

# Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

## Inside:

**Drugs priest speaks out: 'Deprivation is the problem' interview** —page 10

**Who gets to college? Class and education** —centre pages

# End the low-pay sweatshops!



**SHOP assistants in Centra and Londis supermarkets earn as little as £2.41 an hour.**

**Teenage bag-packers in the supermarkets get even less—sometimes only £1.60 an hour.**

These are official wage rates set by the Joint Labour Committee for the retail trade.

In the North, it is the same story. McDonalds burger bars pay just £2.80 an hour.

Most stores in Derry's Foyle side, for example, pay £2.50 and JobCentres advertise jobs as security

guards at as little as £1.80 an hour.

On both sides of the Irish border, there is one thing that unites Orange and Green employers: they want the 'right' to pay rotten wages

### Divided

One Unionist MP has recently even called on his party

to cool it on sectarianism.

Why? Because it is putting off multinationals who are dying to get here for the low pay that comes with a divided workforce!

It is high time we started to organise against the scourge of low pay.

A minimum wage of £4.50 should be paid to all workers. No employer should be let plead poverty to get away with paying less.

If they are so poor, let them try living on the terrible wages young workers get.

Yet union leaders who should be mounting a major campaign for the £4.50 minimum wage are doing little.

In the North, many of them are waiting for Tony Blair to come to power to bring change—even though Blair refuses to put a definite figure on the minimum wage.

### Condition

In the South, they are getting ready for a new social partnership deal with the bosses and they won't make a minimum

wage a condition of any agreement.

This needs to be changed urgently.

A major fight to establish decent rates of pay would bring tens of thousands flocking into the unions.

It would help to stop the employers lowering rates even further when the next recession hits.

And it would help give a new generation the confidence to fight the very system which breeds these poverty wages.

# Infants used in drug tests

Between 1987 and 1991, US government agencies conducted experiments with high doses of a measles vaccine on thousands of infants in Latin America, Africa and the US, according to a recent report.

The experiments continued despite warnings in 1990 from the head of a testing programme in Senegal that babies who received the high-dose vaccine, especially girls, had abnormally high death rates.

## Young

Babies as young as six months old were given from 10 to 500 times the normal dosage of the Edmonston-Zagreb (EZ) measles vaccine, according to a report in the *Weekly News Update on the Americas*.

## Part

Infants from Senegal, Haiti, Mexico, Guinea-Bissau and Black and Latino neighbourhoods in Los Angeles were part of the experiments.

The programme wasn't halted until 1991, when the director in Senegal reported the high death rates in the British medical journal *The Lancet*.

The report emerged

just as the World Health Organisation was planning to launch a programme to administer 250 million high-level EZ doses in less developed countries.

One researcher estimated that the cancelled WHO programme would have caused the deaths of 18 million infants, according to data from the National Vaccine Information Centre in the US.

# Health care chaos

THE REALITY behind Ruairi Quinn's plans to cut health spending became obvious this summer as hospital wards closed down.

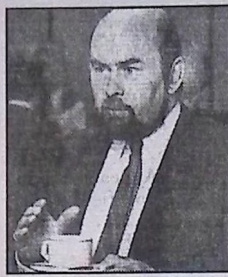
□ The Mater Hospital in Dublin closed one of its operating theatres until September due to lack of cash.

It's St Lawrence Ward is also due to close and the hospital wants to cut drug spending until the autumn.

□ In Athlone a children's clinic has been held at a hotel for the past 19 months because there is no outpatient clinic.

□ A gynaecological ward in Kilkenny's St Luke's Hospital stayed shut in August.

So did many wards in



Quinn—more coffee

Wexford General Hospital.

Minister for Health Michael Noonan told none of the hospitals to re-open wards immediately.

## Figures

Recently released figures also show that there were 4,693 patients waiting for ear nose throat surgery, up from 2,863 in 1994. Over 2,000 women were on the lists for gy-

naecological operations last December compared to 1,453 twelve months previously.

Meanwhile Quinn thinks that it is more important for the government to spend £40 million on a new prison. He recently stated that:

"Social expenditure with regard to housing and extra school buildings will have to take second place."

It seems the same message applies to caring for the sick.

# Sellafield — new evidence

New evidence has shown that there were more Down's Syndrome births in Co Louth, linked to a fire in the Sellafield nuclear plant, than previously thought.

It is now believed that there may have been as many as 24 Down's Syndrome babies born after a fire in Sellafield on 10 October 1957.

The latest evidence also suggests that the fire was burning for three days longer and leaked more extensively than had previously been admitted.

It is thought that radiation was emitted from the plant and carried over towards Louth where it entered the local milk chain.

British Nuclear Fuels and the British government have continued to deny the possibility of any connection between Sellafield and birth defects, despite increasing evidence of such a link.

# Fortress Europe

# Immigrants bound, gagged and deported



'FORTRESS EUROPE' is sinking to new depths in its treatment of immigrants.

Recently 300 French riot police staged a dawn raid on a Paris church to remove ten hunger-striking immigrants (pictured above).

The ten were among 300 people fighting expulsion from France following the passing of racist laws by the right wing government.

The protestors at the St Bernard church were mostly from Mali, the Ivory Coast and Senegal.

## Recently

Now a row is taking place in Spain after 16 immigrants were gagged, handcuffed and "wrapped up" with packing tape recently before being bundled on a plane back to Equatorial Guinea.

A businessman on the flight was so astounded at how the 16 were treated he used his mobile phone to call the press.

## Admits

The airline, Iberia, admits such tactics are "routine".

A few weeks before this incident, 103 African immigrants were drugged before being loaded onto a plane specially chartered to deport them.

# Motorway madness

Anger is growing in North Dublin at plans to construct a massive tunnel to take traffic from Whitehall to the docks.

The government response has been to employ a PR firm to try to sell their case. Bill O'Herlihy Communications is run by a well known Fine Gael supporter.

## Tunnel

During the building of the tunnel hundreds

of lorries will be carrying clay and rubble into Whitehall, a mainly working class suburb in Dublin. That is only the start of the misery for working people. An Environmental Impact Study has revealed that after the road is constructed there will be increased air and noise pollution in the area.

Residents groups are now calling for money to be spent on a scientific review of the evidence rather than on a PR firm that produces propaganda.

## Traffic

To date, there has been no serious investigation on how container traffic could be taken to the docks through the use of a cleaner and safer rail system.

# inside the system

# Irish Life's Thatcherite

The long-running dispute at Irish Life—with sales staff being threatened with dismissal—centres around the Thatcherite head of operations, Jean Wood.

Wood is a relatively new person to the business scene here, but her desire to cut jobs and conditions of staff is admired by managers in other companies.

Born in Scotland, she commutes from her plush

home in the Lake District to Dublin every week.

## Marxism

She says that when in university she was interested in Marxism but quickly be-

came an out-and-out capitalist.

She was head of Danish-owned Prolific Group, where she oversaw jobs cuts.

She says she joined Irish Life "because it would be exciting".

Small consolation to the workers and MSF members who now have to fight hard to defend their jobs and pay.

# No holiday joy

MILLIONS of workers in Britain and Ireland will not get a paid holiday this year.

Official figures in Britain show that more than one in ten workers —11.1 per cent — have no

paid holiday entitlement.

The figures for Southern Ireland are worse, and Northern Ireland is worse than Britain, with 26.3 per cent of workers not entitled to holidays.

# Beware of this charity

A charity organisation, headed by a nun, which is due to hit the streets again in October should be approached with caution.

The All Ireland Children's Charity Hospice is being investigated by the Gardai after complaints were received about its fundraising activities.

The charity took in more than £360,000 from around 1990 to October 1994 by

selling scratch cards and holding raffles—but has declared losses of £50,000.

## Spent

The accounts show that the charity spent £150,000 on things such as soft toys,

raffle tickets and "clerical matters".

The charity was launched in a fanfare of publicity by Sister Gregory O'Reilly, who is still one of its directors.

The original aim was to build a hospice to care for children dying of cancer. But the hospice hasn't been built—Sr Gregory says she's changed her mind on putting money into such a venture!

# Royal kit

LOOKING for some new clothes to wear on holiday?

Why not ask a few members of the royal family who get money from the British government for clothing allowances.

□ Princess Margaret and her party got £7,200 just for clothes for only one week in San Francisco.

□ Prince Edward got £2,200 for a four day trip to Swaziland.

□ And the best of all...apart of course from Princess Di...the Duke and Duchess of Kent spent £7,000 on new gear for one trip to Hong Kong.

Striking Royal Mail workers in Belfast, Derry and elsewhere take note.

what we think

# Two cultures of bigotry

A FORTNIGHT ago the Ancient Order of Hibernians, whose membership is exclusively made up of Catholics over eighteen years of age, marched through a Protestant village in Northern Ireland behind banners of the pope.

Yet Reverend William McCrea of the Democratic Unionist Party had no problem.

He told a TV interviewer that Catholics and Protestants have different cultures—he just wanted the cultural rights for his form of bigotry.

It was a graphic example of how the argument about 'two cultures' suits right wingers on both sides.

For the past few years politicians and academics have developed the theory that Orangeism is simply the expression of the Protestant identity.

They claim that tolerance means recognising difference and so people need to learn to appreciate and understand this tradition.

Sinn Fein clearly does not go that far.

But it echoes the 'two cultures' theory when it claims that Orange marches are acceptable as long as they take place on the Protestant side of town.

It seems that 'they' have their culture and decent Irish nationalists another.

This is dangerous nonsense. The term culture is used in a particular way by conservatives of all hues.

Racists who hate blacks, for example, will often say they only want cultural differences recognised.

In the past, they argued that their blood or their genes were superior.

Now they are more likely to claim that they have a right not to have their culture 'swamped' by too many immigrants.

## Authentic

Their racism has not changed—only the packaging it comes in.

Nobody should be fooled by the new language about Orangeism.

The reality is that Orangeism is by no means the traditional or authentic expression of a Protestant identity.

It only grew by crushing rival traditions among thousands of Protestants.

In the 18th century the Orange Order was used by the British empire to defeat the United Irishmen.

These were formed by Protestant settlers in Belfast who wanted political freedom and the right to expand their commerce.

