

Socialist Worker

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Fascists in government but...
AUSTRIA RESISTS
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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

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RESTRAINT**

Racist harassment continues

THE CASES of Ekundayo Ominiya and Belmondo Wantete show the reality of the governments treatment of refugees and asylum seekers in Ireland.

Ekundayo Ominiya fled from Nigeria. He had been involved in pro-democracy activities in Nigeria and was imprisoned by the regime.

Despite this the Irish government tried to deport him. This was later found to be unconstitutional. Ekundayo, knowing that he faced imprisonment on his return to

Nigeria resisted and was then charged with assaulting the Gardai despite being handcuffed at the time.

Ekundayo's trial began on 16 February and is still continuing. Belmondo Wantete is an electrical engineer from the Congo.

On May 1st 1998 at 3 a.m. Gardai started shouting through the door of his house and finally gained entrance by smashing it in.

Belmondo was handcuffed and subjected to disgusting racist abuse, thrown into a garda car and brought to Sundrive Station where he was held for twelve hours without access to an

interpreter or solicitor.

He was sent to Mountjoy for a week before being released without charge. The police then charged him with assault.

Since then Belmondo's and his family's life has become a nightmare.

The Gardai have pursued a vendetta against him, trying to charge him with minor driving and identification charges, all of which have been thrown out of court.

Belmondo Wantete's case comes before the court at the end of February.

Show your support for Belmondo and attend the trial at District Court 24 on Monday 28 February, beginning at 10.30am.

Ansbacher: still no names!

THE GOVERNMENT are still refusing to name the account holders of the criminal Ansbacher accounts.

Despite the fact that the tribunals have now admitted that Peter Sutherland and Hugh Coveney had money in the tax dodging scheme - both names were first revealed in Socialist

Worker - the government will not release the names of the crooks who hid their money offshore.

A great deal of fuss was made over the change to legislation to allow the Revenue to publish more details about tax defaulters.

But the reality is that only those who pay the tax they owe over £10,000 will be named. Naturally, those who avoided tax in the various amnesties won't be

named. Since the whole point of the Ansbacher scam was to avoid tax, there is little chance of them volunteering to pay back what they owe.

The Government has a list of names of those who held money in the accounts. The only reasons for not naming them now is that the list contains the names of even more politicians and their friends in big business.

Minister for racism

J O H N O'DONOGHUE is continuing his assault on the rights of refugees.

The Government plans to tighten up the High Court appeal process for asylum-seekers who are denied refugee status.

The Minister for Racism, O'Donoghue, has published amendments to the Immigration (Trafficking Bill) aimed at speeding up the judicial review for asylum-seekers.

The amendments propose that asylum-seekers only be given 10 days to appeal a refusal for refugee status to the High Court, as opposed to the current three months.



Protesting at O' Donoghue

The amendments also make it harder to appeal to the Supreme Court and every case that is attempting appeal has to be passed by O'Donoghue.

The government is hypocritically claiming to be spending money on fighting racism while at the same time is making it even harder for refugees to enter the country and denying them their right to a hearing.

Burke's rat pack

OLIVER BARRY, concert promoter and former radio boss, gave Ray Burke £35,000.

Bizarrely, Frank Sinatra was the name of the account that Barry dipped into to give cash to Burke. Sinatra had played a concert in Dublin just before the payment organised by Barry.

At the time of the donation, Barry was chairman of Century Communications.

Two months previously Burke had intervened in a dispute over the fees RTE was demanding from Century for transmitting its signal.

The minister's intervention had the effect of saving Century £200,000.

This is just another in a long line of political donations to Burke. He built up a secret account of over £400,000.

Burke claims to still have £118,000 in a account of political funds. He was the chairman of Dublin County Council in the mid-eighties when developers made a fortune from the rezoning of land.

According to James Gogarty, who claims he handed him money in a brown envelope, Burke was in a position to influence planning decisions on Dublin County Council.



Burke was also given money by Rennicks which is owned by Tony O'Reilly

who had a major interest in the deflector television system in rural areas.

Coincidentally, Burke was the Minister in charge of giving out licenses and O'Reilly's company got 20

out of the 27 licenses

Burke had an offshore account in Jersey which at the very least held £95,000.

Yet in a speech to the Dail he denied having any offshore accounts. Burke

has revealed that not much has changed since 1989.

According to his evidence to the tribunal Fianna Fail are currently trying to raise £4.5 million from big business.

F-Fascist friends

THE IRISH government's response to Haider's far-right Freedom Party coming to power in Austria has been seriously muted.

While many EU foreign ministers have denounced Haider's rise to power, Brian Cowen has been particularly quiet on the issue.

His silence may be explained by the fact that Fianna Fail actively works with far-right parties in Europe; the Danish People's Party

(DPP) and Italy's Alleanza Nazionale (AN).

The DPP is commonly referred to as "Jorg Haider's Danish cousin". Their only Euro-deputy, Mogens Camre is vice-chairperson of the 30-strong Union for a Europe of Nations (UEN) group in the EU. The other vice-chairperson is former FF foreign minister, Gerry Collins.

All five FF MEPs are members of the UEU which also works with the Italian AN. The AN was part of the post-war Italian fascist alliance which regarded itself as the custodian of Benito Mussolini's legacy.

TD's stay mobile

EVER WANTED to get in touch with your TD? Unlikely we know but just in case, readers may be glad to know that members of the Dail are to get new mobile phones - at our expense.

Already this year £70,000 was spent on giving TD's mobiles, but they apparently didn't work so new ones are on

the way. As a spokesperson for Motorola, who supplied the faulty phones and are now going to make more cash providing new toys for the TDs, put it: "It is important for us that the country's politicians are equipped with the best mobile phone technology possible." As a man who needed to contact politicians once put it, "Will we get a receipt?"

★ SCIENTISTS HAVE uncovered massive pollution of the world's freshwater supply. Underground lakes which are used as reservoirs for drinking water are being poisoned by industrial and agricultural waste seeping through soil cover. It is thought that up to 90 per cent of underground water in the developed world may be affected.

Finance bill for the rich

EVEN THOUGH the rich have made super-profits from the Celtic Tiger, the Finance Bill gives them even more tax breaks.

There has been no increase in the PAYE allowance or any signifi-

cant increases in personal tax allowance for the low paid.

And only a pittance has been given to creating extra child care places.

This is despite the fact that Irish parents have the highest childcare costs in the EU.

But taxes on profits, inheritance and sale of building land has been slashed. Even though tax on profits is set to fall to a mere 12.5 percent, the employers PRSI has been cut.

The Finance Bill is filled with little scams to help the rich avoid paying tax. For instance, the profiteers trying to cash in on the govern-

ment's privatisation plans can now get extra tax relief on public/private partnership projects.

There is even more tax relief for builders of multi-storey car parks. Making profits for the developers and increasing the traffic chaos. As usual, FF is looking after its big business backers.

The bookies favorite

THE BOOKIES are raking it in under the Celtic Tiger. Their turnover increased by £219 million last year - a jump of 42 per cent over 1998.

The bookies are praising Charlie McCreedy for cutting the betting tax from 10 percent to 5 percent last July. This made it cheaper to place a bet and led to a "betting boom". Which is fair enough if you fancy a flutter.

But the masters of the turf still control the odds. If McCreedy was serious he would push up the tax on their profits and those of the lucrative horse racing and breeding industry.

The money could be used to provide recreational facilities in working class communities.

Which is a far better bet than being ripped off at the bookies.

what we think

Farmer's fought - why can't union leaders?

THE FARMERS have an organisation that fights for their interests. Its leader Tom Parlon was willing to break the law to take on the meat barons.

The bosses have a strong organisation in IBEC. They constantly demand more tax cuts and never suggest that their members should give up a penny in return.

Many workers will be asking what sort of an organisation have they got when the union leaders are again trying to push a pay deal that sells them short.

Workers need an increase in the order of 20 percent to cope with rising costs and to catch up with the growth of the Celtic Tiger.

It should be pay back time for those who created the boom.

But in reality the new Programme for Prosperity and Fairness is another mechanism to stop workers using the growing labour shortages to gain substantial improvements.

It will tie union members to tiny increases of 5.5 per cent while inflation roars and profits soar. (For

full details on the terms of the deal see page 11).

It will mean that unions continue to act as bureaucratic machines that manage their members rather than fight for them.

SIPTU leaders like Des Geraghty are earning more than £60,000 a year. They sit on a host of committees with the bosses where they discuss how workers are to raise their productivity.

Because they see the bosses as their partners, they do not organise workers for a serious fight.

No union leader in recent years has ever done what Tom Parlon did and told a High Court judge that he could not sell out his members.

Instead the ICTU have told workers they must pass each others pickets. They have advocated respect for unjust laws like the Industrial Relation Act.

They have done nothing to organise demonstrations to demand the jailing of corrupt politicians.

This is the real cost of social partnership.

The partnership deals are not just about money - they are also an agreement to produce 'pro-business unions'.

That is why the government is so enthusiastic about partnership deals. And that is also why the rank and file should reject them.

First Seattle now Mexico



THOUSANDS OF striking students have been occupying the main campus at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). When the Mexican government imposed tuition fees on university students, students at UNAM reacted by striking and occupying. Their nine month struggle has become a focus for wider layers of Mexican workers. It is part of the same global reaction to the rule of money so wonderfully displayed in Seattle before Christmas. This month hundreds of students were arrested and several badly injured when federal forces attacked the campus, using violence by a small number of right wing students as a excuse.

