

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

50p

inside

Northern Ireland:
How to stop
sectarianism

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Italy 1920:

When workers ran the factories

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Solidarity price £1

Thousands head to Genoa

SHUT DOWN



SHUT DOWN CAPITALISM

PUT PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT

Privateers go after health...

Charlie McCreevey is trying to sneak a privatization Bill through the Dail before the summer. The STATE AUTHORITIES (PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS) BILL, lays the basis for private companies being involved in a whole range of public services.

It allows a government minister to set up Public Private Partnerships with out consultation.

The bill will open the door to privatization in:
★All the health boards and authorities
★The RTCs, VECs, and the DIT
★local authoritys.

... and education

MEANWHILE AN Irish advertising company has moved into secondary schools.

More than 10 percent of schools already display advertisements in school yards and corridors.

"It's money for nothing," said Gareth Lloyd, managing director of Ad Infinitum, which sells ads in schools. "If Coca-Cola sponsors material in schools, is it going to be the first time a child has ever seen that logo? What harm can it do."

.....

★ The rejection of the Nice Treaty and the anti-capitalist riots in Seattle and Gothenburg reflect a "discomfort with change", according to EU commissioner Peter Sutherland.

The former Director General of the World Trade Organisation, and head of the AIB during the DIRT scam was opening of the Institute for International Integration Studies. at Trinity College Dublin.

The modestly titled, The Sutherland Centre, will be a studying how to convince people globalisation is a good thing.

.....

★ S w a e t s h o p clothes maker Gap have unveiled their latest new promotional display.

Faded black jeans hanging in front of an anarchist-red banner, the words "INDEPENDENCE," "FREEDOM," and "WE THE PEOPLE" scrawled across display windows in fake black spray paint.

Despite the fact that Gap makes their clothes in sweatshops., they believe that the growing movement against corporate power is now large enough to begin marketing on.

It appears that to Gap inc., "Freedom" and "Independence" only applies to profits, not the people who make the clothes for as little as 11 cents an hour.

Denis O'Brien's genorosity

WHILE DENIS O'Brien was using his private jet to travel back and forth to England more information has come to light about his murky dealings with Michael Lowry.

In 1995, Denis O'Brien's company, Esat Digifone, was awarded a lucrative mobile-phone licence by Michael Lowry, then Minister for Transport, Energy and Communications, in the Fine Gael government.

O'Brien paid only £15 million and made a £221 million fortune when he sold Esat Digifone to British Telecom years

later.

David Austin, a wealthy Fine Gael supporter, asked O'Brien to give money to Fine Gael.

O'Brien claims that he thought that it wouldn't have been appropriate, so he suggested that his business partners, Telenor, cough up.

How it would have been more appropriate for Telenor to do so since they had benefited from the Labour / Fine Gael decision is not clear.

O'Brien claims that Telenor gave the money to Fine Gael purely because they wanted to make polit-

ical contacts. It had nothing to do with Michael Lowry making Esat rich.

Subsequently O'Brien bought a house in Spain from David Austin, the Fine Gael bagman.

A hundred grand, then fifty grand. Nothing to do with Fine Gael or Lowry, or anything else, just a holiday home for Denis's mum and dad, which none of them ever visited.

At the same time, it turns out, David Austin decided to give Lowry a "loan", so he could buy a house in Dublin. But the money from O'Brien ends up in Lowry's offshore

account.

Perhaps three months later, around October 1996, O'Brien hears that Lowry's Streamline Enterprises is in trouble (it wasn't). So, he decides to give Lowry £100,000.

Just another millionaire lashing out huge amounts of money to politicians, for no better reason than it seemed like a good idea at the time.

Milosovic for trial — but where are the others?

Slobadan Milosvic was a butcher who stoked up nationalist hatred in the former Yugoslavia Many will be glad to see him stand trial.

Unfortunately, the trial will be used to vindicate NATO.

During the recent war in Serbia, they bombed factories, bridges and murdered civilians indiscriminately. Over 2,000 civilians were killed by NATO.

They used depleted uranium bombs putting countless children at risk of cancer in the future.

And at the end of the war, the ethnic hatreds have resumed again. In Kosovo, Serbian families have been driven out by guerrillas supported by NATO while new conflicts look set to erupt in Macedonia.

Meanwhile what is to happen the other war criminals who support NATO?

■ Ariel Sharon was responsible for the murders of 400 Palestinianians at the Chatilla refugee camp in Lebanon.

■ Augusto Pinochet murdered thousands of socialists but got off because of 'ill health'.

Drug multinational gave animal drug to babies

AN animal vaccine, used to fight off serious diseases in cattle and sheep, was injected into Irish babies.

Some of the children who received the vaccine were taking part in a drug trial, carried out on behalf of the multinational drug company Wellcome, in Dublin in 1973.

Instead of getting the 3-in-1 childhood vaccine Trivax, some of the children were given a veterinary vaccine with a similar brand name, Tribovax T. The animal vaccine is solely for use on farm stock.

Massive quantities of the Trivax vaccine were

ordered by the Irish health authorities from Wellcome in the 1970s as part of the State-promoted programme for the vaccination of babies all around the country.

In the early 1970s, Wellcome wanted to run drug trials comparing the existing 3-in-1 (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) vaccines with new formulations of the same product.

Care homes

Wellcome has since merged to become the pharmaceutical giant Glaxo Wellcome. The drug company used children in care homes for drug tests for over three years.

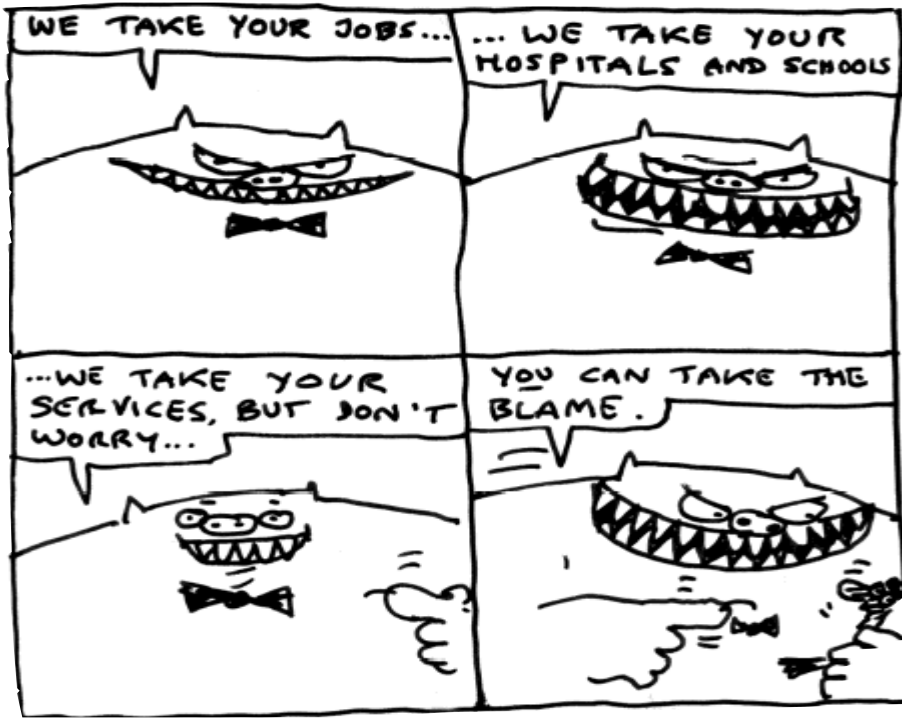
A second set of trials were carried out. This trial involved children

who were routinely brought for infant vaccination to health clinics in Dublin.

