

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

50p

inside

First Seattle, then Washington and Millau
NOW PRAGUE S26 — GLOBAL DAY
OF ANTI CAPITALIST ACTION PAGE 3

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profit from Aids
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Naomi Klein
interviewed page 8

Solidarity price £1

★ Aldi workers sacked
for joining a union

★ Irish Rail locks out
ILDA train drivers

**DEFEND
UNION
RIGHTS**

FIVE YOUNG workers at the Aldi supermarket chain have been sacked for joining a union.

The multi-national owners want to open shops across Ireland but don't want any union labour.

But it is not just the multinationals attacking organised labour. The government has set out to break the train drivers' union, ILDA.

They want to make an example of it to other workers who defy the pressure of "flexible" labour.

Flexible

So it refuses to talk with them claiming it is a breakaway union. It says workers cannot join the union of their choice but must stick to SIPTU or the NRBU.

Yet the NRBU was originally a "breakaway union."

These attacks on union rights should be resisted. Every trade unionist should boycott the Aldi stores and raise collections for the strikers.

And workers at the train stations should refuse to scab on the ILDA drivers. "An injury to one is an injury to all" is an old union slogan that still makes sense.

■ For details of both disputes turn to page 11

Inflation soars:

They lied to us!

INFLATION rates are hitting the roof and by the end of the year will reach 7 percent.

This startling trend has emerged from recent figures issued by the Central Statistics Office which show that price rises which are running at 5.5 percent have already wiped out pay increases due to be paid under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness.

And it is set to get worse.

Oil prices and interest rates are already rising on a global scale.

The European Central Bank is going to raise interest rates by



Charlie McCreevy

September at the latest. And every 1 percent on interest rates will mean £60 a month on workers' mortgage payments.

This recent partnership

pay deal was sold on that basis of blatant lies to workers.

The government and the union leaders all claimed that inflation was

actually falling.

They thought that once workers had voted for the deal, they would be tied

up for three years, unable to do anything.

But the bosses made sure they had a let out

clause if there were economic difficulties.

Workers should tell them they have difficul-

ties paying bills and put in for an extra pay claim because the deal is now invalid.

Here is what we were told back in February and March of this year: "Inflation will show significant reductions later this year and the average inflation rate will be 2.5 percent. So the pay increases will be for real."

Bertie Ahern

"We cast our figures significantly above the rate of inflation. Further, it is expected to fall to three percent later this year."

Des Geraghty

"Inflation will not get above 2.6 percent"

ERSI document on the importance of Partnership agreements.

"Inflation will fall to 2.8 percent."

John Beggs, chief economist with AIB



Tribunals for the rich prisons for the poor

Charlie Haughey arrived at the Moriarty Tribunal in his state Mercedes driven by a chauffer.

His memory loss was remarkable. When asked about a meeting with AIB bank bosses to discuss his enormous overdraft he said, "It could have taken place. I can't put it stronger than that. I can't say the meeting did or did not take place."

Minutes

At the time he was looking at the minutes of meeting.

But if you are an Irish traveller it is a different story.

Just before Haughey's appearance a traveller from Dundrum was imprisoned for two weeks in Mountjoy jail after the Gardai "mistook" him for

★ While Haughey is being forgetful at the tribunals, he seems to have a keen eye for rezoning motions. He is in the process of selling off small parts of Kinseally to developers.

Very conveniently the land in question was rezoned at the beginning of the year.

So far he has made \$3million from the sale but is expected to make another £7million when he sells land to Treasury Holdings — company behind the attempted Spencer Dock Development.

another man. His only 'crime' was that he same name as another traveller wanted for traffic offences. No public apology was issued for this mistake. No compensation was offered.

STOP THE EXECUTION OF BRIAN ROBERTSON

DEATH ROW
inmate Brian Roberson is scheduled to be executed on August 9th. US Presidential candidate George Bush is the Governor of Texas where Brian Roberston will be killed.

Brian Robertson trial took place before an all-white jury and was severely flawed. African Americans were excluded from the jury.

Standards

The prosecutor stated bluntly that African Americans who answered a particular question in a certain way were less intelligent and did not meet the standards to be a juror.

When Brian Roberston was nine years old, a white man stabbed his father to



Brian Robertson

death.

The murderer was given a light sentence was eventually granted early release.

But Brian Robertson was sentenced to death for a similar crime.

The majority of death row inmates are non-White. And unless there a

major protests, Brian Robertson could be the next victim of this racist system of justice.

★Send protest messages to Texas Board of Criminal Justice PO Box 13401, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711 Fax 512-4065483

THINGS THEY SAY

"I asked friends who were business people for donations. Without that I would certainly not be back in the Dail".
 FRANK FAHEY, FF Minister, defending corporate donations to politicians

"So could I have been mixed up? I believe I would have been and could have been."

BEN DUNNE, telling the Moriarty tribunal that he may have been mentally unstable when he gave Haughey £20,000

"I have never done anything like that in my life"

CARMEL MASTERTSON, wife of a striking ILDA member, who sat on a chair, in support of her husband, on the track at Westport Station for 4 hours

Two faces of the Celtic Tiger

★ **THE PRO-AM golf tournament, organised by local millionaire JP McManus, was a real ball.**

Many of Ireland's richest businessmen shelled out £40,000 to play golf with champions such as Tiger Woods and Mark O'Meara. Some of those strutting their stuff on the fairway included Michael Smurfit, Gary McCann, young Tony Smurfit and Ray Curran.

The climax of the event was the charity auction and gala banquet that saw the rich spending some of their millions.

One anonymous donor paid £1.4 million for a game of golf at the Isleworth Country Club in

Orlando with Tiger Woods. Another bid of £1 million secured a flag from the 2000 Open Championship, signed by the winner. £250,000 was paid for 4 tickets to a Manchester United game and a Volkswagen Beetle went for a mere £80,000. In all £11 million was spent at the auction.

★ **In the same week a 16 year old girl who had nowhere to live was forced to walk the streets.**

She was the victim of horrific sexual and physical abuse. Her father had just been jailed for 15 years for torturing and raping her repeatedly when she was just 14. She and her moth-

er were imprisoned, chained to a bedroom wall and refused access to toilet facilities.

The man than raped his daughter 24 times. He slashed both his prisoners with razor blades and attacked them with spikes and other weapons.

Even though the East Dublin Health Authorities knew of her situation for over a year, the girl has nowhere to live. Each night she had to present herself to the to the local authorities 'out of hours service' to find an emergency hostel bed and roam the street by day.

Social workers say hers is not an isolated case and that up to 1,000 children are in a similar situation waiting investigating.

O'Flaherty's fascist uncle

JUST WHEN Hugh O'Flaherty thought it was safe to come out of his mansion in Ballsbridge, the media have got a hold

of the story that his uncle Mgr Hugh O'Flaherty was a Nazi spy.

It has long been held that the Catholic Church

was more than helpful to the Nazi's during the Second World War, with reports of money laundering, supplying intelligence and failing to condemn atrocities.

O'Flaherty, the Vatican representative of the American Red Cross, was hailed as a hero for saving Jews and Allied POW's and a memorial was erected to him in his native Muckcross Park.

Now according to recently declassified British and US documents O'Flaherty tipped off the Nazi's about Allied invasion plans.

Global warming kills 100,000

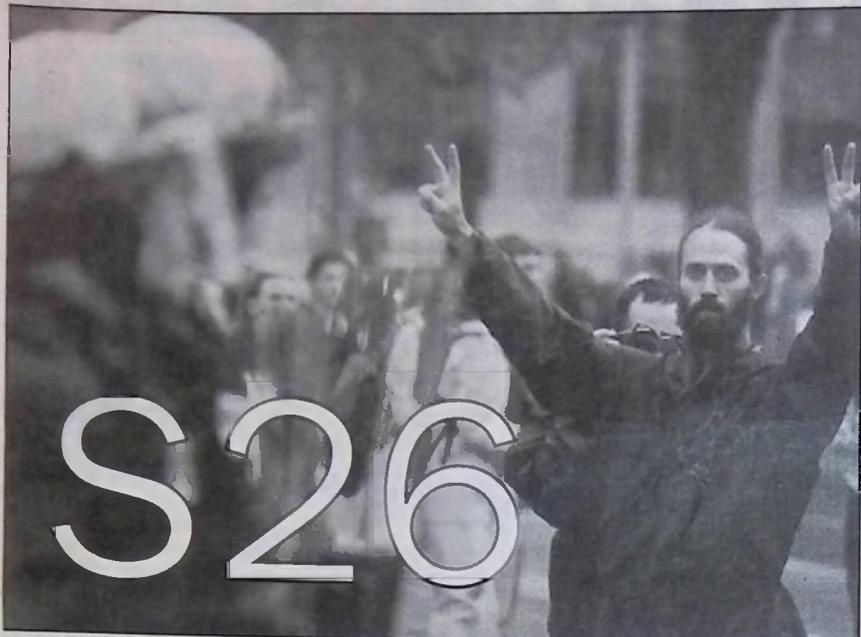
A NEW Book, *Catastrophe*, by historian David Keys claims that global warming has already killed over 100,000 people across the world over the past three years.

