head butted a rival he got a three month prison sentence.

Yet when did you last see a rugby player brought before the courts for violence.

Rugby, except in Wales, is mainly a middle and upper class game and the sports bosses, like the courts, are instinctively more tolerant of the violence of their own class.

It is this class divide that makes the world of sport such a dangerous place for the working class kid who really makes it big as a superstar.

Look at the record: Maradona, Tyson, Best,

Higgins, Gascolgne, OJ Simpson, Barry McGuigan, Ben Johnson.

The apparent self-destruction of these sporting heroes is too regular to be chance.

Catapulted at an early age from the slum, the ghetto or the shanty town to extraordinary wealth and fame, they remain powerless, subordinate and expendable as far as the real rulers of sport and society are concerned.

Pressure

They are under intense pressure to succeed, from managers, coaches, press and public.

They are preyed on by crooks and opportunists of all kinds and vulnerable to drink, drugs, and gambling.

No wonder they often stumble and fall.

And when they do, the media which helped to build them turns on them unmercifully.

There is no establishment or old boys network to close ranks around them.

There is no state interest in covering up their misdeeds as there is with the crooked politician, judge or cop.

They are on their own. Only the fans are forgiving.

But the fans don't have the power.

Socialist sports followers will be keeping a watchful eye out for Gary Kelly.

by JOHN MOLYNEUX

OUT NOW!

THE CASE FOR SOCIALISM

The Politics of the SWP

The best beginner's guide in Ireland to all the basic ideas of Socialism—economics, history, oppression and the class struggle.

£2.00 plus 75p postage from Bookmarks, P.O. Box 1648 Dublin 8



bring repeated trips to the courts. But they are cheaper, more immediate and more accessible than the long and costly road to regain separation.

At £3,500 to £5,000 a time such permanent solutions are beyond the means of ordinary working people.

This is a powerful case for why divorce should be available to all. There should be no fuss, restrictions or huge financial costs.

A huge YES vote on November 24th will be a first step to winning this.

But the government's proposal for a four year wait is already more restrictive than the three year wait to get a legal separation.

Shamefully, Labour and Democratic Left have voted to allow upper class judges to decide if people have 'adequate material means' to be granted a right to re-marry.

Unless we organise now to fight for cheap and accessible divorce for everyone, decent benefits for lone parents, properly paid work and childcare facilities, the working class will not reap the full benefits of the change.

■ ESRI Report details blah blah blah nmkjgklsjdg jdkfj kjglds.

the working class... than twice as many... tal conflict end in heavy... in the District Court... legal separations.

Stop-gap... section and barring... side stop-gap measures.

note!

ist Worker... ORCE!

e... s... after... own... s...

TE FOR... ANGE!

EYES

EAST GERMANY 1953

When workers' power rocked the state

The demonstration was constantly being swollen by streams of workers, clerks, officials, passers-by.

A spontaneous and explosive unity of purpose had sprung up between the demonstrating workers and the population.

People shouted and waved encouragement from the windows of blocks of flat and officers. A great fraternisation began in the streets.

The building workers had thrown a spark into the mass. The spark burst into flames.

SIX YEARS ago governments across Eastern Europe were toppled by huge demonstrations.

Millions of people took to the streets. Protesters tore down the Berlin Wall that for so long symbolised both the division of Germany and the postwar division of Europe.

These revolts were hailed as mass demonstrations of "people's power". But they were not the first revolts against Stalinism.

In June 1953 thousands of East Germans took to the streets in opposition to the regime in a movement that developed into a full blown insurrection.

It was not a movement of "people's power", but of workers' power.

Workers paralysed East Germany with a general strike, demanded free elections, attacked Communist Party buildings and opened the gates of many prisons.

The East German revolt of 1953 is now almost entirely hidden from history but it was the first of a series of revolts that were to break the notion that the regimes in Eastern Europe were workers' states.

It was the first large scale workers' action in any of the countries which had come under Russian domination after the post-war carve up of Europe by the world's powers.

And the speed with which both the Russian and East German regimes suppressed the movement further nailed the lie that these states were socialist.

THE RISING came swiftly, after the death of Stalin in March 1953 had thrown the rulers of Russia and Eastern Europe into chaos.

Governments knew they were deeply unpopular. They knew reforms were necessary to make their long term survival viable.

But—as in the 1980s—divisions at the top over the speed and nature of reform provided an opening for the anger at the bottom of society.

The revolt began with a small protest of building workers in East Berlin. They were angry at a proposed increase in work norms—if they did not increase their output by 10 percent their wages would fall by a third.

Small groups of building workers held protest meetings. They decided to march to the government offices.

The following morning they assembled. Two groups of workers toured other building sites to call on workers to join the demonstration.

An East German left winger witnessed the early stages of the demonstration:



East Germany 1953, Hungary 1956, Czechoslovakia 1968, Russian tanks were used to smash workers' revolts

"I went to the window and saw how a small procession of building workers had formed behind a crudely painted banner. I read: 'Down with the ten percent rise in the norms.'