Jail the thieving bankers

WHILE WORKERS are being told that we need another three years of wage restraint the banks are still avoiding their taxes. The media made a fuss that the banks will have to pay the taxes owed on the DIRT scam.

What they forget to mention was that after former PD Attorney General Michael McDowel intervened there will not be a levy on the banks profits.

Yet the two main banks in the country make over a £1million a day each.

A staggering £1 billion was salted away in bogus non-resident accounts.

That means £120 million in tax is still being avoided every year by the rich from this one scam alone.

The Government claim that while the banks should pay the tax on the accounts -eventually - they cannot be fined.

The politicians have very good reasons to look after the bankers.

The Public Accounts Committee who investigated the banks was chaired by Fine Gael's Jim Mitchell.

In 1986 Mitchell opposed attempts by his own government to make people opening a non resident account sign a legal declaration that they were non resident.

Fianna Fail's Denis Foley was part of the investigation although he was one of the account holders in the tax dodging Ansbacher scam.

Bernard Durkan is a Fine Gael TD who sits on the committee. Yet he had £20,000 of his overdraft written off by the ACC bank, the state bank which operated most of these accounts for wealthy farmers.

Every year the AIB gives money to all the political parties and they were happy to write off overdrafts for Charlie Haughey.

The best example of how close the banks and the politicians are is Peter Sutherland.

The former attorney general and EU commissioner, was also a director of CRH, the bank

involved in the Ansbacher Scam. It has been revealed that Sutherland had a Ansbacher account and used the dodgy accounts to get a loan for his house.

Sutherland was chairman of AIB when the non resident account tax scam took place.

He got a leg up in politics from Garret Fitzgerald and funnily enough, Fitzgerald had his debts with AIB written off.

In one final insult the tax payer is going to have to foot the enormous bill for all the investigations into the banks dodgy dealings.

Its time the thieving bankers were jailed and the banks put under public ownership and control.

Socialism in Belfast

A WEEKEND OF DISCUSSION AND DEBATE ON SOCIALISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- * Sinn Fein, PUP and SWP debate the future for socialism
- * Eamonn McCann & Chris Bamberg on Marxism in a new millenium
- * Lindsey German on Feminism and New Laddism
- * Forum on New Labour and education.

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SWP

Fascists in government but ...

Austria resists

"THREE IN four Austrians voted against Haider. He is a fascist. We don't want to go back to the 1930s."

That is what Vienna housewife Beatrix Vasegak told Socialist Worker. She spoke for hundreds of thousands of people in Austria.

The entry of the far right Freedom Party into government, courtesy of the Austrian Tories, has sent shock waves across the world.

Mass demonstrations and street fighting greeted the entry of the Freedom Party into government. Austria's rulers suddenly got a glimpse of how their capital city, Vienna, could become ungovernable. Over 5,000 people gathered in the middle of the day outside government buildings.

Ministers of the new Tory/far right coalition, led by Tory chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel, were forced to leave the swearing-in ceremony in the presidential palace by an underground passage. The police could not guarantee their safety on the street.

Thousands more people demonstrated throughout the day. In some inner city schools hundreds of students marched together from their classes to the protest. They were joined by groups of workers-teachers, postal workers, white-collar workers and others-with trade union banners.

Some 10,000 people were on the streets at the demonstration's height when protesters stormed the social security ministry, where a Freedom Party member was supposed to take office.

Police fired water cannons for the first time in post-war Austrian history. Austria's rulers had expected only polite diplomatic protests over the inclusion of



Thousands came on to the streets to protest against the Freedom party entering government



the Freedom Party in government. Instead the centre of a city famed for its respectable bourgeois image was turned into a battlefield. The media spoke of the "end of social peace" and "violence on the streets".

Austria was for 40 years the model of social partnership and political consensus. It is now split. Thousands of people marched against the Freedom Party and especially its leader, Jörg Haider.

They have taken up slogans once associated only with a small minority of the left — "Widerstand!" (resistance) and "Haider is a fascist."

Workers, students and immigrants are united

ON ONE of the protests over 4,000 people demonstrated against the Freedom Party. They were mainly young people between the ages of 14 and 25.

Residents waved red blouses, tablecloths and any red fabric they had to hand as the march went down Margareten Strasse, an area where professionals and skilled workers live alongside immigrants.

Dozens of immigrants, most of whom have been denied Austrian citizenship, lined the street cheering.

Fanny Rasul, a 16 year old school student, told Socialist Worker, "About 200 of my schoolmates came to the demonstration. Many

more would have come if SOS Mitmensch [the main anti-racist organisation] had not withdrawn its support for it.

"I think I can get nearly all the school out for the students' strike on 18 February. We have to show the whole world that we don't go along with Haider. Haider is a fascist."

The trade unions, SOS Mitmensch and the Social Democratic Party (equivalent to the Labour Party) are mobilising for a mass demonstration against the government. The powerful Social Democratic organisation in the trade unions has issued an emergency bulletin instructing its local lay officers to be contactable round the clock in the run up to the march.

It says this is necessary because "this is the most difficult situation in the history of post-war Austria". However, mainstream leaders distanced themselves from the protests. None mobilised for them. Some even joined the press campaign against "violent elements" on the demonstrations.

This risks demoralising those who are demonstrating now. Every delay in calling protests weakens the movement.

Elizabeth Blum, a teacher on one of the marches, told Socialist Worker, "I have been a lifelong supporter of the Social Democratic Party. If they do not speak out and do something now—and I mean now, not tomorrow or the day

after—then I am no longer interested.

"The Social Democratic leaders should be in the front row storming the government buildings."

Walter Hoffmann, a tram driver, got caught up in one of the marches. He said, "These young people are right to take a stand. There is a division among my workmates. Most are against Haider. But some say that we should give the new coalition time. Some of us want to do something against the government now."

There were demonstrations in other towns across Austria—Graz, Linz, Salzburg, Klagenfurt, Bregenz and elsewhere.

Make country unruable

THE FREEDOM Party's entry into government is a product of the crisis that is spreading across Europe.

Attempts to renew the coalition between the Austrian Social Democrats and the Tory People's Party after last October's election broke down because the Social Democrats' trade union wing rightly would not accept a further, deeper round of cuts.

So the People's Party was driven into a coalition with the far right to get the cuts and privatisation programme through.

The capitalist class has gambled on a highly risky strategy. The coalition has been born against a backdrop of protests and riots.

The main party of Austrian big business, the People's Party, is losing votes to the far right. The Freedom Party itself is shot through with splits. There are anti-Semites, fascists and Nazis within it, but also Thatcherite businessmen and even a handful of right wing Jews. The party pretends to stand up for Austrian workers, but is proposing 20 percent cuts to the early retirement budget and charges for some health services. There is every chance of mass resistance which can topple the government.

But it will take more than threats and speeches to stop Haider. Austria must be made ungovernable. That means mass strikes paralysing industry and government. It means militant protests of such strength that the police cannot keep them at bay.

"ONE SIDE of my family is from Floridsdorf. That is the workers' quarter in the north of the city which the fascist government shot up with artillery on 12 February 1934. It is the anniversary on Saturday. "I know what this government means. It will not happen tomorrow. But I fear for the future if we give Haider time."

PETER HAFNER,
post office worker

Haider praised Hitler

HAIDER IS not in the new government and has stayed on as governor of the province of Carinthia. Everyone knows, however, that the six Freedom Party ministers are answerable to him.

His entire political history shows he would like to turn the Freedom Party into a full-blown fascist force with him as leader of Austria.

The country estate he inherited

from his uncle was seized from Jews who were forced to leave Austria in the 1930s. He has identified himself with former members of Hitler's SS and praised Hitler's "orderly employment policies".

Haider became leader of the Freedom Party in 1986. It had been founded by ex-Nazis after the Second World War. But it evolved into a mainstream pro-capitalist party. Haider shifted it to the right and won the electoral support of Austria's fragmented Nazi organisations.

Haider does not yet have the tens of thousands of street fighters

which enabled Hitler to crush the trade unions and working class organisations within weeks of being appointed chancellor of Germany in January 1933.

Elements within the Freedom Party and Nazi groups want to build a movement to smash working class organisation and all forms of democracy in the way Hitler did. Haider's guarded praise for some of Hitler's policies shows he is quite capable of adopting Hitler's methods if he feels his path to power through the ballot box is blocked. But he has been forced to distance himself from pro-Nazi comments.

**STOP HAIDER
STOP FASCISM**

Demonstrate
Saturday 19 February 3pm

**Austrian Embassy
Ailesbury Road**

(Donnybrook end - No. 10 Bus route)

Called by

Anti Nazi League

Eamonn McCann

Mandy saves Trimble's skin

PETER MANDLESON'S suspension of the Stormont Assembly came, in the end, amid scenes of confusion and farce.

The supposed master of the black arts of presentation and spin collapsed the Assembly on the basis of a report by the ex-Nato general John de Chastelain, and simultaneously leaked the report to the BBC. But he didn't reveal that de Chastelain had already delivered a second report which showed the IRA coming closer to declaring that it would decommission.

The existence of the second report was announced by Gerry Adams, who hailed it as a "major breakthrough".

When the second report was published just hours later, Mandelson, in effect, agreed with Adams, declaring the change in the IRA position "a development of real significance", providing the basis for reaching a solution to the decommissioning problem.

The sequence made no sense other than as confirmation that Mandelson's main priority was to save, not the process, but David Trimble's skin.

The Ulster Unionist Council - with its huge bloc of delegates from the Orange Order and their gut opposition to any settlement which acknowledged the equal citizenship of nationalists - was to meet the following morning, and had to be allowed to feel that the Fenians had been dumped on again.