"There have always been severe weather events, but the number and severity has increased in recent years", says Keys, who adds that up to 300 million people have been displaced and made homeless by

exceptionally severe weather conditions.

There is a now scientific consensus that the earth's atmosphere is heating up, as a result of carbon dioxide emissions, mainly from big industry, that causes the 'greenhouse effect'. The warming is disrupting the weather system, resulting in more and more extreme weather including droughts, torrential rain and hurricanes.

Seattle... Washington...and now Prague



Global day of action against capitalism

SOME 20,000 of the world's bankers will arrive in Prague in the Czech Republic between 26 and 28 September. They are gathering for the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. But they will not be unopposed.

Thousands of demonstrators are due to travel to Prague from all over Europe and beyond. Many will travel hundreds and hundreds of miles, just like those who protested in Seattle and Washington. INPEG is the organisation set up to mobilise for the demonstration. It plans protests, lectures, educational and cultural events centred on the IMF and World Bank opening ceremony on Tuesday 26th September.

The focus of the previous weekend will be a huge counter-summit which will highlight the harmful effects of capitalist globalisation and discuss alternatives.

You can be there

YOU COULD get to Prague either by air or by coach from Britain. Raise sponsorship for your trip from your work-mates, your union, your student's union or community group.

★ If you cannot go sponsor someone else who can go. Pledge them report back on the events.

★ Hold work-place/community/college meeting to explain the damage caused by the IMF and World Bank and why people are protesting in Prague.

★ Form local 'Prague Collectives' in your area. Collectives have already been formed in Dublin and Belfast.

★ Readers of *Socialist Worker* can contact the S26 collective in Dublin initially at sbasketter@yahoo.com or 087 2299876 and the S26 Collective in Belfast on sbasketter@hotmail.com.

AROUND EUROPE

MOBILISATION for Prague is beginning all over Europe.

In NORWAY, for example, buses are already booked to travel to Prague from Oslo, Bergen and Trondheim. In Oslo the deputy leader of the transport workers' union is on the mobilising committee for Prague alongside other trade unionists, environmentalists and the youth organisation of the Socialist Left Party.

In FRANCE a left wing union federation, SUD, is to charter a special train to Prague. Groups of ATTAC (the campaign for a tax on international financial speculation) supporters are mobilising. And in POLAND committees are being formed to mobilise for Prague, uniting socialists, anarchists, trade unionists and environmentalists. In BRITAIN ten buses are scheduled to leave London and local Prague collectives are being formed across the country.

The S26 Collective in Dublin will also be calling two demonstrations in solidarity with the Prague protests. The first will be at the International Financial Services Centre on Tuesday 26th and the other in Dublin city centre on 30th September. Watch out for details.

"THERE ARE two important reasons to go to Prague for 26 September, and why the demonstration is so important. Firstly, this demonstration is special for Eastern Europe. We had a 'Velvet Revolution' 11 years ago. We hoped the end of Stalinism would mean not only the end of the Cold War but the end of all wars, the end of poverty and exploitation.



Everyone spoke about the victory of capitalism across the whole world, and how this would make our lives better. Czech politicians told us that we all had to work very hard.

They said if we tightened our belts for ten years then everybody's standard of living would be as high as in Austria. The situation is totally different now. The standard of living is worse than before.

Unemployment is rising. Thousands of people have to wait months before they are paid their wages. Some areas of northern Bohemia and Moravia have had to stop all school activities like sport, music and drawing because parents do not have enough money for them.

But there is not only misery in the Czech Republic. There is also anger, and disappointment. People often say that they were on the streets in November 1989. They say they wanted the old regime to end. But they did not imagine things would end like this.

Eastern Europe today is not what we fought for. People in Prague on 26 September will show this to everyone. The second reason to come to Prague is the new atmosphere developing across the world. There is anger, there is resistance and there is hope.

We saw it in Seattle, in Washington and in Millau. Prague is next! But Prague is not the end. Prague must only be the beginning. The more people there are in Prague, the stronger the anti-capitalist movement will be everywhere."

★ JOHANA RUZICKOVA, member of the mobilising team for INPEG, the Initiative Against Economic Globalisation, which is organising the protests in Prague

Socialist Worker says get moving for S26

- I want to travel to Prague and will seek sponsorship
- I will help raise money for someone to go to Prague
- I want to helporganise demonstrations in sympathy with Prague

Name.....

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Telephone..... Union.....

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Challenge to big business America

"PEOPLE KNOW that special interests or largely business money runs this government, and that the corporate government has taken over our government."

That was the damning comment of Ralph Nader, the Green Party candidate who is standing for US president. He has shaken up the US presidential campaign by sticking the boot into big business America.

Nader has attacked the way that the gap between rich and poor has widened in the world's richest capitalist country, saying that "today the financial wealth of the top 1 percent of households exceeds the combined wealth of the bottom 95 percent of American households."

"Earlier this year Bill Gates's wealth was equal to the combined wealth of the poorest 120 million Americans."

"It means that tens of millions of Americans, who work year after year, decade after decade, are nearly broke. What democracy worth its salt would have led to this profound inequality?"

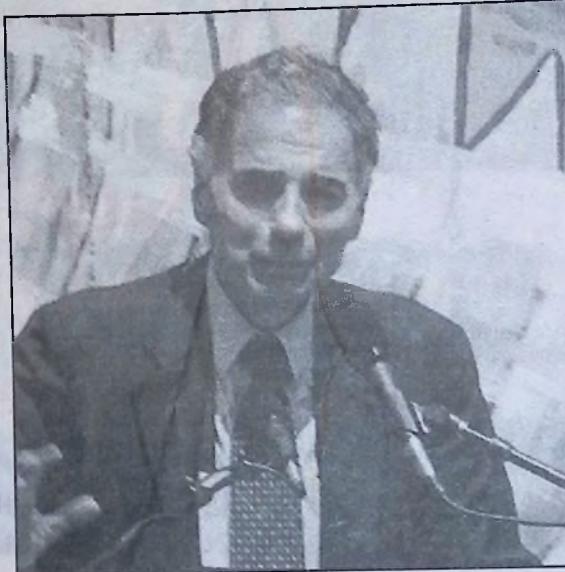
Nader is providing a focus for all those people sick of the pro-

"Earlier this year Bill Gates's wealth was equal to the combined wealth of the poorest 120 million Americans. It means that tens of millions of Americans, who work year after year, decade after decade, are nearly broke. What democracy worth its salt would have led to this profound inequality?"

capitalist two horse race of Republicans and Democrats that dominates US politics. As he says, "The only difference between Gore and Bush is the velocity with which their knees hit the floor when the corporations come knocking at the door."

He is also tapping into the anti-capitalist mood that produced the demonstrations at Seattle and Washington.

He currently stands at around 7 percent in the polls. Nader was prominent at the Washington



Ralph Nader

demonstration against the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in April. At an anti-capitalist teach-in he gained a standing ovation for his attacks on the multinationals that buy up US politics.

Nader launched his election campaign saying,

"The banking giants and their IMF and World Bank cohorts are

continuing their structural adjustment policies in Third World countries that cut public budgets, end critical consumer subsidies and replace real food acreage with cash crops for exports, while imposing environmentally damaging megaprojects that enrich the local oligarchy."

Nader's candidature represents

the biggest break to the left of the Democratic Party for 50 years.

He has managed to gain the support of the powerful International Brotherhood of Teamsters trade union, and may get also get backing from the Auto Workers' Union.

Turnaround

This is a turnaround for the US trade unions, which usually automatically line up behind the Democratic Party.

His talk about a "universal, accessible and quality healthcare" will hit home for millions of Americans who cannot get decent treatment.

He is against the death penalty, defends abortion rights, and is seeking equality for gays and lesbians.

Nader is a well known figure in the US and made his name as a consumer champion.

In 1966 he lobbied Congress to pass the Wholesale Meat Act and Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act.

More recently he led a long campaign against General Motors over car safety, managing to get tens of thousands of cars recalled and a tightening of safety specifications.

When Nader ran for president

in 1996 he took just 1 percent of the vote.

The increase in his support says a lot about the discontent at the base of US society.

He is polling as high as 10 or 12 percent in some states.

Surveys also reveal that many more people who may not vote Nader on the day have sympathy for what he is saying.

He is not a socialist and, although he has the Green Party nomination, he considers himself an independent.

There are things that socialists would disagree with Nader on — for example, using protectionist rhetoric about defending "US jobs" and the US market from foreign competition.

But there is no doubt that Nader's campaign presents a massive opportunity for those in the US wanting to build a left alternative to the establishment.

Nader says his campaign strategy is to "bring thousands of people into the progressive political community".

That would be a marvellous step forward in the country that represents the heart of the capitalist beast.

Thousands sign Anti-Racist Declaration

"We the undersigned, wish to protest at the torrent of abuse that has been stoked up against asylum seekers."

The most vulnerable group of people fleeing persecution, oppression and war are being blamed for the ills of Irish society.

The housing crisis and the poor state of our health service was not caused by the arrival of a few thousand refugees. These problems result from the failure of successive governments to adequately fund these services.

Instead of attacking refugees, we should condemn politicians who led an opulent and corrupt lifestyle while they told the rest of us to 'tighten our belts'.