It is not yet clear just how many other children received the veterinary vaccine. A six-month-old Dublin baby who supposedly received Trivax, but instead received the Tribovax T vaccine at a health clinic in the city, had a severe reaction, and vomited for 24 hours.

Under the heading 'Final Outcome', the notation by the doctor who examined the baby reads simply 'Injections Discontinued'.

So far Minister for Health Michael Martin has refused to have a public inquiry into the use of children as guinea pigs for the drug companies.



Fascists behind violence

The press have been keen to present riots in the midlands in the UK as fights between rival gangs of Asian and white youths.

The reality is a number of racist incidents sparked the riots. An Asian taxi driver was attacked. He is in hospital recovering from a damaged skull and broken cheekbone. Many people are furious that the police did not answer the emergency call for half an hour.

Two more Asian taxi drivers were attacked. Also a group of four Asian youths were attacked by a gang of about 50 white men.

An off licence run by an Asian family in a predominantly white area was set on fire, leaving the family to escape from the flat above.

Most people in the racially mixed town have been shocked at the racist violence.

The response of the police was to attack asian youths.

Taxi drivers across Burnley took strike action in response to the racist attacks and police failures over the weekend. Burnley is one of the most deprived areas in

Britain. It is a former mill town. But the mills have closed, along with many of the engineering workplaces that used to provide jobs. Both white and Asian areas are scarred by poverty, unemployment and the appallingly low wages that exist if you do have work. The Asian population of Burnley is 6 percent.

The violence has been fostered and whipped up by the Nazi British Party.

Nick Griffin is the Fuhrer of the Nazi BNP, he tries to present them as respectable party.

Griffin was convicted in 1998 of distributing material likely to incite racial hatred. Tony Lecomber, deputy leader of the BNP, was jailed for three years in 1986 for trying to plant a nail bomb, which exploded in his face. In 1991 he went to jail for stabbing a Jewish school teacher.

There is a lesson for Ireland, New Labour and the Tories whipping up racism has given confidence to the Nazis. 'The asylum seeker issue has been great for us,' according to Nick Griffin. 'This issue legitimates us.'

New waste bill is rubbish

FIANNA Fail are so terrified of opposition to Service charges that have removed responsibility for waste management from local Authorities.

The new waste management bill removes decisions on incinerators and bin charges from councils and puts

them in the hands of the Minister.

The level of opposition to service charges can be seen by the fact that after the deadline for paying of the Dublin Bin charges had passed some 91 percent of people haven't paid.

To contact The Anti Bin charges campaign ring Brid Smith on 01 6237585.

For more on the service charges turn to page 11



Janette Byrne

chemotherapy. She has had some treatment but could not have other sessions because no bed was available in the Mater. Mrs Byrne, a medical card holder, required at least seven sessions.

In another case a

patient at the Mater recently had a lung tumour operation postponed twice because of bed shortages.

When surgery finally took place it was too large to remove and the person subsequently died.

what we think

TRIMBLE'S RESIGNATION SHOWS: SPORADIC SECTARIAN INSTABILITY

ONE OF the reasons the latest crisis in the North is proving intractable is that the Belfast Agreement, like the bible, can be quoted in support of practically every position.

When the Agreement was first published, the vast majority of commentators held this up as one of its strengths.

It was this deliberate ambiguity which allowed parties who disagreed with one another sharply about how the North should be organised to campaign for a Yes vote, and then to set up the Assembly, the cross-border bodies and so forth.

The main union leaderships, all insisted that, whatever its faults, the Agreement involved Catholics and Protestants working together. The experience of dealing with industrial development, health, education, the environment etc. would lead to a growth of cross-community consciousness, it was said. Slowly, surely, sectarianism would fade.

Those of us who pointed out that the ambiguities were designed precisely to accommodate irreconcilable sectarian ideas, and that the outcome was at least as likely to be an increase as a decrease in sectarian feeling, were dismissed as being out of tune with the optimistic times.

However, there can be little argument now as to who got it

right. A glance around north Belfast, Ballymena, Larne, parts of Derry, Portadown, shows sectarianism at as high a level as ever, and exacerbated by the crisis in the institutions prompted by Trimble's resignation.

The worst-case scenario may not happen. The mass of working class people have no stomach for sectarian strife. And as for the institutions, even the DUP wants the Assembly to survive, and Sinn Fein is averse to get into government, South as well as North. Another fudged deal may be done.

The institutions may survive, then---but in a situation of long-term political instability characterised by sporadic sectarian violence.

In this situation, people and parties who consider themselves on the Left should stop offering advice to communal parties on how they might "work together" and should instead challenge the assumptions underlying the Agreement by mounting serious campaigns based on the politics of class.

This will mean taking up the fight against poverty and the strategy of all parties from Sinn Fein to the DUP to privatize parts of the welfare state.

Class unity in these struggles will lay the basis for a wider challenge to the sectarian structures. But that challenge will only grow when these struggles are politicised through socialist politics.

Socialists need to clearly oppose the whole ethos of Orangeism and Loyalism which promotes hatred of Catholics

Direct action shuts GAP



200 PEOPLE joined the protest against sweatshop labour at the new GAP store in Grafton St, Dublin on June 30th. The occupation lasted from 2pm to 4:30pm.

throughout the marching season and beyond. But we also need to offer an alternative to the politics of republicanism, which has led Sinn Fein Ministers to cut hospital services and implement

policies that are no different to Tony Blair.

Against both, we promote workers unity based on a fight against capitalism on both sides of the Irish border.

WHY LABOUR IS BEING REPLACED

THE NICE vote showed the huge discontent in the Celtic Tiger. The South Tipperary bye-election confirmed that rejection of the political establishment is running deep.

Even though Fine Gael took the seat, the biggest news was that Fianna Fail took only 27 percent of the vote and was eventually eliminated.

The most remarkable achievement was that 25 percent of the vote went to Phil Prendergast, the candidate of the left wing Workers and Unemployed Action group.

This grouping emerged more than a decade ago from trade unionists involved in a struggle against a local factory.

Overtaken

Since then they have taken several council seats and have now overtaken Labour as the main force that workers look to

in the area.

