

# Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

Inside:

**Israel—The state that murders to survive**—CENTRE PAGES

## The real fraud—the rich fiddle £1.9 billion UNPAID TAXES WOULD GIVE EACH WORKER £20 A WEEK

THE MEDIA have been trying to whip up a hysteria about the amount of fraud committed by people on social welfare.

They have been ably assisted by former socialist Proinsias de Rossa, who is now Minister for Social Welfare.

But the real scandal is that the rich are refusing to pay their proper rates of tax.

According to the Revenue Commissioners there is £1.9 billion outstanding in uncollected taxes from the

big companies and self-employed.

The money they cannot collect would be enough to give every worker £20 a week extra for a year.

The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General says only £553 million of the £1.95 billion owed will actually be recovered.

### Paying less

And the rich are paying less than their share of taxes than they were five years ago.

Revenue say that compliance with

self assessment has fallen since 1991. Compliance by firms paying corporation tax fell from 82 per cent to 73 per cent over the period.

One overpaid cheat managed to fiddle a staggering £490,000 and get off scott free. The gardai delayed for months in pursuing the fraud and then the banks demanded that they be paid up before the taxes were handed over.

Unlike the unemployed or PAYE workers, the rich can afford to employ all manner of consultants and tax advisers to help them evade paying their share.

A few years ago top multinationals invented a major scam to take advantage of Ireland's low corporate tax.

Output in Irish based multinationals officially doubled between 1987 and 1993.

### Blame

But there was an amazing discrepancy between the output of Irish owned firms and multinationals based in Ireland.

In the top 10 Irish owned companies average output per worker in 1993

was £128,000 while the corresponding figure for the top 10 multinationals was £814,000 per worker.

The discrepancy arose because the multinationals had juggled their overall figures to make the output share of their Irish branches look bigger.

That way they gained from Ireland's low tax rates. Next time you hear de Rossa claim that social welfare recipients are to blame for Ireland's high tax rates, remember the behaviour of his rich friends that he is now protecting.

# Irish rich shelters Mexico's 'bloodsucker'

**EX-PRESIDENT of Mexico Carlos Salinas de Gortari is being wined and dined at expensive hotels by the Irish rich.**

He is a friend of ex-Fianna Fail Taoiseach Albert Reynolds and Charles Haughey.

But Salinas is hated by ordinary Mexicans. 50 million of whom live in poverty. Many of them wear t-shirts showing the ex-President's head stuck onto the body of a legendary blood-

sucking monster.

Amnesty International reported that in 1994, Salinas' last year in office, "Scores of prisoners of conscience, mostly indigenous peasants, were detained".

## Tortured

"Hundreds of people were tortured and ill-treated by the army and other security forces. Some detainees died as a result."

"At least 20 people 'disappeared' and the whereabouts of hundreds of people

who 'disappeared' in previous years remains unknown. Dozens of people were extra judicially executed by members of the security forces."

Amnesty reported torture techniques that included "beatings, near asphyxiation with plastic bags, forcing peppered water into the nose, electric shocks and burning".

Salinas sent in the police against the Petroleum Workers' Union and used the army against the Miners' and Metal workers' union in his early years in office.

His brother Raul Salinas is now in jail on charges of masterminding a politicians murder and a separate charge of 'inexplicable enrichment'.

## Revealed

Raul Salinas was put in charge of a semi-state company by his brother and was supposed to have an annual income of \$190,000 a year. The 'inexplicable enrichment' charge arose from the discovery that he had \$300 million in foreign bank ac-

counts.

A US banker under investigation has revealed Carlos Salinas involvement in the scandal. She testified that the President was given confidential documents about his brother's accounts in a limousine outside Citibank in New York.

The Irish rich are sheltering Salinas because he is part of their class.

We should show the same solidarity with Mexican workers by demanding this torturer and murderer be kicked out of Ireland.



Albert Reynolds

## No social progress for workers

IRISH workers saw virtually no social progress between 1977 and 1994, even though the economy grew by 80% over those 17 years. More elderly persons live in poverty now than in the mid-1980s.

New figures published by the Conference of Religious in Ireland give the lie to the idea that Ireland's booming economy brings better living standards to its workers.

CORI's researchers compared economic growth with 15 social indicators, including infant mortality, teenage suicide and pregnancy, poverty, real hourly wages and unemployment.

"The gap between poor people and the rest of society has widened dramatically," says CORI.

"Secretaries of government departments received an increase in take-home pay in the 1986-95 period of £447 a week while a single long-term unemployed person received an increase of £26 a week."

Teen suicide, unemployment, drug and child abuse and social housing needs were all worse in 1994 than in 1977.

Poverty amongst the elderly has been on the rise again since 1984. "Drug usage and teen suicide reached their worst level in 1994."

# DEATH ON THE JOB

TWENTY EIGHT more workers died at their jobs last year compared to the year before.

According to the Health and Safety Authority 78 deaths were reported last year compared to 50 the year before.

The worst industries are farming, fishing and construction. In their rush for profits trawler owners have encouraged sailors to go to sea "not wearing life jackets, with inadequate communications equipment and in inclement weather".

In the building industry, bosses

are getting away without proper scaffolding and inadequate protection for trenches.

Ireland's record on health and safety at work is one of the worst in Europe.

Even the British Tory government managed to spend more on checking and enforcing safety rules than the Irish government.

Proportionately, Ireland only spends half as much on enforcing safety laws than Britain.

The judiciary has not done any favours towards improving safety and health in the workplace.



The worst industries are farming, fishing and construction

On the contrary, fines handed down under occupational

safety and health legislation are actually getting smaller, according to

Sylvester Cronin the SIPTU member on the Health and Safety Authority.

## 'High earners favoured' - Tax inspectors

LOW AND middle-income earners have been the losers in successive budgets over the past decade, a major report finds.

Tax inspector members of the union IMPACT say the wealthy have been the main winners.

### Favour

"Income tax changes over the last 10 years have been pro-investor, pro-business and in favour of the high-earner," says the study.

Seven new reliefs have been brought in to help the rich since 1985—but

the four reliefs most commonly claimed by workers have either been reduced or abolished.

This doesn't even include the massive amounts of money the rich can claim for under pro-business schemes such as urban renewal, share purchases and film investment.

The report also finds that since Labour and DL went into government, the trend hasn't changed one iota.

# Don't blame the kids!



**ELECTRONIC tagging of young offenders and a curfew on errant children—they're the crazy proposals being put around by the government on a way to stop juvenile crime.**

The government want courts to be allowed to confine young offenders in their homes from 6pm to 6am for maybe months!

But the real criminals are all the mainstream parties who really don't give a damn about the conditions in which young people have to live and grow-up in.

Not one of them are talking about putting more facilities into giving children a purpose in life.

When Minister Austin

Currie got details of his upcoming Children's Bill leaked to see what the response would be, the right-wing rabble were out like a shot to welcome the plans.

### Comment

The President of Dublin District Court, Judge Peter Smithwick, who isn't allowed to comment on proposed legislation, said the curfew plans were excellent.

George Maybury of the Association of Garda

Sergeants and Inspectors denied it would increase Garda harassment of youths in working class areas.

He says tagging may be necessary.

Some commentators have rightly described the ideas as mad.

John Donlon of *The Star* says working class parents find it hard enough to run their own lives much less act as jailers for their children.

Austin Currie's Bill should be thrown out the same way in which the Fine Gael TD was when he ran for the Presidency—he came last!

## inside the system

# Irish financial sharks centre

**JUST WHEN you thought it was safe to go back in the water, Dermot Desmond plans to build a monster aquarium near the Financial Services Centre in Dublin.**

Then gain there has always been something fishy about Desmond, ever since that business with Telecom's Ballsbridge site a few years

ago.

Now it appears that financial sharks will not be the only kind on view in the vicinity of the IFSC.

# Clubbing in China

Sharon Stone, Fergie, Kevin Costner and other rich people have recently paid out £13,000 each just to join the China Club of Beijing.

The club is near Tiananmen Square, where

thousands of students were murdered by government forces in 1989.

At present, the average Chinese salary is £800 - showing what the Chinese and Western rich think about workers and students.

## Crime-line punch-up

**FOR ALL Socialist Worker readers who hate the way crime is dressed up on RTEs "Crimeline" programme, read on.**

The programme (which is presented by Fianna Fail hopeful, the smarmy David Harvey) is causing hassle for our esteemed gardai.

While reconstructing the murder of a youth on Dublin's Westmoreland street late one night, a fight started across the road.

The gardai were called. But the first fight they saw when they screeched to a halt, was the Crimeline team acting out their own boxing match.

The Guards went in— heavyhanded of course — and onlookers were said to have a laugh watching garda supervisors fighting with real Guards.

Nobody was arrested.

## what we think

# Guilty parties who framed Colin Duffy are still free!

*"I am out of jail now after a long, long haul but I am still bitter and angry about being there at all"*

SO SAID Colin Duffy, who just had his conviction on a murder charge quashed. Colin had spent more than three years in prison after being deliberately framed by the RUC and a member of a loyalist paramilitary organisation, the UVF.

Colin Duffy was arrested in June 1983 after a former UDR sergeant, John Lyness, was shot dead. Before the murder, Colin had repeatedly harassed by the RUC after he appeared at a press conference to allege that they colluded in a loyalist assassination of his friend, Sam Marshall.