In the 19th century, Orangeism was used by the To-



Two cultures?: Right-wing anti-divorce fanatics in the South (left) and Apprentice Boys in the North (right)



ries to destroy the last remnants of Ulster Liberalism.

Every time Protestant workers started to move to the left even by voting Labour, the Orange Order tried to bring them back into line behind the Unionist bosses.

Where something is part of a culture that does not mean that it should not be subjected to criticism.

## Oppressive

There are aspects to every culture that are deeply reactionary and oppressive.

This is why the great Russian revolutionary, Lenin, argued that no socialist should defend

a 'national culture'.

Even in a case of a terribly oppressed group like the Jews in Russia, he argued that defending Jewish 'national culture' meant siding with the conservative rabbis and bourgeois who had shaped many of its aspects.

When a culture is associated with a sectarian state, it is even more likely to contain the seeds of all sorts of oppression.

Insofar as Orangeism has a cultural aspect, it is all about domination and superiority.

Even slogans like 'Civil and Religious Liberty' are twisted to become a claim that only free born Britons rather than Papish

Taigs can enjoy the benefits of rational and free thought.

This is why Orangeism in all its forms should be opposed by every socialist, from both Catholic and Protestant backgrounds.

## Identity

Far from recognising 'equal rights to cultural identity' we oppose all political poison, no matter in what guise it comes.

And if the Catholic bigots of the Ancient Order of Hibernians try to dress up their particular form of reaction in the guise of culture, we should give them the same answer.

## The market is mad

THE BEEF mountains of the European Union are growing again.

Each month about 150,000 tonnes of meat is being stored in huge fridges across the continent.

It costs £250 million just to organise the storage costs.

In the past, the Euro bureaucrats hoped to do away with the notorious Common Agricultural Policy which created wine lakes, butter mountains as well as a huge beef surplus.

But the BSE scare has completely altered their plans.

Instead of allowing Europe's huge agri-business to lose money, they have moved back to a subsidy policy.

The purpose of the beef mountain is to cut back on supplies to the market in order to keep prices high.

So European workers help to pay out £250 million each month—in order to guarantee the profits of the big farmers.

The threat of BSE is clearly rising.

The French government



Ireland has no independent food agency

has now banned lamb's and goats' offal while the Minister for Agriculture for North-Rhine Westphalia in Germany has instructed the dairy industry not to use milk derivatives from Britain.

## Worries

There are now worries that milk could act as a transmitter of BSE.

But you will hear none of this from Ivan Yates who boasts that beef consumption in Ireland has risen to

90 per cent of what it was before BSE was discovered.

Ireland does not even have a food agency which has independent representatives who can monitor the safety of products.

Instead the beef barons who engaged in fraud on a massive scale sit on the industry's marketing agency.

It shows what capitalism is all about: an insane system where we pay so that big farmers can get away with endangering our lives.

## ABUSE COVER-UP:

# Mustn't offend the bishops!

THE DECISION by the Director of Public Prosecutions not to prosecute the Rushbrooke Orphanage in Cork should dispel any idea that the power of the clergy is really being tackled in Ireland.

Fifteen former residents of the orphanage made detailed statements to the Gardai about the ordeal they suffered there in the 1950s and 1960s.

For many it was a traumatic experience as they re-lived the horrors of their youth.

Mary Porter, who wrote the book *You May Talk Now*, described some of the abuse that went on.

"We were beaten with straps and wooden spoons, our hair was pulled and we went through hell".

Bedwetting was a major offence and those who wet their beds had to stand at the breakfast table the following morning with smelly sheets over their heads.

Some of the girls who were sick at the table had their vomit force fed into them.

Yet none of those responsible for this systematic cruelty will ever be brought to justice.

No Irish nun or priest has yet had to face the courts for the allegations of abuse which surfaced at the time of the Goldenbridge case.

Key sections of the Irish state are determined to cover up such abuse. The people who protected Brendan Smyth from extradition are still at work.

Others believe that the argument with the bishops on abortion, homosexuality and divorce is over and that the 'liberal agenda' has to come to an end.

## Revealed

This is why nothing is being done about these terrible cases.

Last year it was revealed that senior officers in the Gardai quashed an investigation into child sexual abuse of confirmation girls in Monageer in Wexford.

Now the lid is being closed on the cruelties of the orphanages.

Change in Ireland is going to take more than voting in a referendum and relying on de Rossa or Spring.

It was the display of people power over the X case which first started to open the floodgates. Maybe we need a little more of it again.

# Clegg out, Nelson out

# Outrage at sectarian murals

**BRIAN NELSON, the shadowy British Military Intelligence and loyalist murderer, was released from prison a fortnight ago. He served just under four years in prison.**

He was only arrested after the Stevens inquiry began to investigate the links between the RUC and the loyalist death squads who operated freely until the ceasefire two years ago.

Nelson was the UDA intelligence officer who organised the assassinations.

## Murder

Whenever the UDA wanted to murder someone, they consulted Nelson who kept a huge index system of information on thousands of republicans supporters.

Nelson checked the victim's usual movements and then informed the assassins how best to carry out their work.

Much of the information he used came directly from MI5.

Among Nelson's victims

was the prominent lawyer Pat Finucane who was wiped out.

## Several

The RUC told Finucane several times before his death that he would "be got" because his legal defence work was proving a major embarrassment to them.

Nelson was a former soldier with the notorious Black Watch regiment. Key figures in British intelligence brought him back from Germany after he re-enlisted in 1987.

He was told to infiltrate loyalist paramilitaries and to report regularly to his controllers.

He helped organise a huge shipment of arms from South Africa and even though he reported regularly to MI5 the bulk of the shipment was let go through. Later these weap-

ons were used to murder numerous Catholics.

The British ruling class have a tradition of looking after those who do their dirty work for them.

Just as they released the Lee Clegg who murdered joyriders in cold blood, so too are they refusing to set Nelson free.

**RESIDENTS of a Protestant area of North Belfast have shown their anger at the recent painting of a loyalist mural on the gable end of a block of flats.**

The mural overlooking Ballysillan Road depicts four armed and masked men and is accompanied by the words "D company Ballysillan UVF".

## Complained

The residents first complained to the RUC who did nothing about it. Eventually

they confronted a group of men painting the mural and were met by threatening abuse. One resident said: "When I saw the mural I thought how dare they, they don't even come from here — so why are they imposing this on us. It's right opposite a school — what sort of an image is a gunman for young

boys to face every day. They are ramming it down people's throats."

Another resident, Steve, told *Socialist Worker*: "When the mural first went up it was a big deal with everybody talking about it. It started to change the whole atmosphere. But then over a couple of days these murals and slogans started to appear, it was all organised."

## Territory

"Painting these murals is marking territory, just like dogs do. I have a few Catholic friends and it only makes it more difficult for them to come into the area."

The area has over 50 per cent unemployment and there is no community centre but the UVF has no interest in dealing with the real issues.

During the stand-off at Drumcree a local woman complained when a mob began destroying traffic lights. They attacked her with hammers and put her in hospital.

As Steve said: "Catholics aren't the only ones who are oppressed by these people, Protestants are too".

## The brutal face of the RUC

**A full time RUC reserve constable with 17 years experience claims that he was driven out of the RUC because he has a Catholic sounding name.**

He says he was insulted and abused by fellow officers over a number of years and forced to leave in February.

While he was serving, other RUC officers would leave the room when he entered. In one room that he used, the letters L.O.T.A.T.A. were written

on a wall. They stand for "LOOK OUT THERE'S A TAIG ABOUT".

On one occasion when he was on sentry duty a tape recorded message was waiting for him when he went on duty. It said "You are a fucking disgrace to the RUC". The speaker threatened to put "my toe between your

teeth. You are a fucking low down snake, a tout, a fucking Fenian and a fucking low down bastard".

The threatened RUC man was transferred to other duties but the problems followed him. He told the Newsletter, "I have proof of what happened to me over the years and I believe it led to me leaving the force. And the sickest thing of all, I am a Protestant".

# Workers united against bigotry

**ON AUGUST 10th hundreds of journalists descended on Derry to cover the Apprentice Boys march. Most saw it as a conflict between two tribes who wanted to hold onto their cultural symbols.**

But the reality was that Orange marches have not just been about both insulting Catholics and but have also been about suppressing dissent in the Protestant working class.

## Protest

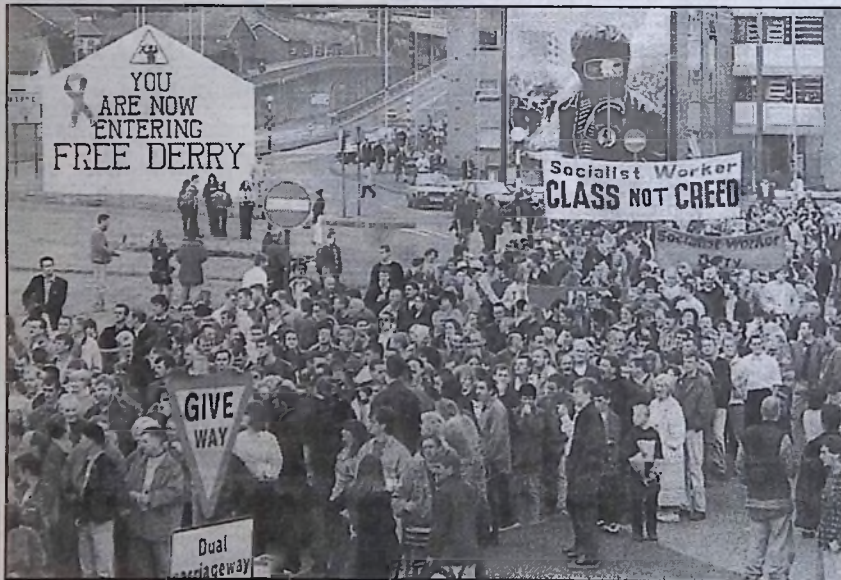
A protest called by the group United Against Bigotry against sectarian marches and sectarian attacks, drew around one hundred people from both traditions.

It was enthusiastically backed by the Derry Trades Council which sent one of its representatives to address the gathering.