The reason for the change is clear: The Labour Party has accepted a role of being the spare wheel of the political establishment. Whenever a right party needs some extra seats, Labour joins them to form a coalition.

The Labour Party is aligned to a union bureaucracy which supplements these coalitions with social partnership arrangements that undermine free, independent trade unions.

But none of this can smother the huge discontent that is growing in the

Celtic Tiger.

The electoral beneficiaries are mainly Sinn Fein and the Greens.

However, neither of these parties is committed to uprooting the establishment. Like Labour before them, they use radical talk for a period before building up the forces to join a new coalition.

This is why it is urgent to build a strong socialist party - which matches the discontent that now exists with a determination to take on the system that produces it.

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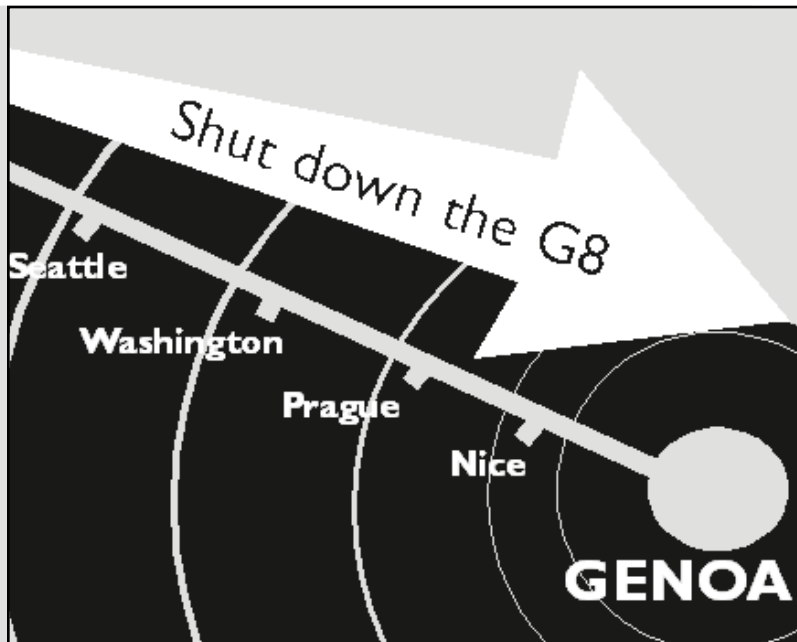
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or phone 086 4098186

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G8 summit
Solidarity
Demonstration

Tel 01 2845345 for details

Sat
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July,
Central
Dublin





news of the world

35,000 march in Barcelona World Bank dare not show its face

THOUSANDS of people demonstrated against the World Bank in Barcelona in Spain.

This is despite the fact that the World Bank, one of the main enforcers of neo-liberal policies of privatisation and cuts, had cancelled its meeting because it feared the protests.

ANDY DURGAN of En Lucha, Socialist Worker's sister paper in Spain, was there:

"IT WAS fantastic. There were 35,000 people protesting in the centre of Barcelona, in Spain, on Sunday.

That is taking into account that the World Bank didn't come. There have been huge meetings leading up to the event.

The march itself, against the World Bank and the effects of globalisation, was brilliant. There were delegations from all over Spain and beyond.

Four hundred collectives supported the mobilisation-including political groups, tenants' associations, trade unions, campaigns and even churches. A counter-conference called "Another World is

Possible" was also held over the weekend.

The Spanish press said that there were 5,000 people at the opening meeting on Friday night to hear Susan George, leading campaigner against capitalist globalisation.

Around 4,000 people came to the workshops over the weekend.

There were discussions about the fights against globalisation, about peasant campaigns around the world and taxing financial speculation. There were groups against the US's Plan Colombia, and for open borders and the rights of immigrants.

Movement

The anti-capitalist movement is growing. There has been a lot of hysteria in the press against the protests. The right wing Spanish government even tried to make the demonstration illegal.

But the campaign took them to court and won the right to march. The government was worried by the previous week's anti-capitalist demonstration in Gothenburg, Sweden.

All Barcelona's police had their leave cancelled,

and they bussed in riot police from the Basque Country.

There were police everywhere. Thousands of plain-clothes police were stopping everyone. The police action was very nasty.

Some sections of the Spanish media have exposed the fact that a gang of 25 undercover police with masks on infiltrated the demonstration.

Provoked

They then provoked violence and gave the police an excuse to attack the demonstration.

They charged into the main square and smashed up a lot of people.

The police occupied the main square.

They made sure the rest of the protesters' activities, including a public trial of the World Bank and a blockade of the city's stock exchange, didn't take place.

The vast majority of the demonstrators-over 30,000 people-were mobilised from the area around Barcelona.

If the World Bank had actually come the protests would have been twice the size."



Police tried to cause trouble at the protests

Macedonia

West fuels civil war

WESTERN GOVERNMENTS have fostered yet another war in the Balkans NATO and European Union intervention in Macedonia is

ensuring that the threat of civil war remain.

Anger at what Western governments had done led to Macedonian soldiers, police and reservists attempting to storm the parliament building. But their targets were not just politicians.

The signs were that there could also be murderous attacks against Albanians.

Fighting first erupted in February. Albanian guerrillas of the National Liberation Army moved to seize parts of western and northern Macedonia, which border Kosovo and southern Serbia. Albanians are between a quarter and a third of the two million people in Macedonia.

They suffer discrimination. But the Albanian guerrillas' aim is about more than challenging that.

It is calculated to provoke a repressive response from the Macedonian army, so deepening ethnic divisions and driving more of the Albanian minority behind the guerrilla forces. That is the same strategy Albanian guerrilla forces



Macedonian tank shells a village

used in neighbouring Kosovo in 1998. The Albanian forces are calling for deeper NATO intervention in Macedonia.

NATO and the European Union say they are opposed to the guerrillas' attempts to split Macedonia along ethnic lines. But NATO's intervention in Kosovo two years ago and continuing presence there has encouraged the Albanian guerrillas.

The West is caught in a trap of its own making. It wants the guerrillas in Macedonia disarmed. But it fears clamping down on them itself because that could lead to conflict between Albanians and NATO troops in Kosovo.

Western leaders said two years ago that removing Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic would bring peace to the Balkans. Milosevic remained in power for another year. It took an uprising by ordinary Serbians (victims of NATO's bombing) to unseat him.

The same Western governments that have fuelled ethnic tensions in Macedonia are also insisting on a crash programme of privatisation and neo-liberal policies there.

The reality of Western military and economic intervention in the Balkans is increasing poverty and inequality, which has sown the seeds for ethnic strife.

Papua New Guinea

Shot for handing in a petition against the IMF

THE PAPUA New Guinea (PNG) government shot dead three students and wounded 17 others, including a ten-year-old boy, who were protesting against the IMF and World Bank.

Police attacked a five-day peaceful sit-in by up to 3000 University of PNG students, workers, and unemployed outside the office of Prime Minister, Mekere Morauta in Waigani.