### Evidence

The evidence against Colin hinged on two key witnesses. One was a former member of the UDR, known as witness B, who claimed to have recognised Colin. This witness was driving at speed some distance away from the scene of the murder.

He claimed that he knew Colin



because he had searched his car two years beforehand!

The other witness, who was known only as witness C, turned out to be Lindsey Robb. Robb was later convicted of gunrunning for the UVF in the middle of their ceasefire last year.

He is an associate of the UVF

thug Billy Wright and was clearly involved in moves to break the loyalist ceasefire. After he helped to frame Colin Duffy, Robb was given £2,000 personal protection money and moved to Ayr in Scotland. It is believed that he finalised the arrangements for the arms ship-

ment from there. The whole case against Colin Duffy goes to the heart of the sectarian nature of the Orange state. The evidence against him was based on the RUC and the UVF co-operating against him. The judge who convicted him was Brian Kerr. He had also convicted the Ballymurphy Seven, a group of teenagers, of planning to murder a police officer.

### Campaign

That case was thrown out on appeal after a major public campaign was mounted to expose the miscarriage of justice. Northern Ireland's judiciary have always had a notorious sectarian record.

Despite the fact Colin Duffy spent three years of his life in jail, no police officer or judge will be convicted of framing him.

There will not even be an inquiry into what went wrong. Locking up republicans and vilifying their name is regarded as fair game in Northern Ireland. Key elements of the British state are only annoyed because they got caught. Next time you hear Trimble or Major preach about the need for de-commissioning, remember that these hypocrites give political support for the people who framed Colin Duffy.

**Don't let the ICTU sell another no strike deal**

The ICTU has voted by a margin of five to one to enter talks on a new programme of social partnership.

The media have given the impression that the big Yes vote means that another programme for wage restraint is inevitable. But it is one thing to enter talks - and quite another to agree to the results.

The programmes of social partnership have done considerable damage to the trade union movement. Wages have fallen far behind the growth in the economy and the bosses' profits. Between 1994 and 1996, for example, the economy grew by an average of 6.5% a year - whereas earnings only rose by 1.9%.

On top of that, social partnership has been used to strengthen the hand of the union bureaucracy over the rank and file. It wrapped the unions up in layers of 'procedure' and undermined the shop stewards who play less of a role because they cannot negotiate on wages.

The price for entering the first round of social partnership, the Programme for National Recovery, was that union leaders supported the Industrial Relations Act when it was introduced. This virtually outlaws most forms of spontaneous solidarity with strikes. Today the union leaders pretend they were not responsible for the Industrial Relations Act - but still they use its provisions to dampen down struggles.

The programme also directly ties the union leaders into supporting government policy. The ICTU, for example, has not condemned the attacks on social welfare recipients - because it is going along with the idea of getting tax cuts. They know that instead of taking more taxes off the rich, the Coalition want to stick the boot into the poor.

But the union leaders will not have it all their own way when it comes to marching us into another programme. Conditions are less favourable for a new agreement than at any time for the last nine years. Firstly, 1997 is the benchmark year where countries have to meet the criterion for entering the European Monetary Union. This means that the Coalition will be anxious to keep wages as low as possible. This is one reason why they are already talking so much about tax cuts instead.

Second, the mini-boom in the Irish economy means that workers have grown in confidence. The rank and file of key unions like the teachers, the nurses and the civil servants have still not agreed to miserable settlements under the last Programme for Competitiveness and Work. The more they keep fighting, the more difficult it will be for the union leaders to stitch up a new deal. Union leaders try to use the lack of confidence amongst workers to claim that social partnership is the only realistic way forward.

But the more that strikes like those in Wellman and Royal Dublin show that they can get results, the harder it will be to lock us into another agreements that gives up our right to strike.

## The Employment Equality Bill means...

# Legalised Discrimination

OVER 150 teachers turned up to a public meeting in Dublin recently to protest at moves that would make discrimination in schools legal. The meeting was organised jointly by the Campaign to Separate Church and State and Teachers for Pluralism.

The teachers are protesting about two pieces of legislation that are sponsored by Labour Party Ministers

Mervyn Taylor's Employment Equality Bill is supposed to outlaw discrimination on the grounds of religious belief. But one clause in the Bill exempts schools and hospitals from its provision.

### Sack

This clause allows the Bishops to sack teachers or nurses if, in the official words of the Bill,

*"discrimination is essential for the maintenance of the religious ethos of the institution".*

This clause also gives the church power to sack people if it is:

*"reasonable in order to avoid offending the religious sensitivities of its members or clients".*

This means makes it perfectly legitimate to sack teachers like Eileen Flynn who lost her jobs after she became pregnant with a man to whom she was not married.

The church can now simply claim that any teacher who is a single parent or gay 'offends' the religious sensitivities' of a few bigots they care to produce.

### Leaked

As if this were not bad enough, the leaked versions of Niamh Breatnach's Education Boards and Board of Managements Bill indicate that the Church will now legally get a veto over appoint-

ing teachers.

If they do not adhere to the doctrines of the Catholic Church, teachers who have been trained at the expense of the state can be banned from 90% of the country's primary schools.

### Process

At a time when the government is waxing lyrical about the peace process in Ireland, these proposed laws could stop a Protestant being employed in a Catholic school or vice versa.

The Coalition are hoping to railroad this disgusting measure through because they know that teachers feel vulnerable if they speak out.

### Meeting

One teacher at the Dublin public meeting, for example, explained that she was not a Catholic but could not be open about it in her school. She also had to contend with her children

going to a Catholic school, because there were no choices in her area.

However, this level of vulnerability can be overcome if teachers get organised.

A recent survey of the members of the Irish National Teachers Organisation showed that 66% of teachers were unhappy with being forced to teach religion in schools.

### Resolutions

Over the coming weeks resolutions need to be raised in nurses and teachers union branch meetings to commit their organisation to opposing these sectarian measures and to defending anyone victimised by them. Those who thought that the fight to separate church and state ended with the divorce referendum have got it so wrong. The fight is only starting to re-take our school and hospitals from those who want the right to discriminate.

*"Discrimination is essential for the maintenance of the religious ethos of the institution"*

## Is the growth in sectarianism unstoppable?

**THERE HAS** been a frightening increase in sectarianism in the North.

The Housing Executive reports over 200 families, mainly Catholic, have been intimidated out of their homes since July.

Catholic churches in Ballymena are blockaded by loyalists led by Ian Paisley Jnr.

A Church of Ireland church in the Bogside, which had been slightly damaged some weeks previously, was badly burnt and sectarian slogans daubed on the walls.

Amongst some commentators there is feeling of fatalism about the growth in sectarianism. But there is nothing inevitable about it. Rather, it is the handiwork of Unionist politicians who set out over the summer to stir up anti-Catholic bigotry.

Some Catholics mainly in border areas, have responded by boycotting Protestant businesses. There are those who argue that the boycotts should not be opposed as long as the targets are known Orange Order leaders and remain nonviolent.

However, in reality these boycotts easily extend into a campaign against all Protestant businesses. They give the impression that there is a united community of Catholics. Yet a Catholic boss who pays £1.50 an hour in their shop should have no call on the loyalty of thousands of Catholic workers who suffer from these poverty wages.

**Socialists opposed the call for a boycott because it helps to deepen divisions in the working class cannot in any way advance the interests of any section of workers.**

Fortunately the Sinn Fein have now issued a statement voicing their 'total opposition' to the boycott. But originally some of their councillors in rural areas supported the campaign of boycott and so helped to give it momentum.

Every political party in these islands accepts that the 'two communities' are separate, and ever so shall remain. It is also accepted that the leaders of the Orange Order speak for all Protestants.

However, many Protestants are shocked when they learn about the naked anti-Catholicism of the Order. They are disgusted when they see the declaration which each applicant to a Lodge has to sign.

The declaration reads, "I was born at .... in the County of .... of Protestant parents, was educated in the Protestant Faith and have never been in any way connected with the Church of Rome. My wife is a Protestant/I am unmarried....."

Many Protestants do not agree with this anti-catholic bigotry. They care far more about being able to live in peace with their Catholic neighbours than they do about re-enacting myths of superiority.

Similarly, revulsion against the arson attack on the Protestant Church was openly expressed by people in Catholic areas of Derry. Everyone condemned it and wanted to assure the congregation that the bigots who carried out the attack did not represent them.

With people being forced to choose 'one side or the other', it is amazing just how little sectarian violence—as opposed to nastiness—there has been.

**It is a testimony to the determination of the overwhelming majority of working class people, of all religions and none, not to join the bigots.**

This was evident when SWP members in Derry campaigned on the Waterside Clooney estate against loyalist intimidation which had forced Catholic families to leave the estate. Almost every house signed a petition condemning the intimidation, saying that Catholics are welcome on the estate and calling on trade unions to organise days of action to bring Protestant and Catholic workers together.

### Bigots

'It's about time someone did something' was the most common welcome from residents. Many said they were glad to be able to let their Catholic neighbours know they're not with the bigots.

It is this continued rejection of sectarianism by the majority of workers, despite the efforts of Trimble, Paisley and McCrea to whip up hatred, that prevents the North sinking back into war.

But if the sectarian moods are fragile, the mood for working class unity is by no means solid. The situation in the North is characterised by a sense of volatility. The key to changing the situation is struggle and socialist politics.