Eamonn McCann from the *Socialist Workers Party* also got an excellent reception when he urged the Bogside Residents' Group, at a public meeting, to "appeal to Protestant workers to join us, to come together with Catholic workers to break Orangeism that divides us."

"Equal rights for Catholics does not mean depriving Protestant workers of anything, it only means depriving the Unionist politicians."

But Eamonn's voice was only one of many raised for class politics.



## A firefighter speaks

**LOOKING over a map of Derry, one firefighter says: "This city is divided, but it's between the haves and the have nots."**

Up the Culmore Road it's a rich Catholic area. There you see huge houses for the surgeons and the dentists. These are people exploiting those down in the Bogside, living in the lap of luxury while others are scrubbing up for them.

There are rich, elite Protestant areas too.

We go to fight fires everywhere and we see peoples' houses.

There is no difference between the poor Catholic areas of the Bogside and the poor Protestant areas of the Fountain or the Waterside.

## Same

Yet people don't realise they are the same.

Derry is a terrible place for low paid work. People work

from morning till night for next to nothing, £2 or £2.50 an hour.

Yet the unions are failing people by not taking it up.

People should be blocking the bridge that divides the city—but it should be against low pay and demanding a minimum wage.

Instead it's the poor facing each other.

But a flag will fill no one's stomach, it won't care for you in illness. It won't build you a hospital.

## A community worker:

**"I was not brought up to be bigoted. My parents always had Catholic friends and I have loads of Catholic mates. But there is a hardcore of staunch Loyalists who are just bigots."**

They are angry and bitter and feel betrayed. One man came into the my community centre boasting about how his four year old son had been throwing stones at the police.

I'm going to bring him up to be as bitter as I am' he said.

Most average people are not like that. They may think the marches should go ahead but they have no problem about mixing with ordinary Catholics.

The problem is that the hardcore bigots encourage an atmosphere in which it's difficult to speak out.

## Loyalist

They say if you're a Protestant you've got to be a Loyalist.

And they're not just bigots on religion, they're bigots on everything—women, racism, the lot. The atmosphere is always a lot worse at this time of year.

But even so a majority of people didn't want the flagstones painted red, white and blue.

I heard one woman say, 'I don't want my Catholic friends to be intimidated from coming in the front door.'

## Blame

I blame the politicians. They try so much to wind people up.

I heard one saying to young lads last week, 'so what are you going to get up to tonight lads?', encouraging them to cause trouble.

The next minute he was on the TV appealing for calm!

But working class Catholics and Protestants are in exactly the same boat. It is possible for Catholics and Protestants to come together, they already do it all the time, in workplaces and in mixed estates.

Loyalism gets people nowhere.

## international news

### Cyprus:

# Tension rises in border clash

**BORDER CLASHES** and the deaths of two Greek demonstrators on the divided island of Cyprus have threatened the outbreak of full scale war in recent weeks.

The cause of the tension lies in a history of foreign intervention, and continuing attempts by the ruling classes of Greece and Turkey to establish domination in the eastern Mediterranean.

### Crisis

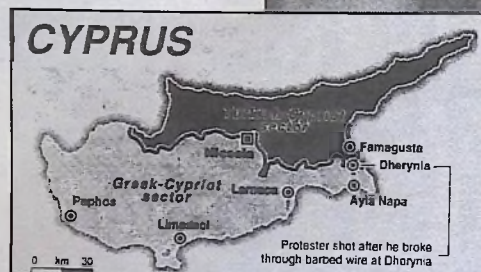
The death of Tassos Isaac as Greek protesters attempted to storm the border dividing the Greek south from the Turkish north precipitated the latest crisis.

That was followed three days later by the shooting by border guards of Isaac's cousin, Solomos Solomou.

But despite the nationalist rhetoric of the Greek Cypriot rulers most ordinary Greek Cypriots do not want war.

Nor were all Turks in the north of Cyprus gripped by war fever.

Both Greek and Turkish leaders are now saying they want to calm



■ Greek-Cypriot demonstrator shot dead while trying to remove a Turkish flag on boundary of two zones

matters down. But their respective jingoism has inflamed the situation.

Last week the Foreign minister of Turkey, Tansu Ciller, visited Turkish north Cyprus and said, "Anyone who lays a hand on the Turkish flag will get his fingers broken."

Two days later Costas Simitis, prime minister of Greece, visited the south declaring:

"The backbone of the Turkish occupation forces is made up of common murderers."

### Whip Up

Both the governments of Turkey and Greece are

## A history of divide and rule

**CYPRUS WAS** a British colony until 1960. The British exacerbated divisions between Greeks and the Turkish minority to run the island through a policy of divide and rule.

Despite guarantees when Cyprus became independent, Turkish Cypriots often found themselves as second class citizens. A section of the Greek Cypriot ruling class wanted full unification with Greece.

A pro-unification coup in 1974

prompted the invasion and occupation of the northern third of Cyprus by mainland Turkish troops.

The island has remained divided since then.

### Corrupt

Leaders of both parts of Cyprus claim they want to see an end to the border and a federation in which Turks and Greeks can live alongside each other.

But each side wants to secure as large a slice of influence as

possible. They are prepared to see the divisions reinforced in order to achieve that.

Both regimes are equally reactionary and corrupt.

Turkish and Greek workers have no interest in siding with either.

There is public opposition to nationalism in Turkey, Greece and both parts of Cyprus.

The solution lies in building on that, on the desire for peace, and the similar struggles Turkish and Greek workers are forced to wage.

### Australia:

# Huge union protest storms parliament

**DEMONSTRATORS STORMED** the Australian parliament in Canberra in late August in protest at a series of attacks by the newly elected Liberal (right-wing) government.

Twenty five thousand people marched on parliament in the biggest demonstration in two decades.

The angry protest confounded pundits who said the Australian working class had given up the fight since the right wing Labour government was kicked out in February after 13 years.

Alison, a member of *Socialist Worker's* Australian sister organisation, was there:

"NOBODY expected the demonstration to be that big. It had been called by the ACTU (equivalent of the ICTU) over the government's proposed anti-union laws.

"The march also coincided with other key issues. The budget is due to make £4 billion cuts, including slashing university funding and introducing student fees.

"The Liberals also want to cut the budget for Aboriginal affairs by 40 percent.

"So the demonstration mobilised workers, community groups, students and Aborigine activists.

"The union leaders just wanted a moderate protest to lobby parliament. But it took on a life of its own.

### Walked Off

"People travelled from all over Australia. Workers came from the towns and villages. Some came by coach. The Sydney Labour Party laid on a train called 'The Spirit of Protest'.

"Maritime workers and dockers walked off the job. I doubt there were any ports working today. There were quite a few miners and construction workers there too.

"People marched from the train station to parliament. Then a group of a miners and Aborigines went to force themselves through the doors of parliament. They were then joined by hundreds of others.

"The protest split in two—with the boring official speeches on the lawn and the rest trying to open the doors. People started fighting the rows of police lined up inside.

"Afterwards the Labour and trade union leaders condemned the protestors.

"We've been arguing that the attacks on the working class demanded a serious response. Afterwards people were saying there was real blood on the floor of parliament today."

### Jordan:

# Bread hike sparks riots

**RIOTS** swept Jordan in late August after the government doubled the price of bread.

The revolt began in Karak where banks and government buildings were burnt down.

Street fighting spread to other cities and erupted in working class areas of the capital Amman on Sunday.

Jordan's ruler, King Hussein, promised to use an "iron fist" to crush the revolt and blamed Saddam Hussein's government in Iraq for the rioting.

But the real cause is years of hunger, poverty and repression.

King Hussein agreed the bread price rises with the International Monetary Fund as part of a programme that will cut other welfare benefits.

For the last 44 years Hussein has ruled the country which the British gave to his grandfather. He now faces his most serious challenge in a decade.

### Promises

Hussein's promises that his peace treaty with Israel would bring wealth and economic development have proved a myth.

A diet of bullets and bombs may temporarily subdue people who already live in poverty and cannot afford the bread price rises.

But western governments and the region's corrupt regimes will be horrified by this latest sign of instability in the oil rich Middle East.

prepared to whip up nationalism to divert workers' anger from the cuts and privatisation they are pushing through.

The government of Greece has announced a new austerity plan which has already seen significant strikes.

The Islamist led government of Turkey is planning to accelerate its privatisation programme.

The Islamist Welfare Party won most votes in elections last December because it presented itself as a friend of the poor and untainted by corruption scandals.

### Partner

But it has faced increasing disillusionment among its supporters since it took office as the senior partner in a coalition two months ago.

The jingoism is not just about deflecting workers' anger.

Greece and Turkey are locked into a regional power struggle over control of the Aegean sea which divide them, and which sits on recently discovered oil deposits.

## Socialists stand up to the hate mongers

**SOCIALISTS** IN the Greek half of Cyprus and in Turkey both responded to the crisis in the spirit of true internationalism.

They refused to go along with the nationalism whipped up by their own rulers, and instead insisted those very rulers were the main enemy workers in each area faced.

★ "TALK OF all Turks being 'barbaric' is nonsense and anti-Turkish chauvinism.

"Workers have no interest in lining up behind the Greek-Cypriot government which has whipped up nationalism. We should oppose the anti-Turkish racism.

"Greek and Turkish workers have more in common with each other than with our rulers."—Greek Cypriot socialists

★ "THE BIGGEST obstacle to a peaceful solution and the brotherhood of peoples in Cyprus has been the Turkish government.

The northern Cyprus government wants to set Turkish and Greek workers against one another.

It is essential to fight for the brotherhood of Turkish and Greek peoples. Turkey should get its hands off Cyprus. This is the only way to a peaceful solution in Cyprus."—Turkish socialists

## Suharto's Indonesia: The West's vicious ally

INDONESIA, home to 200 million people, has been shaken by the worst unrest for 30 years.

The country's ruler, Suharto, came to power in 1965 in one of the bloodiest massacres of this century. PAUL MCGARR tells the story.

INDONESIA WAS a Dutch colony for over 150 years until the Second World War, when it was occupied by the Japanese.

With Japanese defeat, the Indonesian nationalists proclaimed independence.

The Dutch waged a bloody war to try and regain control.

But, led by Ahmed Sukarno, the nationalists defeated the Dutch and by 1954 had won full independence.