A media who uses terms like 'floods' of people is now inflaming racist sentiment. Yet the reality is that there are less refugees in this country than there were Irish 'illegals' in Boston in the eighties.

We particularly condemn attempts to associate refugees with medical illness. People from divergent countries with different experiences should not be de-humanised in this way.

The forced dispersal policy of the government and their decision to confine refugees to a voucher system has helped to fuel this racism. Instead of treated refugees as a burden, we call on the government to give them the right to work.

We believe that asylum seekers deserve our compassion and help. We call on everyone who wants to see a tolerant and multi-cultural Ireland to oppose this wave of racism and to make their voices heard."

SIPTU; NBRU; ATGWU; ESBOA; PSEU; Comhlamb; Kosovo Ireland Solidarity; Ireland Action for Bosnia; The Socialist Workers Party; The Anti Racism Campaign; Michael D Higgins TD, Labour Party; Emmet Stagg TD, Labour Party; Patricia McKenna, Green Party MEP; Councillor Larry O'Toole, Sinn Fein; Councillor Dessie Ellis, Sinn Fein; Senator Joe Costello, Labour Party; Senator Brendan Ryan, Labour Party; Kieran Allen, Socialist Workers Party; Councillor Finian McGrath, Independent; Councillor Deirdre De Burca, Green Party; Raymond Deane, Composer; Gavin Kostick, Playwright; Fergus Johnston, Composer; Leland Bardwell, Aodana; Mick O'Reilly, Regional Secretary ATGWU; Des Geraghty, President SIPTU; Peter Bunting, General Secretary NBRU; Jimmy Kelly, Executive member ATGWU; Eddie Conlon, TUI Executive; Marnie Holborow, President SIPTU Education Branch; Carolann Duggan, SIPTU Waterford; Jan O'Sullivan TD, Labour Party; Liz McManus TD, Labour Party; Sean Ryan TD, Labour Party; Pat Rabbitte TD, Labour Party; Dr Colin Coulter, Dept of Sociology, NUI Maynooth; Dr Steve Coleman, Dept of Anthropology, NUI Maynooth; Sinead O'Connor, Singer; Prof Ciaran O Boyle, Royal College of Surgeons; Prof Hannah McGee, Royal College of Surgeons; Joe Moore, President Cork Council of Trade Unions; Dan Murphy, General Secretary PSEU; Galway Branch of IMPACT; Evelyn Conlon, Writer; Prof John Maguire, UCC; Neil Hannon, The Divine Comedy; Cllr Finian McGrath; Joe Higgins TD, Socialist Party; Eddie Conlon TUI Executive; Prof Farrell Corcoran, DCU; Leo Kirwan, Sinn Fein, Clonakilty; Dr Steve Loyal, UCD; Ogra Shinn Fein; Gerry Adams, MLA; Martin McGuinness, MLA; Bairbre de Brun, MLA; Prof Terry Eagleton; Constance Murphy; Janet Mullarney, Artist; Job St Graeve Artist; Our Lady's Manor Nursing Home, Dalkey; Cllr Dermot Lacey Labour; 3/111 Branch ATGWU, Dúngarvan Crystal; 3/64 Branch ATGWU, Waterford Crystal; Star Project Ballymun; Waterford Crystal Shop Stewards; Sean Redmond, National Secretary IMPACT; Kevin Callinan, National Secretary IMPACT; IMPACT

Dun Laoghaire Branch: Brendan Archbold; National Official. MANDATE Trade Union; Richard Boyd Barrett, Socialist Workers Party; Labour Youth; Architectural and Heritage Services Branch IMPACT; 60 Delegates to IMPACT Conference; Staff members at St Angela's School, Waterford; 7 Executive members of the CPSU; 50 Delegates to the CPSU conference; Tralee Against Racism; 20 Delegates to ATGWU conference; Members of Staff and Students at the Dublin School of English; Members of Staff at Iceland, Ballyfermot; Members of Staff at Bray Urban District Council; Cllr G Mc Loughlin, Coleraine; Prof Brian Manning University of Ulster Coleraine; Billy Ryan, Ringsend; Dr Brian Hughes, LSB College; Members of Staff at LSB College; Jane Dillon Byrne, Labour; Matthew Seaver, Archaeologist, Cathal Kelly; Gay and Lesbian Suicide Prevention Initiative; Dennis Keane President CPSU; Padraig Yeates, Irish Times; Members of Staff at Tramtrax; Rialto Community Drugs Team; Dr Juliet Bressan; Jeanne Riou, Irishtown; Members of Staff at Dublin Corporation Rathmines; Jackie Bolger, Carlow; Bill Morris General Secretary T&G; Late Matt Merrigan ATGWU; Members of staff at Ringsend & District Response to Drugs, Regal House, Ringsend; Members of Staff at

Mount Street Day Centre Irish Wheelchair Association; Members of staff at Print & Display; Clara Carty, Enniscorthy; Members of staff at Dublin City University; Members of staff at Canon Hygiene; Paddy Maloney, Irish Examiner; Parnell Street Residents Against Racism; Members of staff at Computer Science Department, UCD; Members of teaching staff at Dublin Business School; John de Courcy Ireland; Busworkers Action Group; Members of staff at Virtual Access; Melissa Halpin, Secretary of ANL; Rory Hearne, President Trinity College Students Union; Eamonn McCann, Journalist; Dr. Peadar O'Grady; Staff at the Arts Council; The Leftovers; Gabriel Ohkenla, Pan African Organisation; Pat Rabbitte, Labour TD; Kitty Holland, Journalist; Caoimhe Ni Loughlin, Journalist; Brendan Carr, Labour Councillor; Strikers at the Aldi Supermarket; The Irish Blues Club; Parchman Farm; ;

Over 10,000 people throughout Ireland have signed the declaration. We wish to thank all those whose hard work made this possible. The Anti Nazi League in Ireland has initiated and organised this declaration. If you wish to join the ANL please fill out the coupon below

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Eamonn McCann

The writing on the wall

JOHN WHITE of the Ulster Democratic Party has spent much of the last few weeks dealing with the writing on the Shankill walls.

First, he was called to account over a mural in Dover Street exulting at the killing of Catholics by the UDP's paramilitary wing, the UFF.

The painting showed a UFF logo alongside scrolls representing five UFF atrocities—the massacres at James Murray's bookmakers, the Devenish Arms, the Rising Sun in Greysteel, the Kennedy Way council depot and Graham's bookies on the Ormeau Road. Underneath was the inscription, "Wouldn't it be great if it was like this all the time?"

White is one of the new "working-class Loyalists" and known to have major influence with the UFF on the Shankill. So the Irish News put it to him that this disgusting display should be removed. He expressed his "concern" and said he'd "see what I can do".

At the time of writing, this celebration of sectarian hate remains in place. White says (*Irish News*, July 30): "I spoke to some people and expressed my concerns...But any more talks with those responsible would be a waste of time".

Painted

He didn't distance himself from the mural. How could he? He's the "political spokesman" for the people who painted it.

White's other current involvement in murals arises from his ambition to honour the "Queen Mother". The gin-soaked old parasite is set to reach 100 and White wants her portrait on a Shankill Road wall as "a mark of the community's reverence."

In all her long and dreary existence the "Queen Mother" hasn't done as much honest labour as the average Shankill (or Falls) woman of her generation was expected to do, and often forced to do, on an unremarkable day.

But at the end of a century of indolence, she has four palatial residences, including a castle in Scotland in 25,000 acres, and 50 full-time personal servants. For running expenses, she takes £12,500 a week from the "civil list"—aka, the tax-payer. She has been able to drink and gamble away millions in the comforting knowledge that there's always more where that came from — out of the pockets of people from places like the Shankill.

She supported the appeasers of Nazism in the 1930s. All her life she's been a snob and detested the poor, as well as a racist who refers to black people as "nig-nogs". She believes that Margaret Thatcher was the finest prime minister of the 20th century.

Now White — and other "working-class" loyalist leaders who came onto the political scene a decade ago denouncing the Unionist "fur coat brigade" and promising that working-class Protestants wouldn't be brow-beaten or bamboozled again — simper with pleasure on television as they ruminate on how right it is that the "Queen Mother" should be revered in Protestant areas.

It's been argued that a mural kow-towing to Royalty is preferable to one gloating at sectarian slaughter. And if those were the alternatives, on balance maybe so. But these are not alternatives. They are different reflections of the same political mind-set.

The ideology which demands that one section of the working-class look up to the Royal Family is the same as urges workers to look down on another section of their own class.

No disadvantaged community can define itself by reference to the symbols of the ruling class and at the same time organise seriously against its own disadvantage.

No section of the working class can look on another with murderous hatred and at the same time struggle in its own class interest.

These facts are self-evident.

John White and people like him represent nothing but the same old sectarian story. Those on the Left who have entertained illusions in the "new" Loyalist parties should look again. The truth is as plain as the writing on the wall.

Drumcree shows the crisis of Orangeism

VIOLENCE SIGN OF DESPERATION

The 12 July march at Killyleagh this year indicated the depth of the crisis in the Orange Order. Only 3,000 marchers turned up, compared to the usual 10,000. When the Portadown lodge entered the field, there was only a half-hearted ripple of applause.