**And there's plenty to fight for—for a minimum wage and against the Job Seeker's Allowance for a start. The trade union action against sectarianism, for which the SWP has been campaigning, would also help counteract the bigots.**

However economic unity alone will not be enough to break the stranglehold of sectarianism. There can often be a gap between the trade union unity at the workplace and the sectarian pulls in local communities where bigots get a grip.

Here is where socialists have a major role to play. The stronger the organised network of socialists who put class before creed, the more lasting the unity of workers will be.

During Drumcree, we saw how organised the bigots are. Those who want to oppose the poison need to be organised too. That's why we urge anyone who wants to fight sectarianism to join the SWP.

—GORETTI HORGAN

## AS DE ROSSA BETRAYS HIS SUPPORTERS...

# Survey used to scapegoat the jobless

by **DAVE McDONAGH**

**PROINSIAS De Rossa seems so desperate to ditch his left wing image that he is launching a new campaign to harass the unemployed.**

Following media outrage over 'welfare fraud' photographs will appear on dole cards and there will be more visits to the homes of people on the dole.

The coalition also plans to tighten the criteria which determine if an unemployed person is 'genuinely seeking work'.

In many cases this will mean forcing people into low paid jobs.

Cases of welfare fraud—at present heard in the District Court—may in future be tried in the Circuit Court where fines of more than £1,000 can be handed down.

A survey by the Central Statistics Office is being used to back claims of massive dole fraud. But the survey only looked at a final sample of about 1,500—a tiny percentage of the live register.

Michael McDowell of the PD's seized on the fact that 679 people in the original sample did not live at the address given on the live register.

### Confirmed

But the CSO director Donal Garvey confirmed that the address of the person on the live register is the address that they gave when they first signed on.

He told reporters that, "In relation to people we couldn't find we can draw no specific conclusions at all".

Outrage also greeted the fact that almost one fifth of those surveyed said they did not want a job. But this does not necessarily mean they are committing fraud.

For example, 70,000 of the 100,000 women on the live register are legitimately registered though not classed as unemployed or 'seeking work'.

They include part time workers entitled to supplementary payments, as well as women splitting their husband's benefit or simply registering for credits.

Many more women are unemployed and actively seeking work but are not signing on because they would be excluded on the basis of their husband's income.



## Making 'welfare' a dirty word

**ATTACKS on welfare are being carried out by governments right around the world.**

The Tories are introducing a Job Seekers Allowance in Britain and the North to force people into low paid work.

Recently up to 10,000 people demonstrated in London demanding higher pensions.

Pensioners have been robbed of £10 billion since 1980 because pensions are linked to price rises and not earnings increases.

A single pensioner is now worse off by £21 a week in real terms while a married couple have lost £34 a week.

In the US, President Clinton axed £35 billion from welfare spending over the next six years, slashing welfare for 13 million people.

Governments in the EU are cutting public spending to qualify for the single currency. At a recent meeting in Dublin, EU min-

isters discussed putting sanctions on countries who failed to stick to spending limits.

Right wing economists are complaining about 'bloated' welfare budgets. Politicians have launched an ideological offensive against the welfare state.

But workers have not taken all of this lying down. Huge strikes have taken place in Italy, Germany and France against attempts to cut back on the welfare state.

### Notorious

US Republican Newt Gingrich, notorious for scapegoating the poor, became so unpopular that he was not allowed to speak at his Party's convention.

Millions of people realise that the welfare state is something worth defending. Most workers will need health care and other benefits at some point in their lives and all will need pensions.

In Ireland, the government is using the issue of welfare fraud to divide employed workers from the unemployed.

### Paying

They are creating a false picture of an unemployed 'underclass' who are ripping off PAYE workers.

**But most unemployed**

**people eventually find work where they end up paying tax themselves.**

And when factories like Semperit close down, the hundreds who are sacked face uncertain futures where welfare payments will be welcome.

It is true that PAYE workers pay huge taxes but this should be changed by taxing the rich instead of robbing the poor.

## Cheated by the system

**THERE IS** plenty of evidence of people who are cheated out of benefits, rather than the other way round.

The Ombudsman's report for last year cited the case of a woman who was refused deserted wife's benefit because her husband had only paid 155 social insurance contributions instead of the required 156.

### Intervened

**Only after the Ombudsman intervened was it agreed that she was entitled to the money under EU law since her husband had also paid social insurance in the UK.**

An 87 year old man discovered he should have been claiming a pension for his wife for 19 years but was denied the back money until the Ombudsman intervened.

It is estimated that less than half of low paid workers eligible for Family Income Supplement are actually claiming it.

The Department of Social Welfare has set aside £50 million for the FIS schemes but only spent 21.3 million in 1995.

Many people do not claim because of the complicated forms or because they are simply unaware of the scheme.

## Poverty is the real scandal

**JIM MITCHELL** of Fine Gael claims that welfare 'fraud' is 'worse than the beef scandal'!

But compared to Larry Goodman's millions, almost two thirds of those on the register get £60 to £80 a week while 80 per cent get less than £100 a week.

Even where people are claiming benefits and working, the idea that they are all living it up is a sick joke.

One man interviewed in the *Irish Times* said that by 'doing the double' for two years he got £64.50 per week from the dole and £75 from his teaching job—a total of £139.50 a week.

The man described how if he got a few days work his dole payments would be docked immediately even if he had to wait a month to be paid for the job.

In some cases people are so desperate that they think they are committing fraud when in fact they are not.

Social Welfare made a raid on a cleaning firm where several women used false names and addresses for fear their husband's allowances would be docked.

In fact they were earning less than the amount which would have led to this happening!

## international news

### AFGHANISTAN:

# Rebel forces capture Kabul

**KABUL, THE capital of Afghanistan, fell to the forces of the Taliban militia last week, giving it control of two thirds of the country.**

The first act of the new government was to announce the implementation of its own extremely reactionary interpretation of Islam.

This includes banning women from any employment, the enforcement of the full facial version of the veil, the chaderi, the stoning of those accused of adultery and the cutting off of the hands of alleged thieves.

This is the latest of the long series of tragedies to beset the Afghan people.

Throughout the last century the country was besieged by the rival forces of British and Russian Tsarist imperialism, suffering three British invasions as a result.

In the 1950s it became a plaything as the US and the Soviet Union each sought the favour of the Afghan king.

There was growing resentment at the country's backwardness among a section of its middle class, which formed a pro-Russian People's Democratic Party.

In 1978 a group of army officers staged a coup and put the party in power.

### Effect

It believed it could overcome the poverty of the country simply by pushing through changes from the top modelled on what Stalin had done in Russia.

In fact, the effect was to increase poverty in many parts of the country. That drove many of the poorest peasants to ally with their old landlords in rising against the regime in the name of Islam.

The regime responded with a wave of executions and repression.

Brezhnev's government sent Russian troops to seize control of Kabul in 1979 in an effort to maintain its influence.

The Russians were soon using exactly the same kind of repression the Americans had used previously in Vietnam.

The US saw its opportunity to intervene as a variety of Islamic resistance groups held the Russian troops down.

It worked with the Pakistani security service to provide Afghan rebels with Stinger missiles, and allowed the different groups to finance themselves through trading in drugs.

When the Russian troops left the country the war had created incredible suffering. There were four million Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

The US, which had made so much of the plight of Afghanistan while the Russians were there, now withdrew aid from the refugees.

The leaders of the different Islamic resistance groups had no policies to

as much as they had under the Russians.

The Taliban emerged as a new Islamic force in the south of the country.

### Monarchy

It was based on students from religious colleges which were financed by the

Saudi Arabian monarchy.

There are reports that the US government and the Pakistani intelligence service also backed it, seeing it as a counterweight to the Iranian forces operating in the west of the country.

But Taliban's success comes from popular disen-

chantment with the leaders who oppose it—the forces guarding Kabul melted away last week.

### Security

Tragically, the Taliban has no answer to the terrible crisis of the country ei-

ther.

It preaches a return to the Islamic "umma" or community which, it says, Mohammed established in the 7th century.

But driving women from their jobs, imposing the veil and cutting off the hands of people who are driven to

steal by poverty will not bring that about.

Nor will carrying through policies which suit the US and the Pakistani security service.

The fighting in Kabul may have ended for the time being. But the sorrow of the people of Afghanistan is far from finished.

### FRANCE:

# Le Pen's National Front are still a threat

**A SERIES of council by-elections last month underlined that France's Nazi National Front remains a serious threat.**

In the southern city of Toulon, where the mayor is a National Front member, the Nazis only narrowly failed to win.

In the nearby city of Nice a Nazi topped the poll in the first round of the election.

These results come after Nazi leader Jean-Marie Le Pen has thrust his party to the centre of political debate in France with a series of provocative statements and initiatives.

A fortnight ago Le Pen, who in the past has been careful to play down his Nazi face, publicly declared his racist beliefs.

"Yes, of course I believe in racial inequality," he told journalists. "Blacks and whites are unequal. It's a fact and quite obvious." The statement caused outrage. Even Tory president Jacques Chirac felt obliged to denounce Le Pen.

Le Pen's remarks were not an unguarded slip, but part of a quite deliberate strategy to transform his party.

The National Front has won considerable and growing electoral success in recent years.

### Harder

Le Pen got 15 percent of votes in last year's presidential elections and his party took control of three town halls in the south of the country.