The result was that nothing was resolved, even as everyone was agreeing that a resolution had been close. And no one, including the London and Dublin Governments, had a clear idea how to set up the "review" which would grapple with the same issues again.

Struggle

One fact which emerged is that the Republican leadership sees armed struggle as a thing of the past. They may need time to coax some of their membership along and to finesse a deal which will allow them to get rid of arms with some dignity.

But they are now too far down the constitutional road to turn back.

An indication of this was to be found in a profile of Martin McGuinness in the Observer the Sunday before the Assembly's suspension.

Asked whether the IRA would continue to exist if the Assembly and cross-border bodies were working smoothly, McGuinness replied: "That's a matter for the IRA. The Old IRA existed in the south for years. They attended commemorations, they buried their own comrades, and they did so in peace".

The IRA would continue, but not as an army. More as an old soldiers' association. This was the statement of a man already thinking post-war.

However, recognising the role of Mandelson in ditching the Assembly to placate Trimble's Orange critics doesn't mean glorifying the record of the Assembly while it lasted. Some commentators, and many Republicans, have been painting a picture which bears only vague resemblance to reality.

In fact, there has been confirmation of the argument that the Agreement was based on the consolidation of sectarianism and that this would be reflected in the way the institutions worked.

The most publicised action of a Minister, Bairbre de Brun's decision to close the Jubilee maternity unit in south Belfast and expand the unit at the Royal in west Belfast, makes the point.

In a non-binding vote, the Assembly opposed the decision to choose the west Belfast unit by 53 to 37. The breakdown showed 52 Protestants and one Catholic backing the Jubilee, 36 Catholics and one Protestant supporting de Brun's choice of the Royal. The two members who crossed the divide were from "centre" parties.

Every member of the SDLP, Sinn Fein, the UUP and the DUP voted the straight sectarian ticket, despite the fact that everyone, including Bairbre de Brun, admitted that the medical and social arguments were finely balanced.

More significantly: approaching the issue on this basis entirely missed out the argument for keeping both units open. The cut in Belfast's maternity services went unchallenged, the only dispute being about which side the axe should fall on.

The obvious thing is that what is needed is more hospital services across the North.

To get that we need to oppose Blair and Mandelson and the communalism of the Assembly parties. We need to start looking to ourselves as a class not as communities in competition.

Ask Blair, Mandelson, Trimble... When will they give up their weapons?

THE BRITISH and Irish governments, the Ulster Unionists and the media have all put the blame on the IRA for the current crisis in Northern Ireland.

IRA decommissioning is presented as the only hurdle to normal politics in Northern Ireland.

Peter Mandelson has suspended the new Assembly, calling the IRA's refusal to hand in any weapons "contemptuous" and "a betrayal of the entire community of Northern Ireland". David Trimble says the IRA "must make the choice between democracy and violence".

Hypocritical

Coming from Mandelson and Trimble such demands are completely hypocritical.

Blair's government has already participated directly in more wars than the previous Tory governments. Blair supported the bombing of Iraq, Sudan and Afghanistan, and Serbia, in which hundreds of innocent civilians were killed. The British government is the second biggest arms exporter in the world.

Trimble has even less right to talk about non-violence and democracy.

Trimble has never acknowledged that there was anything wrong with the Northern Ireland state. He built his reputation on a hardline approach in the 1970s and won the leadership of the Unionist Party by supporting the Orange Order at Drumree.

Out of the 140,000 legally held firearms in the North, many thousands are owned by former members of the B Specials, who formed 'gun clubs' to hold on to their weapons after they were disbanded.

A history of repression

THE NORTHERN Ireland state and the Unionist Party were built on violence and the denial of democracy.

Edward Carson, leader of the Unionist Party, directly set up the old UVF and directed illegal gun-running in 1912 to resist Home Rule. He was supported by British Army officers and leaders of the Tory Party.

When Ireland was partitioned, the old UVF did not hand in their weapons. Instead they were recruit-

ed into the RUC, and their auxiliaries, the 'B' and 'C' Specials, all controlled directly by the Unionist Party.

The police force in the North had its origins in anti-Catholic and anti-nationalist violence, participating in the pogroms of the early 1920s.

Reacted

The Unionist government and the police reacted to any challenge to their rule as a republican conspiracy and used the utmost violence to suppress it.

In fact, the IRA barely existed before 1969. It was the violence of the

RUC and loyalist mobs, led by Ian Paisley, against peaceful civil rights marches and against areas like Bombay St. in Belfast which provoked a violent response within Catholic areas of the North.

The British Army was then used to back the RUC in a crackdown on Catholic areas.

Mass internment without trial, torture and the shooting of innocent people, particularly the massacre on Bloody Sunday in Derry, were the turning points in the drift towards a violent confrontation with the state. For 30 years the RUC and British Army used every illegal

and undemocratic method against the IRA, including informers, MI5 agents in loyalist assassination squads, shoot-to-kill policies, plastic bullets against demonstrators, watchtowers and prisons.

In this context the IRA were able to gain support in the Catholic areas against the Northern Ireland State.

But the armed struggle pushed Protestants towards Loyalism and Unionism and offered no way out of the conflict.

The conflict ended in stalemate and growing demands and protests for peace from working class people.



Trimble, Mandelson, Adams and the alternative: Marching for peace in 1998

Where are the Provos going?

EVEN THE head of the RUC, Ronnie Flanagan, admits the IRA poses no threat to peace.

The republicans have increasingly become an electoral party. Their vote grew dramatically after the RUC outrages at Drumree in 1996 and 1997. It has continued to grow since because of Sinn Fein's commitment to peace.

Yet the establishment in both Britain and Ireland is putting enormous pressure on republicans to hand over weapons.

They want to humiliate them so that they are sufficiently tamed so that they are sure they are another ordinary party that joins a coalition government.

Both Ahern and Blair want a guarantee that if Sinn Fein enters coalition in the South they will not be a destabilising factor.

The real question in all of this is why does Sinn Fein want to play the establishment's game.

There is no future in a return to armed struggle. But de-commission has become a symbolic token that allows entry the establishment.

If Sinn Fein were a working class radical party they would not be concerned to join coalitions in the North or the South.

But if they want to follow the same road taken by Fianna Fail in the 1920s, they will do the bidding of Ahern and Blair.

TIME TO FIGHT POVERTY - TIME FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS DEMONSTRATION

Let's tell New Labour and the Assembly

- £5 an hour minimum wage
- Fund the NHS - tax the rich

● Scrap the 11-plus

● Abolish student fees

Increase benefits and pensions

DERRY Saturday 11 March

1pm from the Triangle, Waterside, march to Guildhall Square

Called by Derry Trades Council and backed by trade unions and community groups

Why does the US state want to kill Mumia?

WHEN Rage Against the Machine organised a concert last year in support of Mumia Abu Jamal, the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) attempted to organise a boycott.

But thousands of people ignored the police and turned up anyway.

Seventeen years after the US "justice system" sentenced Mumia to death for a crime he didn't commit, the campaign to silence this radical black journalist continues.

The only crime he has ever committed is daring to stand up and expose the racism, corruption and injustice of this system.

Mumia first marked himself out as a "trouble maker" when he helped found the Black Panthers in Philadelphia when he was just 15 years old.

Journalist

He became so renowned as a journalist for reporting on police misconduct and racist discrimination that the FBI added his name to the ADEX list which is a list of people who the state would intern during a "national emergency".

It was for this reason that Mumia was charged with the murder of a police officer in 1981.

He had intervened in a street incident between his brother, another man and a police officer, in the course of which a cop was killed and Mumia himself was shot and injured.

The court case that followed was a farce. Mumia's court appointed attorney, who has since been disbarred for incompetence didn't interview a single witness before the trial.

Witnesses who testified against Mumia have since come forward to admit they lied because of police pressure.

One witness who claimed to have seen the real gunman running from the scene, faced continual police harassment and was forced to leave the state.

Mumia is a political prisoner who was convicted because of his political beliefs. The prosecution used his political statements to argue for imposing the



Mumia Abu Jamal

death penalty.

Attempts to gain a fair retrial have been scuppered at every stage.

The judge who presided over the appeal hearing was the same judge who heard the original trial and was also a member of the FOP.

One witness who testified at the appeal hearing said that she had lied because the police had threatened to take her children away.

She was taken from the hearing in handcuffs over an outstanding warrant for her arrest.

The fact that Mumia has continued to speak out from death row in support of anti-WTO protests and against the Balkans war has only heightened the right-wing frenzy to put him to death.

Authorities

When his book *Live from Death Row* was published in 1995 the prison authorities reacted by placing him in solitary confinement, and denying him visitors and phone calls.

The FOP has been spearheading a vicious smear campaign against him.

It has sponsored a tour by the widow of the police officer who Mumia is accused of killing.

Bill Clinton and Janet Reno have shared a platform with the officer's widow as she recounted how Mumia laughed when her husband's bloody shirt was shown in court.

This is despite the fact that Mumia was not even allowed in the courtroom during his trial because the judge

ruled that his dreadlocks would make the nearly all-white jury "nervous".

The FOP has also hired a skywriter to fly over the company that published Mumia's book, declaring "Addison-Wesley supports cop-killers".

Numerous TV shows on Mumia's case have been cancelled under pressure from the FOP.

In Mumia's own words, "they don't just want my death, they want my silence".

Mumia's case has highlighted how the entire system is rotten to its core with racism. In Pennsylvania where the population is 10 percent black, 62 percent of all prisoners on death row are black.