"It was a moving sight, for the small procession grew in a moment into a huge demonstration. They came running from all sides in their working clothes, attracted like iron filings to a magnet."

He later saw the demonstration in front of the city's university.

"It had grown mightily and, apart from building workers, many young people not wearing working clothes were to be seen in it."

"They shouted in chorus: 'We are workers and not slaves! Put an end to the extortionist norms. We want free elections!'"

Another eye witness described the march: "It was constantly being swollen by streams of workers, clerks, officials and passers-by."

"This was not the soulless order of the compulsory processions."

"A spontaneous and explosive unity of purpose had sprung up between the demonstrating workers and the population."

"People shouted and waved encouragement from the windows of blocks of flats and office buildings. A great fraternisation began in the streets."

"The building workers had thrown a spark into the mass. The spark burst into flames."

Workers were rising up against a "worker-peasant" state and demanding their rights while the bureaucrats who ruled in the name of Leninism and Marxism were quaking in their boots.

The workers marched to the government buildings and demanded the government come out to talk to them.

The party and state officials were com-

pletely overwhelmed.

The eye witness continued, "The worker government' hurriedly barricaded itself against the workers. The iron gates were locked against the demonstrators."

The government quickly announced the 10 percent wage norm was cancelled.

But it was not enough. Workers had moved into action and political demands grew: "We want free elections. We want freedom."

ONE WORKER outside the government buildings issued a call for a general strike and the workers marched away to spread the strike for the next day.

On 17 June East Berlin and the majority of the industrial cities of East Germany were paralysed.

More than 250 centres in the country were affected.

The East German president later admitted that 300,000 workers were involved in the strikes.

The main centres of the action were the older industrial areas that had been the "red" areas under the pre-war republic—Halle, Leipzig and Chemnitz.

These areas were again on strike as part of the metal workers' action in 1993 in what the media mistakenly claimed were the first strikes in Eastern Germany for 60 years.

In Berlin over 60,000 workers joined the strike.

Workers elected strike committees and organised demonstrations that demanded free elections and "more bread and meat".

Other sections of the population—young people and housewives—were pulled in be-

hind the workers.

Marchers attacked prisons, releasing the inmates, burned Communist Party buildings and in some places policemen were lynched.

THE EAST German regime was left without control of the factories or the streets.

Their only solution was to declare martial law. Some 25,000 Russian troops and 300 tanks were moved into Berlin.

Unarmed marchers were shot dead. Demonstrations were banned. Any group of more than three people was liable for arrest.

Workers' leaders were arrested. Workers fought back. The tanks were taken on by workers armed with nothing but bottles, crowbars and sticks.

But facing the ruling class's massive military superiority the rising was eventually crushed and its leaders imprisoned or executed.

No one knows how many people died in the repression. The East German government claimed 19, the West German government claimed 267.

Some 1,300 were brought to trial, four were sentenced to life imprisonment and six to death.

But weeks later there were still reports of sit down strikes in East Berlin demanding the release of the arrested leaders, higher wages and free elections.

East Germany's rulers attempted to claim the revolt was the work of "Western agents" who wanted the restoration of capitalism.

The West German government reinforced that idea by making 17 June a national holiday.

But throughout the rising the West German government advised people in the East to keep away from dangerous actions and posted extra border guards to prevent people from fleeing.

When Russian tanks began firing on unarmed workers, some strike leaders went to the British and American authorities to ask for support and aid. They were turned down.

THE RISING had nothing to do with a desire to bring back capitalism. It was a protest at the miserable living conditions people were forced to endure. Real wages were worth about half their 1936 value in 1953.

The rising of 1953 showed that workers had not been beaten into complete submission by the new regimes.

For many socialists it was the first evidence that socialism did not exist in the so called socialist bloc, to be backed up by events in Hungary three years later.

But the rising also showed the power of the working class to act as a force against the state—a power that is superior to "people's power" because, it not only frightens and breaks governments it is capable of replacing their rule with a completely different order.

That tradition of workers' resistance runs like a thread through the history of Eastern Europe—through to Hungary in 1956, Prague in 1968, the miners' strikes in the Ukraine or the metal workers' strikes a month ago.

Workers' action is not just a feature of the past, it is the key to building a genuinely free and equal socialist future.

Right and wrong on Darwin

PAUL O'BRIEN reviews Richard Dawkin's books on Evolution

RICHARD Dawkins was in Dublin recently to give a lecture to a full house at the RDS.

There is now huge interest in evolution and the origins of mankind.

Richard Dawkins has two classics to his name—*The Blind Watchmaker* and *The Selfish Gene*—which have sold hundreds of thousands in many languages.

Dawkins is a professor at Oxford University and has a talent for making technical and complex processes accessible to a wide audience.

His books are controversial. The theory of evolution and its crossover into an ideology about human nature has many political and social consequences.

When Darwin published his *Origins of the Species* in 1859 it was a huge step forward. Darwin showed that all species have tiny genetic variations. Evolution happens when those animals who are best adapted to their environment manage to survive.