The police opened fire after the demonstrators presented a petition to the gov-

ernment calling for:

- Suspension of privatisation
- Completely severing ties with the World Bank and IMF
- Scraping the customary land registration scheme and
- If the above are not implemented, the Prime Minister should resign or face a more serious protest with detrimental consequences.

Police closed in and told them to disperse. When they refused, tear gas was used and shotguns and automatic weapons fired. When news of the shooting spread people streamed onto the streets and a police barracks was burnt down.

Shops, schools and government offices were closed. Trade unions issued a call for the government to resign and threatened to close ports, shut down airports and the power stations.

The following day, Port Moresby University campus was surrounded by police, trapping the students inside.

Opposition to economic "reforms" in the former Australian colony has stiffened since soldiers, staged a 12-day mutiny in March. At that time students marched to the barracks to support troops who had seized weapons and were also demanding that the World Bank should leave PNG,

along with the government's Australian advisers.

The revolt comes as a result of the IMF and World Banks' pushing through privatisation to sell off the Papua New Guinea Banking Corporation which is the only bank owned by the government. That is to be followed by the privatisation of the national airline, Air Niugini.

Over the past three years PNG's water supplies and electricity have been sold off.

The resource-rich nation is in economic chaos, with many of its four million people living subsistence lifestyles.

Violence on Northern Ireland streets

How do we beat sectarianism?

LOYALISTS blockaded the Catholic Holy Cross primary school in North Belfast in June.

Crowds headed up by UDA thugs prevented parents taking their children to the school.

The school is on the "interface" between Catholic Ardoyne and Protestant Glenbryn areas, situated a couple of hundred yards inside the Protestant area.

Anne, a mother of three from the Ardoyne, told *Socialist Worker*, "In the heightened situation there have been incidents over the past while on both sides. But this is a big escalation.

"My daughter lost two weeks at school - and she is due to sit the 11+ in the autumn.

"It's appalling. Wee children are being intimidated and can't get to school. But nobody is prepared to say anything about it."

Intimidation

Anne thinks the failure of trade union leaders to speak out against the intimidation and sectarianism is encouraging the tough men.

"The silence is dangerous. I know Protestant mothers I meet in the Post Office. They say to me they don't agree with what's happening but feel they can say and do nothing."

Local schoolteacher John told *Socialist Worker*, "The have been a series of attacks on schools in the area. St Gabriels and the Holy Cross have had windows smashed and following a series of attacks on Our Lady of Mercy children are now bussed to and from school.

"In the past when the Paisley and Co whipped up sectarianism, the loyalist gangs followed his lead and would burn out local Catholics. As a result of years of this the areas are now so segregated that there are no local Catholics left to burn out — but the school remains so they attack this."



THE RUC stopping Catholic children getting to school

The poverty that feeds injustice

JOHN IS a schoolteacher who lives and workers in North Belfast.

"On both sides of the line in North Belfast you see ugly poverty. Here you can see some of the worst conditions in Europe.

"More people suffer incapacity, disability and cancer rates are the highest. Housing is often appalling. Many houses are boarded up and empty where families have fled.

"Last year the charity Vincent de Paul distributed

£7,000 worth of food in the area to families with not enough to eat and £17,000 in coal.

"In North Belfast there is still a pawn shop - and it's not a relic of the past but is open for business!

"Local schools have had to introduce a breakfast club so that some of the kids who come to school on an empty stomach have something to eat in the morning.

"These conditions mean that many children lose hope, do badly and are incredibly alienated at school.

"Many of our young people are leaving school barely able to read or write as a result."

June, a community worker, told *Socialist Worker*, "Most people who are able to, leave the interface areas. Many of those who remain have no choice as they are too poor. And employers take advantage of this situation to exploit local people."

John again: "There are jobs advertised in the local Job Centre. But they nearly all pay just £3.60 an hour - the bare legal minimum. In

this situation the bitterness young men feel can sometimes be turned into desperate sectarian acts.

"We need to find a way

of organising that anger in a fight for better conditions for all and not into a self destructive acts of sectarianism."

A united working class fightback needed

THE WAY to cut the knot is to build a fight back that can bring Catholic and Protestant working class people together to provide an alternative to the communal politics.

For example, the public sector has been starved of funds for nearly 20 years.

Across the UK practically the only way hospitals can get funds for overdue refurbishment is by the Private Finance Initiative.

This means that private developers are given the contract to complete the work and end up owning the assets. Part of the profits the private operators make is to "down-size" the facility and sell off "surplus" land for offices or fancy apartments.

Recently Stormont Health Minister Bairbre De Bruin announced that the Accident and Emergency Department of the Mater Hospital in North Belfast is set to close.

The Mater is the local hospital for all communities in North Belfast. Recently women from the Shankill Road have collected money to help the hospital.

An all out trade union based fight to save the A&E Dept that is linked to a campaign against the sectarianism could begin break through the atmosphere..

But because sectarianism is so all pervasive, it will also require a political minority to emerge quite quickly.

That socialist minority needs to attack the dead-end of Loyalism which targets Catholic workers rather than the system. But it also needs to challenge the republicans like Bairbre de Brun for managing that system while they cloak themselves in communal colours. Against "both traditions" it must hold out a fight for a socialist Ireland where all workers gain.

Which way for the PUP?

THE Progressive Unionist Party is linked with the UVF.

Yet the PUP has presented itself as a left wing party and in the past has distanced itself from some of the more extreme sectarianism of the loyalist groups.

But in the heightened sectarian atmosphere this has evaporated.

When Catholic residents gathered in force to take their children to school, Billy Hutchinson, a PUP leader, demand the RUC clear them away "or the paramilitaries will be brought in."

Blockade

Hutchinson and Sinn Fein's Gerry Kelly were involved in a high profile slanging match in the street during the blockade.

A worker at the ICTU's anti-intimidation agency Counteract told *Socialist Worker*, "Hutchinson is playing a good role. Behind the scenes he is keeping the lid on the situation."

But Anne disagrees, "All the loyalist paramilitaries appear to have come together to stake out territory in North Belfast.

"Unfortunately Hutchinson and the PUP have gone along with the sectarianism.

"Hutchinson has made no open call for the loyalists to lift the blockade of the school."

How the Belfast Agreement contributes

THE BELFAST Agreement was supposed to bring peace and lay the conditions where sectarian tension would diminish.

Instead it has institutionalised sectarianism because it is based on the principle that there are two distinct "communities" in Northern Ireland.

Each party in the Assembly must define itself as Orange or Green if it is to

count as a representative of its community.

It is claimed that progress can be made if each side learns to live together by having mutual "respect" while competing with each other for scarce resources.

Each party and each voter is therefore encouraged to see themselves as "Catholic" or "Protestant", "Green" or "Orange". And if resources are not increased, each gain for one "community" is a loss for the other.