But there has been a big gap between that electoral support and the strength of the core Nazi organisation which has remained relatively weak and ideologically soft.

Le Pen has been working over the last months to build a much harder Nazi party.

He has been able to do so by taking advantage of the growing bitterness and polarisation in French society, sharply revealed in last December's mass strikes and demonstra-

tions.

After those strikes Le Pen's deputy, Bruno Megret, issued an important analysis aimed at National Front militants.

He argued that the National Front had to move from electoral support to build a mass party, ideologically harder and rooted in every locality.

That strategy has been single mindedly pursued by the Nazis in recent months, with a degree of real success.

They are much more rooted, with, as well as councillors in many areas, a string of new initiatives inside local housing associations, unemployed groups, small business

groups and police organisations.

### Racist

A few weeks ago Le Pen called on the party's young militants to prepare for a "revolution" as "the worm eaten structures of our system collapse".

He then led a several

thousand strong racist march through Marseilles after a young white boy was killed by a teenager whose parents had originally come from Morocco.

The Tory government has made it easier for him by using racism to try and divide workers.

Worryingly, Le Pen's increasingly hardline state-

ments have not seen his support decline.

An opinion poll last week showed 51 percent of people agreed with at least some of the National Front's ideas. But that it also revealed three in four people saw Le Pen as a racist and two in three saw the National Front as a danger to democracy.

## But the Nazis can be stopped



Workers taking action can undercut the Nazis

**LE PEN can be stopped. He is just one side of an increasingly polarised and volatile situation which also points in other directions.**

Only a few weeks ago the government's attack on immigrants provoked a huge wave of anti-racist protest.

The government's plans to impose more savage welfare cuts and job losses

are again stoking the flames of social revolt.

Union leaders have warned of strikes and demonstrations. Protests called so far have yet to take off, but they reveal simmering discontent which could easily erupt.

### Support

This Saturday a large demonstration in support of the

immigrants fighting the government's attacks is planned, and on Monday a national teachers' strike and protest against cuts is due.

There have been significant local demonstrations, and in a few cases even factory occupations, against job cuts.

But unless initiatives such as these are built on they can subside and that can allow the

initiative to pass to the right and Le Pen who will continue to try and build a harder mass Nazi party.

### Challenge

Unfortunately the major forces inside the working class show few signs of rising to the challenge.

Union leaders talk of possible strikes but do little to build

a fight.

Leaders of the Socialist [Labour] Party and the powerful Communist Party seem more interested in manoeuvres aimed at a possible pact in general elections in two years time than in mobilising now.

We must hope the mood from below can overcome such obstacles in coming months.

## RHODES: A story of racism

A MAJOR new BBC series, *Rhodes—a story of Africa*, sets out to tell the story of Cecil Rhodes a man once described as a 'colossus'.

Rhodes was a British imperialist who took over most of southern Africa and paved the way for the racist Apartheid system.

He arrived in South Africa in 1870 and went to Kimberley where diamonds had recently been discovered.

His wealth grew dramatically after he grabbed diamond rich land from a man called De Beers.

The De Beers mining company, which he then founded, is still one of the largest in the world.

Rhodes believed it was England's destiny to rule the world.

"I contend that we are the first race in the world and that the more of the world we inhabit the better it is for the human race", he once wrote.

In 1877 he argued that the British Empire should include all of Africa and South America, most of the Middle East, the islands of the Pacific, Malaya and the coasts of China and Japan.

He even wanted to take the United States back under British rule!

Rhodes believed that an empire was the only guarantee against revolution in Britain itself.

He calculated that the British market could only support six million workers.

"Colonial statesmen must acquire new lands to settle the surplus population and provide new markets", he argued.

### Mad

Rhodes seemed mad to many British politicians but his ideas fitted with the 'scramble for Africa' that began around 1880.

Rhodes's imperialism was wedded to the needs of De Beers and South African capitalism.

He recognised that the mine owners faced a shortage of black labour.

Rhodes once remarked, "I prefer land to niggers". But he realised he needed black workers to dig for diamonds and used brutal methods to get them.

The Africans' resistance was broken in a series of wars which drove them off their lands. The white government then imposed taxes and gave blacks no choice but to work in the mines.

Rhodes won the backing of the British to take over Bechuanaland part of which is modern Botswana. He then set his sights on Zambesia, a land inhabited by the Ndebele.

Rhodes had thousands of Ndebele tribe slaughtered in a one sided war and renamed the country Rhodesia after himself. It was almost the size of Europe.

Meanwhile in South Africa, Rhodes' company had moved into the goldfields of the Witwatersrand.

Rhodes supervised the setting up of the closed compound system, keeping miners in barbed wire guarded barracks.

He oversaw racist degradation which included locking workers in solitary confinement for days and giving them laxatives to prevent them concealing diamonds in their bodies.

### Ruthless

When he became Prime Minister of the Cape, Rhodes passed laws removing the vote from most Africans and restricting them to no more than ten acres of land.

These laws formed the model for Apartheid which was set up in South Africa in 1948.

The BBC series portrays the racism and the ruthless drive for profit that drove Rhodes.

But, if the first two episodes are anything to go by, the programme is also disgustingly sentimental about Rhodes 'the man'.

It took two actors to play the part of this colossus—Martin Shaw as the elder Rhodes and his son Joe as the younger man.

Joe Shaw's young Rhodes is a boyish Hugh Grant type who saves a black man from a flogging and tries to persuade the racists that they can benefit from treating blacks with respect.

The older Rhodes is corrupt but we still have to endure mawkish reminders of his 'human side'.

In the second episode he unselfishly nurses a dying friend rather than hunt for gold.

It remains to be seen whether the series sacrifices the real story of Rhodes the racist exploiter in favour of such sentimental gush.

■ Rhodes is on BBC1 on Sunday nights at 9pm approx.

—DAVE McDONAGH

# ISRAEL'S LATEST MASSACRE

# The state that

# to survive

ISRAELI troops have murdered scores of demonstrators and exchanged fire with Palestinian police in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza in late September.

Unarmed Palestinians, among them a 14 year old girl, were killed and many more shot as Israeli forces, declaring a state of emergency, moved to crush rioting and demonstrations.

The demonstrations followed a provocation by Israel in opening up of the northern section of the 2,200 year old Hasmonean tunnel in Jerusalem.

Arabs fear work on the tunnel threatens the al-Aqsa mosque—one of the most holy places in the Islamic world.

Tension had been rising since the election in Israel of prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his right-wing Likud party in May.

Netanyahu has halted the implementation of the peace agreement negotiated over the last three years following the Oslo accord between Yasser Arafat's PLO and the Israeli government.

The so-called "land-for-peace" deal allowed for limited self government for Palestinians in the small areas of the West Bank and Gaza—Arab land occupied by Israel since the 1967 war.

### Accords

The Oslo accords also promised that there would be no further Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and that Israeli troops would be replaced by a Palestinian police force.

This deal still leaves Israel dominating the area. It does nothing to address the poverty of the thousands of Palestinians in the overcrowded refugee camps of the area, driven from their homes by waves of Israeli expansion and war.

And the millions of Palestinians dispersed across the middle east since the creation of Israel in 1948 are also left out in the cold.

But even the small concessions agreed during the peace process have now been effectively repudiated by Netanyahu.

Talks with the PLO have been stalled for months, Israeli troops have not withdrawn from the cities of the West Bank; and new settlement construction was increased in August as a rush of Jewish settlers were introduced into the West Bank to colonise

## Israel: A racist state

THE ROOTS of the new wave of conflict stem from the racist nature of the Israeli state. The state of Israel was formed in 1948 on the principle that the Jews had all the rights and Arabs none.

With the backing of United States, at least a million Palestinians were "ethnically cleansed" from their homes and driven out to make way for the Jewish settlers.

On the night of 9 April 1948, for example, the Irgun—an Israeli irregular force—systematically massacred all 254 inhabitants, men, women and children, of the Arab village of Deir Yassin. Israel went to war every decade since to enlarge its territory—in 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982.

In the early years of Israel's existence, 80 per cent of its territory consisted of land abandoned by fleeing Arabs. Israel introduced land laws which confiscated former Arab land.

In July 1950 the Law of the Return was introduced allowing any Jew the automatic right to settle in Israel and gain citizenship.

On the other hand all of the Arabs driven from their homes into refugee camps by Israeli terrorism have to apply for naturalisation to return. This process requires them to swear an oath of loyalty to the State of Israel as a foreigner.

Acceptance of the application depends on the say so of the Israeli Minister of the Interior.

Only a tiny proportion of Palestinian Arabs now live in what is now Israel,

And less than half live in the Occupied Territories which voted for the Palestinian National Council. The majority are spread throughout the Arab countries of the region.

80 per cent of Arabs who live within Israel's borders have for years been subject to military administration. Army passes were required to travel even short distances. Special identity cards (marked with a 'B') are issued to Israel's Arabs.

Israel has resorted to massacre of Palestinian civilians repeatedly. For example, in September 1982 more than 1,000 Palestinian men, women and children were murdered by two fascist Lebanese militias, the Phalange and the "Army" of Major Haddad in two refugee camps, Chatila and Sabra in Beirut.

The Israeli army at that time occupied much of Lebanon and controlled the areas where the massacres took place, in full sight of their observation towers.