The theory demolished the idea that God planned nature according to a certain plan—like an expert watchmaker. It showed that nature could be studied in its own right without any recourse to spiritual intervention to explain what was happening.

Seized

But after his death, these ideas were seized upon by Social Darwinists like Henry Spencer to justify the existing order. Those who got to the top of society were simply those who had won in the contest of "the survival of the fittest".

Later the Eugenics movement used the same argument to justify racism on the basis of "genetic superiority".

All this ignored the fact that human society was shaped by far wider forces than mere biology. How we organised production, the type of class conflict, the nature of political debate became the decisive issues.

In the 1980s, as the right wing needed new ideas to support their privileges they invented the theory of socio-biology.

They again claimed that natural selection led to particular characteristics in individual human beings and that these characteristics were responsible for the form of modern society.

If three million years of evolution have made us what we are, do we really think that a hundred days of revolution could

change us?

For the socio-biologists we are unfree because there are genes for specific behaviours which constrain our lives and abilities.

But this again misses the essential difference between human biology and other organisms. Our brains and our hands have made us independent of many features of the external world.

Humans, for example, can conquer diseases like cholera, so survival is no longer a question of random variation of genes. The real issues are now about wealth and resources—do people in Latin America pay off huge debts to the IMF or do they create a proper health service?

Our biology has made us into creatures which are constantly changing and recreating our environment. In reality our biology has given us the possibility of freedom.

Richard Dawkins is brilliant at giving a clear explanation of how Darwin's theory applies to nature. But his theories also make massive concessions to the socio-biologists.

Sometimes he fights against the right wing arguments—but his own theories show no understanding of the social world.

So he claims that human intelligence is mainly shaped by our genes.

But he never even considers that intelligence is not a thing which can be measured. In different contexts, human beings show different abilities.

Decide

Some can fix cars, others can write music, still others can write philosophy.

How do you decide which is 'intelligence' and how could there possibly be a 'car-fixing' gene?

Even the briefest examination of the education system will show that what class you belong to will affect how you get to use your talents.

Otherwise how could the Provost of Trinity College reveal some years ago that there were only three students from unskilled manual working class backgrounds attending his august institution?

Dawkins books, popular as they are, won't do because they leave out the central dynamic of human society—that we have the ability to change the world and in the process change ourselves.

FILM: Workers' revolution could have beaten fascism

ROISIN CRONIN reviews Ken Loach's film about the Spanish Civil War, 'Land and Freedom'

LAND and Freedom is Ken Loach's latest film. It tells the story of an unemployed man from Liverpool who goes to fight fascism in the Spanish Civil War.

Through his story, Loach shows that for many people in Spain the war was about smashing the old order and creating a totally different society.

Like all his films, *Land and Freedom* is a real alternative to the Hollywood blockbuster movies.

Throughout his career Ken Loach has tackled many issues, ranging from homelessness in his 1966 film *Cathy Come Home* to last year's *Ladybird, Ladybird* which dealt with domestic violence and the attitude of social services to working class people.

He has consistently dealt with controversial or unpopular issues.

In 1990 when *Hidden Agenda*, which showed the British army's shoot-to-kill policy in the North, was showing at Cannes, a delegation of British journalists attempted to have it withdrawn as an official British entry.

Earlier in the year he directed a video urging the British Labour Party to retain

Clause Four and their commitment to common ownership.

Power

Loach wanted to make a film about the Spanish Civil War because he sees it as one of the most important stories of the twentieth century.

"The Spanish revolution was about ordinary people taking power, taking control of their lives," Loach says. "There was a strong revolu-

tionary consciousness, with workers taking over the land. In the countryside and the towns they celebrated athe-

ism". At the end of the film you are left with the idea that only a workers' revolution could have ultimately defeated fascism, and that it was within the

grasp of workers in Spain to do this.

Failure

Their failure to do so shouldn't be a cause for despair. Loach is very clear about this. "The Communist Party turned on others and didn't

help. In 1936, there was a real momentum for social change. There was hope and potential; suddenly, people could walk tall. Then it was stopped in its tracks."

As one of the revolutionaries in the film put it "Stalin wanted to appease the governments of France and England. But revolution is not respectable. If you are going to appease the bankers and the businessmen, you don't bring change".

It is a lesson that Gerry Adams might have a look at today, as he sets out to welcome Bill Clinton to this country in November.

All of Loach's films explore the brutality of the capitalist system. But he doesn't just leave it there.

Land and Freedom shows an alternative which is based on workers' collective action.

Reading on the Spanish Civil War

LOACH's film has opened a new interest in the events surrounding the fight against fascism in Spain.

Here is the *Socialist Worker* guide to the reading.

■ **Charlie Hore: *The Spanish Civil War*** is the best short introduction to the political conflicts, written by an SWP member in Britain. £2.50

■ **George Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia*** £7.50 tells of his experience as a POUM fighter. Has the best description of what

the revolution looked like in Barcelona.

■ **Felix Morrow: *Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Spain*** £13, is a brilliant contemporary account of the events written by one of Trotsky's supporters.