This leads to a situation

where each "community" will be expected to vote for the "toughest" representatives. Many have therefore voted DUP without endorsing Paisley's rabid sectarianism or his opinions about the sinfulness of line-dancing. Similarly, the Catholic middle class are now moving to Sinn Fein as more robust representatives.

But this provides an atmosphere in which sectarianism can be whipped up. Obviously bitterness and resentment is most intense

among those with the worst housing and poorest conditions.

Poor Protestants have been encouraged to believe that Catholics have been granted concession after concession at their expense.

The Paisleyites and the paramilitaries have been quick to exploit this with the horrible results we are now witnessing.

But there are small steps which could be taken now to begin to undermine the poison of sectarianism.

AS 100,000 HEAD TO GENOA ...

10 reasons to shut down the



ON JULY 20-22, the G8 Summit (the seven richest countries - USA, GERMANY, FRANCE, BRITAIN, CANADA, ITALY - together with RUSSIA) will meet in Genoa. It is the meeting of the "global rulers" who determine the fate of world capitalism.

Last year, the G8's annual get together on the island of Okinawa in Japan cost \$750 million in hospitality expenses. But they failed to cancel the debts of the world's poorest countries. Capitalism kills, and the G8 oversee the carnage. These are just some of the reasons we should shut them down.

1 DEVELOPING WORLD DEBT

The G8 make the decision on debt cancellation. While they refuse to cancel the debt, the poorest countries in the world pay more each year in debt repayments than they do currently on health care, even when many of them are facing the crisis of HIV/AIDS.

Debt cancellation is an emergency. Countries like Zambia, where life expectancy is now falling below 30 years old, cannot afford to spend \$3.4 million each week repaying debts - and that is AFTER receiving all the debt relief on offer from the G8.

In 1985 Live Aid raised \$200 million for sub-Saharan Africa. But each week, sub-Saharan Africa pays \$250 million in debt repayments to the west.

The United Nations estimate that for 17 countries in Africa, the costs of providing basic prevention and care for HIV/AIDS is \$1.4 billion a year. But this is exactly what these same countries will spend to service their debts.

2 THEY CONTROL THE WORLD BANK AND IMF

The G8 summits decide the directives to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, the organisations that impose austerity with their "structural adjustment programmes" around the globe.

They decide the directives to the

World Trade Organization (WTO) and the free market policies, according to the wishes of the huge multinational companies, not giving a damn for the lives and the environment of millions of people.

The G8 control 50 percent of the votes on the Boards of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, and in effect control these institutions. The entire region of Sub-Saharan Africa has just 7 percent of the votes - an equivalent amount to Germany alone.

The US, with only about 5 percent of the world's population, has 17 percent of the votes in the IMF.

That is enough to force through the free market policies they want to suit the interests of giant multinationals.

3 NEO-LIBERALISM

The G8 is committed to neo-liberalism.

Across the globe people have suffered from neo-liberal policies.

In the industrial countries, neo-liberalism has taken a grim toll. One person in eight suffers from either long-term unemployment, illiteracy, a life-expectancy of less than 60 years, or an income below the national poverty line.

Neo-liberalism means opening up the economy to the multinationals, privatising state-owned companies, slashing workers' rights, wages and conditions, and imposing severe cuts on vital public spending.

Workers suffer wage cuts, longer hours and greater exploitation. In the US, for example, the average employee works a month longer than they did in the 1960s.

In the developing world neo-liberalism means:

- * 100 million children live or work on the streets. There are 250 million child labourers.
- * There are more than 10 million refugees and five million internally displaced people.
- * More than 30,000 children a day die from preventable causes.
- * Nearly 18 million people die every year from curable diseases.
- * 840 million people are malnourished and 11 million children die every year of malnutrition

4 THEY ARE TRYING TO KILL US

Military expenditure is rising at a frightening rate. Last year worldwide military spending amounted to approximately \$790 billion. Most of the world's weapons are produced by the G8 nations.

From Gulf to the Balkans and Chechnya, the G8 have fostered, created and carried out wars for the defence of their system.

From 1940 through 1996, expenditure on nuclear weapons exceeded the combined total spending on education, training, employment, and social services, agriculture, natural resources and the environment, general science and space research, community and regional development (including disaster relief), law enforcement, and energy production and regulation.

The United States currently spends \$35 billion a year or more than \$96 million a day on its nuclear arsenal.



KOREANS protest reason No. 9 (George W. Bush) and his Missile Defence plan

The cumulative cost of U.S. nuclear weapons is nearly \$5.5 trillion.

Wars in the 1990s forced 50 million people to flee their homes. About 500 million small arms are in circulation around the world.

5 THEY OVERSEE A WORLD OF OBSCENE POVERTY

Universal provision of basic services in developing countries would cost an additional \$80 billion a year.

Yet the combined wealth of the world's 200 richest people hit \$1 trillion in 1999.

The combined income of the 582 million people living in the 43 least developed countries is \$146 billion.

Over 1.3 billion people live on less

than one dollar per day.

The gap between rich and poor has, in the words of the UN, today "reached grotesque proportions."

In 1960, the countries with the wealthiest fifth of the world's people had per capita incomes 30 times that of the poorest fifth. By 1995 it stood at 74 to one.

In sub-Saharan African and some other least developed countries, per capita incomes are lower than they were in 1970. And some of the countries that are worst off are those that are most integrated into the global economy.

The assets of the world's three richest people are more than the combined GNP of all least developed countries on the planet.

The assets of the 200 richest people in 1998 were more than the total income of 41 percent of the world's people.

A measly 1 percent tax on the wealth of these 200 people could fund

primary education for all the world's children who lack access to schooling.

6 THEY WANT TO PRIVATISE EVERYTHING

Deregulation of the world markets in services is the main item on the agenda of the summit after the American recession.

The G8 are intending to run down public services across the globe and open them up to multinationals corporations.

They are going to discuss how to privatise health care and education.

They want to push through the General Agreement on Trade and Services, which will make it illegal NOT to allow private companies into the public service.

7 THEY ARE RUN BY THE MULTINATIONALS

Fifty of the top 100 economies in the world are MNCs. Five hundred corporations currently control 70 percent of world trade.

Neo-liberalism has produced a crazy world where a few multinationals dominate our lives.

Today the ten largest corporations in each sector control 86 percent of the telecommunications, 70 percent of the computer industry and 85 percent of pesticides.

Today the five biggest multinationals, run by around 40 people, have a bigger output than the Middle East and Africa combined.

8 THEY ARE DESTROYING THE ENVIRONMENT

Global warming is already affecting the climate and its effects are set to worsen dramatically.

The culprits are the fossil fuel industry and the biggest criminals of them all are the oil companies and their friends in the G8.

Scientists have warned that carbon emissions must be cut by at least 80 percent by 2050 if we are to begin to address the damage done to the earth.

But the G8 governments have even refused to implement the more modest targets agreed by the international Kyoto summit in 1997.

The US, under pressure from big business, has pulled out of even that.