The importance of this victory was underlined the next year when Sukarno hosted a famous conference in Bandung in Java.

It assembled leaders of newly independent countries from around the world to found the Non Aligned Movement. It was at Bandung that the notion of the Third World was coined.

Sukarno at first delivered reforms. But his regime rested on two contradictory forces.

On the one hand were the army generals, landowners and the growing business class.

On the other hand was the Communist Party, the PKI, the key force among the mass of workers and peasants.

By the mid-1960s it was the world's biggest Communist Party outside Russia and China, with 3 million members and 14 million sympathisers.

As class divisions grew, they erupted in strikes and, in 1964, a wave of land seizures by peasants. Bosses, landlords and the army wanted a crackdown to restore "order".

### Crops

The US and British governments were also worried by the Communists' growing strength.

It was obvious confrontation was looming.

But the PKI stuck rigidly to the suicidal line laid down by Russia and China—that the key task was to back Sukarno and maintain the "nationalist alliance".

That meant restraining workers' and peasants' struggles to try to preserve an alliance with "nationalist" bosses, landowners and generals.

The only force which could have thwarted the right was the mass mobilisation of workers and peasants.

But this was precisely what the PKI blocked.

So it did not protest when Sukarno banned strikes.

It restricted its demands over land reform to calling for peasants to be allowed to keep 60 percent of their crops with landlords taking only 40 percent!

When in 1964 peasants began a wave of land seizures, the PKI denounced them.

The PKI also sowed huge illusions in the army. PKI leader Njoto said, "The PKI always regards the Indonesian army as being not the same as armies in the imperialist countries."

Matters came to a head in September 1965 when a group of "leftist" junior army officers launched a pre-emptive strike against the army leadership. The coup failed and gave the generals the pretext to strike back.

### Mobs

Led by then general and today's president Suharto, the army seized power and embarked on the systematic slaughter of everyone suspected of being a PKI supporter.

All PKI leaders, including Njoto, were simply executed.

In villages across the country the army marched in and rounded up PKI members and sympathisers. Some would be executed, others handed over to right wing mobs to be hacked to death.

The US gave the generals a list of PKI militants it wanted executed.

The British ambassador Sir Andrew Gilchrist wrote, "I have never concealed my belief that a little shooting in Indonesia would be an essential preliminary to effective change."

The "little shooting" ended up with over 500,000 people killed.

Suharto claimed to be acting to defend Sukarno from a "Communist coup" but the real aim was to remove even Sukarno. He was kept as a figurehead for two years before the generals and Suharto openly assumed full power.

Ever since, under the "New Order", Suharto has ruled with savage repression.

All that time Suharto's regime has been feted, funded and armed by the US and Britain.

Today the ghosts of the past, of a mass workers' and peasants' movement, may be beginning to walk again.

If they do they will be immeasurably strengthened by the huge new working class created since 1965.

They will be strengthened further if inside that movement the tragic lessons of 1965 are learned: that class struggle, not illusory alliances with "patriotic" or "liberal" bosses and landlords, is the only way for the mass of people to defend their interests.

# CLASS AND EDUCATION



**SOME YEARS ago the head of Trinity College in Dublin made a casual remark in the course of a long speech—his college had just three students from unskilled working class backgrounds.**

Trinity College has over 7,000 students and has recently been involved in a major campaign to keep government representatives off its board, arguing that it would interfere with free and independent thought.

Yet they have not shown the slightest concern about why so few of their students come from areas like the Liberties, Pearse St flats or Summerhill which are within a stone's throw of the college.

It is typical of the vicious class discrimination that operates in the colleges.

### Unskilled

College students still come overwhelmingly from professional and upper class backgrounds and manual workers are grossly under-represented.

In 1992, for example, only 3 percent of college students were the children of unskilled workers.

By contrast a student who was born into a family of doctors or barristers was eight times more likely to get into college.

The sons and daughters of employers and managers take 20 percent of university places even though their numbers in the national population are much smaller.

But if you come from the manual working class the odds are stacked against you. 40 percent of the Irish population are manual workers but only 24 percent of the college places go to their sons and daughters.

Even these figures disguise what is really going on. Working class students tend to be heavily concentrated in Regional Technical Colleges.

The RTCs in Dundalk,

## WHY DO THE UPPER CLASS DO SO WELL?

The upper classes try to pretend that they get to the top of the education ladder by having a higher I.Q. and an 'attitude' which is more suitable to education.

In reality there are a number of mechanisms which helps them on their way.

■ **PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** Upper class children are increasingly being sent to private schools where the fees for boarding can run to £8,000 a year.

Here they are guaranteed tiny classes and close expert tuition. 70% of students from these schools make it to college compared to 38% from community schools.

■ **GRINDS AND EXTRA SCHOOL TIME:** Where middle class students from are not doing well in mock Leaving Cert exams, they get access to grinds.

They can also attend special Leaving Cert courses at the weekends and during holidays.

■ **PRIVATE COLLEGES:** In recent years there has been a growth of private third level colleges.

Tallaght and Waterford are made up predominantly from students of the skilled and unskilled working class.

Universities like Trinity and UCD are more biased to the professional and managerial classes.

### Division

In the Royal College of Surgeons, for example, a staggering 62 percent of students come from higher professional backgrounds.

Many academics claim that the main division in society is based on gender and argue that class is not so relevant today.

If they only looked at

These often boast that they have lower student numbers and a more 'friendly' teaching staff.

### Managerial

Student places here are even more biased to the upper classes.

41% of students in LSB, for example, come from professional and managerial backgrounds.

■ **STREAMING:** In most Irish secondary schools a form of 'streaming' exists which groups classes according to 'bright' and 'dim' students.

Twenty years ago you might have 5th Class A or 5th Class B but now they call the classes after rivers or saints to disguise the difference.

Streaming means that more attention is given to students who are already doing well and less help is given to those labelled 'failures'

where their own students came from they would see how absurd this is.

Although male and female students often take different subjects, women from a professional background are still well over-represented in college compared male workers.

The sharp level of discrimination is shown by the areas where students come from.

Only 5 percent of teenagers from the North inner city will go to college compared with 49 percent of teenagers in Ballsbridge or Donnybrook.

Like everything else in life, it is class which forms the main divide in education.



Schools in working class areas, like this in Du

## JUSTIFYING WO

**EVER SINCE the 1960s when the pattern of class discrimination became known there have been various theories advanced to explain working class failure in education.**

The most popular came from a British sociologist, Basil Bernstein, who claimed that working class and middle class children have different language codes which affect their educational achievement.

According to Bernstein the working class

uses a 'restricted code' with a high proportion of short statements, less adjectives, and are less able to describe scenes that are not directly visible to the observer.

The middle class relies less on non-verbal communication and has a more logical and elaborated form of speech.

### Popular

These language codes according to Bernstein meant that working class children were less able to cope with the official language in schools and were not

by KIERAN ALLEN

# Who goes to college?

## BREAKING THE CLASS CEILING

EDUCATION is divided along the lines of class like society as a whole.

The idea that everyone can get on through study has always been a myth.

The economic disadvantages of working class children affect their education. They may not have a separate room for study at home; they can afford less books; they go to schools which are less equipped. Even if they do make it to colleges they are more likely to have to work while they are studying.

But the issue of discrimination goes beyond the economic. Schooling in capitalism is subtly organised to produce different types of education for different classes.

Upper classes schools like Clongowes or Alexandria aim to encourage confidence and 'leadership' abilities while teachers in working class schools are told to emphasise 'discipline'.

Getting people to accept sitting in rows quietly, only speaking when questioned, accepting orders from prefects or teachers is all designed to prepare people for later life in the factory or office.

The whole competitive system where 'copying' or sharing is frowned on suits a dog-eat-dog society where you only 'get on' by trampling on others.

All of this means that the experience of education for many working class people is deadening and alienating. An Irish study in 1987, for example, revealed that one third of working class mothers either hated or did not like school.

Left wing teachers can take small steps to argue for mixed ability teaching and active co-operative learning. But to break the 'class ceiling' which crushes the talent of thousands of working class children will demand a fundamental change in society. Before the ideals of the Russian Revolution of 1917 were crushed by Stalinism, the education policy of the Bolsheviks was spelt out:

*"The personality shall remain as the highest value in the socialist culture. This personality however can develop its inclination in all possible luxury only in a harmonious society of equals. We do not forget the right of an individual to his own peculiar development. It is not necessary for us to cut short the personality, to cheat it, to cast it into iron moulds, because the stability of the socialist community is based not on the uniformity of barracks, not on artificial drill, not on religious and aesthetic deceptions, but on an actual solidarity of interests."*

ing Test which is applied to primary school children in Ireland are used to 'show' that working class children have a smaller vocabulary.

But these always involve a highly biased selection where children are never asked the names of, for example, engine parts but usually 'the capitals of the world'.

In the end these "tests" all contribute excuses to hide the real political and economic structures that hinder the education of working class children.

demics doing research in a formal setting than they are among their own peers.

Bernstein also tended to confuse the use of more flowery and wordy forms of speech with a greater ability to reason.

### Problem

Teachers are encouraged to believe that working class failure is due to an individual problem such as language deficiency or lack of culture.

Quack forms of 'science' such as the Drumcondra, Verbal Reason-

well geared to the formal, rational learning.

Bernstein's theories became highly popular with many teachers and provided an alibi for blaming the working class for having a different attitude and culture.

In reality, Bernstein's argument makes little sense. A famous study by New York psychologist Labov showed that speech patterns are more dependent on the social context.

Black working class kids from Harlem were more restricted in their speech when talking to white middle class aca-



like this in Dublin's South inner city, face chronic underfunding

## WORKING CLASS FAILURE

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## What do socialists say?

### Socialists and violence

ALL "MAINSTREAM" politicians say they condemn violence.

They condemn the violence of the terrorist bomb, violence at football matches, violence on the picket line, violence on demonstrations.

Politics, they say, should be an entirely peaceful and "democratic", by which they mean exclusively parliamentary, affair.

Violence, they repeat endlessly, has no place in civilised society.

The capitalist media takes the same line.

Yet all these politicians and all the media support the most extreme forms of violence on one condition, namely that it is sanctioned by the state.