■ **Ronald Fraser: *Blood of Spain*** £15, is a fascinating oral history with people from both sides telling what motivated them.

■ **These books are available from SW Book service. Write to P.O. Box 1648 Dublin 8. Prices quoted include postage**

BOOK:

Thatcher's secret war against the coal miners

Richard Willmsen reviews 'The Enemy Within' by Michael Milne

WHEN Thatcher's government came to power, it set itself the task of getting rid of the most powerful trade union in the land.

With the stinging memory of their defeats by the miners in '72 and '74 fresh in the Tories' minds, Milne states, "The entire energy policy of the British Government from 1979 with the build up of gas and nuclear power at the expense of coal was to destroy forever the powerbase of the National Union of Mineworkers".

The Government's provocation of the NUM into the strike of 1984-5 was compared by one cabinet Minister to "rearming to face Hitler".

The Tories built up a large mobile police force and sent agent provocateurs into the NUM to destabilise it. They brought in a series of laws that would allow them to seize the funds of the union.

Still, they almost failed.



Thatcher admitted in 1993 how close she came to giving in during the miners strike. But the campaign against the NUM continued after the strike.

Admitted

In March 1990 Robert Maxwell's *Daily Mirror* and Central TV's *The Cook Report* alleged that Arthur Scargill and his deputy Peter Heathfield had used Libyan money, donated to help the miners, to pay off their own mortgages.

It was an entirely false story, that was made up by one Roger Windsor, Chief Executive of the NUM from 1983-89 and also the man paid £80,000 by the *Mirror* to make these allegations.

Milne unravels the saga of the strike and its aftermath by tracing the links between Windsor, Maxwell and Britain's secret services.

The person who coordinated M15's attempts to smash the strike and the 1990 smear campaign was Stella Rimmington, who was amply rewarded for her efforts with an appointment as Director General of M15 in 1991.

But Milne is also keen to point out the positive lessons of "the most important industrial dispute since the General Strike of 1926" and the ensuing events.

Despite the treachery of the Labour leadership and the TUC, they were kept going by the solidarity of a class in strug-

gle. It was the same people who cleared Scargill and built the massive demonstrations against the pit closures in 1992: a campaign so huge it forced the *Minor* to fete Scargill as a

working class hero.

In the end the Tories destroyed the mining industry—but the courage of the NUM remains an inspiration for the future.

Dubliners striking out

RITCHIE BROWN reviews Ronnie Drew's 'Dirty Rotten Shame' THE VOICE is instantly recognisable and unmistakable. At 61 Ronnie Drew is singing and sounding as well as he has ever done.

His latest recording, *Dirty Rotten Shame* is a solo album and his first without the Dubliners for many years. It sees him not just singing ballads but jazz and blues as well.

The songs are penned by such contemporary writers as Elvis Costello, Mark Knopfler, Shane McGowan, Christie Moore and Ry Cooder.

As one might expect from such names there is a fair amount of social commentary and outrage in the lyrics, from unemployment and dole queues to the "Eurozoo" and Sellafield.

There's also songs about the famine and emigration. The best song on the album is the Christie Moore penned "Viva la Quinte Brigada" a tribute to the Fifth International Brigade who fought Franco's fascists in the Spanish Civil War.

The song is also a scathing attack on the backing the Bishops gave to the Blueshirts at the time. It also coincides with Ken Loach's film "Land and Freedom" about the Spanish Civil War.

The one thing that must be said is that the songs lose some of their message because they lack the hard-edgedness and rawness of say early Dubliners or Pogues recordings.

However for Ronnie Drew to move away from his tried and trusted ballad style to jazz and blues was a courageous move and one on which he must be congratulated.



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

FOR REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be reformed out of existence. Parliament cannot be used to end the system.

The courts army and police are there to defend the interests of the capitalist class not to run society in a neutral fashion.

To destroy capitalism, workers need to smash the state and create a workers' state based on workers' councils.

FOR REAL SOCIALISM, EAST AND WEST

The SWP welcomed the break-up of the USSR and the end of the East European dictatorships. These states were not socialist but were run by a state-capitalist class.

We are against the domination of the globe by imperialist powers and we oppose their wars. We are for the right of all nations, East and West, to self-determination.

FOR AN END TO ALL OPPRESSION

We oppose all forms of oppression which divide and weaken the working class. We are for full social, economic and political equality for women.

We stand for: free contraception and free, legalised abortion and the right to divorce; the complete separation of church and state, an end to church control over schools and hospitals; an end to discrimination against gays and lesbians; an end to racism and anti-traveller bigotry.

We argue for working class unity in the fight against oppression.

FOR WORKERS' UNITY IN THE NORTH

Northern Ireland is a sectarian state, propped up by the British Army. Catholic workers are systematically discriminated against by the state. The division between Catholic and Protestant workers weakens the whole working class.

Workers' unity can only be won and maintained in a fight to smash both the Northern and Southern states.

We stand for the immediate withdrawal of British troops. Violence will only end when workers unite in the fight for a workers' republic.