The US is responsible for one quarter of all carbon emissions even though it only has 4 percent of the world's population.

Rather fund pollution-free alternatives, many G8 governments actually want nuclear energy and large hydro-electric dams to be classified as "alternative" or clean energies!

9 GEORGE W. BUSH

The Toxic Texan will be in Genoa. The biggest gangster in a conference of gangsters would be enough reason on his own to protest in Genoa. Bush is so worried by the protests he will stay on a US aircraft carrier during the summit.

One commentator said of Bush's plan for energy in America, "It looks like an Exxon Mobil annual report, and maybe that's what it is."

He wants to drill for oil and gas in the Alaskan wilderness and he has opened up other land for exploration and lifted environmental requirements.

When the "Pro-Life" president was governor of Texas he was responsible for more executions than any other governor.

He wants to speed up the Arms race by creating Star Wars II a missile defence system that will escalate the arms race.

10 ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

Since Seattle in December 1999 when protestors closed down the WTO wherever the rich and powerful have tried to meet protests have put them under siege.

The new anti-capitalist movement has created an explosion of radical ideas not seen since the 1960s.

Some 100,000 people are expected to go to Genoa. Thousands of people from across Europe are going. This could be a crucial turning point.

We have a chance to forge a real mass movement against the system, which can grow to tackle the monstrous capitalism the parasites of the G8 oversee.

Voices of resistance



Elizabeth Trumpbour

My brother runs the Trade Union programme for Globalise Resistance in Harvard. He taught me to oppose companies like GAP and Nike. I make my many of my own clothes. I want people to understand that it is not true that nobody in the US cares about the practices of the big corporations.



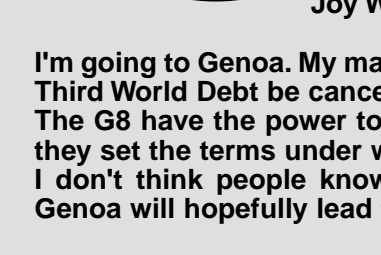
Sinead Mc Kiernan

I was informed about the slave labour, sexual harrassment and bad working conditions in GAP factories. I want to stop them making clothes in this way. It's unfair. Protest informs and encourages people not to buy GAP. Hopefully we can close GAP in Dublin.



Ruairi Mc Kiernan

I am going to Genoa to make a personal point. That I'm part of a movement that's been slandered and abused by politicians and the media. I'm going in defiance of that slander. My main concern is media neglect. The media is so abused. For example a two million strong protest in Nigeria against the IMF was not covered at all. I also want to have a sense of affiliation with the other protesters and be part of the international experience.



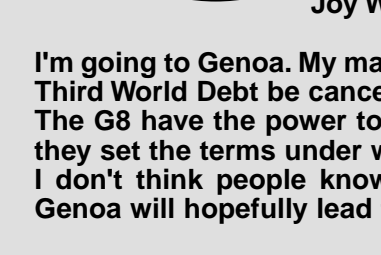
Keith Murdoff

I've always been an anti-capitalist, and I joined the SWP when I saw how high global protest was on their agenda. In the last year I've seen a lot of unity between anti-capitalist groups, the movement in Ireland is very positive.



Ruth Finneran

I saw a BBC documentary last year about how GAP and Nike make their clothes with sweat-shop labour. They interviewed staff in the shops and showed that they had no idea about the conditions under which the clothes were made - and if the shop workers don't know what is going on, how can the customer? I'm a secondary school teacher and I have showed that video to virtually the whole school.



Joy Wall

I'm going to Genoa. My main reason for that is to demand that the Third World Debt be cancelled. The G8 have the power to decide whether the debt is cancelled, they set the terms under which it is repaid. I don't think people know what is going on, and the protest at Genoa will hopefully lead to more people questioning the system.

Revolutionary Italy - 1920

When workers ran the factories

by CONOR KOSTICK

WHEN THE streets of Genoa fill with protest and carnival against the G8 summit they will be echoing Italy's great experience of workers' struggle of eighty years earlier.

Travelling through the country in September 1920 you would have seen red flags flying over all the large factories, dockyards and steel-works. These factories had been seized by their workers and production was being organised by democratic factory councils.

Armed guards of volunteers defended the occupations from the police and ensured that no theft or sabotage took place. In the nearby streets a massive solidarity movement took place to ensure food and supplies reached those in the occupations.

Rail workers sent trucks full of raw materials to the workers' factories. Popular entertainments were organised in the evenings. Revolutionary posters and newspapers proclaimed the imminent take-over of the whole of society by the working class.

In Turin former military pilots had joined the movement and were showering the city with pro-worker leaflets from their planes.

This wave of militancy began as a dispute over pay. But in the climate of 1920 it soon became a revolutionary movement.

INSPIRED BY the Russian Revolution and disgusted with the massive war profits of the factory owners, Italian workers had flooded into the socialist union federation, the CGL - its membership before the war had been 400,000, in 1920 it was over two million and growing.

In southern Italy the rural poor were occupying the land of the great landowners. In the army there were a number of mutinies.

Metal workers, through their union the FIOM, began a go-slow from 21 August 1920 to defend their standard of living. The employers reacted with anger and showed no willingness to negotiate.

Instead some of the largest factory owners planned a lockout to try and humiliate the union. On 31st August a nationwide lock-out was underway. But the workers' response totally reversed the situation.

In every Italian town and city, wherever there were metal workers, the lock-out was thwarted by a seizure of the factories. Half a million workers acting as one proved to be an irresistible force.

Genoa was one of the few towns where the police tried to resist the workers seizure of the factories.

Royal Guards opened fire as workers climbed the walls of the Odero dockyard, killing one 35 year old man.

Elsewhere there was no trouble. Fearful of sparking an even broader revolt, the government issued strict orders to the police and guards not to escalate the conflict by firing on the workers.

The scale of the action threw the authorities into complete disarray.

The more hardline employers still wanted to try and crush the unions, but with the government afraid of escalating the situation and even the fascist Mussolini pretending to be on the side of the workers the advocates of force were paralysed.

The workers on the other hand were transformed by their own actions. A sense of freedom and power lifted the whole of the working class, who rallied to the action of the engineers.

ANTONIO GRAMSCI was a socialist revolutionary writing for a number of north Italian revolutionary papers at the time. He described how the despotic hierarchy of the factory had been smashed and replaced by popular shop-floor democracy.

"Every factory has become an illegal state, a workers republic living from day to day... while these workers' republics live, they will have to cope with all the problems that face an autonomous and independent power."

Gramsci called for city-wide workers councils to co-ordinate production and the defence of the factories. He also argued that the movement pointed out the path to a complete expulsion of the owners. By spreading the movement to control over the banks and other key sectors of the economy workers could implement a socialist economy based on popular democracy rooted in the workplaces.

But as revolutionary fervour mounted in the factories, the leaders of the CGL and their colleagues in the Socialist Party of Italy (SPI) prevaricated. Many of these leaders were reformist. They were committed to working with the capitalists, not replacing them.