The death penalty is also part of a systematic campaign by the American State to strengthen its own powers of repression and terror against any dissenting voices.

Protests have been organised from Brazil to Bangladesh by human rights groups, trade unions, celebrities and students.

These protests won Mumia a temporary reprieve in 1995 and hold out the only hope for real justice for Mumia today.

— GRACE LALLY

WATERFORD BENEFIT NIGHT FOR MUMIA CAMPAIGN
Rock and roots gig with local band Cassidys
Wednesday February 23rd, Old Rogue Pub, The Apple Market 9-late. Tickets £1

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



"THEY'RE THE best band in the world. The message RATM are trying to get across to young people is, be anti-racist and make a stand against oppression."

■ SARINA JESUDASON, student.

Mumia must live

IN JUST over three weeks time a US judge will begin considering whether radical black journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal will be put to death or granted a retrial.

RATM are calling on everyone to get involved in the campaign to stop Mumia being executed.

Tom says, "It has been international outcry that kept Mumia alive.

"Labour organisations [trade unions] and Amnesty International have raised their fists and said that Mumia is a political prisoner.

"Make no mistake, he is in jail because of his race and his political beliefs.

"RATM are trying to make people aware of his case.

"The campaign needs money because unfortunately in the US justice costs cash.

"There are no rich people on death row in the US. The authorities would love to murder Mumia. We've got to make sure Mumia is not executed."



HOW IMPORTANT was last year's Seattle protest to you?

SEATTLE was a wake up call. It has made people see the necessity of mass organisation.

It was a rebellion of workers, environmentalists and students against the World Trade Organisation (WTO). It was planned, it was well organised and it was smart.

It makes a massive impact when you shut down the WTO.

That's why the police reaction was so harsh. They realised that there was substance to the protest. It represented serious forces.

It shows that there is a silent majority in the US who are not

"RATM sing about what life is really like. We support the band's campaign to free Mumia Abu-Jamal."

■ Student SAMUEL JONES, and office worker LUKE EDWARDS

THOUSANDS OF to see US band (RATM). Their co as anti-capital defending politi Abu-Jamal. At London, thous "Freedom for ROBYN MILLS a RATM's Tom Mo

just toeing the line. All of us in the band happy to see a few Seattle protesters wearing with some of the Seattle organisers.

We want to bring the of that protest onto our t

DID THE spirit Seattle find its into the making your new video?

TWO DAYS before arrived in Britain we video for our new "Sleep Now in the Fire"

Radical film maker N Moore directed the video shot the film on the steps Federal Building, wh across the street from the York stock exchange.

We invited RATM

For more information contact the Mumia Must Live! campaign on 087- 2927067

BELFAST: Bus leaves 10:30 am Glengall St. (beside Europa bus station) Price £10/£7 Phone 0232-593225 for details

CORK: Bus leaves 9:30 am Cork City library, Grands Parade. Phone 021-343304 for more details

WATERFORD: bus leaves 9:30am Parnell St price £7/5

DEMONSTRATE FOR MUMIA

National demonstration
Sat 4 March
Assemble 2:30pm
Garden of Remembrance,
Parnell Square, Dublin

RAGE AGAINST THE SYSTEM

THOUSANDS OF young people are flocking to see US band Rage Against the Machine (RATM). Their concerts have been described as anti-capitalist carnivals with stalls defending political prisoners like Mumia Abu-Jamal. At one recent concert in London, thousands of fans chanted, "Freedom for Mumia." School student ROBYN MILLS and MARTIN SMITH talked to RATM's Tom Morello.

just toeing the line.

All of us in the band were happy to see a few of the Seattle protesters wearing RAT with some of the Seattle protest organisers.

We want to bring the spirit of that protest onto our tour.

DID THE spirit of Seattle find its way into the making of your new video?

TWO DAYS before we arrived in Britain we shot a video for our new single, "Sleep Now in the Fire".

Radical film maker Michael Moore directed the video. We shot the film on the steps of the Federal Building, which is across the street from the New York stock exchange.

We invited RATM fans to

"The music rocks and the lyrics must scare the hell out of the establishment."

■ DAVE HUDSON, school student

come along and join us in our video. Around 300 showed up. Suddenly the police arrived and arrested Michael. They dragged him off to jail. The rest of us stormed the stock exchange.

About 200 of us got through the first set of doors, but our charge was stopped when the stock exchange's titanium riot doors came crashing down.

Our protest stopped trading at the stock exchange for the last two hours of the day. I guess we stopped downsizing for at least a couple of hours. It was a good day at the office.

What is amazing is that all of this is all going to be in the new video.

DO YOU think the commercial success of bands like RATM is partially due to young people's growing bitterness with society?

THERE HAVE always been bands trying to make political music. But what is unprecedented is that RATM, an overtly political band, has sold 15 million records.

A lot of this has to do with the compelling nature of our music, which combines punk, hip-hop and hard rock.

We see our music as part of a cultural battlefield. We want to cut through the bullshit the system slams down young people's throats. We are trying to present an alternative view of the world. RATM want to build a bridge between the music and the movement.

As well as doing a number of benefit gigs, the band also donates a proportion of every concert ticket sold to homeless charities, the Mumia campaign or the garment workers' union.

've been arrested for civil disobedience. Zack, the band's singer, spends nearly all of his free time in Mexico supporting the Zapatistas' fight for freedom.

The key to bringing about change is not music -it's about being politically active.

HOW DID you become active in politics?

I GREW up in a political family. My father was involved in the Kenyan independence movement, the Mau Mau, and my mother was active in civil rights movements and anti-censorship campaigns. I was raised in the white suburb of Libertyville, which is near Chicago. There was only one black person, me, in a town of 14,000 people.

Being black in America is an

"RATM TELL the truth-the system is rotten. Capitalism is destroying our planet. We've got to find a better way to live."

■ ANGELA SOUTHWARD, school student.

"I started listening to RATM because of their music but became attracted to their politics. They're not afraid to speak out against the system, racism and censorship, even if it means getting in trouble with the authorities."

■ NIALL SMYTH, college student

instantly politicising experience. Libertyville wasn't the most tolerant of places to live.

My mother would find Ku Klux Klan material left in her office, and once a noose was hung up by some racist in her garage. When I went to college I got involved in the anti-apartheid movement and I went on anti Ku Klux Klan demonstrations in Boston.

HOW DO you think society is going to change?

I AM a socialist. It is obvious that in the workplace you have the power to stop the engines. But I would never want to put any parameters on who's invited to the party. As far as I'm concerned it was vital at Seattle that everyone was welcome. The band's support is more student based.

But when we play a RATM show I look out and see all those young people and I think to myself that someday soon they are going to be workers.

I am very encouraged by Seattle and at the events that happen at a RATM show every night.

WHAT DO SOCIALISTS SAY?

Bursting the US bubble

AT THE recent G7 summit meeting, the US representatives were in a cocky mood, telling the Europeans to copy the "new economy" of the US.

Superficially the US economy looks good. So good in fact that some economists are claiming a "new paradigm" in economics: a low inflation, steady growth economy.

For the first time since the 1950's the US economy has experienced a full decade of growth. Unemployment hasn't been as low since the 1970's.

The most common explanation is that internet businesses are revolutionising the economy.

But a moment's thought is enough to challenge the hype about internet companies. Even if there is an increased use of computers to order goods, people still have to make and deliver them. In fact the use of the internet in business is probably a less radical upheaval than previous changes in the organisation of the economy.

The 1920's saw the introduction of the telephone and teleprinter, the spread of radios, the replacement of horse drawn vehicles with lorries and cars and the arrival of power via electric cables. Yet that decade ended with capitalism's worst ever crash.

So if people clicking on their mouse has not produced this record growth, what has?

The growth of the US economy is based on two features: exploitation and bor-

rowing.

Ever since the Reagan-era in the 1980s, US workers have taken a severe battering.

There has been a massive increase in profits for employers who have gained extra hours of work from their workers.

Married women increased their annual hours by 223 (nearly six weeks) between 1983 and 1997. Married men are working about four weeks longer per year than in 1983.

The other side of the growth of the US economy is debt. Credit card debt at the end of 1990s was three times the figure for the start of the decade.

In 1999 US consumers were spending 5 percent more than their incomes.

A lot of people have been borrowing against the value of shares, and borrowed again when the shares rose.

Both these aspects of the US economy, far from having revolutionised it, are vulnerable to sudden shocks. For instance, the victory of the UPS strikers two years ago sent shudders through the economy.

Debts

But an even greater blow to the US economy is likely to come when the share prices against which people have run up debts take a fall.

There are two other major weaknesses in the US economy.

One is the balance of trade deficit.

The US now runs up a record £25 billion a month deficit. So far this imbalance has been covered by a willingness to buy Japanese and

European companies to invest in the US.

The other cause for concern is the sustainability of the growth in the stock market. Normally the ratio of share prices to profits is about 15 to 1, at the moment in the US they are 35 to 1.

The amount of borrowing in order to buy shares has increased 25 percent in the last two years.

There is a crazy logic to the current situation that spells disaster for the economy as a whole. It is more profitable to turn your cash into shares than to engage in real production.

So although retail sales were up 10 percent last year companies did not use the capital for repayment of debt or new investment in expanding, instead they tended to buy up their own shares and push their price higher.

The internet stocks are the wildest example of this. Companies which haven't produced as much as a paper clip are worth billions.

Those economists willing to face reality are aware of the problems. Sam Britten of the *Financial Times*, warns of a "macroeconomic time bomb ticking away".