FOR A FIGHTING TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

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

FOR A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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

news & reports—politics; the unions—

WORKERS ORGANISE IN BANGLADESH:

Fighting against child labour

HOW DID you first get involved in union activities?

NAZMA: When I was 15 years old, I became involved in my first organised labour action.

I was working at Comtrade Garments and like most factories in Bangladesh, Comtrade refused to pay us the legal minimum wage and provide us with basic facilities required by the law, like clean toilets and safe drinking water.

We organised a hunger strike. But the owners literally crushed us.

A gang of goons called 'mastans' in Bangladesh, beat us up.

Arrested

Following this assault, leaders of the workers were arrested for allegedly starting a civil disturbance.

Comtrade fired us all and closed the factory for a few months. The factory then reopened with new workers and some of us were rehired as these 'new workers'.

I became convinced that the only way the we would ever get a chance of achieving justice was to form a union of garment workers.

RECENTLY there has been a wave of strikes in Bangladesh. Was there not other unions you could have joined?

Nazma: In Bangladesh there are plenty of unions but most of them are simply labour fronts for the political parties.

The unions are used to provide workers to enlarge the crowds at rallies.

In the garment sector there are a few federations headed by "professional trade union leaders" who never worked a day in a garment factory.

They take money from the workers promising to help

NAZMA AKTER is Secretary of the Bangladesh Independent Garment Workers Union. She began working in the garment factories when she was 11. Recently, she visited

Ireland in the company of ROSALINE COSTA from the Commission of Justice and Peace to highlight the plight of child labour. Socialist Worker spoke to them.



them, then they take a larger sum from the employers and disappear.

In the Comtrade, we were taken advantage of by one such operator. We found out he had been paid off by the owners.

We founded the Bangladesh Independent Garment Workers Union in 1994 when delegates

Today 30% of workers in the garment industry are children. They are paid around \$7.50 dollars a month.

The conditions are terrible. In Bangladesh the employers lock the workers into the factories. This has often led to death by terrible fires. In 1990, 29 workers were killed this

In some factories the supervisors are brutes who beat and slap the children.

WHAT sort of companies gain from this super-exploitation? Would some of this produce find its way into shops throughout Europe?

Rosaline: The first thing you have to understand is that the garment industry is big business in Bangladesh.

The 2,140 factories which export garments are the leading source of foreign exchange.

Politicians

Many of the country's politicians are involved in the ownership of these factories. The Industry Minister has an interest in 24 factories. The Prime Minister's son owns 3 factories.

The government and the employers organisation, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers Export Association work very closely together.

The employers have a recognised association—but they will not let an independent union get registered.

WHAT sort of multi-national firms are in-

involved in the practice of Child labour?

Rosaline: Bangladesh garments are in high demand in the world market, particularly in America, Canada and the EU.

It is often hard to trace the destination of garments from an individual factory as they manufacture for big labels.

You can see Italian designers working in the same factories as young children aged 11.

Big American companies like Walmart buy up the products of child labour.

Other Asian multi-nationals are more directly involved. Companies like Dragon of Hong Kong or Match Manufacturing of India have a real stake in the system.

WHAT do you hope can be done about child labour?

Rosaline: There should be a world-wide boycott of garments made by children.

The owners should eventu-

ally be forced to carry a label 'child free production'.

Children in the garment industry are selling their sweat, blood, energy, time and every second of their valuable lives so that the owners and the government get a big profit. It has to be stopped.

Nazma: The Bangladesh Independent Garment Union is going to be a major force in Bangladesh.

If we continue our organising work, we expect to have most of the garment workforce of 1 million in our union.

Organise

This will make us the largest single union and the only union that has leaders who are workers, rather than professionals.

We believe this is the only way to ensure that the union remembers its mission, which is to help the workers.

I hope we can successfully work with other workers' organisations to address our mutual concerns and achieve justice for the workers of the world.

'Today 30% of workers in the garment industry are children. They are paid around \$7.50 dollars a month.'

from 425 factories attended, demonstrating that our comprehensive organising campaign was a success.

WHAT are conditions like for the children who work in the garment industry?

Rosaline: The garment industry started to take on children in great numbers after 1986.

They knew they were cheaper, more submissive and not likely to join trade unions.

way, 16 of them were children.

The children often start work at around 11. They can work from 8 am to 9 at night. The supervisors set them impossible targets and shamelessly exploit them when targets are not met. So they might be told to produce 300 pieces. If they do not reach the targets, they work in their own time.

There are no weekly holidays or sick pay schemes. Some children work seven days a week—others work at night and even sleep at the factories.

SWP branch meetings—all welcome

GO FOR GROWTH!

THE POLITICISED atmosphere created by the divorce referendum is creating major opportunities for socialists.

When the Socialist Workers Student Society set up a stall in Maynooth college, nearly 60 students decided to join up. Plans have now been laid for an active branch in the area that will take the divorce

campaign to the very heartland of the bishops.

The same political atmosphere is to be found in many colleges. In Queen's 20 people joined SWSS; in UCC 25; in Dublin City University 15.