The Portadown Orangemen had called for another standoff at Drumcree this year.

But despite calling for 100,000 people to take to the streets and advertising in papers all over the North, a 'monster rally' on 2nd July attracted 500.

Pattern

The same pattern was repeated up to the 12th. The numbers involved in blocking roads were tiny, compared to previous years, though the fear



Mad Dog and Friends

they inspired turned Belfast and most parts of the North into ghost towns as shops and offices closed early.

The small numbers of

thugs who blocked roads faced little opposition from the RUC, who mainly stood by and watched as cars were stopped.

The prominence of Johnny Adair and the UFF, trying to position himself as the new Billy Wright, only deepened the isolation of the

Orangemen. Adair led 50 supporters to Drumcree with a UFF banner and was filmed cheering LVF gunmen in a loyalist estate in Portadown.

The Drumcree march is a symptom of a deep crisis in Unionism.

Since 1997, the anti-Agreement wing have made it their rallying point.

Bitter

They want to direct the despair of impoverished Protestants towards a bitter hatred of Catholics.

Their problem is that this does not fit with the experience of most Protestants and clashes with the widespread desire for peace.

Orange Order haemorrhaging members

A TRADE unionist from a Protestant area in East Belfast who spoke to Socialist Worker, said, "Around here was quiet. There was a lot of talk about flags but most of them were on the lampposts, there seemed far fewer on people's houses.

"If you asked people, many Protestants would say that they support the Orangemen getting down the Garvaghy Road. There is a lot of people who say things like 'The Catholics are getting everything'.

"But at the same time, they wanted nothing to do with the street violence.

Afraid

"It was mainly very young kids who were blocking roads, but it was people here who were afraid to drive their cars or even go out at night."

Raymond, a Protestant from a small town in County Down, said "Even a few years ago it would have been local men from the Orange

Order out protesting. This year it was handfuls of kids.

"People don't want to be associated with the violence.

"That doesn't mean that they've all changed their views. I think most of them still think the Orange men have a right to march down the Garvaghy Road, but they don't want to be associated with people like John-

ny Adair."

The Orange Order itself has recognised the complete failure of the Drumcree protest.

It has led to open splits among the leadership.

Resigned

Even before July, the Orange Order education committee resigned en

masse, over the refusal to talk to the Parades Commission, claiming that Drumcree was leading to a "haemorrhaging" of membership.

After the 12th, Robert Saulters, the Grand Master of the Orange Order, who had refused to talk to the Parades Commission, was publicly criticising the Portadown Orangemen.

We need an alternative to bigotry

After Drumcree the SDLP's Brid Rodgers called for "more responsible leadership from the Orange Order". But so-called moderate Unionism does not offer an alternative to the bigotry on display at Drumcree.

All shades of Unionism see the main divide in Northern Ireland as Catholic versus Protestants.

Along with the other politicians in the new Assembly, they have no solution to the desperate poverty facing many working class people in the North.

The Assembly will continue the cuts to public services and welfare. Already there have been deep cuts in the housing executive budget.

Closure

Sinn Fein Health Minister, Bairbre de Brun, used the distraction of the 12th to announce the closure of the South Tyrone hospital.

These policies increase despair in run down Protestant estates. And every Unionist politician will try to direct that despair against Catholics.

Instead of thugs like Johnny Adair being isolat-

ed, they are allowed to appear as simply the "hot heads" in the "Unionist family".

The kicking and shooting to death of a UVF member by 12 UFF thugs in Larne, happened at a bonfire attended by the local Unionist Party MP.

The only real alternative to this bigotry is socialist politics which can connect the desire for a real change for working people with a consistent opposition to any idea that the main divide is between Protestants and Catholics.

iraq

The sanctions that kill children

In May 1996, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State was asked on CBS 60 minutes if the death of more than half a million children was a price worth paying. "We think the price is worth it" she replied

by **SINEAD KENNEDY**

On the 6 August sanctions against Iraq will have been in place for over 10 years.

In that time more than a million people, many of them children, have died as a direct result of the sanctions.

These sanctions are driven by same strategic objections behind the Gulf War of 1990-1991, namely to ensure the continued role of the US as the strategic pace setter in the Middle East.

These sanctions are fully supported by the Irish government.

Some of the items, which are forbidden to be exported to Iraq, include food supplies, equipment that might restore the power grid; the water treatment plants and the telephones are all outlawed.

The sale of medical supplies, such as heart and kidney machines are outlawed, along with water pumps. Agricultural supplies and safety and fire equipment are also banned, as they may contribute to the construction of weapons of mass destruction.

Saddam Hussein might make weapons of mass destruction from wheelbarrows.

Mortality

UNICEF reported that Iraq in 1990 had one of the healthiest and best-educated populations in the world: its child mortality rate was one of the lowest.

Today it is among the highest on earth.

More than 5,000 children under five have died on average every month in Iraq, in part because of the "prolonged measures imposed by the Security Council and the effects of war" on the population.

These horrific sanctions continue despite the fact that the former UN Special Commission Chief inspector Scott Ritter stated that "From a qualitative standpoint, Iraq has been disarmed."

"Iraq possesses no meaningful weapons of mass destruction".

Denis Halliday, the UN representative who ran the UN oil-for-food program in Baghdad, until he realised that thousands of Iraqi children were dying every month because of sanctions, resigned his post with the declaration that "we are in the process

of destroying an entire society.

"It is illegal and immoral."

Iraq has one of the second largest proven oil reserves and some 11 per cent of the world's oil.

As a result the US has long attempted to dominate the region, not out of concern for democracy but with the aim of controlling the oil profits.

Up until its invasion of Kuwait in 1990, Iraq proved useful to US interests in the region and the US were quiet happy to do business with Saddam Hussein, while he brutalised his population.

All this changed with the invasion of Kuwait, when overnight Saddam Hussein found himself transformed him into the "new Hitler", the greatest living threat to world democracy.

Yet when the Kurds and Shiites posed a democratic challenge to Saddam Hussein regime at the end of the Gulf War in 1991, the US government preferred that Hussein violently crush the uprising rather than risk a popular revolution.

"Our policy is to get rid of Saddam, not his regime," explained Richard Haass, Former Director of Middle East affairs on the National Security Council.

Among the opposition groups currently being funded by the US government as part of its program to overthrow Hussein is a party that seeks to restore the Iraqi monarchy.

So much for their concern for democracy.

Hussein is certainly a tyrant, but the US continued to support equal or greater thugs, including Suharto in Indonesia, Mobutu in Zaire and a long list of dictators in Latin America.

The US bombed Iraq back to the state of a pre-industrial society.

Their 'clean' or smart bombs were only supposed to hit designated targets but approximately 100,000 Iraqis lost were killed.

The targets hit included water treatment plants, sewage treatment plants, and electrical generating plants, communication centres.

Today the US and Britain are continuing secret bombing missions against Iraq.

They want to keep the sanctions as another weapon in their armoury.

But across the world thousands have started to protest against this outrage.

Africa:

MULTINATIONAL A KILLING FROM

This child is just one of some 12 million children who have lost their parents to AIDS. She too will die from this deadly disease. She is too poor to afford the over-priced medicines that could offer her some quality of life. She is one of 25 million people living in Africa who have been sentenced to death by banks, drug companies, Western governments and bodies like the international monetary fund.

The 13th International Conference on AIDS was recently held in Durban, South Africa. The conference heard that half of all 15 years olds living in South Africa and Zimbabwe face death from AIDS.

There are as many children orphaned in Africa by AIDS, as there were orphans in Europe at the end of the six years of the Second World War.

Kills

AIDS now kills 10 million people a year in Africa — 10 times more people than war.

The disease has created some 12.1 million orphans on the continent, most of them prey to abuse, neglect and a short life of illness and crime.

AIDS is also causing serious social problems. One in five adults are living with HIV. In Zambia there was a 13-fold increase in deaths among healthcare workers in the 1980's, largely due to AIDS. An estimated 860,000 children in sub-Saharan Africa lost their teachers to AIDS last year, according to the latest UNICEF Progress of Nations report.

But statistics do not convey the horror of AIDS sufferers, especially poor AIDS sufferers are forced to endure. They die a horrific death, their flesh and innards consumed by painful and invasive afflictions. Even before the final stages of full-blown AIDS, sufferers experience a sort of premature "death", overcome with lassitude and losing all interest and involvement in the world around them.

No drug has yet been found which can cure AIDS. But particular treatments can dramatically slow down the deadly progress of HIV. The problem is that the multi-national pharmaceutical companies charge a fortune for them.

Yet if these drugs were sup-



AIDS afflicted populations have the burden of debt to the world banks to consider

plied on 'generic' — non-branded — basis they would be much cheaper.

In 1997 the South African government said it would make cheap versions of expensive drug therapies that hold back AIDS. But the multinationals complained and won the backing of the US government and the World Trade Organisation. These drug companies made over £15 billion last year. They would rather see tens of million

die than see their profits reduced.

Pressure in Africa and the US has finally forced the drug companies to offer limited supplies of some drugs free and others at a "cheap rate."