Back at the G7 meeting, cold water was effectively poured on US enthusiasm by the Japanese Finance Minister, Kitchi Miyazawa, who responded to the US figures with a simple observation.

That the US economy looked exactly like that of the Japanese ten years ago, just before a disastrous financial collapse heralded a decade of near depression.

— CONOR KOSTICK

DEMONSTRATE MUMIA
Demonstration
March
at 2:30pm
Remembrance,
square, Dublin

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AUSTRIAN ANTI-FASCISTS ON THE STREETS

There's a history of fighting back

THE ENTRY of the far right Freedom Party into the Austrian government has rightly ignited anti-fascist protests across Europe.

Freedom Party leader Jörg Haider is an admirer of Hitler. He defends his parents' records as loyal members of the Nazi Party and maintains links with Nazis.

In 1991 he praised the "orderly employment policies" of Nazi Germany.

Haider has made several speeches to gatherings of former members of Hitler's Waffen SS, which played the key role in the Holocaust.

He describes them as men of "decent character", and on one occasion told them, "Without your self sacrifice there would be no freedom in Western Europe today."

Over the last 15 years the Freedom Party has promoted Holocaust deniers and Nazis to leading positions.

They include:

● Robert Dürr, the leading Freedom Party candidate in the Burgenland region in 1987. He worked on Nazi newspapers and denies the existence of gas chambers at Auschwitz.

● Helmut Weiss, a parliamentary candidate, who calls the Germans who tried to assassinate Hitler "Germany's greatest traitors". He is also a Holocaust denier.

● Peter Müller, a mayoral candidate, who told a journalist in 1989, "We are building ovens again, but not for Mr Wiesenthal [an internationally renowned Holocaust survivor]-there's room in Jörg's pipe for him."

The Freedom Party was set up in 1956. Its precursor, the League of Independents, had been founded after the Second World War—uniting extreme nationalists and former Nazis.

The first leader of the Freedom Party, Anton Reinthaller, had been a member of Austria's Nazi administration during the war. On his death, former SS officer Friedrich Peter took over.

Some in the Freedom Party tried to distance it from its pro-Nazi wing in the late 1960s and 1970s.

But Austrian nationalism continued to be a key part of its platform, and anti-immigrant and Nazi forces remained inside it.

Such forces helped Haider seize the leadership of the party in 1986 and he then swung the party sharply to the right.

He held meetings with leaders of extra-parliamentary Nazi groups, including former Freedom Party politician Otto Scrinzi, who says, "I have always been on the right, even in the Nazi Party."

Since then Haider's support has grown out of the failure of the Social Democrat led coalition government to improve people's lives in Austria.

He has pulled a coalition of forces into the party, ranging from Nazi sympathisers to Thatcherite businessmen.

The Freedom Party has not built the equivalent of Hitler's 400,000 Storm troopers, who were central to smashing the organised working class when the Nazis came to power in Germany in 1933.

But elements within the Freedom Party can move in that direction.

Haider's party represents one strand



AUSTRIAN WORKERS demonstrate against unification in 1938 - the banner reads, "We want an independent Austria of workers' freedom"

of Austrian history-extreme nationalist, pro-Nazi, racist and virulently anti-socialist.

But it is not the only strand.

AT THE beginning of this century Vienna, the Austrian capital, was the fourth biggest city in Europe.

It was a modern industrial island surrounded by the economically backward Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Jews fleeing pogroms in Russia and Poland were drawn to the city in large numbers.

So too were Czechs, Slovenes, Hungarians and other Eastern European peoples. Their languages were common in the working class quarters of a city which was officially German speaking.

Socialist ideas and organisation grew. So too did innovative artistic movements.

Revolution erupted in Vienna in November 1918. Mass strikes and mutiny in the army brought all the bitterness at the suffering caused by the First World War to a head.

The revolution forced the abdication of the monarchy, the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the proclamation of an Austrian republic. This was enough for the mainstream socialist leaders. They prevented the movement from developing into a full-

blown workers' revolution like in Russia the year before.

But the revolution left a legacy. The working class of "Red Vienna" in the 1920s had the best level of socialist and trade union organisation in the world.

Almost two in three voters supported Austria's Social Democratic Workers Party. It was similar to the Labour Party in Britain and had several Jewish or "non-German" leaders.

One in three Viennese people was a card-carrying member of the Social Democratic Workers Party at some point in the 1920s.

Austria's capitalists and middle class establishment, including the Catholic church, wanted to crush this socialist opposition.

They became especially desperate to break working class organisation as the Great Depression set in during the early 1930s.

They backed the authoritarian rule of Chancellor Dollfuss, an admirer of Italian Fascist leader Mussolini.

After Hitler took power in Germany in January 1933 Dollfuss tried to set up a more extreme dictatorship on the Nazi model.

On 12 February 1934 he set out to destroy Austria's working class organisations.

The army and police sealed off working class districts while the Heimwehr-the fascist military organisation-was unleashed to kill and destroy.

Guns pounded working class housing estates.

Workers responded with a heroic rising, taking up arms to defend themselves. The Schutzbund, the Social Democrats' military force, fought street by street, flat by flat.

Some 2,000 working people-men, women and children-were killed.

Tragically, the leaders of the labour movement had argued to "keep your powder dry" right up to the last minute.

By the time they proclaimed a general strike and called for armed resistance, Dollfuss had the upper hand and many workers had become demoralised.

The fascists triumphed. But the workers' heroism was not in vain. They had fought, unlike in Germany where the labour movement leaders had completely capitulated to Hitler.

In workers' quarters across the world the cry went up, "Better to die in Vienna than to surrender in Berlin."

The resistance in Vienna inspired French workers to halt the seemingly unstoppable rise of fascism across Europe.

But Dollfuss's victory shifted Austria sharply to the right. Independent organisations, from the trade unions to the League of Women's and Men's Musical Societies, were destroyed.

Austria's capitalists and German-speaking middle classes embraced the Nazis and welcomed the unification of Austria with Hitler's Germany in 1938.

They saw in Hitler (himself an Austrian) a return to Austria playing a major role in European affairs, as it had before the First World War.

By 1945 some 600,000 Austrians had joined the Nazi Party. But even throughout these years there was a different tradition.

Significant numbers of workers opposed unification with Nazi Germany.

Some even demonstrated despite the 1934 defeat. And German intelligence reports from 1938 to 1944 were full of fears that Red Vienna would rise again.

WHEN THE war ended the victorious Allied powers wanted a stable capitalist government in Austria.

They turned a blind eye to the Nazi past of Austria's establishment. Even more ex-Nazis returned to positions of power in Austria than in Western Germany.

Disgracefully Austria's Social Democratic leaders joined the official amnesia over what happened during the war.

They encouraged ex-Nazis to join their party, just as the Austrian Tories did.

There was little discussion in respectable circles about the Nazi past of prominent people until 1986.

In that year an international campaign, including anti-racists in Austria, exposed Austrian president Kurt Waldheim's role in Nazi mass murder in the Balkans in the 1940s.

Austria experienced sustained economic growth during the 1950s and 1960s.

But it has suffered from repeated crises since then. As in other parts of Europe these conditions, and the failure of Labour-type governments to protect workers, have allowed right wing forces to scapegoat immigrants and grow.

The far right has become more successful in Austria than elsewhere.

That is partly because no mainstream force in Austrian politics has systematically exposed the extreme nationalism and racism the country's elite welcomed in the 1930s and 1940s.

But the internationalist and socialist side of Austria has not died.

Haider has built some support among disillusioned workers.

However, his support among trade unionists is lower than in the population in general.

Austria's working class has not suffered defeats on the scale of the 1930s or even of the kind British workers went through in the 1980s.

The working class estates Dollfuss opened fire on in 1934 were patched up and stand today.

Many people living there know first or second hand what happened two generations ago.

Vienna, home to a fifth of Austria's eight million people, is as multicultural as it was a century ago.

Austria was the model of stable capitalist development and of moderate Labour rule in the 1960s and 1970s. Both have failed.

The choice now is between those who draw inspiration from Dollfuss and the Nazis, and the legacy of the workers who rose in 1934.

The fighting capacity of Austrian workers is there. If they learn from their own history they can ensure Haider is stopped today.

by KEVIN OVENDEN

Brothers' reign of terror

THE PUBLICATION of *Suffer the Little Children* which exposed the industrial schools has provoked a storm of controversy.

For a fortnight in January the letters column in the *Irish Times* contained a series of attacks on the findings of the book and on the credibility of its authors, journalists Mary Raftery and Eoin O'Sullivan. They have had some success — Waterstones, on legal advice, have removed the book from their shelves.

However the arguments which the right wing lobby are using have more holes than the rags the children wore in the industrial schools. They claim that no alternative existed at the time for the education of Ireland's poor and unwanted children. But the Irish state could have raised social welfare provisions and left the children with their families or even organised publicly run institutions rather than handing control over to the Catholic Church.

Instead a network of Industrial schools housing tens of thousands of children at a time were allowed to grow up under the control of the religious orders. The schools were funded by the state on a capitation basis, with a set amount of money for each child institutionalised.

The going rate in the 1930s was 10 shillings per week per child, far greater than the social welfare provision for children at home. This encouraged severe overcrowding in the schools.

Neither were the schools even run primarily as educational institutions. Many children left them wholly or partially illiterate due to fear and neglect. Education was merely the facade the religious orders presented in order to obscure the real nature of the schools as commercial operations providing tidy profits.