In Belfast, the SWP has been on the streets campaigning against the closure of the Leisure Centres. A hastily organised protest by Leisure Centre workers saw nearly 100 people turn up to protest against the cuts.

Denounce

In Derry and Coleraine, SWP members in Magee and the National University of Ulster rushed out leaflets to denounce the ban on political activities in the colleges.

Throughout the South, SWP branches have been organising pro-divorce canvassing teams on a weekly basis in the housing es-

tates. The canvass is laying the basis for continuing sales of *Socialist Worker* in these areas.

In Cork, a short canvass saw 10 papers being sold and one person joined the

party.

The SWP are once again launching a major recruitment campaign.

Our weekly stalls in the city centres will become a focus for those who want to get

involved in socialist politics and fight the Bishops on divorce.

A meeting for new members is also being held in Dublin on November 4th. For details phone (01) 872 2682

BELFAST CENTRAL
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Penny Farthing Bar, Upper North Street

BELFAST SOUTH
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Queens Students Union.

CORK
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in An Spailpin Tanak opposite Beamish Brewery, South Main St.

DERRY
Meets every Tuesday in Badgers Bar at 8pm

BRAY
Meets every Thursday at 8pm Contact national address for details.

DUBLIN BLANCHARDSTOWN
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in the Blakestown Community Centre, Blakestown Way.

DUBLIN COOLOCK
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the Artane/Beaumont Family Recreation Centre, Kilmore Rd.

DUBLIN CLONDALKIN
Contact 872 2682 for details.

DUBLIN DRIMNAGH
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in the Bentley Pub, Drimnagh Road

DUBLIN FINGLAS
Meets every Thursday at 7.30pm in Rosehill Community Centre, beside Finglas Inn.

DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Conways, Parnell St.

DUBLIN RATHMINES
Meets every Wednesday at

★ There are *Socialist Worker* members in: **ENNISKILLEN; COLERAINE; LURGAN; CAVAN; DONEGAL; NAAS; LIMERICK; KILKENNY; DUNDALK; BRAY; ATHLONE; DROGHEDA.** If you would like to get in touch, contact our national office at (01) 872 2682, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8

8pm in O'Connells Pub, Richmond Street.

DUBLIN PEARSE ST/RINGSEND
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in Trinity Inn, Pearse St.

DUBLIN TALLAGHT
Meets every Wednesday at 8.00pm, Tallaght Welfare Society, Tallaght Village.

DUN LAOGHAIRE
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Smyths Pub.

GALWAY
Meets every Thursday at 7.30pm in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square—contact national address for details.

MAYNOOTH
Meets every Wednesday at 6 pm—contact national address for details.

NEWRY
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm—contact national address for venue.

WATERFORD
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in ATGWU Hall, Keyzer St.

JOIN THE SOCIALISTS

If you want to join *Socialist Worker*, fill in this form and send it to: PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Tel: (01) 872 2682

Name

Address.....

.....

Phone.....

send in your reports telephone: (01) 872 2682, fax: (01) 872 3838

Stop strikebreaking at Guinness

PICKETS are on, round-the-clock, at Guinness Brewery in Dublin. Over 100 craftworkers are now on strike for nearly two months because of the company's failure to pay increases due since 1987.

But strike-breaking at the brewery is rampant. Engineers and technicians, many of whom are non-union, are carrying out the work of the striking electricians and technicians.

And SIPTU officials inside the brewery have told the general operatives "to turn a blind eye" when these scabs are doing the work of the strikers.

One of the shop stewards told *Socialist Worker*:

"It's disgraceful that the company are using these scabs to try to break the strike."

"But we are determined and will go at it until it bites". Anne Speed, a member of Sinn Fein and a left winger, is the SIPTU official ultimately responsible for the conduct of SIPTU members.

At the very least she should be going over the head of the convenors to tell her members to respect basic trade union principles and not work equipment that has been mended by scabs.

In one incident a young fitter's helper who refused to

change a forklift wheel was threatened with the sack.

Refused

He still refused to carry out work which was proper to the strikers but under pressure from management and in the presence of his union official he was forced to work or lose

his job.

The key to winning the strike will be solidarity from inside.

Striking craftworkers must actively argue and win the support of their colleagues.

Craftworkers in Dublin Docks, Team Aer Lingus, Waterford Glass and many more industries are anxious to

show their support and solidarity.

Solidarity

Collections should be organised to build solidarity.

Two weeks ago the unions involved organised a day of mass picketing at the brewery. The company threatened them

with the 1990 Industrial Relations Act if mass picketing took place again.

But it was very effective and many delivery trucks refused to pass.

It should be repeated again—despite the law—as Guinness is facing its busiest time in the run up to Christmas.

CORK:

Blackmail at Leibert

AT THE start of October Leibert International came to the workforce at its Cork plant with a new package of working conditions.

The company said that if the plan was not adopted, they would pull out of Ireland.

Another Packard Electric seemed imminent.