So AIDS Drugs that use to cost £10.50 a day will now cost £1.25 a day. But even this is not good enough. What use is that when almost half the continent exists on less than 65 pence a day?

A River of Blood from the West

Edward Hoppers book, *The River* was the subject of much controversy at the AIDS conference in South Africa.

Hooper argues that the AIDS virus originated after US scientists gave HIV to Africans in polio vaccinations in 1959. A lab in Philadelphia was racing other scientists to make a live virus for polio.

Its vaccine was made by injecting polio into the tis-

sues of various animals, including Hopper argues, chimpanzees. HIV-1, the common form of the virus, comes from a virus in chimpanzees.

Because the virus was live, the chimp virus could not be killed, and because HIV had not been discovered, they did not know it was there. But they knew there were risks.

So they first gave the vaccine to mentally ill children

DEBT Vs HEALTH

AIDS is at its most deadly in partnership with poverty.

Debt repayments and structural adjustment programmes have sucked more than £70 billion out of Africa in the last ten years.

The health care system is often the first to be targeted.

This means that drugs are reused and shared without hospitals, nurses and basic equipment. The recent G8 once again failed to take crisis despite the millions of people around the world to cancel the de-

Fanfare

Last years sur Germany, with much and pin-doctoring, pledged £15 billion in debt relief. But underdeveloped countries have seen that 10 percent of their GDP is spent on health care. And even that has collapsed economic cutbacks will make life a living even more people.

The Aids crisis has most terribly in the indebted countries.

Many African countries spend four times as much on health care as they do on health care. Tanzania spends nine

Interview with anti-capitalist author



POLICE PROTECT Nike from protestors in Seattle

Taking on the multinationals

NAOMI KLEIN'S book *No Logo* exposes how multinationals stifle people's lives. It became an instant hit after the protests in Seattle. She spoke to *Socialist Worker*.

WHY DID you write *No Logo*?

I STARTED on the book five years ago. It was a time of great hopelessness on the left. There was a powerful sense that all the old ways of achieving change were no longer working.

I wrote the book because I believed that the only way the left was going to become powerful again was if it adapted to the transnational nature of capitalism and the growing power of multinational corporations.

I started noticing that there were these individual campaigns, particularly among younger people, who were just taking matters into their own hands and going after corporations and trade agreements directly.

I felt the future of the left lay in this direction.

I didn't know if I was right, but doing it made me feel more hopeful about the possibilities for social justice, and I've been very pleasantly surprised as I have watched this movement emerge before my very eyes.

The book went to the printers before Seattle.

In North America the book would have got nowhere without Seattle.

In Canada the book instantly went on the bestsellers list. It sparked a discussion but, more importantly, it landed in a movement that is building and growing.

Since the book came out I have been going from one university campus to

another where there are vibrant campaigns against sweatshop labour and for kicking corporations off campus.

IN YOUR book you say the student activism of today is different from the student activism of the 1980s because it has moved on from individualised issues to a more general view of the whole system.

THAT'S ABSOLUTELY true. This is a big advance. When I was at university we were into staring at our navels and we didn't have any kind of economic analysis. We were concerned about the representation of women, of people of colour, of gays and lesbians, in the media and by our professors.

What I see now is that the politics of identity are playing a role, but a much saner role. Things are much more focused on larger, broader, political goals and things are much more integrated. There is a much deeper understanding now of why there are the divisions that exist in our society.

SOME PEOPLE think global corporations are so mighty they are unbeatable. What do you say to them?

I DON'T think that is how people are feeling. The young activists I meet are getting a kick out of just how vulnerable these corporations are. They are really enjoying seeing how they can get a multi-billion dollar company like Nike or Gap on the run.

It started off being more concerned with a consumer perspective, but now these students are concerned about the right of workers in the factories in the

developing world to form unions. This is not something Nike wants to talk about at all!

But the students have come to the conclusion that is the only solution. We can't solve the problems of workers in the developing world from here. All we can do is help support workers who are already trying to help themselves. This is really about rejecting that feeling of paralysis in the face of the multinationals.

It is an international phenomena that started in the developing world when Ken Saro-Wiwa named Shell as the major force behind the repression of the Ogoni people. Now there are campaigns against big food corporations Cargill and Monsanto by farmers in India, against multinational water giants in Bolivia, and against Occidental oil in Colombia who want to drill an oil pipeline on tribal land.

ONE OF the most exciting things about Seattle was the unity between trade unionists and environmentalists.

YES. THERE was something that happened in Seattle that made it impossible to dismiss precisely because of the range of people who were there. All the campaigns came together, and people really learned from that and humanised one another where they were previously dehumanised. But in a sense that provides the illusion of unity—it's unity for a day. There is also a long way to go.

Having a common enemy is not the same thing as having a genuinely shared agenda for the future.

The unions, by and large, have definitely been radicalised by events. I work a lot with the Canadian Auto Workers' Union. It is extraordinarily progressive.

At Windsor, Ontario, the union bailed a lot of young people when they were jailed. They also paid for buses for students to come down to the demonstration. That is real.

That's a union that is building this movement and creating all kinds of opportunities for dialogue.

The AFL/CIO did major damage, however, at Washington by pouring resources into trying to block China's entry into the WTO. They made alliances with right winger Pat Buchanan and were associated with images and rhetoric that were borderline racist—"yellow peril" sort of stuff.

WHAT DO you think of Marx and socialism?

I THINK it is great that more people are reading Marx but I don't think anyone has got all the answers. This is a decentralised grassroots movement that is getting more and more radical.

It has gone from being anti-globalisation to being anti-corporate, and is now largely becoming anti-capitalist. This has happened very quickly. Suddenly the word capitalism has re-emerged.

But just because it is anti-capitalist, it does not mean that it is a Marxist movement.

Lots of activists are looking for a framework that can accommodate their critique of capitalism, their desire for environmental justice and their anarchist rejection of hierarchy.

I don't think anybody has an agenda for the future. I don't think the ideological framework exists yet to deal with the diversity of issues that we saw on the streets of Seattle.

I'm wary of people who think they have got it all figured out. We need something new, and I think that's great.



LOGO OF PROFIT

"MORE AND more over the last four years, we in the West have been catching glimpses of another kind of global village, where the economic divide is widening and cultural choices narrowing. This is a village where some multinationals, far from levelling the global playing field with jobs and technology for all, are in the process of mining the planet's poorest for unimaginable profits.

This is the village where Bill Gates lives, amassing a fortune of \$55 billion while a third of his workforce is classified as temporary workers, and where competitors are either incorporated into the Microsoft monolith or made obsolete by the latest feat in software bundling.

In a single image, the brand name sweatshop tells the story of the obscene disparities of the global economy: corporate executives and celebrities raking in high salaries so high they defy comprehension, billions of dollars spent on branding and advertising—all propped up by a system of shanty towns, squalid factories and the misery and trampled expectations of young women like those I met in Cavite in the Philippines, struggling to survive."

■ From *No Logo* by Naomi Klein (£14.99 from SW Books, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8).

in my view

Diamonds are for profit

IF YOUR boyfriend tries to give you a diamond, muttering something about forever, he's probably a psychopath and you'd be best advised to push him under the next bus.

Diamonds are in the news at the moment, especially the kind labeled 'conflict diamonds', which might make most people think of eternity rings but the conflict here is even worse than the marital kind.

In July, the World Diamond Congress is being held in Antwerp, Belgium and for once the low-profile diamond industry has the full glare of international publicity on it. The complaint against it is that diamonds are being bought and sold to fund civil wars in countries like Angola and Sierra Leone.

In response, those in the business have drawn up proposals to regulate their trade. These regulations demand certificates of origin on all diamonds so that consumers can be assured the ring on their finger did not fund soldiers to chop off people's hands.

De Beers is the main operator in all this being the largest diamond purchasing company in the world. It is based in South Africa and was founded by Cecil Rhodes, the man who named a whole country after himself (until 1979 Zimbabwe was called Rhodesia).

For most of its lifetime, the company had a private monopoly in an astonishing arrangement that started in the 1930s when, with its central selling organisation (CSO), it bought up all the diamonds in the world to stop prices collapsing. It kept prices artificially high for over 60 years.

Apartheid

Things have been going badly for De Beers in recent years. It flourished with apartheid and naturally has not been popular with the new government in South Africa.

Last year the company was accused of undervaluing some of the rough diamonds exported from its mines. The government stopped its exports until the tax issue was resolved. De Beers made up for this inconvenience with diamonds from other countries.

There has been a glut of diamonds after the break up of the Soviet Union and the various civil wars in Africa. Another problem for De Beers was that diamonds were being traded in places like Bulgaria and the Ukraine outside their control.

Perhaps spotting a sinking ship, in 1996 the Australian Argyle diamond mine, the world's largest in terms of quantity, left the De Beers cartel.

The demand in the Far East also collapsed. In 1996 Japan and the Far East bought 40% of the world's diamonds. By the end of 1998 the figure was only 20 per cent.

De Beers had to buy up increasing quantities of diamonds to keep prices high. In 1989 the stockpile was worth \$2.5 billion. In 1997-98 it was over \$5 billion.

