

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

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**Ryanair
special**

5p

Fight for union rights at Ryanair

THERE IS little difference between Ryanair and William Martin Murphy in 1913.

For all the talk of a "modern" approach, Ryanair are using the same tactics as the Irish bosses who tried to break the union during the great lock-out. Workers at the airline have been systematically intimidated for nearly two months.

They have been rung up at home by managers.

They have been brought down to company "information meetings".

They have been called "stupid" for wanting to join a union.

Now the Ryanair bosses are starting up a petition among their workers to say how happy they are.

Anyone who does not sign knows exactly what fate awaits them.

Undercut

Yet Ryanair is not alone. It has been built up and supported by the Irish political establishment for years.

Fianna Fail politicians made sure that Ryanair got special low cost landing facilities in Standstead in order to undercut Air Lingus.

In the past six years, the company has been given £8.5 million by the Irish state.

In addition to this it

has just been revealed that the tax-payer pays the rent on their headquarters.

If a group of unemployed people or refugees got that amount they would be called "spongers".

But when the money goes to companies like Ryanair we are told it is to support "enterprise".

Today Bertie Ahern is shedding crocodile tears for the rights of workers at Ryanair.

But remember it was Ahern who brought in the vicious Industrial Relations Act which makes effective picketing illegal.

How come that unions are always restrained by laws, while

companies like Ryanair get away with murder?

Maybe it has something to do with who has money in the Ansbacher accounts and who funds the establishment politicians!

If this is Partnership —we want a divorce

WE ARE supposed to have social partnership in Ireland for the past ten years.

But the bosses organisation IBEC is standing over Ryanair's "right" not to have a union.

If partnership is supposed to involve equality and co-operation, then why is the bosses organisation encouraging Ryanair to smash the union?

The reality is that Partnership 2000 has nothing to do with these lofty aspirations.

It is a device to allow the employer squeeze out of us so that they can make massive profits.

It suits the union leaders to stick us to Partnership 2000 because they get a quiet life. But for rank and file workers it is a different matter.

Today the proportion of the national economy going to

wages has fallen from 73% in 1987 when the partnership programmes started to 62% today.

It shows that partnership agreements have become a device to

transfer money from workers to bosses like Ryanair.

The SIPTU leaders have been warning that the Ryanair dispute is putting "social partnership" in danger.

But why do they keep huffing and puffing about it.

If "partners" like IBEC are backing Ryanair then there is only one solution—Divorce.

Vote Carolann Duggan for a fighting union

From March onwards, SIPTU members will have an opportunity to vote for the position of SIPTU General Secretary.

There is only one candidate who will put the wind up the employers in this country. That is Carolann Duggan—a factory floor worker from Waterford.

Carolann Duggan is the only candidate who

is opposed to the partnership deals which have hampered the unions. She wants a return to strong independent unions that fight for their members interests.

who is a rank and file worker. The top jobs in SIPTU are always kept for full time officials who are often out of touch with the real

feelings of the shop floor. who has called for defiance of the Industrial Relations Act.

If you want to send out a signal that workers are fed up gaining little from the Celtic Tiger and want a fighting union—then Vote for Carolann Duggan for General Secretary of SIPTU.

BENEFIT SOCIAL

Socialist Workers Party social for Ryanair strikers

DERMOT BYRNE BLUES BAND

Saturday 7th March
8.30pm Conways Pub
Parnell Square

HOW TO WIN

THE RYANAIR workers have stood together magnificently. But the SIPTU leaders need to fight with the same determination as their enemy.

So far they have concentrated on a publicity war. But even if you win a PR battle, you also need to hurt your opponent hard.

The Bricklayers union have scored a great victory in their drive for union recognition at the IJM Joinery in Monaghan.

How did they do it? They mobilised the full strength of their union to black the company. They organised mass pickets on the job. They made it clear that if necessary they would break the Industrial Relations Act.

In other words, they let the employer know it was going to cost a lot to defy the union.

We need the same tactics in Ryanair.

An immediate all-out strike at the company could stop oil, postal deliveries, maintenance, etc. going to Ryanair. ISN'T IT TIME WE TRIED THE SAME TACTICS?

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