The fascist militias were armed, financed and advised by the Israeli government. The Israeli forces under Likud prime minister Menachem Begin had obviously deliberately slipped the leash on their fascist allies.

Begin himself was a leading member of the terrorist organisation the Irgun in the Arab-Israeli war of 1948, and was involved in the massacre at Deir Yassin.

the area.

Confiscation of Arab lands has been accelerated to provide for expanded settlements and the "safe" roads for the exclusive use of Jewish settlers.

And the repression of Palestinians has been progressively intensified.

The thousands of Palestinians who travel daily into Israel to work are routinely denied access.

### Bulldozed

In East Jerusalem Palestinians have seen a youth club and scores of homes bulldozed by the Israeli

army and residents' permits cancelled as Israel tightened its grips on Arab Jerusalem.

Even Yasser Arafat's helicopter has been refused flying permission between the Gaza and the West Bank for days and then further delayed in acts of petty vindictiveness.



■ Palestinian demonstrators

## Who are the PLO?

THE Palestine Liberation Organisation was formed to fight Israeli occupation of Arab lands and to create a Palestinian state.

Like many other national liberation movements it argues that all classes of Arabs can be allies for the liberation of Palestine.

In the sixties and seventies it conducted armed actions against Israel's allies. But after it found that this was an ineffective tactic, it drew closer to Arab governments in the middle east and worked through the United Nations.

In the 1980s the Intifada was launched. This was a spontaneous uprising of Palestinians designed to make the occupied areas ungovernable. Masses of young, poor, Palestinians fought courageously and finally forced the Israeli government to negotiate.

However, the PLO had no strategy to take the uprising forward.

Like other nationalist movements—from the ANC in South Africa to the Republicans in Ireland—it played down any talk of changing conditions for the mass of poor Arabs—this would threaten the interests of its rich and powerful allies.

### Allies

In the cities of Cairo, Damascus and Tehran huge numbers of workers toil in terrible conditions.

These are the real allies of the Palestinians.

It is by unlocking the revolutionary potential of the working class of the region, smashing the corrupt pro western governments of the middle east, that the strength to defeat Israel could be mobilised.

Because the PLO refused to do this, it was eventually forced to accept a lousy deal which placed it as a collaborator with Israel in the oppression of the mass of Palestinians.

## ARAFAT'S



**ASSASSACRE:**

by KEVIN WINGFIELD

# What murders

**VIVE**

**Why has the peace process failed?**



Palestinian demonstrators carried away one of their number shot by Israeli forces

## AFAT'S POLICE FORCE

THE PLO's police force consists of 35,000 men in eight different security organisations.

Until September's clashes, the Palestinian police were hated by the Palestinian population. They have a fierce reputation among the mass of Palestinians for brutality and corruption.

They had been set up under the Oslo accords to police the Arab areas. They are regarded and have always acted as a surrogate for the Israeli forces.

In September a police

chief crony of Arafat was suspended for organising a casino with an Israeli businessman in Jericho.

Another top cop in Gaza is accused of raping a 17 year old girl.

But their willingness to act as surrogates for Israeli troops in reigning in Palestinian anger has exposed them to mass hatred.

As one Palestinian remarked, "Instead of Israeli troops attacking us we have Arafat's police—only the uniforms have changed".

At least ten opponents of Arafat have died after be-

ing tortured in police custody.

Two months ago Palestinians took part in demonstrations which stoned the police throughout the West Bank cities. Police headquarters in Tulkarm were attacked and set ablaze by angry demonstrators.

When clashes erupted in September the PLO police were forced to respond. Despite their corruption, repression and history of collaboration some Palestinians may now hack them hoping they can fight back against Israeli guns.

**THE MIDDLE East Peace Process was an attempt to incorporate Yasser Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organisation into policing the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza.**

In return the Palestinian National Council would be given the powers of a municipal council over just 30 percent of the occupied territories while Israel still dominated.

The Palestinians are denied control over external security, foreign policy, borders, immigration, main roads, water or electricity.

For the desperately poor inhabitants of the camps it meant very little. The only chance of a job was to commute to Israel facing daily harassment at the hands of the Israeli army and police. For huge numbers there was no work.

Anger and resentment grew but the PLO fighters of the past were now policing the Palestinians.

### Desperate

More militant Islamic groups under the umbrella of Hamas grew as desperate young men volunteered.

The rise of Arab resistance to the PLO sell-out has encouraged those in Israel who favour a purely military solution—more war and more colonisation through settlements of Jewish extremists.

Israel now threatens to re-enter the areas it has withdrawn from to disarm the PLO police and place the whole area under military control.

Because it is founded on racism and conquest, Israel can maintain itself only with the arms supplied by US imperialism and with the coercion of those whose homes it has destroyed. It can therefore never live in peace with the Arabs.

Only a secular Palestine where Jew and Arab can live with equal rights can offer the prospect of long term peace.

## What do socialists say?

### Does Revolution lead to tyranny?

**WHEN Marxists criticise the parliamentary system and advocate revolution they are demanding not less but far more democracy.**

An obvious reply to this is that whatever Marxists many intend, history proves that whenever Marxists or revolutionaries of any kind take power, the result is always the abolition of democracy and the establishment of tyranny.

Clearly the most important test case for this claim is the Russian revolution and its degeneration into Stalinism.

But the argument can be extended back to Cromwell and the English revolution of the 17th century or to Robespierre and the Jacobins in the French revolution.

It can also be taken forward to the Chinese revolution, the Cuban revolution and various other Communist, Stalinist or nationalist regimes in eastern Europe and countries such as North Korea, Vietnam and Cambodia.

The idea of an iron historical law that all revolutions lead inevitably to dictatorship is easily refuted by citing examples that contradict it.

The American revolution of 1776 led to American capitalist democracy. The German revolution of 1918-19 overthrew the Kaiser and established the Democratic Republic of Weimar. The Portuguese revolution of 1974 ended 50 years of fascism and resulted also in bourgeois democracy.

And the popular revolt in eastern Europe in 1989 brought, in the main, major gains in political democracy.

As for the English and French revolutions, we should not be misled by popular historical images of Puritans closing down theatres and the guillotine descending on innocent necks.

These momentous struggles were enormous steps forward from a situation where there was previously no democracy of any kind.

Indeed, along with the American revolution, they were the key events that laid the foundation for, and gave birth to, the

whole idea of democracy in the modern world. If, at times, Cromwell and the Jacobins resorted to harsh and authoritarian methods this was for two reasons. First because, as in the case of any fundamental social revolution, they faced desperate and armed resistance from the old order (in the case of the Jacobins from the old order of all Europe which united in war against the revolution).

In such circumstances victory is impossible without stern and decisive methods—like cutting off kings' heads. The alternative to victory is the absolute certainty of counter-revolutionary dictatorship and mass slaughter of all those who have risen up.

Second, although the revolutions were made in the name of "the people", they brought to power a new ruling class—the capitalist bourgeoisie.

The revolutions involved an alliance between the lower orders of society (small traders, artisans, the urban and rural poor etc) and the rising bourgeoisie against the feudal monarchs and aristocrats.

There were from the outset conflicts of interest within these alliances.

As the revolutions developed, the representatives of the lower orders (the Levellers and Diggers in England) began to assert their demands.

Not surprisingly the bourgeoisie met them with repression.

This does not change the fact that in their overall historical impact—economically, socially and politically—these revolutions were immensely progressive.

When it comes to China, Cuba, and other so-called Communist revolutions of the post

war period, the key point is to understand these too were versions of bourgeois revolutions.

In eastern Europe "Communist" regimes were basically imposed from above by the Red Army. In China, Cuba and elsewhere, middle class leaderships came to power at the head of peasant armies.

What was missing in all these cases was the fundamental ingredient of socialist revolution and the cornerstone of Marxism—namely "the self emancipation of the working class".

In all these revolutions the working class remained passive or at best played a secondary role. Nowhere, apart from Russian in 1917, did the working class take power.

The fact that the new rulers called themselves Marxists and Communists signified not their allegiance to Marx or the 1917 revolution but to Stalinism and state capitalism—particularly as a model of economic development.

They became dictators because their goal was not socialism, which can only be achieved internationally, but national economic development in a hostile capitalist world from a base of poverty and low productivity.

Such development required forced accumulation of capital from the labour of impoverished workers and peasants. That in turn required dictatorship.

Thus when we examine the question historically we find that there is no law of history that all revolutions lead to tyranny. Where revolutions have led to tyranny it was due to their specific nature and circumstances.

Perhaps the most important conclusion is that these specific circumstances would not apply to a real workers' revolution in Britain or anywhere else today.

Due to industrial and economic advance the working class is now the main and indeed the only revolutionary force.

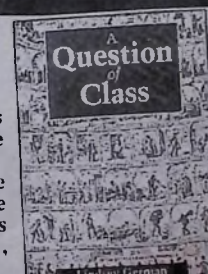
— JOHN MOLYNEUX

## A Question of Class

WE ARE told that class divisions are a thing of the past—that we are moving towards a "classless society".

This book demolishes the myths and shows that inequality and class divisions are as fundamental today as they have ever been.

Lindsey German is the editor of the monthly *Socialist Review* published by the Socialist Workers Party in Britain. She is also author of *Sex, Class and Socialism*, now in its second edition.



£3.50

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60 years after the Battle of Cable Street...