De Beers abandoned the strategy of buying up every diamond in the world on 12 July 2000 as unworkable. Instead it will pour money into persuading consumers to buy only their stones. De Beers now proposes a code of conduct for clients.

If you buy a diamond without a certificate of origin (ie a non De Beers one) you will have blood on your hands. This is a bit rich coming from them. Anyone caught dealing in 'conflict diamonds' will be banned from trading for life, although this is exactly what De Beers did openly until very recently.

The CSO, which used to buy up diamonds, will now be employed to bombard the public with advertising. Not that De Beers is new to marketing. After all, it came up with the 'diamonds are forever' slogan in the 30s, which persuaded men to spend large amounts of money on useless bits of rock, and women that they should keep them forever.

Certificates of origin are clearly problematic. The Congress has also not explained how the new regulations are to be enforced. The only answer to all this is a consumer boycott, which is what the industry fears most. If this happens, prices will plummet. In the unlikely event you have a diamond, sell it now.

By YVONNE REILLY

film

Eggploitation on the factory farm

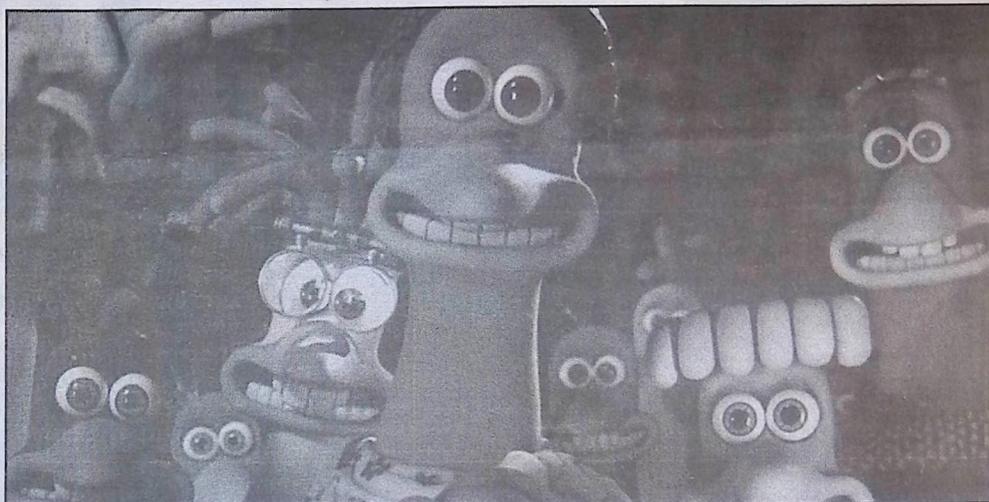
WORKED ALL day, then paid chicken feed? Will you get the chop if you don't keep pace with increasing production levels? Then, like the hens in the film *Chicken Run*, you need to be organised.

Chicken Run is a cinema release from Aardman Animations, who brought us *Wallace and Gromit*, and *Creature Comforts*.

Regime

The action is transposed to a chicken farm complete with all the trappings of a World War Two prisoner of war camp.

The hens are constantly trying to escape a regime that forces



Ain't nobody here but us workers

them to fill the farmer's egg quota until they are too old or too run down. Then they are turned into meat.

They dream of a world without fences and without exploita-

tion where they are free to live life to the full. Ginger is the chicken who's most keen to escape. She's forever getting caught, never gives up hope and always ends up in soli-

tary confinement (in this case the coal bunker).

However, when she's not in the cooler she's in Hut 17, egging on the others. From there emerge the

escape committees, tunnels, disguises — all the familiar trappings of the POW camp.

As in real life, not everyone is as committed to changing their lot as Ginger. Some argue laying eggs isn't so bad after all.

However, when the farmers, in a bid to make more profit, invest in a chicken pie machine, the laid back approach ceases to be an option. A mass breakout becomes a necessity.

Into the henhouse arrives US airman Rooster, voiced by Mel Gibson, screaming, "Freedom!" reminiscent of *Braveheart*.

Although he is an ally, the hens cannot rely on him for escape-only on their own efforts.

By functioning on a variety of levels *Chicken Run* is another refreshing film that will appeal to adults and children alike.

It is dramatic and funny, plus it is crammed with references to other films—*Stalag 17*, *The Great Escape*, *The Colditz Story*, *Shawshank Redemption*.

The hen/worker analogy won't be lost on children used to seeing their parents too tired to play with them.

Political

I didn't find the film as clearly political as *Antz* or *Toy Story 2*, both of which are brilliant with or without kids.

But if you've got the time and the money you could do a lot worse than spend some of both seeing *Chicken Run*, and then getting organised.

■ by IAN MURRAY

film

PATRIOT GAMES

by SINEAD KENNEDY

THE LATEST Mel Gibson blockbuster, *The Patriot*, has got an unusual amount of attention from newspaper columnists.

Gibson, cinema's favourite nationalist — remember *Braveheart* — is once again taking on the might on the British empire with a film on the American Revolution. And a lot of columnists in the British press do not like it. One *Guardian* writer even went, as far as to say it was 'fascist'.

Is Mel Gibson leading a revolution you may ask? Well not quite, but the film does expose the brutality of British imperialism. Gibson plays a South Carolina farmer, Benjamin Martin who is dragged into the war for American independence after a British officer murders his wife. He later leads a guerrilla campaign against the redcoats.

The Patriot does not shy away from depicting the atrocities committed by the British army and the reality of



Revolution in mind

18th century warfare. It may just be a well-made adventure movie but it does give a glimpse of the causes of the American revolution.

Some left wing historians like Howard Zinn wonder if the revolution of 1776 represent a revolution at all.

The rich duped working people into fighting for a cause that didn't really serve their interests. They point out that slavery continued after the revolution and that democracy was limited to white male property owners.

In one sense this is true, but in another it misses the whole

dynamic of the revolution.

The American revolution was the first great shot in the dawn of democratic revolutions worldwide. But it was an incomplete revolution.

Although relying on the initiative of the lower classes it ended with the rich in control.

That is what happens in bourgeois revolution — where old fashioned social and political systems are destroyed and new ones created that allow the system of capitalism to flourish and the creation of a working class capable of destroying it.

If *The Patriot* didn't

wrap itself up so much in the schmaltz of the American flag, it could be a good film and have illustrated more of this dynamic of revolution

Black film director Spike Lee is right to complain about film's treatment of black people as nothing short of patronising and at times offensive. The films cleans up the image of Martin who was in reality a brutal slave owner.

But the film is unusual for Hollywood when you consider its usual monuments to British military history. Just remember *Zulu* or the *Great Escape*.



where we stand

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.

Anti-service charges campaign gains strength

Bin the refuse tax



PROTESTING against the bin tax

"THIS IS a great start, we need to keep on the streets until the charges are abolished. They can put me in Mountjoy before I'll pay." This was the comment of one Dundrum resident who was on a march of over 300 people against the refuse charges.

From various assembly points groups of local people converged on the council offices in Dundrum for a loud and angry protest.

"I worked for forty years, and now they want me to pay extra taxes all over again," Michael told *Socialist Worker*.

"I don't know anybody who has paid the first charge and even less are going to pay the second one."

The protest came the week after Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown council issued bills for the second installment of the £150 charge.

The bill came with a threatening leaflet saying that those who refused to pay would not receive a wheelie bin when they are introduced in September and will no longer have their refuse collected.

"I worked for forty years, and now they want me to pay extra taxes all over again."

The council is threatening legal action against anyone who leaves uncollected rubbish outside their dwelling or in a public place.

These threats are a sign of desperation from the council. According to their own figures nearly three-quarters of people did not pay the first installment of the new charge.

A further sign of the council's

weakness is the promise of miserable £33 in tax relief next year for those who pay the charge and entry into a free draw.

The relief adds up to a few extra pence per week onto tax-free allowance, if you are working.

At the same time the council has turned down large numbers of applications from the low paid and elderly for waivers from the charge.

The protest in Dundrum is part of a growing popular campaign. Over a thousand people have attended public meetings in Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown.

Over 100,000 leaflets urging non-payment of the charge and advertising public meetings and protests have been distributed by the campaign.

There is also to be a major national demonstration being planned for when the Dail resumes in the autumn.

To contact the Campaign Against Service Charges ring: Richard Boyd Barrett on 087 632 9511 or Lisa Maher 01 493 4696

Fax (01) 872 3838
E-mail swp@clubi.ie

or send

letters

PO BOX 1648, Dublin

Here Ugly!

Thought this might cheer up your readers as more of Haughey's corruption is exposed at the Tribunal... a revolutionary anagram! Rearranging the letters of 'Charles Haughey' gives: Ha! Cash?Here, ugly!

□ Joe Carolan, Hamilton New Zealand

EIGHT PERCENT of Irish land is forest and responsibility for it falls to a semi state company Coillte. But they might as well be private profiteers because they do not give the public basic information on the use of that land. Much of it is being used to produce Christmas trees.

Coillte has paid a company called Qualifor to carry out an assessment of its practices and they have held public meetings around the country. People have raised grievances about the right to enter some forests, lack of consultation on development and the rights of saw millers.

But both Coillte and Qualifor are out for profit so the consolation is very limited. Both want to put profit before the environment.