They all supported the Vietnam War, the Falklands War and the Gulf War.

They all support the violence of the police and the prison system and the ultimate violence of nuclear weapons.

### Support

They support all these things without it apparently ever occurring to them that what they are backing is indeed violence—and violence on a scale that no picket, demonstrator or rioter could ever contemplate.

Thus we have the absurd and obscene spectacle of a politician like Tony Blair announcing he would "press the button" to launch a nuclear war and being acclaimed as a responsible "moderate".

Meanwhile, a demonstrator who punches a truncheon wielding cop is denounced as a "violent extremist".

What is involved here is more than individual hypocrisy. It is systematic class hypocrisy.

Just as the bourgeoisie cannot publicly acknowledge its own existence as a ruling class, so it cannot admit that its rule

and its system rest on violence.

In reality, a society in which 358 billionaires own more wealth than half the world's population cannot survive without violence and the threat of violence at every level.

In the final analysis, the only thing that stops the poor and the hungry helping themselves to the property of the rich is the certain knowledge that they will be met with the overwhelming violence of the state.

The same is true at an international level. Capitalism as a world system is divided into rival bands of competing capitalists backed by rival capitalist states.

Conflicts between them are resolved, ultimately, on the basis of extreme organised violence, in wars or the threat of war.

In practice our rulers understand this perfectly well, hence their massive expenditure on police, prisons, tanks, planes and missiles.

But they disguise their commitment to naked violence under an elaborate rhetoric of law and order, justice and peace.

Socialists have no need of this hypocrisy. Our aim is a society without violence, a society in which the causes of violence have been torn up at the roots.

Nevertheless, we declare openly that the achievement of such a society will involve violence, or in the words of Marx, "the forcible overthrow of existing social conditions".

This is unavoidable for the simple reason that the world's ruling classes will not surrender their wealth and power without a desperate

fight.

Unfortunately, history leaves no room for doubt on this score.

Socialists also recognise that it is inevitable that from time to time the class struggle will erupt into more or less spontaneous violence.

This has been true throughout the history of class divided society and it will remain true in the future.

In all such situations socialists reject blanket condemnation of violence.

We distinguish between the violence of the oppressor and the violence of the oppressed.

We place the responsibility for the violence where it belongs, on the oppressors and their inherently violent system.

This recognition of the inevitable role of violence does not mean, however, that the class struggle or the revolution is some orgy of bloodletting, still less that we advocate violence for violence sake.

### Stand

We take our stand on the mass action of the working class and the fact that the workers movement is the movement of the immense majority in the interests of the immense majority.

For a majority to defeat the minority requires infinitely less violence than for the minority to suppress the majority.

The greatest revolution in history, the Russian revolution of October 1917, cost only a handful of lives.

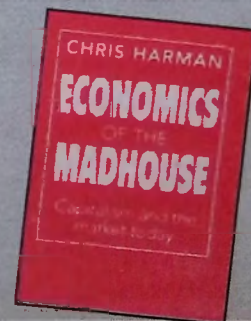
To reject class struggle and revolution because of the limited violence they involve is to abandon hope of a society without exploitation and war.

It is to accept the continued existence of a capitalist society which has already brought us the Somme, Auschwitz, Hiroshima and wars and atrocities without number—and which offers only more of the same.

— JOHN MOLYNEUX

Out now!

Economics of the Madhouse—Capitalism and the Market Today by Chris Harman £3.50 + 70p p+p from: SW Books PO Box 1648, Dublin 8



**Spartacus, leader of...**by **JOHNNY CLARK**

# Slaves who broke their chains

Marx described Spartacus as "the most splendid fellow that all ancient history has to show; great general, noble character, real representative of the ancient proletariat".

The recent republication of Lewis Grassie Gibbons classic novel on Spartacus written in 1933 is one of a long line of tributes to the slaves' rebellion, which include the epic Hollywood film of the 1950s with Kirk Douglas in the leading role.

The film script was written by Dalton Trumbo, a victim of the anti-communist witch-hunts of the 1950s, who used the story of Spartacus to make a powerful statement against McCarthyism.

Many will remember the unforgettable scene where the Romans try and encourage the captured slaves to turn in their leader. Rather than do so each one of the thousands of slaves stands up in turn and declares "I am Spartacus."

In 73 BC the slave Spartacus broke out of captivity with 200 other slaves from a gladiatorial camp in Italy.

The revolt he led grew rapidly. At its height the rebel army of Spartacus numbered some 200,000 slaves. The revolt shook the very foundations of Rome, the greatest imperial power in the world.

On at least three occasions Spartacus's army defeated, in open battle, huge Roman armies sent to crush it.

Today under capitalism the mass of the population are exploited as workers. We sell our labour to the boss for so much a day, week or month.

Exploitation in Ancient Greece and Rome took the form of slavery. If you were a slave you didn't sell your labour as a commodity—you were a commodity. Aristotle described the slave as a "speaking tool."

You clothed and fed your masters. You grew their crops, manufactured their goods, built their homes and provided their entertainment. You were bought to do this at a once-off price.

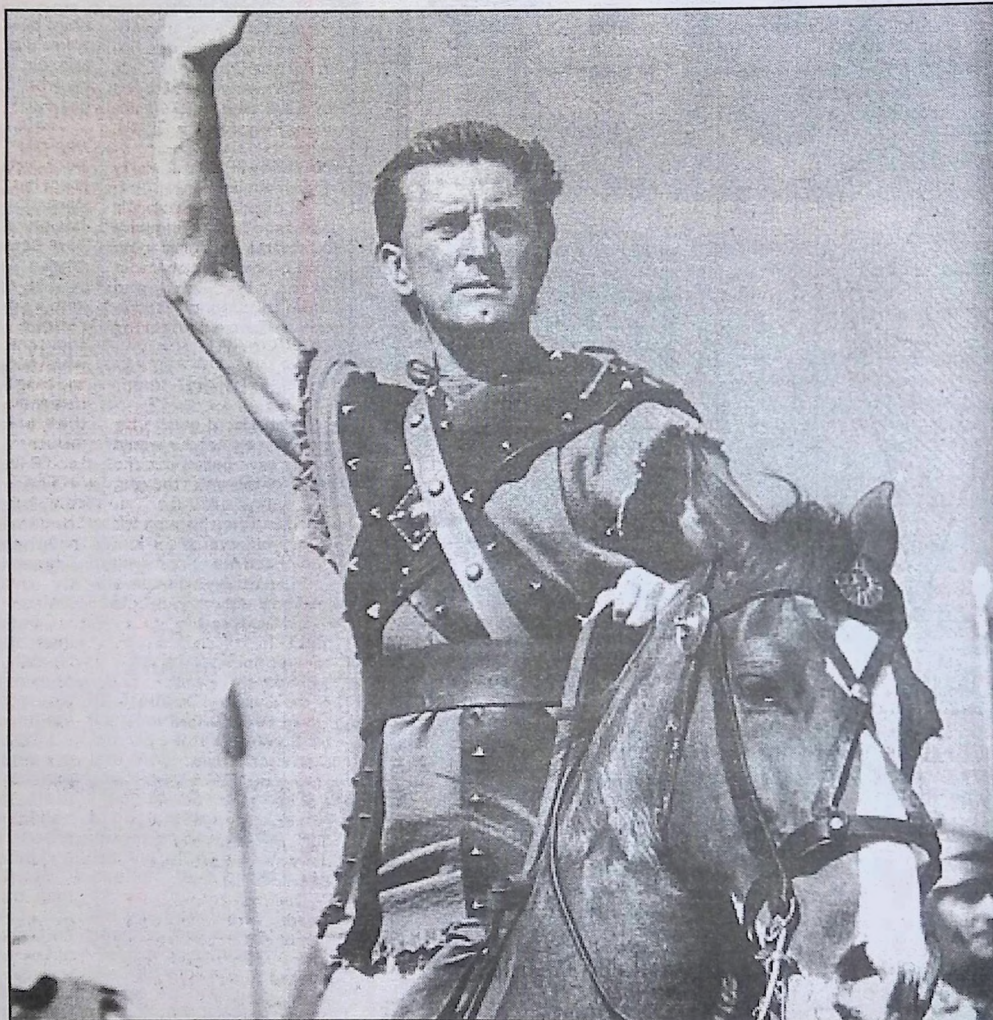
Philosophers like Plato and Aristotle could only spend so much time discussing abstract notions of truth and justice because of the very real injustice of having slaves do everything for them.

**There were also free people who worked, mainly small peasants on the land. In Athens these people were able to limit the power of the aristocracy, and this is what underpinned Athenian democracy.**

However in Rome, which by the 2nd century BC was coming to replace the older Greek civilisation as the dominant power in the Mediterranean world, the aristocracy's power was less limited.

The Roman state was at this stage a republic, but one dominated by the aristocratic senate.

Just as contemporary class society demands constant accumulation to survive, so ancient society demanded the constant expansion of land and the



**SPARTACUS (played by Kirk Douglas)—a story of our struggle**

number of slaves.

Land was the main form of wealth and slaves were the key to the rulers' wealth.

Just as under capitalism, however, such expansion did not resolve society's problems, it only deepened them.

The number of war captives taken into slavery after various campaigns was colossal. The slave port of Delos was clearing 2,000 slaves a day at knock down prices.

The Roman aristocrats meanwhile enriched themselves at the expense of the small farmer.

While Roman peasants fought their rulers unending war campaigns their homesteads were left to land hungry magnates to seize and stock them with slaves, forming large plantations.

This and slavery generated massive social and political instability and increasing divisions within the senate on how to deal with the "mob" and the army.

Factionalism among the rulers, bribery, intimidation and gangsterism finally erupted in civil wars.

The republic broke down and eventually Octavius Augustus Caesar broke senatorial power, ending the republic and creating the Roman empire.

The mass of slaves were primarily those who had fought the Romans.

These slaves were used in the most brutal way—as galley slaves, as miners in chain gangs, on plantations and in the arenas.

**There had been two major slave revolts prior to the Spartacus rebellion.**

But what made this one particularly disturbing for the ruling class was that it took place in Italy itself and at a time when the Empire was facing two major rebellions—in Spain and Turkey.