One member of the SIPTU Union Committee described the package:

"Everything that we fought for over the years was brought up again as well as an attack on fundamental union rights and there was a no strike clause which would have effectively made us non-union."

"We gave away a lot for the sake of conciliation, but we'd rather have seen the factory close than give away the basics."

Other committee members added,

"We're only 132 jobs."

"But if we give in to this we'll be selling out the rights of hundreds of thousands of trade unionists."

So despite the threats from management, the workers at Leibert voted 2 to 1 to reject the plan.

Backed Down

But after more threats of closure, workers backed down further.

But as one committee member said "obviously we're not happy to concede anything but there is no comparison with the original plan."

"We have given away nothing fundamental."

A central figure in the Liebert operation was one Martin Walsh.

Previously the Personnel Manager at Irish Steel and Leibert, Walsh now works with the consultancy L F Buckley Association.

Many workers believe that Walsh was behind the attack on the union.

This is a view endorsed by a union activist at Irish Steel.

"Walsh and Buckley are the hatchet men of Munster. They have an agenda of using the threat of closure to do away with seniority and double-time."

"If you have any dealing with them, be on your guard. No matter how friendly they seem, they'll cut your throats."

The union at Leibert will now have to stand up vigorously to the management to show that no further concessions will be given.

U.T.A. DERRY:

Vote No to deal and Yes to strike

THE workforce at United Technologies Automotive (UTA) in Derry are being balloted again on a pay deal which includes the introduction of shifts.

The last pay deal ran out in June but management have been completely "intransigent" in refusing to negotiate any deal which does not include a commitment to working shifts.

Union officials have been acting as if there was no alternative but to accept the bosses blackmail.

The UTA bosses want to cut the premium rates they've had to pay the night shifts until now—about £50 per person per week.

The majority of the workforce at UTA take home less than £120 a week.

Back Pay

Management are saying that back pay due under new increases—which could mean £100 into the hand—will be paid only if

the deal is accepted now.

This is nonsense. Any deal will include back pay if the union stands firm. As one production worker told *Socialist Worker* "we might get £100 now, but we'll be stuck with shifts for the rest of our lives".

The only reason UTA is offering wage increases is because they were shaken by the level of anger in the factory earlier this year. They know the power the workforce has, if it chooses to use it.

The workers at UTA should vote

NO to the pay deal and YES to strike action.

This doesn't have to mean going outside the gate now, when things are slack, as the union officials say.

Strike action can wait until after Xmas when the Jaguar contract has begun, when production is up again.

Then the workforce would hold all the cards and UTA would be forced to give the 8% and back pay without cutting night workers' wages through the shift system.

TELECOM EIREANN:

Bosses' video bid to side step unions

TELECOM Eireann are trying to bypass the unions so they can push through major attacks on the workforce.

Many CWU members boycotted the recent company video which revealed plans to cut wages and introduce new work practices.

Since then the CWU has balloted its members for industrial action in protest at Telecom's management style.

High-paid managers told workers who attended the video that the company is considering a range of measures including:

■ Curtailing future wage increases.

They want to renege on the 2.5 per cent PCW increase due on 1st November.

■ Ending the company bonus scheme.

The company has used this scheme to push through flexibility and productivity over the past few years.

Now they want workers to accept further changes without any bonus.

■ Cuts in overtime and subsistence.

This would result in staff working outside their local areas and after normal hours without any extra payments.

Just like Aer Lingus and ESB, Telecom is bombarding its workers with images of unstoppable market forces which leave them with no choice but to accept 'change'.

Telecom boss Alfie Kane says the wage bill needs to be cut to help pay off the company's debt of £862 million.

He should start with his own fat salary which

amounted to £200,000 last year including bonuses.

But the workers are showing signs that they may resist the axe.

Response

The recent ballot was called in response to Telecom workers on the UK contract

being pushed around by management.

It also dealt with plans to cut staffing numbers in exchanges around the country.

The danger is that the union leaders will try to contain any action that is called.

Dave Begg of the CWU

and John O'Dowd of the CPSU have forged a cosy consensus with the company where they now favour a sale of up to 35 per cent of Telecom.

The workers will have to build links across the unions, and independently of the leaders, to make sure they win the battles ahead.

DUNNES STORES:

Management drag their feet

THE LABOUR Court has recommended that Dunnes Stores workers be given a 3% increase in pay under the PESP productivity clause.

This is the first bit of good news from Dunnes since the three week strike during the Summer.

But as one shop steward in the company told *Socialist Worker* "We should get the rise without any productivity. What more can we give them? We already gave them Sunday trading, 7pm and 9pm opening and lower rates of pay for packer and other grades. They are trying to draw our blood."

Meantime some of the main issues fought for during the strike are still left lying in limbo. Dunnes management are refusing to enter into talks on the tribunal basis recommended by the Court because they have failed to agree on the selection of a tribunal chairperson.

MANDATE the shop-workers union, have suggested several different industrial relations experts to act as chair while Dunnes are insisting on a business representative like Bernie Cahill.

Angry

Workers on the shop floor are angry with the slow pace of progress.