# How the fascists were beaten

by Roisin Cronin

**T**he Battle of Cable Street took place in London's East End on October 4, 1936. Sixty years on it provides an inspirational example of how the fascists can be beaten.

The British Union of Fascists (BUF), also known as the Blackshirts because of the uniform they wore, was launched by Sir Oswald Mosley, former Conservative and Labour MP, in 1932.

By 1934 the BUF claimed to have 40,000 members.

Its membership was initially overwhelmingly middle class. It also drew support from some sectors of big business, its most influential supporter being Lord Rothermere, owner of the Daily Mail.

That paper featured an editorial entitled "Hurrah for the Blackshirts". Another of Rothermere's newspapers, the *Sunday Dispatch*, gave a prize each week to people who wrote in on "Why I like the Blackshirts". Mosley also targeted friends of the future King Edward VIII for support.

On June 7 1934 Mosley's fascists staged a mass rally at London's Olympia. The Communist Party (CP), responding to pressure from members and supporters, called a counter-demonstration. The call for a mass rally was rejected by the leadership of the Labour Party and the London Trades Council, who wanted to avoid confrontation.

But in the event 2,000 people marched to Olympia where they chanted anti-fascist slogans and distributed anti-fascist literature.

**A**bout 400 anti-fascists went inside to disrupt the meeting. Once inside they were met with fierce brutality.

Spotlights were shone on them as black-shirted fascists dragged them out and beat them up.

Afterwards in a disgusting statement the Labour Party leadership said: "The Communists, by smashing the Blackshirt meetings, are, as usual, aiding the fascists, and getting public sympathy for them."

In fact, Olympia had revealed to many the true nature of the Blackshirts. In some ways it was a turning point - supporters like Lord Rothermere were becoming reluctant to be linked with the BUF because of the changing attitudes towards them.

But Mosley went ahead with organising a mass rally in Hyde Park on September 9.

By now a Coordinating Committee for Anti-Fascist Activity had been set up to involve non-Communists as well as Communists.

They called for the fascist rally to be "drowned in a sea of working class activity".

Once again the Labour leadership and the TUC General Council refused to back a counter-demonstration. They called on workers to buy-



■ Fascists smashing the windows of a Jewish tailor's shop in London's Mile End Road in the 1930s

cott any such protests which they said would "lead to widespread disorder".

But despite this a large number of trade union branches in London passed resolutions in support of the protest.

The counter-demonstration was a massive success. Between 100,000 and 150,000 people turned out to oppose Mosley's fascists.

One anti-fascist protester wrote, "I shall never forget my elation when the contingent of which I was a member wheeled into the park from the Bayswater Road. As we looked to the right...we could see nothing of the

ain.

Many of them had fled pogroms in Eastern Europe at the beginning of the century. More recent immigrants were refugees from Nazi Germany.

Mosley attempted to scapegoat Jews for the problems in the city, saying, "The big Jew puts you out of employment by the million, the little Jew sweats you in Whitechapel".

The Blackshirts held meetings in the East End and marched through mainly Jewish areas, shouting, "The Yids, the Yids, we gotta get rid of the Yids".

tion.

And again the Labour and trade union leaderships opposed this mobilisation of workers against the fascists. Fascism, they said, would be defeated by ignoring it.

The build up to the anti-fascist mobilisation was faced with the practical difficulty that the route of Mosley's march had not been announced.

There were three likely alternatives routes and each had to be covered by the anti-fascists.

The Communist Party's paper, the *Daily Worker*, produced a special

**The poor houses, the mean streets, the ill-conditioned workshops were the same, but the people were changed. Their heads seemed higher, and their shoulders were squarer - and the stories they told! Each one was a "hero" - many of them were... "The "terror" had lost its meaning. The people now knew that fascism could be defeated if they organised themselves to do so."**

open sword which was entirely covered by what looked like a solid band of people."

The couple of thousand Blackshirts were protected from the angry crowd by the police. Mosley's voice couldn't be heard above the shouting and jeering of the protesters.

With the BUF by now stripped of all respectability they had hoped to claim, their support was slipping.

They now turned to the East End of London for support.

The East End was an area of high unemployment and deep poverty. It was also the area which housed half the total Jewish population of Brit-

When the local Stepney branch of the CP attempted to heckle them at their meetings they generally found themselves arrested by the police.

Mosley announced a march for October 4 through East London.

The CP leadership was again reluctant to mobilise against it.

Taking their line from Stalin in Russia they were more interested in building a respectable Popular Front alliance with Tories, Liberals and clergymen.

But pressure from its members, including many in the Stepney branch, and the high level of anti-fascist feeling among so many workers in London, convinced them to call for ac-

four-page supplement with maps covering all contingencies. Cyclists and motorcyclists were recruited to carry messages about the route. Anti-fascist doctors and nurses set up first aid posts.

The meeting place for most anti-fascists was Gardner's Corner. But after early morning the crowds were so huge that they were spilling onto surrounding streets. An estimated 250,000 had come.

When the fascists arrived, numbering no more than 3,000, the police began trying to force clear the route for them. They were met with a crowd that solidly stood its ground, chanting "They shall not pass", echoing

the Spanish Republicans defending Madrid from Franco.

Several drivers abandoned their trams at Gardner's Corner to block the route.

The huge crowds and the new obstacles made it impossible for the fascists to get through.

The police now decided to try to get the march down Cable Street.

**B**ut this had been planned for. As soon as the signal was given barricades began to be erected.

Many of those involved were Irish dockers, as large numbers of them lived in or around Cable Street.

Phil Piratin, a Stepney communist, tells how a lorry was pushed on its side, "supplemented by bits of old furniture, mattresses...it was a barricade which the police did not find easy to penetrate."

As they charged they were met with milk bottles, stones and marbles. Some of the housewives began to drop milk bottles from the roof tops. A number of police surrendered.

When the police did manage to break through the barricade all they found were yet more barricades.

The police simply had to call off the march. The fascists were defeated. The *Daily Worker* proclaimed: "Mosley said he would march his militaristic columns through the East End of London. The police said yes; the Home Secretary said yes; the Cabinet said yes; but the workers said NO! And NO it was."

Phil Piratin explained what the victory meant:

"In Stepney nothing had changed physically. The poor houses, the mean streets, the ill-conditioned workshops were the same, but the people were changed.

"Their heads seemed higher, and their shoulders were squarer - and the stories they told! Each one was a "hero" - many of them were..."

"The "terror" had lost its meaning. The people now knew that fascism could be defeated if they organised themselves to do so."

Although the Blackshirts continued to try to mobilise over the following years, instead of their racist chants the slogan now heard on the streets of London was that of the anti-fascists - "The rats, the rats, we gotta get rid of the rats!"

The Communist Party played a huge role in this - not only in terms of organising mass action to smash the Nazis, but also by providing an alternative for working class people.

They organised rent strikes and blocked evictions. In the process they were able to win over supporters of Mosley.

The Battle of Cable Street, and the defeat of fascism in Britain in the 1930s, shines through in a decade when in Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain the fascists were coming to power.

**It shows that the most powerful force in the fight against fascism is the working class.**



TV

## The search for the promised land

The Promised Land is a five part documentary series which looks at the migration by black Americans from the Mississippi cotton belt for the north.

Between the 1940's and the 1970's five million blacks left the terrible conditions and degradation of the South, heading for the "promised land".

The first programme gave a picture of what life was like for blacks in the south in the thirties, through the voices and experiences and music of those who where part of this, America's largest peacetime migration.

Most blacks worked on the cotton plantations as share croppers. Instead of being paid a regular wage whole families would carry out the backbreaking work of picking cotton from sun up to sun down. At the end of the season they were supposed to receive a share of the profits of the plantation.

### Debt

But in fact most never received any money and spent their lives in debt to the plantation owners.

In one case the owner refused to pay out any money because he wanted the money to send his own son to college.

The plantation owners and the police collaborated to make sure no one was idle, especially at high season. The Vagrancy Act meant it was illegal for blacks to be out on the streets not working during the day.

But some people found a way to avoid this. One participant in the programme decided at seventeen that he had had enough

### Playing

He took his guitar, left the plantation and spent his days sleeping, coming out at night to play the blues in the juke houses of the area.

The 1930's saw a slump in the worlds market for cotton. As a result people moved from the plantations to the towns of the south

**The boxer Joe Louis was a symbol of resistance there was a black man who could legitimately take on a white man and win**

where segregation was more blatant.

The "Jim Crow" system of social segregation left little doubt about the place of Black Americans in the scheme of things.

Blacks weren't allowed to live in the same areas as whites; blacks had to sit at the back of the bus; in train stations blacks weren't even allowed the same drinking fountains as whites.

The programme also showed how blacks tried to fight against this, often in indirect ways.

For example in the thirties many blacks looked to the boxer Joe Louis as a symbol of resistance there was a black man who could legitimately take on a white man and win.

### Victories

His victories, in particular over Max Schelling who had been adopted by Hitler as a symbol of Aryan supremacy, was the occasion for much rejoicing.

They restored a pride and dignity to a people who suffered endless degradation and humiliation at the hands of their white bosses.

The first programme ended by looking north and the rest of the series will trace the attempts by blacks to escape the horrors of life in the south.

On the basis of the first programme the remainder of the series is not to be missed.

— Róisín Cronin

book

# Gloomy myths about the North

J BOWYER Bell's previous books include *The Secret Army*, a much-praised history of the IRA. But this book is a big disappointment.