Spartacus was a Thracian from Northern Greece and was probably a war captive. He was used by his masters as a gladiator, which suggests he had military experience.

The Roman response to Spartacus's outbreak was to send an army of 3,000 soldiers to deal with the runaways. But Spartacus was joined by slave herdsmen and possibly by local bandits. The slaves captured the Roman camp and the soldiers fled.

The rebellion grew as slaves flocked to the banner of the revolt and Spartacus's army defeated another Roman army.

The revolt was becoming a nightmare for the Roman rulers because it took place in Italy while much of the Army was abroad fighting elsewhere.

By now Spartacus's army had grown to 200,000. Panic struck the Roman rulers. Homesteads and plantations were abandoned and cities awaited terrified of invasion by the slave army.

Rome's rulers responded by sending two huge armies of what was called "consular" size against the slaves.

This was a force of astonishing size when you consider that there was only one consular army in Spain and one in Turkey to suppress major revolts there.

One of these armies initially gained a victory by defeating a force of 30,000 slaves. But the main slave army crushed one consular army and then went onto to rout the other—apparently in a single day.

The slave army then met and defeated a third huge Roman army as it moved North towards the Alps.

Such victories against Rome were unprecedented and more so because they were achieved by slaves, the lowest in society.

The historical sources which describe the revolt try and explain this by suggesting that Spartacus must have been of noble birth, or that perhaps he was a priest or magician.

The real reason for the slaves' audacity and success was the hatred they

bore to Roman rule and slavery—and the unreliability of Rome's own soldiers.

**It is at this point in the story that the historical record becomes more sketchy and we have to make a number of guesses to fill in the picture.**

The obvious assumption was that the slaves, now in the north, intended to escape out of Italy back to their tribal homelands.

Yet just when there was no obstruction to this the slave army turned round and marched back south.

The reason for the sudden change may be that with the expansion of the rebel army the bulk of the slaves involved were now not from northern European tribes.

Possibly the majority of the slaves now looked to set up an independent state, perhaps in the island of Sicily to the south of Italy.

Or perhaps they planned the ultimate gamble—challenging for Rome itself. Certainly the slave army was now heading in the direction of Rome.

The Roman rulers responded to the threat by appointing the most powerful, and certainly the richest, man in Rome to lead the defence—Marcus Licinius Crassus.

Crassus restored discipline among Rome's defeated and demoralised soldiers through terror—in particular decimation. This entailed the execution of every tenth soldier who fled the battlefield.

Much of the detail of what happened next is unclear, but the final act of the great revolt took place in the south of Italy.

Circumstances were now shifting away from Spartacus.

The rebellion in Spain had been defeated and that in Turkey was near to defeat. This released more Roman armies to return to Italy.

Spartacus and his army made a last stand against Crassus. It is said that Spartacus was killed trying to find Crassus on the battlefield.

With the defeat of the revolt the rulers wanted exemplary punishment. They mutilated and crucified six thousand human beings along the road from Rome to Capua.

In spite of the fundamentally different form of exploitation and oppression in the ancient world we can recognise a common tradition of revolt from below.

The slaves of ancient Rome could revolt, but ultimately they were defeated.

Today the development of modern industry and the enormous potential collective power of workers means we have the possibility not only of revolt, but of ending oppression and exploitation once and for all.

**Special Offer:**  
Spartacus by Lewis Grassie Gibbons only £6 plus 75p postage from SW Books, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8



**MANDY ALLWOOD CASE:**

# Hypocrisy of anti-abortionists exposed

**ANTI-ABORTIONISTS** in Britain and Ireland showed exactly how much they value a woman's health and life in the recent furore over Mandy Allwood, the woman pregnant with octuplets.

While doctors warned of the dangers to the woman of attempting to carry eight foetuses to full term, anti-abortionists were busy condemning "all these surgeons who are sharpening their scalpels."

They linked up with the tabloid press to encourage the woman to have all eight children. Their main ally was the *News of the World* which runs sexist images of women every week.

The organiser of the pay-per-baby deal, Max Clifford, revealed his deep cynicism for the real experiences ordinary women go through when he said, "If she had four children we would not want to know. It's all about market forces".

## Outrage

SPUC and the anti-abortionists have also expressed their outrage at the destruction of 3,000 embryos in Britain. The embryos involved had been stored in liquid nitrogen for couples who were undergoing fertility treatment.

Under British law foetuses cannot be stored for longer than five years unless the couple's consent is given.

The Vatican voiced its disgust at this "destruction of human life" and called it a "pre-natal massacre". It was perhaps the most obvious example of the anti-abortionist's view of human life. For as far as they were concerned these fertilised eggs, literally no more than a cluster of cells, constitute human beings. Their destruction amounts to murder.

The embryo controversy was then followed by the case of the woman who was pregnant with twins and wanted one aborted. SPUC argued that the surviving twin "would suffer problems for the rest of their lives". They even compared the case to *Sophie's Choice*—a movie in which a woman in a Nazi concentration camp has to make a decision about which of her daughters is allowed to survive.

But there is absolutely no scientific evidence of any ill-effects on the surviving twin. But it reveals the ab-

surdity of SPUC case. If a fertilised embryo is fully human within hours of sexual intercourse or artificial insemination, then why shouldn't it experience the same feelings of loss and separation as a fully grown adult?

## Claim

And if science gets in the way of this claim then why not rely on tabloid journalism to help make the case.

As it happens few women suffer trauma after having an abortion. Those who do are more likely to be influenced by the lies and horror stories which groups like SPUC promote.

The aim of SPUC over the last few weeks has been to restrict the 1967 Abortion Act in Britain.

They claim that it allows for abortion on demand and since they do not stand a chance of removing it, they are trying to chip away at it.

But every time they have mounted these campaigns in the past they have been beaten back.

When they introduced the Corrie Bill into the House of Commons, over 100,000 trade unionists took to the streets in a demonstration called by the Trades Union Congress.

What happens in Britain is directly relevant to Irish women.

Still denied rights in their own country, thirteen women have to travel to Britain each day for abortions.

One in ten pregnancies in Ireland now ends in abortion even though SPUC claimed that their constitutional amendment in 1983 would stop the practice altogether.

The scandal is that the Irish government still refuses to move on what they call "the substantive issue".

They have been forced to recognise the right of women to travel and to get information on abortion.

Although the Irish people voted for limited abortion rights against the advice of the bigots this government sits on its hands.

The scandal is that this time the government includes such fearless liberals as Michael D Higgins, Proinsias de Rossa and Pat Rabbitte.

— Róisín Cronin

**music**

# What's the story with Oasis?

**SO WHAT'S** the story? What is it about Oasis that had 80,000 people going mad in Parc Ui Chaoimh earlier this month, and has seen sales of their most recent album reach thirty million alone?

Opinion on the band is generally divided into two firmly entrenched camps.

Depending on which side you are on they are either the best band in the world, or else they are a cynical attempt to be the Fab Five for the nineties, driven by a song writer who does nothing more than re-write songs from the sixties.

Oasis really revolve around the Gallagher brothers—the other three in the band don't do much except play the music. It's the Gallaghers who play the rock stars—and they're pretty good at it too.

## Drugs

We all know they drink a lot, they take drugs and they trash hotel rooms.

And, just to confirm his bona fide rock star status, Liam got engaged to Patsy Kensit.

Noel has the attitude—

**by RÓISÍN CRONIN**

he's all cocky and arrogant. When he says he writes brilliant songs you know he means it.

And why shouldn't he? He does write great songs—songs like "Live forever", "Some might say", "Champagne Supernova", "Wonderwall".

And if the opening chords of "Don't look, honk in anger" don't get you then nothing will.

## Rip off

And okay, so the originality of some of songs might be questionable—but when it comes down to it what's a few stolen riffs between friends?

As the songwriter himself



"Don't put all your faith in a Rock and Roll band" — Liam Gallagher from Oasis

says "I'm always trying to rip the Beatles off for anything and everything. People always say, 'don't you want to be innovative?' Well, no."

We just want to make decent records."

Liam and Noel make a big deal of talking about their working class Manchester

background.

For them, life before Oasis meant being on the dole or in Noel's case, working on a building site.

They know that if they weren't in the band, instead of driving round a chocolate brown Rolls Royce that's exactly what they'd still be doing.

They have made their share of anti-establishment noises.

They'd like to see all members of the royal family beheaded and they are not too fond of the Tories either.

(Some Tory MP's actually called for their records to be banned, saying they are a bad influence on the young people of Britain).

## Enjoy

But while Noel and Liam enjoy slacking off music industry bosses in suits and ponytails, Oasis are in fact as much part of the music industry machine as Celine Dion or Bon Jovi.

Although you'll see Oasis topping the indie charts, like most other indie bands there is nothing independent about them.

Oasis records are in fact distributed worldwide by the Sony corporation, a company which made a staggering £326 million profit last year.

But of course there is a big difference between Oasis and the other moneyspinning projects that they call music.

When it comes down to it, when you go beyond all the hype and all the stories: Oasis are about the music not the image.

That's how it was as at the beginning with a bunch of people playing decent music and that's how it still is when Noel puts on his guitar and Liam takes centre stage. As it should be.

**play**

# Good evening, Mr Collins

**by CATHERINE BOOTHMAN**



**Good Evening Mr Collins, which is on tour around the country, has strong performances and great theatrical energy.**

The stage set presents the numerous "safe houses" of Collins' life, as well as the place of his assassination within a single space.

Large beams stage left and right represent a bridge.

They frame the action with the inevitability of Collins death, implying that he is ambushed by his own tactics.

This fatalistic structure deflects the play from real exploration of how historical change occurs.

Within the play De Valera, Cathal Brugha and Arthur Griffith belong to Collins' political experience.

## Hidden

The famous women of his life. Kitty Kiernan, Moya Llewellyn Davies and Hazel Lavery access hidden aspects of his personality.

These are germinated but prevented from flowering by his self imposed isolation within a political cause.

Real life for McIntyre resides only within intimate relationships.

The bond between Collins and Lavery is particularly infused with mysticism. It is said of her in the play that she must have had her finger on the pulse of life.

McIntyre's mistake is that he simplistically polarises the personal and political al-

most in terms of life and death.