Artane Industrial School was housed on an 800 acre complex containing a sizable dairy farm and a number workshops all of which were run on free child labour. Meanwhile the children were fed dripping, dry bread and rotten potatoes.

Abused

The other claim against the book is that only a tiny minority of the children were abused. There was supposed to be a few bad apples among the generally child-loving nuns and brothers. But the harrowing testimony of hundreds of horrifically abused children gives lie to this.

Survivors of every one of these institutions have testified to systematic physical abuse of children. Cat O Nine Tails, leather whips and leaden and copper pipes are a selection of the weapons survivors remember being regularly beaten with. The lack of documentation relating to 'accidental deaths' of many children is deeply suspicious. Sexual abuse was also endemic and equally sadistic in form.

Brother O'Connor of Artane used a riveted bullet case attached to a stick to rape young boys. He was the subject of a special tribute TV programme on RTE in 1976.

The Department of Education repeatedly ignored mounting evidence of abuse within the schools right up until the 1970s. This evidence was provided by inspectors, lay staff, concerned locals and survivors. As early as 1930 the Christian Brothers launched their own internal enquiry into child abuse.

Mothers and fathers throughout Ireland threatened undisciplined children with the industrial schools. In other words the barbarity of these institutions was an open secret, particularly among the upper echelons of state departments and successive governments.

Raftery and O'Sullivan show that the Industrial schools provided the state with a means of segregating poor children while reinforcing rigid class distinctions in Irish society. But the extent of the abuse, and the collusion across state and religious institutions in keeping it secret, points to a deeper malaise.

In fact the schools merely mirrored the larger society in which they were allowed to operate.

The barbaric reality at the heart of capitalism is the exploitation of the vast majority for the benefit of a relatively tiny number of rich. The capitalist state arises out of the need to defend this inequality. The elements of the state are made up of institutions such as the army and the police, which are based around discipline, hierarchy and violence. In Ireland the industrial schools fitted neatly into this ready-made pattern.

DAVE LORDAN

THE COLLAPSE OF A DREAM

by ESTHER NESLEN

A MERICAN Beauty, which has been a huge hit in the United States, is about the collapse of the American Dream.

The film revolves around the Burnhams, who are, by all appearances, the perfect family. They are attractive, well off and own a large, tasteful house in a small town. The parents' careers are well established.

But then the father, Lester, played by Kevin Spacey, falls in love with his daughter's beautiful friend and knocks everything off balance.

Lester begins to realise how much he hates his job and how little his family care about each other. He doesn't even like himself much, and so he sets out to change his life. He quits his job, blackmails his boss to give him a huge redundancy package and gets a job at a burg-



Living the American Dream

er bar instead.

His wife Carolyn, played by Annette Bening, is very much the "Stepford wife" with a career. She has completely bought into the American dream.

As the film progresses she struggles desperat-

ly to keep the family moving up the social ladder. Kevin Spacey and Annette Bening put in superb performances. But the film is exceptional for other reasons as well. It exposes the contradictions of trying to live up to a "perfect"

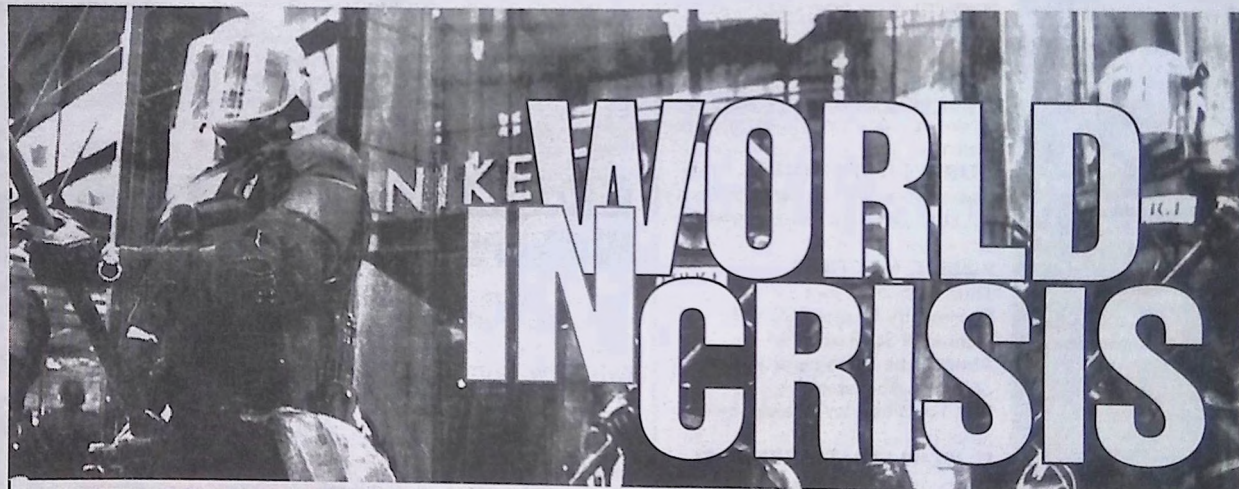
American ideal.

Much of the film is a questioning of how we judge what is beautiful, and how we view ourselves and others. So the boy next door to the family spends his life behind a video camera trying to capture beauty. A beauti-

ful cheerleader tries to look for a way out of normal existence. The greatest strength of the film is that the main characters are so well rounded.

The film shows a sense of longing for a different kind of existence. For Lester this partly means looking for a way off the consumer treadmill. As he eventually yells at his wife, "This isn't life. This is just stuff!" Director Sam Mendes said that he spent weeks rehearsing with the actors and building up histories for the parts they play. I had the feeling that this film started out as a whimsical Hollywood comedy, but as the characters developed their own histories it turned into something much closer to the truth.

It is heartening that a film so damning of the American Dream won a recent Golden Globe film award and is lined up for the Oscars. It must have struck a chord with the audiences.



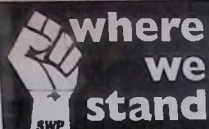
MEETINGS INCLUDE:

- **SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT**
Which way forward?
John Gormley (Green Party TD)
Robert Allen (Editor Pobal an Dulra)
- **GM FOODS: DEBATE**
Poisoned by Profit?
Michael Fox (Monsanto)
Mark Walshe (SWSS)
- *Refugees are welcome here*
FIGHTING RACISM IN IRELAND
Spokesperson for ARASI
Melisa Halpin (Anti-Nazi League)
- **DROP THE DEBT**
Caoimhe De Barra (Jubilee 2000)
Komene Famaa (Ogoni Voice Ireland)

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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.

SWP Branch meetings

ATHLONE:

Contact 01- 872 2682 for detail

BRAY:

Meets every Wednesday at the Mayfare Hotel at 8.30pm

BELFAST CENTRAL:

Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in the Garrick Bar, Chichester St.

BELFAST SOUTH:

Meets every Wednesday at 8.30 pm in Queens Students Union

CORK:

Meets every Wednesday at 8 pm in O'Donoghue's Bar, Emmett Place, Feb. 25th: Do Western workers benefit from Third World exploitation?

PUBLIC MEETING

Thurs. Mar. 2nd, 8pm Imperial Hotel, South Mall, Cork

Mumia must live - Abolish the racist death penalty

DERRY:

Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in Badgers Bar upstairs, Orchard St.:

DUNDALK:

Contact 01 - 872 2682 for details

DUN LAOGHAIRE:

Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in the Christian Institute

DUBLIN ARTANE / COOLOCK:

Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in Artane / Beaumont Recreational Centre opp. Artane Castle

DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL:

Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Conways, Parnell St

DUBLIN NORTH WEST:

Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in O'Mahonny's pub, Phibsboro (near Crossguns bridge

Feb. 23rd: What do we mean by revolution?

Mar. 1st: Who are the working class?

DUBLIN RIALTO:

Meets every Tuesday at 8:30pm St. Andrews Community Centre, SCR, Rialto

DUBLIN RATHMINES:

Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in O'Connell's Pub, St. Richmond St.

PUBLIC MEETING

Thurs. Feb 24th: Tom Kelly Community Centre (off South Richmond St.) Rathmines

Abolish the death penalty: The case of Mumia Abu Jamal

Mar. 1st: What do we mean by revolution?

DUBLIN SOUTH CENTRAL:

Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in Trinity Inn, Pearse St

DUBLIN TALLAGHT:

Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Jobstown Community Centre

Feb. 23rd: Peace Process in Crisis: The Socialist solution

Mar. 1st: The fight for women's liberation

ENNISKILLEN:

Phone 01 - 872 2682 for details

GALWAY:

Meets every Thursday in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square (beside Cuba) 8.30pm

LIMERICK:

Phone 01 - 872 2682 for details

TRALEE:

Phone 01-8722682 for details

WATERFORD:

Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in the ATGWU Hall, Keizer St.

MAYNOOTH:

Meets every Wednesday, Classhall B Maynooth college, Arts Block

Feb 23rd: Abolish the Death Penalty: The Case of Mumia Abu Jamal

Mar. 1st: The Politics of James Connolly.

news/reports/politics/industry/unions

Dublin Bus

Busworkers vote for all-out strike

Workers at Dublin Bus were set for strike action on Tuesday 15 February as Socialist Worker went to press. It should be the first day of a rolling strike to demand a 20 percent pay rise.

Over the last ten years busworkers have endured attacks on their pay and conditions.

Workers now have to make contributions to their "free" medical benefits and their seven sick days have extra restrictions imposed on them. Training payments for new equipment have all but disappeared.

As well as a 20 percent pay increase workers are demanding the scrapping of the new rates for newly recruited drivers, a year and a half lump sum and the right to retire at 55.