"We went out for fundamental change but we can't see it. We need more information and leadership from the union. In some shops the part-timers are only getting two days notice of their hours and the whole issue of full-time jobs is not sorted out".

Another giant supermarket chain Quinnsworth and Crazy Prices who have been waiting in the wings for the outcome of the Dunnes dispute have started to push their demands for Sunday trading.

They want the union to concede the same terms of time and a half and the rostering of Sunday work, similar to the Dunnes deal.

STUDENTS UNION ATTACKS FREE SPEECH

THE STUDENTS Union at the National University in Ulster are trying to bring in a new constitution which would ban all political societies from the Jordanstown, Magee and Coleraine colleges.

Few students know about the referendum and the union is hoping to get it passed on the nod with a low turn out of votes.

The new article they are planning to insert states that no club will be recognised if "it is affiliated to a political party or if its constitution contains political elements".

This means that campaign groups like the Anti-Nazi League or even Amnesty International could be banned.

This is relevant because

the Professor of Psychology in Coleraine, Richard Lynn, used his position to promote racist claims that black people were inferior to whites.

The same student union that stayed silent on this racism and even obstructed the ANL getting a room to organise against Lynn, now wants to ban all groups that have 'political elements'.

It is the worse attack on free speech that has ever been mounted in an Irish university.

Claimed

The Students Union officer, Martin Ferguson claimed the ban is necessary to stop sectarianism. But how can sectarianism be fought by censoring everybody?

It is pure hypocrisy. The Students Union is making no attempt to ban

groups like the Christian Union who have a definite right wing moral agenda.

Nor should they.

What the NUU needs is free speech—not the rotten political censorship that is promoted by this student union.

Northern students face greater poverty

AS THE new college term begins, Northern students find themselves living in conditions of deepening poverty.

The maintenance grant has been cut by a further 10 per cent taking it to a maximum of £1,885 per year, well below the government's official poverty line.

At the same time rents have gone up steeply.

The average rent in private accommodation has risen from £110 per month last year to £130—an increase of 18 per cent. Much of this accommodation has no heating.

Nor do student halls provide any relief. A single room in Queens Halls can cost from £1,054 to £1,728 annually, swallowing up most of the meagre grant.

However, it's not all hopeless. Brilliant rent strikes are now going on in Britain. Real resistance is also needed in Northern Ireland.

Socialist Worker

inside:

Defend the right to protest —page four

PROTEST AT THE SHOW TRIAL
Monday 30th October
10 am Derry City Courthouse

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

Belfast City Council plans new cuts:

SAVE OUR LEISURE CENTRES

BELFAST City Council have drawn up plans to decimate the cities leisure services.

They are also planning to throw 84 workers out of their jobs.

During the years of the Troubles, fully equipped Leisure Centres were built in many working class areas.

They are widely used by the communities and offered the unemployed, single parents and the elderly a social outlet.

Now the Unionist block on the Belfast City Council is planning to close down many of the centres.

They want only five centres to remain open.

The national Curriculum says that every child should be able to swim by the age of 11.

But now many of the swimming pools in the city could be closed.

Sacrifice

Just like the Tory government that they have helped in office, the Unionist councillors always look to the working class when it comes to demanding sacrifice.

They say that Belfast is broke and that there is no money in the kitty.

But it is a lie.

■ At a meeting in October, they decided to spend an extra £1 million in building the Laganside Conference

SAVE OUR LEISURE CENTRES
JOIN THE PROTESTS
Assemble at City Hall
on Monday November 13th
at 6pm

Centre.

This centre has already cost £29 million.

Grant

It is mainly designed for business events.

■ The Unionist majority also voted through a special grant of

£36,000 for a boat centre behind the Mayfield marina.

This has hardly been used since it was opened.

■ They are spending more money on an indoor tennis centre in the more affluent Ormeau

Park area.

■ And there is always plenty of money for junkets. Belfast City Councillors have enjoyed all expenses paid trips to the US, Canada and the Caribbean.

The Council claims that the centres are

hardly used during the day and that some can be kept open on reduced hours.

But this is another lie.

A survey in Whiterock has shown that 41% of the users come during the day.

Attack

This disgusting attack on both Catholic and Protestant areas must be resisted.

These councillors may be get the votes from working class people because we have been divided.

But now their true blue Tory colours are showing.

WORKERS ORGANISE

THE LEISURE centre workers have not taking these attacks lying down. For the last few weeks they have been meeting to draw up plans for protest.

During the last two council meetings, they have organised protests of nearly 100 strong.

Workers and their supporters have come from all over Belfast—from Whiterock and Ballysillan, from the Falls and the Shankill.

Now the shop stewards for the Leisure Centre workers are organising public meetings to galvanise more support in their areas.

They are planning a major demonstration outside City Hall on November 13th when the council is due to make a final decision on the matter.

It is a real sign of what politics can be like in the new era that has opened up after the ceasefire.

Instead of falling for the trap of just lobbying for 'their sides' centres, these workers have organised across sectarian lines because they know it is a class issue.