This abuses the exploration of social and political history by reducing it to an image.

The play, however, is more explicit and comic when it comes to the role of De Valera. Dev had many reasons for not going to London at the time that the Treaty was signed.

One of them was that as president he saw himself as the symbol of the republic and symbols were not meant to negotiate.

It opens boldly with Dev in the school master role instructing the audience to ponder the 'good news' that 'the majority have no right whatsoever'.

It shows that his politics was never rooted in people's own ability to take action and were determined to block radical change.

However, it does not attempt to question the myth of Michael Collins and even implies that this is at odds with inventive theatre.

McIntyre sees Collins falsely building his life upon dreams while Dev, surrounded by his books and delusions of grandeur, is a skilled practitioner in compromise, deceptively covering it with his anti-treaty position.

In one scene which deals with Collins' fear and execu-

tion of spies a church bell tolls.

## Counting

It sounds as if it is counting the dead. In 1919, 13 policemen and one soldier were killed by the IRA. In 1920, 192 soldiers and 150 were killed.

Collins work in military intelligence is presented in terms of a personal psychosis.

The idea that personal loyalties and desire propel Collins is central to the play.

In exploring the myths of the 'pin-up' of Irish independence, the play holds the figure of Collins above the nuts and bolts of history.

In this way, the myths are put under a magnifying glass rather than punctured.

**television**

# Mutiny in the RAF

**SOMETIMES** television over the summer brings the odd gem.

One was the film documentary "Mutiny in the RAF" which told a story of an RAF strike in Asia after World War 11 which was covered up by the British establishment for 50 years after.

Many conscripts expected that the new Labour government would send them quickly home.

But they remained to be used as cheap labour for the British Overseas Air Company and to keep the area safe for the British empire.

Two days after VJ Day, two thousand airmen went on strike at one of the largest Indian airbases.

The strike ended peacefully four days later but by this time 60 other airbases had taken up the strike.

In January 1946, 1,000 men in Karachi attended a strike meeting.

**by FERGAL ADAMS**

At many bases, the strike received unanimous support with strike committees being elected.

Small groups of Communist Party members played a role in encouraging the revolt but it was mainly spontaneous.

## Empire

The strike then spread to Singapore and to the Royal Navy.

As the movement for Indian independence grew, the empire faced strikes of its navy and

airforce. Thousands in Bombay rioted in support of the strikers.

Airmen were outraged to learn that RAF bombers were being used to break the navy mutiny.

At one base the strike came to a halt only when officers threatened to slaughter the strikers by groups of tens until they returned to work.

One airman commented that 'There was no answer to that' But at another base in the Middle East strikers took over the armoury, showing their answer.

A trade union campaign in Britain eventually helped to speed the return of the conscripts.

This is one tale of the 'fighting spirit' of the British armed forces which has never graced the page of the *Daily Mail*.

**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.

# Drugs crisis....

# Deprivation is the problem

AS politicians from all shades of opinion try to whip up a law and order atmosphere over drugs, *Socialist Worker* spoke to Father Sean Cassin who works with the Merchant Quay project.

Dublin's Merchant's Quay Centre provides a stabilising programme and drug-free accommodation for some of the 220 drug users who call to the centre every day. The Project has around 3,000 injecting users on its books.

**SW: Why do you think people take drugs in the first place?**

**Fr Cassin:** In every major city there's a correlation between drug use and destitution, poverty and the lack of any kind of social planning. Income is one of the highest so-called 'influencing factors'.

Just the other day I saw a woman here and one of her kids was about to go to school.

She'd done well up to then but things fell apart: she had to send them off to school every morning in clean clothes, meet the cost of books and of communion dresses.

And she said 'All this— for what?'

That was ringing in my ears all day long, it's that poverty of aspiration.

Even if the kids are going to school, people say, 'are they going to get a job?'

A lot of drug users here are from a street trading background and some of the deprivation around here stems from their inability to trade any longer.

I think there's a link to the way street traders are discriminated against today.

The majority of drug users use heroin like we use alcohol, with the exception



Recent anti-drugs demonstration in Dublin

that clean heroin has none of the side-effects that alcohol has.

Clean heroin does not damage the liver or the memory cells, for instance.

**SW: But isn't there massive damage caused when addicts take it over a period of time?**

**Fr Cassin:** Ninety per cent of the problems around heroin are related to its illegality - it's diluted with brick dust or strychnin which do damage to the veins.

This has to do with the unpredictability of the black market. If there are deaths it has to do with the illegality or, it has to be said, negli-

gence by the health authorities and community groups.

**SW: Does that mean that you would be in favour of legalising heroin?**

**Fr Cassin:** In the area of heroin there are two scenarios that are disastrous.

### Chaos

There is the prohibition approach which we've had for the last 25 years, which leads to all the chaos with the black market and users being thrown into prison.

It leads to adulterated drugs which are often lethal for the system.

The other is the total lib-

eralisation approach, the corner shop notion, a bit like the adolescent teenager who can get the flagon of cider in the supermarket.

We say there's a middle of the road solution and that is medically dispensed heroin which would be locally available.

This would involve a care team around the drug user. I don't believe that more people would start taking it, and most studies support that.

**SW: What do you feel about vigilante groups in communities with a drugs problem?**

**Fr Cassin:** People who are adopting a vigilante

approach are really just evicting drug users. It is not drugs that are put out of the area, it is drug users and these groups are confining them to ghettos or homelessness.

In the past six months 40 per cent of our clients have experienced homelessness.

You're talking about parents with children here who end up in dreadful situations.

That sort of approach does nothing to solve the problem.

And obviously there are deaths related to vigilante tactics, deaths due to baseball bats, and Josie Dwyer was only one of them.

Why should people be evicted because they choose a particular substance?

But we do distinguish between community and vigilante groups.

Vigilante groups target users and call them pushers.

But there are local communities who are actively engaging in some kind of care treatment, who try and get those services into their area.

They want to integrate drug users into their communities—as opposed to chucking their furniture over balconies.

**SW: What do you say to people who worry that crime will go up if a drugs clinic opens nearby?**

**Fr Cassin:** Well, the opposite is true here.

The local community around here were terrified when we opened up in 1989.

But crime rates have actually gone down significantly, as well as instances of syringes being found.

There's a very simple reason: if drug users use our service regularly they're not going to go across the road and rob a shop where they'd be recognised the next day.

Many a granny goes to mass across the road while the user is with us—although we would tell her to hold on to her handbag.

**SW: As a voluntary group you've got limited resources, so what sort of services should the government provide for drug users?**

**Fr Cassin:** The first priority has got to be crisis intervention.

We're seeing people with abscesses and septicemia who just won't hang around a hospital for three hours and we're having to do fire brigade jobs here with volunteer nurses.

### Sterile

There's also a huge need to provide proper needle exchanges—I hate that term—and I just don't know why all of our clinics are not providing sterile swabs, water, citric acid, needles and so on on a user-friendly basis.

There's also the question of GPs and chemists as health providers: chemists need to do more dispensing of methadone and GPs need to get away from dumping drug users as soon as they appear in a family.

Many won't prescribe methadone, for example.

The perception is that doctors will be ripped off and have their surgeries messed up, yet our experience is that if you treat drug users with respect you'll get it back.

I've been at this work for 15 years now and I've never been attacked.

Each time you read an article about a GP who's had a bad experience I feel obliged to say 'you must take some of the responsibility for this yourself'.

You are the authorised prescribers of methadone and then you say 'no'.

You generate an intense level of frustration.

If you went into pub after pub and you were told 'no, no drink' all the time you'd probably kick a few doors. too.

## SWP branch meetings

**BELFAST**

Meets every Wed at 8pm Central Hall Rosemary St.

**CORK**

Meets every Tues at 8pm in Dennehy's Pub, Cornmarket St.

**DERRY**

Meets every Tues in Badgers Bar at 8pm

**DUN LAOGHAIRE**

Meets every Tues at 8pm in Smyths Pub.

**ENNISKILLEN**

Meets every fortnight Contact national address for details

**GALWAY**

Meets every Thursday at 6pm in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square

**MAYNOOTH**

Contact 8722682 for details

**WATERFORD**

Meets every Thurs at 8pm in ATGWU Hall, Keyser St.

**DUBLIN NORTH-WEST**

Meets every Tues at 8:30pm in The Old Brogue, Dorset St.

**DUBLIN ARTANE/COOLOCK**

Meets every Thurs at 8:30pm in the Artane/Beaumont Family Recreation Centre, Kilmore Rd.

**DUBLIN DRIMNAGH**

Meets every Tuesday at 8:30pm in the Lowes Pub, Dolphins Barn

**DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL**

Meets every Wed at 8:30pm in Conways, Parnell St.

**DUBLIN RATHMINES**

Meets every Wed at 8pm in O'Connell's Pub, Richmond St.

**DUBLIN SOUTH CENTRAL**

Meets every Thur at 8pm in the Trinity Inn, Pearse St.

**DUBLIN TALLAGHT/CLONDALKIN**

Meets Tues Tallaght Welfare Society, Tallaght Village.

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

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# Dunnes Stores set for strike

**AS WE** go to press workers in Dunnes Stores are counting the result of their ballot vote for strike action.

And there has been a very good turnout for the ballot.

One shop steward told *Socialist Worker* "I think there will be a strike. There is a real mood for one because everybody can see things are getting worse instead of better".

Last summer, a three week strike by over 7,000 Dunnes workers ended in a deal being sorted out in the Labour Court. This deal included issues such as pensions, minimum hours, payment of 3 percent back pay due under the PESP and the setting up of an industrial relations tribunal for the union and company to reach agreement on all issues.

But MANDATE's efforts to secure all of these concessions from Dunnes Stores have failed at every level of industrial relations.

The company has not implemented the back payment of money due, the pension scheme or the tribunal.

Instead it has been eroding other gains made by last summer's strike.

Workers in Dunnes have had enough. Many of them are continually humiliated by the heavy handed managers and as one worker put it, "We are always being messed around with our hours even though that was all supposed to stop after the strike."

But the Dunnes empire continues to make millions out of the misery of their workers. They have a huge turnover of staff which means they keep most workers on the lowest rate of pay.

Thousands of Dunnes workers will remember last year's strike but many thousands more will be new to the union.