Bowyer Bell has set out to give a popular presentation of "the Protestant case" in relation to the politics of Ireland.

For Bowyer Bell the sectarian divisions are a question of perception. Protestants, we are told, fear Catholicism as a threat to their way of life, their religious liberties, and even their 'prosperity'

### Agents

Seeing all Catholics as agents of Rome rule encourages Protestants to support a discriminatory and oppressive state.

Any compromise would concede ground to Catholics, weaken the union with Britain — the only guarantee of their liberties — and undermine the position of Protestants. "No Surrender" and "Ulster says



■ Orangemen besiege Drumcree this summer

No" — remains the catchcries for everything.

### Pessimistic

There is nothing particularly new in any of this except the "literary" style of the book which makes read-

ing it very hard going despite endless repetition.

And the book's conclusions are extremely pessimistic.

Bowyer Bell talks about Protestants as if they were all the same and therefore he completely misses three key points.

First "Protestants" are not a monolithic group. They are divided by class. There are rich Protestants — including the "fur-coat brigade" of Unionist politicians — living in the posh areas of Northern Ireland far away from the violence or the slums.

There are Protestant managers with enormous salaries in Hospital Trusts who prattle away about internal markets and privatisation and there are Protestant domestics and nurses trying to keep a collapsing health service going with poor pay and worse conditions.

The second point is that Orangeism was set up and enshrined in the six county state precisely to bind Protestant workers to the Orange bosses and prevent them from uniting with their Catholic brothers and sisters.

Sectarianism is not therefore a product of religious misunderstanding or suspicion.

### Policy

It is the result of conscious policy to promote the interests of the rich, built into the structures of the Northern Ireland state.

But the third key point is that for masses of Protestant workers the experience of being working class stands in stark contrast to the triumphalism of Orange ideology.

Feelings of class and identification with other workers constantly collide with the sectarian ideas promoted by the Protestant bosses and middle class.

The Orange Order has declined by a third in the last 25 years; the machine that brought down Sunningdale or mobilised tens of thousands against the Anglo-Irish Agreement can mobilise fewer than 10,000 bigots for Drumcree.

The Unionist monolith is fragmenting.

For example, the fringe UDP and PUP, while not breaking with loyalist sectarianism, have developed as an expression of Protestant working class discontent with the likes of Trimble and Paisley.

All this century sectarianism and ideas of class have competed within the Protestant section of the working class.

Today with Orangeism less and less able to provide even the illusion of privilege there exists a realistic basis for developing anti-sectarian working class unity.

Dr J Bowyer Bell has nothing to say about this.

*Back to the Future, The Protestants and a United Ireland*, J Bowyer Bell, Poolbeg, £6.99

— Kevin Wingfield

book

## Forever Gone

—Conor Kennelly



■ The Birmingham Six on their release from prison

**FOREVER Gone, Forever gone is Paddy Joe Hill's highly moving account of the Birmingham Six case.**

Before his arrest, Hill was a militant shop-steward — and successfully lead his workmates out on strike on one occasion.

Hill began to fight back from the moment of his imprisonment after the trial. When handed a set of dirty clothes by a prisoner who had the support of the screws, Hill threw the clothes back at him, telling him and the screws: "Listen you scumbag, I'm not an animal, I'm an innocent man. I want decent clothes and decent treatment. If you or anybody else messes me about, I'll take your head off."

### Campaign

This book makes it quite clear that it was a campaign from below with huge international solidarity that secured his release. He also exposes the hypocrisy of Irish politicians, like David Andrews who only took an interest in the Six because of public pressure.

When Andrews and other politicians were visiting him on one oc-

casional, Hill got extremely angry when they refused to see other innocent prisoners in prison such as Gerry Conlon.

Only when Hill threatened to trash the waiting room, did they finally agree to see Conlon.

Even though Hill suffered moments of deep despair and loneliness, on one occasion coming close to committing suicide, he writes of his ordeal with a sense of humour. After the Six lost their 1987 appeal, the *Sun* editorial, true to form, said: "If the *Sun* had its way, we would have been tempted to string 'em up years ago."

After reading the racing pages, Paddy tore off the editorial to use as toilet paper!

Hill was continually aware of what was happening on the outside world whether it was the Falklands War or the Miners' Strike, Paddy identified with the miners when he saw them being batoned by the cops at the Battle of Orgreave.

As he told his fellow prisoners in the television room. "See that, look at what they're doing in front of the TV cameras and the world's press. Imagine what they could do in a room with nobody watching them."

Hill did not lose any of his anger

or bitterness towards the judicial establishment when he was finally released.

Many people will remember him pointing at the Old Bailey and telling the world media: "Justice? I don't think those people in there have the intelligence or the honesty to spell the word, never mind dispense it. They are rotten."

### Justice

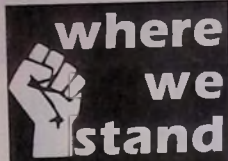
The title of the book is quite appropriate as Hill's time in prison left him with many scars.

Hill's father died and his marriage broke up while he was imprisoned. He still has not been able to resume normal relations with his children.

Reading the book makes one all the more angry that the Six have still not received adequate compensation and that the West Midlands Police were exonerated for torturing and framing the Six.

Its publication is rather timely, at a time when Governments on both sides of the Irish Sea are attacking civil liberties.

*Forever Lost, Forever Gone* by Paddy Joe Hill, Bloomsbury Paperbacks. £6.99



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.

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**Historian Prof BRIAN MANNING** speaks on the *English Revolution and the Irish People*

**Author of The Politics of James Connolly & Socialist Worker editor, KIERAN ALLEN** speaks on *Globalisation: Where is capitalism going?*

**Author and Editor LINDSEY GERMAN** speaks on *Marxism & Women's Liberation*

**PAT STACK (SWP Britain)** looks at *Michael Collins and the politics behind the myths*

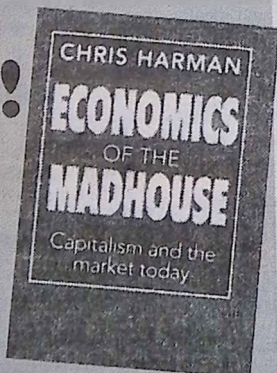
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Meets every Tues in Badgers Bar at 8pm
- DUN LAOGHAIRE**  
Meets every Tues at 8pm in Smyths Pub.
- ENNISKILLEN**  
Meets every fortnight Contact national address for details
- GALWAY**  
Meets every Thursday at 6pm in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square
- MAYNOOTH**  
Contact 8722682 for details
- WATERFORD**  
Meets every Thurs at 8pm in ATGWU Hall, Keyser St.
- DUBLIN NORTH-WEST**  
Meets every Tues at

- 8:30pm in The Old Brogue, Dorset St.
- DUBLIN ARTANE/COOLOCK**  
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- DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL**  
Meets every Wed at 8:30pm in Conways, Parnell St.
- DUBLIN RATHMINES**  
Meets every Wed at 8pm in O'Connells Pub, Richmond St.
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Meets Tues Tallaght Welfare Society, Tallaght Village.

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

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## BUS EIREANN IARNROD EIREANN, DUBLIN BUS...

# Unite to fight the 'Viability Plans'

## Ferry workers face attacks

**THE NATIONAL** Bus and Railworkers Union is balloting all its members in the three CIE companies: Dublin Bus, Bus Eireann and Iarnrod Eireann.

The union claims that the transport minister Michael Lowry is trying to implement viability plans in all three companies which management are refusing to negotiate.

Bus Eireann was the first company targeted. The plan would result in drastic attacks on workers' pay and conditions.

Management are seeking savings of £2.5 million per year from overtime payments alone, even though many workers rely on overtime payments to earn a decent wage.

### Reduce

A recent article in the *Sunday Tribune* made it clear that management's intention is to reduce wages to the level in the private sector.

This could result in a wage cut of £100 per week for Bus Eireann drivers.

A similar plan exists for Dublin Bus, where management are demanding wage cuts, hiring of part-time seasonal workers, and the contracting out of some loss-making routes.

They also want to recruit new workers on lower rates of pay, redeploy the city's bus conductors and scrap the existing agreements which ensure workers get full pay if they've been assaulted.

Yet another viability plan with similar demands will face Iarnrod Eireann workers.

The three viability plans represent the most vicious attack on public sector workers yet.

Lowry and the hatchmen he has appointed to the board of CIE will be anxious to see these attacks through. He has already justified the plans on the basis of "EU legislation" and the need for greater efficiency.

Lowry claims that the state subsidy to public

transport must end next year and that the three companies must be profitable.

Both the NBRU and SIPTU should defend public transport as a social

service, not a profit-making venture.

It is expected that the NBRU will receive a huge mandate for strike action.

The key to stopping these attacks will be unity between workers in all three companies.

A national transport

strike affecting all the country's bus, rail and DART services would stop both management and government plans in their tracks.

### Solidarity

While Bus Eireann workers may be the first to face

these attacks it is essential that they are backed up by workers in Irish Rail and Dublin Bus.

Already some union figures claim that solidarity action between workers in the three companies would be illegal under the Industrial Relations Act of

1990.

Such strike action may well be illegal but how else can workers defend their jobs and conditions?

CIE workers potentially have immense power—they could smash the Industrial Relations Act by united action.