Ultimately forests and other natural resources will have to be taken under genuine public ownership.

□ Dave Black, Dublin

WAR IN

THE CURRENT United States intervention in Colombia has all the hallmarks of disaster written all over it. In order to "maintain stability" in Colombia the US Army are sending \$2 million worth of weaponry to the region daily, in a so-called "war on drugs".

What really troubles the US is the autonomy given to one Colombian province in which rebels are currently involved in a war with the Colombian government

This involvement has similarities with US intervention in Vietnam. A Third World country with a deepening political crisis turns to a major superpower for help.

The results of the subsequent war in Vietnam are well known and documented.

Colombia — with the highest murder rate in the world and more importantly a major supplier of narcotics to the US.

Socialists should expose the bullying tactics of American foreign policy and argue for the legalisation of drugs. If drugs were legalised it would immediately make all drugs liable for taxation making millions of dollars available for social investment worldwide.

□ Alan Kinsella, Dublin

Action around the country

THE ANGER in Dun Laoghaire is being replicated across Ireland. Major campaigns have now been established in Drogheda and Limerick, where charges have been introduced.

In Drogheda, for example, 90 percent of people are refusing to pay the new charge.

In Cork over 80 people attended a meeting against service charges, in response by moves by the Corporation to force people to pay refuse charges.

Cork Corporation introduced a sticker system on wheelie bins to show who had paid the bin charges. They are refusing to collect bins without stickers —

over 2,000 houses.

According to one resident, "We refuse to pay this double taxation. The Corpo are preparing for privatisation and we will fight it tooth and nail. We can beat them if we are organised enough."

Dump-in

A group 'dump-in' protest was held at the Corporation offices with residents bringing their uncollected rubbish to the Corporation.

Local people are also following the refuse lorries and throwing in any uncollected rubbish.

Joe Moore the President of Cork Trades Council told *Socialist Worker*, "I've seen how the fantastic opposition of 3,500 people in Drogheda can beat privatisation. We need the same here."

Join the Socialists

(PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

Name

Address

Telephone Union

Return to SWP PO Box 1648 Dublin 8. Tel (01) 872 2682

SWP branch meetings

- ATHLONE: Contact 01- 872 2682 for details
- BRAY: Meets every Wednesday at the Mayfair Hotel at 8.30pm
- BELFAST CENTRAL: Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in the WhytesBar
- BELFAST QUEEN'S UNI: Meets every Tuesday 1pm (see poster for details)
- BELFAST SOUTH: Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Queens Students Union
- BELFAST WEST: West Belfast Branch meets Divis flats Community Centre Falls Road, Monday 7:30pm
- CORK: Meets every Wednesday at 8.00pm in O'Donoghue's Pub, Drawbridge St
- DERRY: Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in Badgers Bar upstairs,

- Orchard St.
- DUNDALK: Contact 01 - 872 2682 for details
- LUCAN: Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in Courtney's Bar, Lucan village
- 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 FAIRVIEW: Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in the Fairview Inn
- DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL: Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Conways Pub, Parnell St
- DUBLIN KILLBARRACK: Phone 087 6235071

- DUBLIN STONEYBATTER/CABRA: Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in Aughrim St Parish Hall, Prussia St
- DUBLIN BALLYMUN: Phone Kevin at 8622209
- DUBLIN DUNDRUM: Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Dundrum Family Recreation Centre
- DUBLIN RIALTO: Meets every Wednesday at 8:30pm St. Andrews Community Centre, SCR
- DUBLIN RATHMINES / RANELAGH: Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm Upstairs in La Touche, 24 Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2
- DUBLIN HAROLDS X: Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in O'Connell's Pub, Sth Richmond St
- DUBLIN SOUTH CENTRAL: Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in Trinity Inn, Pearse St

- DUBLIN RINGSEND: Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Ringsend Community Centre
- DUBLIN TALLAGHT: Meets every Monday at 8.30pm in Jobstown Community Centre
- ENNISKILLEN: Phone 01 - 872 2682 for details
- GALWAY: Meets every Wednesday in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square (beside Cuba) 8.30pm
- LIMERICK: Phone 01 - 872 2682 for details
- SLIGO: Meets fortnightly on Saturdays, phone 087 6329511 for details
- TRALEE: Phone 087 6329511 for details
- WATERFORD: Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the ATGWU Hall, Keizer St.

Train drivers

DEFEND THE ILDA

TRAIN DRIVERS in the Irish Locomotive Drivers Association have been outside the gate for more than five weeks.

Instead of discussing their grievances, the company — backed up by the LRC, Mary O'Rourke and the government — have refused to meet with ILDA.

Claimed

Rail traffic — including freight — is badly hit, the Irish Fertiliser factory in Arklow was forced to halt production with claimed losses of £5 million and lay-off 200 workers.

Immediately Iarnrod Eireann management, the

Labour Relations Commission and even the leaders of SIPTU and the NBRU seized on the lay-offs at the Irish Fertiliser factory to try to organise scabbing.

Kieran Mulvey of the Labour Relations Court called on SIPTU drivers in Cork who were supporting their fellow drivers in ILDA to "examine their conscience".

Leaders of SIPTU and the NBRU called on their drivers to scab on ILDA and volunteer to drive ammonia trains to the IFI plant.

But as one driver told *Socialist Worker*, "The issue is not the jobs of the workers at the Arklow. We offered to work ammonia trains on the old rosters. This would mean guaranteed supplies to the factory and they could resume full production and the jobs of the 200 IFI workers would be safe."

But Iarnrod Eireann's Human Resources Manager John Keenan contemptuously rejected this concession and instead demanded complete surrender by the ILDA drivers.

But the attempt to organise wide-scale scabbing has failed. Among most drivers and other grades there is huge sympathy for the ILDA drivers. A driver said of the situation in Cork:

"SIPTU official Tony Tobin expressed 'disappointment' that drivers would not volunteer to work extra ammonia trains. But from the ordinary SIPTU drivers, guards, signalmen, we've had great support.

Support

"The rosters are circulating, showing who should be working each train.

"The guards and signalmen have copies of these and watch them like hawks. "If anyone takes the work of an ILDA driver, the guard won't work the train and the signalmen in the cabin won't clear the line to allow the train to pass. There are no specials working either."

Another train driver expressed the mood:

"The service is in a shambles and those trains running are only carrying a handful of passengers.

"We are fighting for our rights. We've come this far, we're not going to give in now."

Many drivers hope the summons to all sides to attend the Oireactas Transport Committee hearings will resolve the dispute. But after more than five weeks ILDA drivers need to regain the initiative and need to step up the action to shut down the network.

Take collections round your workplace.

Donations to: Brian Dunphy, Treasurer, ILDA, Corrig, Portarlinton, Co Laois

Aldi

STRIKE FOR UNION RIGHTS

SIX WORKERS at Aldi are getting huge support for their strike at the multi-national supermarket chain.

Five of them were sacked because they joined the shop workers union MANDATE.

"Securicor workers, refuse collectors, postal workers - they are all refusing to pass the picket.

"They know that this is an important battle. Finglas taxis are even refusing to pick up people who are coming up with Aldi shopping bags," one strike told *Socialist Worker*.

Posters have also appeared all over Dublin calling on the public to boycott the stores.

The strikers have also produced leaflets in a variety of languages including French, Romanian, Yoruba,

Chinese, and Spanish to explain their case.

But they have gone out of their way to stop any racism.

"There are some racist arguments going around that it is mainly non-nationals who are passing the pickets. But it is just not true.

"We did a survey and found that it is about eight to one Irish to non-nationals." Martina, a striker, said.

The strikes have also been buoyed up by a small

victory when the company as found to be in breach of the Payment of Wages Act and three workers were awarded £420.

Aldi were telling people to come in at 8.45 to set up cash registers — and then not paying them for the 15 minutes they were at work.

One blow to the strikes has been a decision by a full time official of SIPTU in Donegal to issue public letter telling people to pass the

pickets. But SIPTU members are now investigating how such a letter could be issued.

Send donations to Aldi Strike Fund: Allied Irish Banks, Capel St. Acc 01011059 Sort Code 93-11-01.

Socials for Aldi strike: Jerne Ballroom, Parnell Square, 3rd August.

Music from Le Freak and Eamon Doran's 19th August.

Dublin Bus

BUS DRIVERS in Dublin's Ringsend garage went on unofficial strike when Dublin Bus introduced new schedules.

The entire morning shift of 150 drivers refused to take out their buses when confronted with cuts and longer spreads.

One driver explained, "Dublin Bus says they want to finance our recent pay rise from savings and cuts in services.

"They have forced through new schedules which mean longer working time and busier buses."

The action at Ringsend was prompted by changes in the busy 77 and 65 routes, which serve Tallaght and Blessington.

"These routes are very busy but they are worsening the service and trying to make us work harder under

very stressful conditions, We're not prepared to put up with it."

Another driver added, "According to the new rosters today I would start at 7.00am and not finish until 5.30pm with a 90 minute break.

"The company is trying to cut costs to pave the way for selling off routes."

New schedules are being forced in throughout the city and as *Socialist Worker* went to press the action was set to spread to other Dublin depots.

Aer Lingus

Flight of cabin crews from SIPTU

OVER 1300 Aer Lingus cabin crew have left SIPTU and joined IMPACT.