**WELLMAN:**  
**Five weeks out on strike**

**WORKERS** at Wellman International in Cavan have been out on strike for five weeks. Morale on the picket line is very high and round the clock pickets are being maintained at the plant.

An attempted mediation by Fine Gael senator got a brush off from the company when they claimed they did not know what the workers demands were.

The strike started after the company built a new extension and installed equipment worth nearly £5 million.

They transferred workers to different parts of the plant and refused to negotiate on the new conditions.

Workers who have been on day shifts for as long as 14 years object to being put on a

## Bewley's strike threat

**WORKERS** at Bewley's have voted overwhelmingly to go on strike because their employers have refused to pay 3 percent which is allowed under the Programme for Competitiveness and Work.

The strike could affect three main outlets in Dublin which are high on the tourist trail.

SIPTU, the union involved, had been negotiating with the company for months and had been back and forth to the Labour Court. Finally the patience of the shop stewards gave out and they insisted on a ballot for strike action.

Bewley's is owned by Campbell Catering who have taken over the canteen franchises in many universities and large factories.

They are putting on the poor mouth and pleading inability to pay.

### Profits

But the union points out that Campbell's own figures show little evidence of financial difficulties. In 1993 their profits grew by 25 percent to reach £1.9 million.

The company's debts were also cut when a British company took up a major shareholding.

For all its highly fashionable image, Bewley's tries to run a cheap labour outfit. There are only 50 permanent staff in the company's main shops and restaurants and the rest are contract staff who are 'on call'.

These get paid only £3.22 an hour and end up with £22 a week less than permanent workers.

Trade unionists should get behind the Bewley's workers in this struggle to help end the scourge of low wages.

# Galway hospital workers apply for all-out picket

**WORKERS** at University College Hospital in Galway have applied to ICTU for an all-out picket in their fight against privatisation of their catering department.

Meanwhile the 350 non-nursing staff who took part in a recent 48-hour strike have already planned a 72-hour stoppage.

### Replace

The hospital authorities have set up a new state of the art kitchen to replace the existing facilities.

But they want to hand the operation over to non-union firm



■ Fighting privatisation at UCG hospital

Campbell Catering.

Some staff who have worked a lifetime in the catering department were given a shoddy offer of redeployment as ward at-

tendants on 'other duties'.

### Interview

Temporary staff who have been there less than a year have been

offered nothing more than an interview with Campbell Catering.

Anger from below resulted in the action being called.

The union's negoti-

ating team were against a strike but were pressurised into it when the members voted three to one in favour.

### Action

Maintenance workers, who are members of UCATT, have supported the action so far.

One striker who spoke to *Socialist Worker* said, "management have a sinister secret agenda" involving further privatisation and the running down of services.

A young woman who took part in the stoppage in support of catering staff said, "I'm going on strike because if I needed support I'd like other people to support me".

This will be their first strike in Dunnes.

### Pickets

Public support for the strike was fantastic last time and this time we will see more of it.

But each store needs to ensure that there is a strike committee with well organised

picket rosters.

Strong, effective picketing will make the strike solid and put manners on Margaret Heffernan.

This time workers should stay out until they are guaranteed all of their rights.

The Dunnes Stores strike is due to start on Monday September 2nd.

## Dublin Bus:

# JOBS AND SERVICES UNDER ATTACK

**DUBLIN BUS** management are preparing to launch a major attack on the pay and conditions of busworkers.

In the last few weeks they have sent every worker a letter outlining the 'serious situation' the company faces.

They claim the company lost £20 million in total for 1995 and will need £14 million to replace old buses.

The letter also claims that by 1997 the company must agree a 'public service contract' with the government to operate certain bus routes.

They say that private bus operators could be awarded such contracts instead.

### Monopoly

The letter also points out that, under new European Union laws, bus services in Dublin cannot be operated as a state supported monopoly but must face competition from private bus companies.

Donal Mangan, the head of Dublin Bus, is trying to create a sense of gloom and doom amongst workers so he



■ Public transport needs proper funding

can push through his agenda.

He states that in order to be competitive sacrifices must be made. These include: ■ The hiring of part time and temporary workers who would work for a flat rate of pay for hours that are presently overtime.

■ The contracting out of some unprofitable routes, chiefly school routes.

■ The elimination of the city's remaining two person operated buses.

■ The reduction or elimination of certain payments and bonuses that bus workers have won over the years.

Workers in Bus Eireann

and Irish Rail will also face similar demands in the weeks ahead. Under the cover of 'EU law' and 'competition', CIE management wants to push through a vicious attack on all CIE workers.

### Accounts

But workers should not be fooled. In reality the financial situation in Dublin Bus is not as dire as they pretend.

In their accounts for 1995 they increased the cost of depreciation—the 'wear and tear' of buses—in order to make their position look worse than it is.

The amounts of government subvention has been consistently reduced. Last year it amounted to just £2 million.

Workers in Dublin Bus should reject the demands for cuts and the reasoning behind them. Public transport is a social service. It should not depend on whether a company can make a profit from it.

Private bus companies could only make money on certain routes by massively reducing the workers' pay and conditions.

This is exactly what happened in Britain under the Tory Party.

This is what 'competition' is really about, and why Dublin Bus management are so keen to use it as a stick to keep workers in line.

One Dublin Bus worker who spoke to *Socialist Worker* said:

"CIE unions should start an immediate campaign, demanding proper government funding for public transport. The type of strike action we took in the past over assaults on bus workers should now be repeated to stop management's assault on pay and conditions."

## Reckitt & Colman

**WORKERS** in Reckitt's in Tallaght are learning that their management will stop at nothing to make more and more profits.

Reckitt's, a British firm, is moving its operations and in the process is trying to shed over forty warehouse staff.

Not that the company is short of money, it made a profit of £11 million last year.

SIPTU, the dominant union, is trying to negotiate a redundancy package.

four cycle shift.

They also claim that the heat in parts of the factory is too high and want increased coverage in order to reduce the time spent under these conditions.

### Profits

Wellman are a very wealthy company, making over £1 billion in profits world wide.

This will offer little to the workers.

It is no compensation for the loss of what was thought to be a lifetime job.

### Defend

One commented: "What kills me is, no matter how much we get we'll pay loads of it in tax, Larry Goodman doesn't have to worry about that but we have to shell out, and no doubt Reckitt's got thousands".

The union should lead a fight to defend the jobs. The only way we can get a fair deal from management is by fighting for it.

The Irish operation in Muragh Cavan, made £24 million in profits last year.

Workers know that the company is now being squeezed for profits and are determined to stick it out. They have put in an appeal to the social welfare tribunal claiming for payment on the same basis as the Dunnes and Irish Press group where the company refused to negotiate.

# Socialist Worker

## Stop the Tories' plan to close the Western Education and Library Board

# SAVE THE WEST

# POSTAL STRIKES: Step up the action!

**POSTAL workers are on strike for a number of days in August over the Royal Mail's insistence on teamworking and delivery arrangements.**

It is crucial that workers keep pushing their union leaders to escalate the action.

Although the strikes have been very solid, they are not extensive enough to win outright victory.

With bosses refusing to enter negotiations at the beginning of the week, it was clear that management and the Tories are out to humble the Communication Workers Union.

workers in Edinburgh and Essex have been sacked after alleged incidents on the picket lines.

### Grassroots

The British Labour Party has sat on its hands when it has come to the postal strike.

They are telling the leaders of the CWU that the strike plays into the hands of the Tories.

But the reality is that the postal strike and the civil servants strike against the Job Seekers Allowance are an expression of growing militancy at grassroots.

Workers should not re-

### Rejected

A fortnight ago every worker was sent a letter from the bosses about the deal which was rightly rejected by the executive recently.

But the national union leaders failed to produce the leaflets and posters to match Royal Mail's offensive.

At the same time from



■ **Strikers in South London: Building picket lines gets more people involved in the fight**

treat now.

Private scab companies have not been able to do even 1 percent of normal

mail deliveries.

A much greater danger is that union members become disillusioned by the

lack of progress through their leaders strategy.

There must be picketing involving as many people as possible.

Rallies should be held throughout the North to build up solidarity.

### Solidarity

There weeks ago a mass meeting in Edinburgh passed a motion to the executive to extend the strikes "up to and including all out continuous action".

Similar motions should be passed elsewhere.

**THE DECISION** of the Tories to close the Western Education and Library Board is meeting with mass opposition.

A campaign has been set up with the slogan 'Save the West' and posters and banners are visible everywhere from Fermanagh to North Derry.

The closure of the WELB will mean major job losses as workers as forced to re-locate from, Omagh, for example, to Ballymenia.

The Derry offices are also to be moved into the control of the Northern board which has a long record of anti-Catholic discrimination.

The campaign against the closure is generating massive solidarity with 20,000 petitions being collected in Derry alone.

Major demonstration are now being planned for late autumn.

### Fearful

A NIPSA activist, told *Socialist Worker* that workers in other boards across Northern Ireland are supporting the campaign because they are also fearful of job losses.

So far the union has simply rolled in behind the board's publicity campaign. But it also needs to be willing to give a more militant lead. Industrial action backed up by public solidarity could really defeat the Tory plans.

## Waving the flag of hate

THE Democratic Unionist Party love flags. This time they are upset because the Union Jack might not appear on new EU identity cards. The real reason that they are getting so hot under the collar is that they want yet another way to insult nationalists.

Sammy Wilson said that nationalists

would accept the Union Jack 'provided it entitles them to state benefits'.

This is the same time of vicious sectarianism that came from the leader of an Orange march in Bellaghy some weeks ago who claimed that protesters were all 'unemployable'.

The DUP always try to cover for their right wing policies by

flag waving and jingoism. They want to stoke up the sectarian atmosphere that grew after Drumcree in order to keep workers divided.

### Alliance

The DUP are now in alliance with the right wing of the Tory party. David Wilshire, the vice chairman of the Conservative backbench commit-

tee on Northern Ireland claims that 'it is another sell-out to Dublin'.

These are the same people who object to the Euro social chapter because it might impose a maximum working week of 48 hours!

These bigots have no right to claim to represent Protestant workers. They stand for jingoism and the fur-coat brigade.