**IRISH FERRIES** announced last week that their continental service is closing for the winter period from the 4th November with the loss of 400 jobs.

The workers concerned heard the news on the national media.

They are in effect sacking the workers and will take them back on a contract basis with far worse conditions when the service resumes in June.

Most of the workers are permanent and have been working with Irish Ferries for many years.

### Conditions

The 50 to 60 people who are temporary are being laid off and will not be taken back on.

The conditions up until now have been two weeks on ship and two weeks off, seven weeks annual paid leave, 13 weeks sick leave and a contributory pension.

The new conditions will be far worse.

They will be working two weeks on ship with only one week off, no sick pay, no holidays and no work between October and June.

There is also a threat of bringing in yellow pack workers.

There is anger among the staff.

As we go to press no decisions have been made as to how to fight for the retention of the jobs.

It seems that there will be full support from union members on the cross channel ferries.

## Royal Dublin Hotel strikers stand up to bosses' threats

**THE STRIKE** over pay and conditions at the Royal Dublin Hotel entered into its fifth week on Saturday September 28th.

Despite bad weather and a steady stream of threatening letters from management, morale is an the picket lines is strong.

Even the sight of three well padded Fine Gael members sauntering past the picket lines on September 24th couldn't dent the strikers enthusiasm.

Liam Burke, Paddy Burke and Phil Hogan, who were and are regular drinkers at the Royal Dublin made a point of sneering at the strikers, with Phil Hogan roaring about his right "To go where he liked and do what he liked".

He took his drink into the foyer and in the words of one striker: "Chuckled away at us".

Among workers, however, support for the strike is strong and widespread. £865 was raised at the Baggot Inn gig organised by the Socialist Workers Party, while £365 was collected at the recent ICTU conference.

Workers nationwide have sent donations and the unions in the hotel trade have raised regular collections.

According to Holly Kavanagh—assistant shop steward—Holland and Gilmore, the two hotel owners, are really starting to feel the workers power: "We're



Photo: JONATHAN PRATSOHKE

hitting them in the pocket and that's where it hurts most."

Turnover on a recent all Ireland match day was down by 60% and many of the hotels regulars are refusing to pass the pickets.

Guinness, Murphys and Heinekin, and United Beverages have all refused to deliver while workers are on strike and management are having to collect and deliver stock themselves at huge extra cost.

### Promise

"Huge conferences, all kinds of things, are being cancelled left right and centre" says Holly "management have backed them-

selves into a corner and we aren't going to go away"

Having previously been conned into deferring strike action by the promise of a 3% pay rise, workers are adamant that they're not going back until their demands have been met concretely and fully.

The hotel trade in Dublin is booming and the Royal Dublin cannot get away with pleading poverty to avoid giving workers the most basic entitlements like a pension plan, sick pay, maternity leave and a minimum rate across the board of £5:50 an hour.

At present employees with years of training and experience are working for £2 to £4 per hour with an arbi-

trary overtime allowance of time and a quarter, no Sunday allowances, no sick pay, no maternity allowance and no pension plan.

A victory this strike could be central in making clear to all hotel workers the clout they hold by being organised and militant.

### Pressure

Increased pressure should be placed on management by ensuring that all deliveries at the service entrance are faced with pickets.

But victory would really be ensured if the biggest union in the country, SIPTU, pulled its finger out.

It should officially call for collections from the many

workplaces it organises to support these strikers.

More regular mass pickets need to be organised which involve over SIPTU workers throughout the hotel and restaurant trade.

Anyone who breaks the Royal Dublin picket or brings supplies to their management should be informed in no uncertain terms that they will not be welcome in SIPTU organised jobs.

The bosses at Royal Dublin are some of the crudest anti-union busters seen in recent years, daring even to recruit scabs to take over strikers jobs.

It is time that the SIPTU leaders now took the gloves off.

## Anger at tyre plant closure plan

**IT WAS** announced last month that the Semperit tyre plant in Ballyfermot is to close in December.

The closure will mean the loss of 650 jobs in an area where unemployment is already around 37 per cent.

The managing director of Semperit Ireland, Jack Golden, said that the Ballyfermot plant "does not match the ideal profile of the group's manufacturing unit of the future".

They say that costs in the Irish plant are too high. The closure of Semperit is part of their strategic plan 2000 which will mean the creation of low-cost super-plants across Europe.

But Semperit in Ireland is already in fact a profit-making company. Last year it made profits of £5 million. This year it is forecast to make another £5 million.

### Protect

The only reason that Semperit is closing down is because £5 million isn't enough for the bosses of the parent company, Continental AG.

Workers in Semperit have already done everything the politicians and economists say they have to do in order to protect their jobs.

When they were due a 3% wage increase under the PESP they gave this up in exchange

for vouchers.

Already this year the workers were laid off for three weeks in August. Now they are being laid off for another two weeks.

But now the company has come back to the workers and said that this wasn't enough to save their jobs.

The company intends to shift production to even lower cost plants in Central and Eastern Europe so that they can boost their massive profits even further.

This is the globalisation that the politicians say can't be beaten.

But far from being powerless the workers can use their power in the plant to demand

action.

According to one Semperit worker, "The company have put millions into state of the art machinery. Why should we let them just walk off if they are so determined to wreck our lives."

### Prevent

Militant action by the Semperit workers can prevent the redundancies.

If the workers occupy the plant this would stop the company from moving its valuable equipment.

Already the bosses have said that they will not sell the company to one of their competitors.

They plan to move their specialised manufacturing equipment to one of their other plants.

An occupation would challenge these plans.

It would also be an important signal to workers in the Continental group in other countries. In Austria for example the company is looking for 1,000 redundancies.

If workers in Ballyfermot occupy it could provide the basis for a real fight across all countries.

It would also create a political focus that would get massive support throughout the country from people who want to see the multinationals and greedy bosses taken on.

# Socialist Worker

**A chip off the old bigot**

WHAT A disgusting bigot Ian Paisley Junior is.

He has been organising pickets of Catholic masses in order to whip up sectarianism.

This aspiring politician wants to make a name for himself so that he can take his father's seat.

On radio recently he justified his action by claiming that Catholics must be made to feel what Protestants felt during the summer.

But one of the churches he is still picketing in Ballymena was subject to an arson attack during the Drumcree events.

In Derry, some Catholic sectarians have burnt a Protestant Church to the ground.

Ordinary people, however, despise both the action of Paisley and the Catholic sectarians. The congregation of the neighbouring Catholic Church in Derry, for example, raised £4,000 in one collection for the Protestant church.

## JOB SEEKERS ALLOWANCE

# Fight this attack on the jobless

**THE FULL impact of the changes which the Job Seekers' Allowance will bring to people on the dole in the North will not become clear for a few weeks yet.**

The savagery of the new regime faced by people signing on will mean that many families presently living on the edge will be pushed over it.

Young people, in particular, are being targeted by the JSA. The Tories

want to use the JSA to force them to work for £2.00 or £2.50 an hour.

### Instruct

18-24 year olds at present receive about £37 a week, as long as they can prove they are "actively seeking work".

Once the JSA is introduced on 7th October, this will no longer be enough.

The "client adviser", as dole workers will now be called, will be able to instruct a claimant to apply for particular jobs—like the £2.00 an hour ones that no one wants!

■ If the claimant refuses to take the job, "sanctions" can be imposed which will cut their dole in half for six months, or even cut it all to-

gether.

■ If they leave the job because they can't stand it, they will be denied any benefit.

Older workers, too, can be forced to take very low paid jobs.

The difference is they get longer to look for a job which is in line with their qualifications and which pays a decent wage.

But after six months anyone can be forced to take a job at £2.00 an hour or have their dole cut.

### DERRY TRADES COUNCIL Protest against Jobs Seekers Allowance

Dole Office, Asylum Road  
Monday 7th Oct. 1.00pm-2.00pm

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### Benefit

The fight against the JSA and for a minimum wage are, therefore, clearly linked.

And nowhere is a fight on these issues more needed than in Northern Ireland.

While one in four people in Britain would benefit from a £4.26 an hour minimum wage, four in ten people in the North would.

A fight against the JSA and for a minimum wage would also help counter Trimble's bigots whose votes in Westminster have helped keep the Tories in power long enough to bring in the JSA.

Bringing Protestant and Catholic workers together to fight for their rights as workers would do a lot more for peace than the talks in Stormont have!

## What can dole-workers do?

**DOLEWORKERS** in the Social Security Agency (SSA), as the dole is now called, are almost all members of the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA).

They are not being well served by their union leaders.

The SSA is under threat of privatisation. Many workers expect it to be sold off in 1996 whether it's the Tories or Labour who are in power.

In Britain, workers in the Benefits Agency and the Employment Service have gone on strike against the JSA and privatisation.

But NIPSA leaders say it would be illegal for dole workers here to do the same here.

The union leaders say all the workers would be sacked if they were to go on strike and that there

are plenty of people who'd happily take the jobs.

This is a slander on working class people in the North.

There would be massive support or dole workers if they were to refuse to implement the JSA and strike to defend anyone sacked for refusing to implement it.

No one would dare take their jobs or pass their picket lines..

NIPSA members need to call emergency branch meetings and pass resolutions refusing to implement the JSA and demanding a ballot for strike action against the JSA and privatisation.

If dole workers don't fight back now, there's a good chance they'll be 'job seekers' themselves in a few years time.