"The relationship between SIPTU and Aer Lingus was too cosy. After the Cahill Plan (in the mid 1990s) we had to accept the loss of 18 leave days and any say over which routes were worked," one worker told *Socialist Worker*.

Undervalued

"Management are trying to use the fact we are between unions to force through heavier rosters. And it is getting proper representation over issues like that that led to us wanting to leave SIPTU."

Workers say that the were undervalued in the

Union who didn't even bother providing them with a full-time official.

They are attempting to join IMPACT as it is the union that the pilots and air traffic controllers are in. It would mean 75 percent of aviation workers in Ireland would be in IMPACT.

However SIPTU are trying to block the move and are dragging their feet over the transfer.

"We have told them that if they don't hurry up, and we can't get proper representation then we will form our own union."

The ICTU intervened to make sure relations between the bureaucrats of IMPACT and SIPTU are intact so that they can keep their members in check in the run up to privatisation.

But the defection of the cabin crews is a sign of the militancy that is going to be required to fight the sell off.

Guinness

Resist job cuts

"GUINNESS MAY well believe that they have factored in the expected anger of their workers but they better be prepared to extract their pound of flesh because Guinness workers and the Dundalk community in general will make them answerable and accountable for their actions'.

This is how the Joint Union Forum summed reaction to the shock announcement that 300 jobs are to go at Guinness plants in Dundalk.

Guinness has long tried

to associate its drinks industry with an Irish identity. Almost every tourist shop carries Guinness towels and pictures of pint drinking which is supposed to be associated with being Irish.

But in reality Guinness is part of the multi-national, Diageo group that vies for control of the world global drinks and fast food market. It is a ruthless conglomerate that scours the world in search of profit.

The plant in Dundalk makes money but it is not profitable enough for a company that wants to drive workers into a race to the bottom where they cut units costs.

According to the Guinness propaganda, unit costs are lower in Belfast and Liverpool and that is enough reason to slash jobs.

As Guinness unions put it:

"There is no human factor consideration in this decision. This is a multi-national at their most arrogant, off now to exploit another generation of young workers and their families for all they can extract."

Anger

Despite all the talk of social partnership, Guinness workers were kept in the dark until the last moment.

But now that the announcement is made, anger is growing. Guinness should be told that they will not be allowed to walk away. If they persist in their decision, there is nothing to stop workers moving into the plant to stop machinery being moved.

Militant action plus a major public campaign to target Guinness pseudo-Irish image could put manners on this multi-national.

Cancelled

Following the protest meeting Dublin Bus cancelled the immediate planned cuts but will return with other cuts later in the summer.

Kevin Wingfield, Secretary of Action Group said, "We've won the first round but we need to keep the pressure on with the petitioning campaign."

Contact the Ballymun Bus Action Group at 862 2209 or 087-2927067

Ballymun buses

BALLYMUN RESIDENTS reacted angrily to Dublin Bus plans to reduce the local No 13/13A bus service.

A lively protest meeting was organised at which local activists and two Dublin Bus drivers spoke.

An action group was formed from the meeting to collect signatures door-to-door to demand an improvement in service and no cuts.

"The service is appalling. The advertised service does not run and buses are overcrowded and delays frequent," one resident told the meeting.

A local bus driver described how Dublin Bus was piling on the pressure to get more journeys out of dri-

vers in less time, "The result is a bad service and drivers working under huge stress. I think the real agenda is running down the loss making off-peak services in preparation for privatisation."

Secret Memo Revealed

IARNROD EIRE-ANN management have consistently refused to meet the ILDA. They have been backed up by the government with Minister Mary O'Rourke claiming a court decision prevented any recognition for the union.

But a leak in the *Sunday Business Post* exposed a secret memo which explodes the government's excuse for not talking to ILDA.

The Post revealed that senior officials in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment wrote in two separate internal documents two months before the

industrial action, that the ILDA was an "excepted body" — permitting it to negotiate on pay and conditions for its members, following changes to its constitution.

Oppose

The senior departmental official noted, "This is a more difficult position to counteract, particularly if membership breaks through 50 per cent. If the ILDA achieves a higher membership than SIPTU and NBRU it would be difficult to oppose negotiating rights."

One train driver told *Socialist Worker*, "When the government and Irish Rail managers said they were unable to negotiate with us it was a lie — this revelation proves it."

Shorts

97 percent reject miserly pay offer

WORKERS AT Shorts in Belfast had a successful start to industrial action over pay and conditions on 7 July.

The campaign of half-day strikes and an overtime ban began before the annual two week holiday.

Union activists report that a picket line on the Friday morning was almost 100 per cent successful.

Around 97 per cent of the workforce, mainly members of the AEEU, ATGWU and MSF unions, rejected

deal for 3 per cent wage rises. Over 80 per cent voted for strike action for a bigger rise.

A Shorts worker explained to *Socialist Worker*,

"There is total frustration on the shop floor which has been building up for the last five or six years.

"People can see that the company is making money, but we're not seeing any of it.

Eroded

"In fact, we got tied into a similar deal in 1997 which we believe has eroded our wages by about 8 per cent, compared to other wage

deals since.

"We know that if we don't do something now, we mightn't get another chance for years."

There is a mood of confidence to win the dispute.

"In 1998 they made 45 million in profit, that's about three times what it was the last time we negotiated on wages. There are plenty of orders on the books.

"This deal is only offering cost of living increases plus a half or one per cent. People want a lot more than that.

"People are talking about a 1 an hour extra.

We want to see pensions and other issues addressed and there's a feeling that people are prepared to take

action for it."

Workers were due back after the two-week shut-down as *Socialist Worker* goes to press.

The overtime ban was aimed at preventing the company from bringing in workers during the holidays to complete orders.

Workers know that their action will have an effect. Bombadier, the owners of Shorts, are relying on orders being sent to their Canadian plants.

"I think the action will be solid this week," said one union activist.

"But if it doesn't produce a better offer soon, we would need to look at escalation. Otherwise they could just try to wear us down."

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

50p

inside

First Seattle, then Washington and Millau
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Naomi Klein
interviewed page 8

Clinton and Blair go back on promises

CANCEL THE DEBT NOW



Protests at the G8 summit

THE PROMISES to cancel Third World debt have turned to dust. This is what emerged when world leaders from the Group of 8 most powerful countries met in Okinawa, Japan, at the most expensive G8 summit ever held.

They chose Okinawa, a tiny island off the southern coast of Japan, because it was so inaccessible and they could be guaranteed no large scale anti-capitalist protests.

The Japanese government spent £500 million on hosting the conference — far more than it ever spent on debt relief.

Tony Blair, Bill Clinton and the others feasted on a luxurious banquet of caviar and lobster, while their policies mean the deaths of millions in developing countries.

When they met in Germany last year they promised \$100 billion in debt write-offs.

Twenty-five of the world's poorest countries were to begin the debt

relief process by the end of 2000 and all their debt was to be written off.

The major economies were to build a \$2.25 billion fund to cover debts owed to World Bank and IMF.

But 12 months later, the G8 has offered just \$10 billion in debt write-offs, all under older debt agreements.

The US promised \$600 million for the fund but so far it has delivered nothing.

And only nine of the poorest countries have been let join the debt write off scheme.

Mobilised

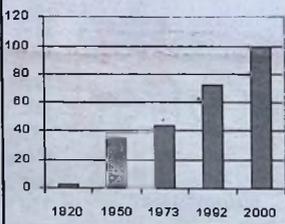
Christian Aid estimates that poor countries are paying wealthy Western banks \$60 million a day.

At least three quarters of this is servicing debts that can never be repaid.

Anti-debt campaigners, who have mobilised millions of people across the world, are horrified and betrayed at the lack of action.

Ann Pettifor of Jubilee 2000 said the banquet reminded her of "Marie Antoinette dining at her table and when the poor of Paris banged on

Number of times wealth of rich countries exceeds that of poor.



the door she said 'Let them eat cake'."

The Western governments, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are imposing tight restrictions on each country that applies for debt relief.

The IMF is using the promise of debt relief to force poor countries to cut public spending, privatise public services and open up their economies to Western multinationals. These are the policies that have already devastated large parts of the Third World.

But they open the way to more profits for the multinationals.

ANTI - CAPITALIST MOVEMENT NEEDED

LEAVING DEBT cancellation up to Western leaders and the IMF has been a disaster. These people are part of the problem, not part of the solution to poverty in the Third World.

They are the ones who run global capitalism. What is needed now is a global movement against their failed policies.

The protests against the World Trade Organisation in Seattle and the IMF in Washington showed the powerful unity of environmentalists, debt campaigners and trade union members.

Last month the same happened when 100,000 people

demonstrated in Millau, France in support of Jose Bove, the French farmer who bulldozed the local McDonalds in protest at the WTO.

In September, 20,000 of the world's richest bankers will arrive in Prague for a meeting of the IMF and World Bank.

They want to organise the complete liberalisation of the global economy.

Protest

Already people are planning to travel from all over Europe for a huge protest on September 26th.

Protests will also be organised in Ireland to coincide with the attempt shut down the IMF and the World Bank in Prague.

See page 3 for details.