HOWEVER, THE SPI contained a large number of revolutionaries - who were not at this time organised in their own party. Because of the influence of the Russian Revolution, the SPI leaders were obliged to talk of revolution and of supporting the land seizures. However, they made no efforts to implement the ideas contained in their speeches and articles.

An extraordinary charade took place at a special conference of the CGL, on 11 September. There the union leaders and SPI leaders debated two motions. One was to call for 'union control' over production, the other for 'the maximum solution of the socialist programme'.

Both moderates and radicals at the conference understood the movement had gone far beyond a wages dispute. For example, three days earlier the Fiat workers' council had sent a telegram saying 'the workers of Fiat-Centro intend to negotiate only in terms of the



WORKERS AT the Turin Factory Council in 1920

abolition of the ruling and exploiting class. Otherwise immediate war to total victory.'

The more moderate motion about union control won by 591,245 votes to 409,569. But in any case revolutions are not made by passing motions. For the movement to have gone forward it needed to adopt the practical ideas and slogans advocated by Gramsci and his small group of followers in Turin.

The Italian Prime Minister, Giolitti, understood that he had to bend with the rhetoric of 'union control' to avoid revolution. Just as with the term 'partnership', the employers could give a very different interpretation to the idea of union involvement in production than that hoped for by workers.

ON 19 SEPTEMBER Giolitti summoned the major employers to Rome and at a meeting with the union leaders insisted on a settlement that gave a wage increase and set up bodies to examine 'union control'.

Predictably the deliberations of

these committees came to nothing.

Beginning to suffer from hunger and being offered no alternative, the workers accepted the deal in a national ballot, by three to one. By the end of September the factories were handed back to the employers.

Immediately after the factory occupations, the reformists were claiming it as a great victory. But Gramsci saw it differently. The vanguard of the working class, the militant engineers, had not been organised politically.

Even though workers in the occupations were talking of the need for socialism and a broadening of the movement, local work-placed militancy no matter how revolutionary, could not provide the necessary co-ordination. As a result the reformists had outmanoeuvred the revolutionaries and a great opportunity had been lost.

Worse, the employers had been deeply shocked by the threat to their property and their exclusion from power. They turned to the fas-

cists to wreak vengeance. Big money now poured into the fascist war chests and armed bands went on the rampage, destroying socialist and trade union headquarters.

Having made such a great sacrifice and exertion for such little gain, the vanguard of the Italian working class was disorganised and still recuperating - politically this showed itself in the formation of the Italian Communist Party - when a major recession hit the country in 1921. Remaining militancy collapsed in the face of mass unemployment.

On 29 October, 1922 Mussolini became prime minister. By toying with the socialist aspirations of the workers, only to fritter them away, the reformists had opened the path to reaction.

Tragically, outstanding revolutionaries like Gramsci had no national party of their own in 1920 which could have helped those in the factory occupations take the movement forward.

in my view

Con job of the century

"IT WAS the biggest contract ever signed... and probably, no obviously, the biggest con job on an entire country."

These are the words of Indian writer and anti-globalisation campaigner Arundhati Roy talking to Channel 4 News. She was describing the American corporation, Enron's, handling of a power plant construction deal near Bombay.

The power plant should be the biggest gas powered station in the world when completed. India has set itself a massive 11 percent economic growth target and this sort of industrialisation needs energy. The economic expansion programme was supposed to be an example of the positive benefits of trade liberalisation and globalisation.

Instead it has nearly bankrupted a region of India and is worsening the suffering of India's abject poor. At the moment construction workers at the plant are on strike because they haven't been paid.

Enron is a Texan power company. It was the single biggest corporate donor to Bush's election campaign. The list of scams and corrupt practices it has engaged in to seal and enforce this deal is astonishing.

There was no competitive tender for the project. Protesters against the project were attacked and beaten up by state police who, according to human rights groups, were also on Enron's payroll. Even the World Bank said the project was too expensive and that other forms of fuel would be cheaper.

Currently the electricity Enron provides is three times more expensive than other alternative forms of electricity. It is estimated that Enron will make six billion dollars profit on the deal.

The best bit of the deal for Enron is that the state of Maharashtra, the area around Bombay, pays for electricity pegged to world oil prices which have shot up. But the less electricity used, the more per unit it costs. The price goes up, people buy less, the price goes up again, so people can afford less, pushing the price up yet again.

Budget

When the plant is finished later this year, Maharashtra's electricity bill will be four times what it was before Enron arrived. That is more than their entire education budget. They also have to pay maintenance charges of \$200 million a year regardless of how much electricity they consume.

But now the regional government is refusing to pay up.

Remember the money Enron gave to Bush? Unsurprisingly US diplomats told the country that a deal's a deal. India has to honour the Enron contract otherwise American investment will simply leave. Yet Enron claims to "deliver physical commodities to our customers at predictable prices".

Questions have to be asked about why Indian politicians signed the contract in the first place. In a hearing in Washington in 1995 an Enron manager admitted \$20 million had been spent in India to foster changes in legal practice and policy. This is an admission that backhanders and bribes were given to get the project off the ground.

Enron is threatening to leave if the \$50 million for electricity is not paid within six months.

Arundhati Roy described this threat: "I think that's absolutely the worst attitude - if you are telling somebody if you don't let us bully you, if you don't let us bludgeon you, if you don't lie down and beg us to walk over you, we are not coming. This is not what foreign investment ought to be about."

A local farmer said "Nobody around here is going to pay any more. As it is I cry when I have to pay my electricity bill. We don't have any money to eat properly, so how can we afford Enron's power?"

India needs energy. What it does not need is to be ripped off by an American multinational, which is backed by the US administration and a corrupt local government, police and judiciary.

Enron are another example of the evils of global capitalism putting people before profit. And it is a valuable lesson for Irish people ahead of the proposed privatisation of the ESB.

by HUGH O'CONNOR

Television

Music that lifted the lid on racism

A BBC series on the history of jazz history by Ken Burn's took the lid of the racism of US society.

Blues singer Bessie Smith was left to die in the street after a road accident because the ambulance that arrived was for whites only.

White jazzman Dave Brubeck recalled with tears in his eyes how as a boy his father took him to see a local black farm worker who opened his shirt to show where he had been branded. "These things can't happen", his father said. Brubeck claimed that this was his inspiration for a lifetime in jazz music.

Gig

When the US entered the second world war, tenor saxophonist Lester Young tried to avoid being drafted. "I'm not going to fight in any white man's war" he was reported to have said. The military eventually caught up with him during a gig.

Young's reaction was not typical. Many believed the war could be a fight against fascism abroad and against racism at home.

In the still segregated US army, the young Dave Brubeck entertained troops with a mixed jazz group. At the end of the war the four of them went to eat a meal in a Mississippi diner. His black fellow musician had to eat his meal at the kitchen door in the rear. "Nothing's changed for us blacks," he remarked. "I don't know what we fought this war for."