"After six months of talks we know that we will not get a decent pay rise, or pension or get rid of the new scales in any other way than by striking" one driver told *Socialist Worker*.

Nothing

"All the national pay deal will offer is 5 percent a year. When inflation is running at around 4 percent this is nothing.

"Five percent will mean nothing to the new drivers on a basic of £204 per week. It will mean nothing to drivers living in rented

accommodation or drivers with huge mortgages".

An "independent" investigation that was clearly pro-company found eleven points against the busworkers and in favour of management.

Private

Workers were told that if they wanted a pay increase they had to

be more 'flexible'. They must allow more contracting to private hackers, work longer hours with no spread-over payments, work more Fridays and Saturdays and also lose sick days.

"We are no longer prepared to take this lying down" another busworker told *Socialist Worker*. "If you don't stand up for yourself you will get nowhere.

"Look at our pension, it's almost two years since we were

promised improvements and still no action.

Strike

"It was only after the blue flu, the farmer's road block and the nurses strike that they got anywhere.

"They had already been to the labour court and all that. It time to bite the bullet and fight".

Roches Stores

Escalate to win

THE STRIKE by payroll workers at Roches Stores is continuing. Thirty three members of MANDATE at the Strand Street office in Dublin are on strike against low pay.

Their ridiculously low pay scale begins at a paltry £8,000 per year going up to about £12,000 with bonuses at the end of six years.

The strike is showing up the reality of low pay in the Celtic tiger.

Roches Stores have a turnover of over £300 million and the Roche family has been named as having money in the dodgy Ansbacher accounts.

When workers placed a picket



Strikers gathering support on Henry Street

on the Henry Street store they received a magnificent response, with 300 staff refusing to pass the picket. The workers in the Henry Street store are paying a levy to support the strikers, but have unfortunately voted not to come out in solidarity.

The dispute is currently with the Labour Court. But management have already refused to implement the Labour Court recommendation of a new pay-scale for the workers in line with Penny's and Brown Thomas.

The workers are also demand-

ing the 2-3percent local bargaining increase due under P2000.

Management only response is to demand longer working hours and extra coverage on Bank holidays.

The dispute has the potential to spread, and put some manners on the arrogant management at the Store, but it needs to tap into the widespread support for the strike throughout the company.

The Dublin North Central Branch of the SWP organised a fundraising social for the strikers which was attended by some 100 people and raised £350.

Wicklow Co. Council

Wicklow fights privatisation

Over twenty local authority workers have been on strike in Wicklow against the threat of privatisation. The strike follows a series of battles in Bray and Drogheda.

The strike began in early February when the management withdrew the bin lorries. "We heard it announced on East Coast radio - there was no consultation or discussion. They just went ahead" one of the workers told *Socialist Worker*.

Over the last year, local authorities have been establishing partnership committees with their workforces.

But what is happening in Wicklow shows that partnership is simply a ploy to get workers to do what their managers want.

Connected

The aim of the council is to hand over refuse collection to Noble Waste. Noble has already won the contract to pick up commercial waste.

The only thing the management has offered the workers is a severance package or a general promise of re-deployment. They will not guarantee that if the

workers did move they would keep their old conditions.

The severance package is a disgrace. "We were offered five weeks for every year's service. But that was to include taking money from our own pension funds.

So someone on 22 years service might be offered £26,000 - but £13,000 of that was money that should have been paid into the pension fund", another worker said.

SIPTU has made the dispute in Wicklow official.

But their overall response to the threat of privatisation has been weak.

Instead of bringing together the struggles Bray, Drogheda and Wicklow into a co-ordinated fight, the SIPTU leaders have kept them divided.

The challenge now is to get the whole union behind this brave group of workers who are fighting Thatcherite policies.

Security workers

An all-out strike action by security workers against low-pay is expected in the next few weeks.

Some 300 workers, all members of SIPTU, are currently being balloted and it is expected that there will be overwhelming support for strike action.

The strike ballot follows a unanimous rejection by the workers of the Labour Court recommendation, made before Christmas, opposing their claim for an interim settlement of £1 an hour.

Workers have been demanding a £2.50 an hour increase since last May and the interim settlement was seen as a down payment on that claim.

They are currently being paid

£5.50 an hour and are forced to work long and unsafe hours to just take home a liveable wage.

Acceptable

Kevin McMahon from SIPTU said "We cannot understand why an interim settlement was seen as acceptable for the garda and prison officers but not in this case".

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5.5% is not enough

Vote NO to wage restraint

THE GOVERNMENT, the bosses and the union leaders are trying to tie workers down to small increases for another three years. They want to make sure that wages are the only thing that is controlled in the Celtic Tiger.

Profits, rents, property prices are all soaring. Bankers, speculators, company directors have not been asked to show restraint on their income — but it is a different story for workers.

Declining

The result has been that workers got a declining share of the national economy.

In 1987, the share of the national economy going to wages, pensions and social security was 69 percent. Ten years later that had fallen to 59 percent.

By contrast, the share of the economy going to profits, dividends and rent had jumped by 10 percent.

Behind all the talk of being partners, the bosses know that these pay deals are really a mechanism for transferring wealth to them.

They want partnership when it comes to us giving more "flexibility". But there is no partnership

McCreavy's Tax Scam

The press are claiming that the new partnership deal will also give workers extra tax breaks which amount to £10 a week. But this is a scam, designed to sell this miserable deal.

*The Fianna Fail/Progressive Democrat government has already promised tax cuts as part of their programme for government. Even if trade unionists did not accept the deal, they are still supposed to deliver on these.

*The government is forcing local authorities to increase service charges. Yet this is another form of indirect tax. It is a case of giving with one hand while taking away with the other.

*Taxes on profits have been cut dramatically but the employers were never asked to show restraint in return. In 1987, the tax on company profits stood at 50 percent. Yet it is set to fall to a derisory 12.5 percent, which will be the lowest in Europe.

Profits

Over this period banks, property speculators and companies have been making fantastic profits.

If the bosses did not have to show restraint to get these scandalous tax cuts, then why should workers have to make sacrifices for minor concessions?

when it comes to sharing out the spoils of the Celtic Tiger.

The union leaders go along with this because they have become too close to the establishment.

They want a quiet life where they can collect the dues but do not have to organise industrial action.

Directors

The key union leaders, who negotiated the last Partnership 2000 agreement, have now become company directors. Billy Attley, the former leader of SIPTU, sits on the board of Eircom where he recently gained £30,000 from his shares.

Phil Flynn, the former President of the ICTU, is now a director of the ACC Bank.

The union leaders have become so close to the business elite that many are joining them after they retire from their jobs.

Against this unholy alliance of bosses, politicians and union leaders, workers should give a resounding NO to the deal.



The nurses strike showed the alternative to Partnership

What the pay deal offers

The pay deal offers an increase of 5.5 percent for each of the next two years. After that there is no automatic pay rise.

The last phase of the deal offers a 4 percent increase but this is dependent on meeting certain performance targets.

This is a way of getting more productivity out of

workers without paying.

The 5.5 percent increase is all that workers will get. All special claims beyond this are banned.

There is no local bargaining allowed.

Yet local bargaining was the way that some workers were able to push up their wages beyond the miserable increases given in Partnership 2000.

The deal is so bad that

even the ICTU, which has endorsed every previous deal, cannot recommend this one.

5.5 percent will not even cover the rise in prices.

At the moment Ireland has the highest rate of inflation in Europe, running at nearly 4 percent.

But the official rate of inflation underestimates the real cost of living.

Mortgages are not included in this figure. Nor

are service charges or increases in items such as car insurance.

Yet all of these are rising rapidly. Interest rates have increased across Europe and are set to rise further.

Percent

Every 1 percent rise in interest rates means that workers will have to pay back an extra £50 on a

£80,000 mortgage.

But the pay deal is only offering workers on £300 a week an increase of £16.50 before tax.

On top of all that, the low paid are not being looked after.

They are getting a tiny half a percent extra and the demand for a £5 an hour minimum wage has been put back for another few years.

AN ATTACK ON PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS

The bulk of Irish trade union members are concentrated in the public sector. This deal sets out to weaken union organisation there by dramatically changing the way bargaining takes place.

*All relativity payments will be banned forever more. Yet relativity payments have been an important way for public sector workers to push up their wages.

This year, for example, fire-fighters gained an extra 9 percent above the partnership deal because they insisted on keeping their relativity with the Gardai.

Relativity

As a result of that gain, other workers in the public sector known as 'early starters' are set to get extra rises. Yet this deal scraps the whole relativity system.

* Instead of relativity payments there is to be a new 'benchmarking

system'. Benchmarking is a jargon term that was developed by Japanese car plants. It meant that companies identified the wage costs of their competitors and then tried to get below that figure. It led to pressure for a continual reduction in costs - what workers came to call 'management by stress'.

* Under the new system every

grade of public sector workers will be 'benchmarked' against private sector workers. Yet many of these workers will be in non-union plants. They do not enjoy the same rights to job security or pensions. Benchmarking will therefore be a way of putting more pressure on public sector workers.

* The new deal will restrict union activity in essential services. The

unions have to agree to a 'voluntary code' to restrict action in areas like fire-fighting, hospitals, airports and buses by 30 June 2000.

One of the last partnership deals committed the unions to 'voluntarily' accepting the notorious Industrial Relations Act.

Now this one is pushing for more attacks on union rights.

The alternative

A HUGE No vote would be a signal that workers have had enough of sacrifice and want to get organised to claim what is rightfully theirs.

It could mean that either the ICTU are sent back to negotiate a better deal — or that each individual union is free to put in their own claims.

No matter what happened, the 5.5 percent rise would be seen as a

'bench mark' against which workers could win higher claims.

During the nurses dispute the nurses were told several times that there was no more money in the kitty. But it was only because they said NO on three occasions that they were able to push up their wages to the level they reached.

A NO vote would also show that workers want their unions to return to the grassroots. Instead of hob-nobbing with the bosses the union leaders should be organising workers for

a fight.

They should be spreading the message of solidarity so that different groups of workers are not told to pass each other's pickets. And they should be running a major recruitment drive to get workers in US multi-nationals to join the unions.

None of these things are happening at the moment because the union leaders pretend that the employers are their partners. It is time this was changed.

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 50p Solidarity price £1

inside

Fascists in government but...
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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE



Assembly suspended as:

Trimble tramples on hopes again



JUST WHEN hopes were rising that real politics were about to emerge in Northern Ireland, the Assembly has been suspended.

David Trimble, backed up by the British government and most of the media tried to blame the IRA and Sinn Fein for the deadlock.

Mandelson called the IRA's refusal to hand in weapons "contemptuous" and "a betrayal of the entire community of Northern Ireland."

But it is Trimble who has turned the peace process into a farce.

Mandelson said that he had to suspend the Assembly in order to save David Trimble's leadership of the Unionist Party.

But it was Trimble who created the noose for his own neck.

He imposed an entirely artificial deadline on decommissioning and threatened to resign if it wasn't

met. If the main issue really was IRA weapons, then the new statement from the IRA on the 11 February would have made a difference.

It indicated that the IRA would be prepared to destroy weapons if the Good Friday Agreement was implemented and the causes of conflict removed.

In particular, it appears that the IRA would consider disarming if the British Army dismantled its military bases.

But it was ignored by both Trimble and Mandelson.

Issue

The issue isn't weapons. The Ulster Unionists, backed up by the British government, want to see the complete surrender of the IRA.

At least half of the Ulster Unionist Party are against the peace agreement. They have never been challenged about the role of the Unionist state in Northern

Ireland. Instead they have clung to their belief that the IRA alone caused the violence.

They see any moves towards agreement with nationalist parties as a "concession to terrorists."

That's why the same Ulster Unionist council meeting on 12 February voted to reject even the modest changes to the RUC proposed by the Patten Commission.

Sinn Fein claim that they are a radical republican party, eager to get the Assembly in place so that they can change things for their mainly working class supporters.

But the real question is why are they so eager to be in a cabinet with the sectarian Tories of the Unionist Party.

The same British government which cuts funds for the NHS and education, keeps pensions and the minimum wage at poverty levels, while spending billions each year on nuclear weapons, is happy to have the Northern Ireland problem seen as a squabble between Catholics and Protestants.

WORKERS' UNITY NEEDED MORE THAN EVER

THE REAL problems faced by workers in Northern Ireland haven't gone away. And the Assembly, even if it is restored shows no sign of addressing them.

Just the week before the Assembly was suspended, thousands of 11 year olds were informed they'd failed the 11-plus. Martin McGuinness could have announced it was to be abolished. Instead he waited for a report and then said there would need to be a period of consultation.

SDLP Finance Minister Mark Durkan said last year that spending plans would not be changed. That leaves hospitals, education and other services starved of resources.

The peace has been welcomed by most Protestants and Catholics. It opens up the possibility of workers uniting to fight for a better future.

But the Assembly, dominated by communal parties, who are focused on creating favourable conditions for inward investment, won't deliver on that potential.

The events of the last week show that it is too important to be left in the hands of self-serving politicians like Mandelson and Trimble.

The best way to guarantee peace and provide an alternative to the dead-end of sectarianism is to encourage the development of class politics in the North.

Socialist Worker

10p

- **20% PAY RISE**
- **SMASH THE LOW PAY SCALES**
- **A DECENT PENSION**

INTO BATTLE!

Bus drivers are quite right to strike for a 20% pay rise.

Drivers start on a basic wage of £207 per week and reach a maximum of £273 per week.

The 20% pay claim put in by the NBRU was perfectly justified.

In addition to appallingly low pay rates drivers suffer terrible working conditions.

Drivers must battle Dublin's gridlocked traffic with too few and overcrowded buses.

The company recently introduced lower pay scales for drivers entering the job.

This has created an intolerable situation where drivers doing the same job are paid different rates of pay.

As well as this they see their colleagues retire on poverty pensions after a lifetime of service.

It is time to change all this.

Drivers voted overwhelmingly for strike action. Action was put off while an insulting inquiry wasted time and did not address the drivers' grievances.

The time for hesitation has now long gone. Now is the time for action.

NATIONAL PAY DEAL IS A CON

The new National Partnership Deal agreed by the "social partners" is a fraud.

We are told it will provide 15% pay rises and another 10% in tax breaks for workers.

In reality this will work out at 5.5% the first year, 5.5% the second year and four percent conditional on productivity improvements in the final 9 months of the deal.

Officially inflation is running at 3.9% and rising. But this excludes housing costs which have gone through the roof for working class people. In reality the increases will hardly be noticed as price

Public transport is under-funded

Drivers are determined to get a decent pay rise.

The one-day action is set to escalate to all out action if the drivers' demands are not met.

They deserve the support of all other workers.

And they expect their union leaders to stand firm.

The reason for this is not hard to find.

Dublin's bus service is run on the cheap.

A decade ago the subsidy to Dublin Bus amounted to £15 million. Since then it has been cut by a half.

Dublin Bus receives the lowest subsidy of any comparable bus service in Europe.

BUS WORKERS CAN WIN

Today's one day strike has shown the power of Dublin Bus drivers. No modern city can operate without a public transport system. The business life of the city faces enormous disruption.

Provided the union leaders keep their nerve and don't sell the workers short, drivers can win this dispute.

Bus workers should demand regular mass meetings where the progress of the strike can be assessed, openly discussed, decisions democratically arrived at and action organised.

Nurses' strike leaders

In Paris, Rome, Helsinki and Athens government subsidy amounts to more than half the costs of the service. But over 90% of the running costs of Dublin Bus are met from fares.

As a result the price of keeping the buses going is paid in the enormous stress and poor living standards of bus workers and their families.

Yet the booming Irish economy could easily afford to provide decent public transport and adequately pay bus workers.

For example, after tax profits in the Bank of Ireland soared from £74 million to a staggering £535 million in 1988.

shamefully ordered the lifting of pickets before strikers had an opportunity to hear the details of and vote on the settlement proposals.

As a result thousands of nurses felt they had been "bounced" into accepting a worse deal than they could have won. Bus workers need to ensure that any settlement proposal is voted on before pickets are lifted or strike action postponed.

The strike needs to be rapidly escalated to show the company and the government that drivers mean business.

US multinationals claim they are making a staggering 25% rate of profit on their investments in Ireland.

But the government refuses to tax the rich to fund public services properly.

Tax rates for the rich are the lowest in Europe.

In 1987 tax on company profits were 50%. Today it is less than half that and it will be a mere 12.5% in 2002.

DEMONSTRATE TO SAVE MUMIA'S LIFE
Saturday March 4th
Assemble Garden of Remembrance, Parnell Square
2.30pm

Socialist Worker Public Meeting:
ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY: MUMIA MUST LIVE
Wednesday 16th Feb
8.00pm Vietnamese Centre, Hardwicke St (off North Frederick St)

TIME TO GET POLITICAL

The rotten conditions bus workers face is just one aspect of capitalism which ruins the lives of millions around the world.

Multi-nationals destroy the planet in their feverish search for greater and greater profits. Western banks bleed dry the poorest people on the planet as a result of Third World Debt.

More food is produced than could feed everyone on this planet but starvation and famine stalk the earth because of poverty.

From Indonesia to Seattle there is a growing anger at the domination of big business.

Workers have the potential power to challenge capitalist values and change the world.

If you agree, join us in the fight for socialism.

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BUS STRIKE SPECIAL

O'Rourke's Thatcherite Agenda

Minister O'Rourke has openly boasted of her aim to open up the railways to privatisation and to deregulate bus services

This is what the upcoming review of the 1932 Transport Act is means

Already licences have been issued for a private concern to run an airport bus.

In Britain privatisation and deregulation has meant an appalling deterioration in services, worse working conditions and attacks on wages.

Safety has also suffered leading to the recent Paddington train disaster.

But O'Rourke and her colleagues want to bring in this Thatcherite agenda so that wages and conditions of transport workers and services for all working class people can be attacked so the Irish rich can be receive yet greater tax breaks and bigger profits

MUMIA MUST LIVE!

Mumia Abu-Jamal has been on death row in the US for over 17 years

Framed for the death of a policeman in 1981, he is demanding a retrial. This is the last chance to save his life

A vigorous campaign in 1995 won him a reprieve. Let's repeat that success today. Mumia has been framed by a deeply racist system

He has been on FBI files since 1968, when he helped found the Black Panther Party in Philadelphia as a 15 year old.

As a successful radio journalist in the 1970s he was dubbed 'the voice of the voiceless' for standing up against racism and injustice. He interviewed radicals like Alex Haley and Bob Marley. International solidarity can save Mumia

We must step up our action before they kill him for his principled opposition to racism and injustice

Mumia is one of 3,549 people on Death Row in the US, and almost 100 were murdered by the state last year

Over 50 percent of death row inmates are non-whites. We must demand the scrapping of the death penalty



Mumia Abu-Jamal