Racists hated the way jazz expressed in blacks a new confidence to stand up to oppression.

Be-boppers started calling one another "man", in part against having been called "boy".

Pioneering be-bopper Dizzie Gillespie was beaten up by racists in New York's Harlem for being in the company of a paler skinned woman and wearing a snappy zoot suit..

Two white men, outraged that she wouldn't play the "happy nigger" entertainer, stubbed out cigarettes on legendary singer Billie Holiday's fur coat. She was tough

enough to take them outside and give them a hiding.

And the defiance of jazz spread. The Nazis banned the music as "decadent" and "Jewish". But during the war, young Germans -- the "Swing Boys" -- would secretly play jazz and swing records. For these young people jazz represented an act of defiance against Nazi racism.

Riots also broke out throughout Harlem against the segregation of war industries. The US military closed down the Savoy Club where black and white came to dance to jazz bands.

They alleged troops were catching sexually transmitted diseases in the club. The real reason was that black and white men and women were mixing freely and sometimes going home together.

Despite a number of weaknesses, the BBC series brought out a number of these themes with archive footage while getting jazz musicians to talk about the music.

The twelve programmes are to be re-run over the summer. If you get a chance watch it. And get hold of some CDs of these wonderful musicians and hear for yourself.

— KEVIN
WINGFIELD



Billie Holiday

book

The most loathsome man alive

HENRY KISSINGER is one of the most loathsome individuals alive today, and Christopher Hitchens has just written a proposed book of evidence to bring Kissinger to trial for crimes against humanity.

Perhaps Henry Kissinger's greatest crime was the undermining of the peace talks in Vietnam.

The war continued for another four years with Nixon and Kissinger in charge. The war widened to include the destruction of Laos and Cambodia. Hitchens calls this 'the single wickedest act in the history of the republic'.

Hitchens believes that Kissinger will more likely face trial for crimes against individuals. So he documents the case of General René Schneider, who was the moderate Chilean head of staff at the time Salvador

Allende was about to be inaugurated in 1970. Henry Kissinger made \$50,000 available in Chile to anyone willing to assassinate him, and smuggled guns in through the embassy. Schneider was killed in a so called 'failed kidnap attempt'.

Pundit

Occasionally Kissinger is portrayed as an outsider. But he is now paid thousands for television punditry, after-dinner speaking and corporate bridge-building for greedy western expansionists.

Kissinger's pleas of ignorance when accused of complicity in, or direct responsibility for, crimes all over the world are that he was just an official.

Despite his bloody record, Kissinger got the Nobel peace prize. But this

only shows sheer hypocrisy that pervades this system.

How could anyone get a peace prize after dropping bombs the equivalent of five Hiroshimas on a devastated Vietnamese population?

Kissinger is a war criminal but he is also the personification of everything that is wrong with American imperialism.

Indicting Kissinger would be an indictment of not just of an odious cold-warrior but an indictment of the system he so loyally represents.

Kissinger should face trial, and Hitchens' book is the first step—a comprehensive catalogue of his crimes and lies. The crucial next step as always, requires action.

■ The Trial of Henry Kissinger by Christopher Hitchens, Verso £15



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 here.

news & reports/politics/industry/the unions (01) 8722682 /fax (01) 872 3838 e-mail swp@clubi.ie



PHONE REPORTS ABOUT STRIKES/LOCAL CAMPAIGNS/PROTESTS



ATGWU

Mick O'Reilly suspension

Fight for democracy in our unions

WHEN MICK O'Reilly, the Irish Regional Secretary of the ATGWU, returned from his holidays he received a note from his desk telling him that he was suspended on full pay.

He was told to vacate his office immediately and not return for the period of suspension.

The London head office were effectively removing him and another key official, Eugene McGloinn, supposedly because of "administrative" difficulties.

Disputes

There are no major administrative difficulties in the ATGWU. Instead the head office in London which is run by General Secretary, Bill Morris, presented a series of minor disputes over appointments to the elected Regional Committee as its evidence.

But the elected members threw it out and expressed "no confi-



Mick O'Reilly and Brendan Ogle

dence" in the procedures that led to O'Reilly and McGloinn's removal.

They also voted not to send a delegation to the forthcoming ICTU conference as a protest.

Jimmy Kelly, an elected member of both the Irish and British executives of the union told *Socialist Worker*:

"The London head office is trying to start a rumour machine to damage the reputation of

Mick O'Reilly.

They hope that talk of 'administrative difficulties' will translate into talk of money missing when it reaches the toilet door of the factory.

"But this is really about an attack on the whole ethos of the ATGWU in Ireland.

"We have a reputation of being a union which is close to the rank and file.

We are a fighting union that are opposed

to social partnership.

"Bill Morris, though, is trying to get close to the Blair government in Britain.

He would love the

sort of social partnership deal that operates in Ireland.

"That is why he is trying to get rid of these officials."

Where are our unions going?

ON BOTH sides of the border a fight has erupted over the soul of the labour movement. Blair's recent announcement that he is set to privatise much of the health and education system through Public Private Partnership schemes has presented the union with a choice.

They can either organise opposition or they can capitulate.

In the South, the union leaders are even more wedded to the establishment. Behind the scenes they are busy attacking any group of workers who try to move beyond social partnership.

During the nurses' strike, the Sunday Business Post, reported that ICTU leaders were encouraging the government to stand firm.

During the teachers pay battle, the ICTU worked with appointed officials in the ASTI's head office and the leaders of other teachers union to undermine the strike.

The attempt to dismiss Mick O'Reilly is the culmination of this battle.

Trade unionists across Ireland should rally to the defence of Mick O'Reilly and Eugene McGloinn.

Inside the ATGWU, the elected members of the Regional Executive should take charge of their own affairs.

Dismiss

Bill Morris has no right to dismiss officials who have the trust of the democratically elected lay representatives of the region.

If this involves the union in conflict with the ICTU or the London head office, then so be it.

Des Bonass, former Administrative Officer of

What you can do?

● Circulate the petition in defence of Mick O'Reilly. Available from rank and file solidarity network, 105 O'Hogan Road, Dublin 10. Tel (01) 8722682.

Public Meeting

Defend democracy in the ATGWU

July 17th Dublin

Organised by the Rank and File solidarity network
See posters for speakers and details.

A lone voice in the ICTU

THE PRESSURE to remove Mick O'Reilly has come from powerful forces that are close to the ICTU bureaucracy.

Recently the ICTU called on workers to vote for the Nice Treaty.

The one voice of opposition came from Mick O'Reilly who wrote a brilliant article showing how the treaty would lead to more deregulation and privatisation.

O'Reilly also agreed to take the ILDA train drivers into membership of the ATGWU.

This group had formed through a rebellion against a terrible pay and productivity deal, which had been imposed on them by SIPTU and NRBW leaders.

The ATGWU recently sanctioned a strike of train drivers and their pickets received huge support from rank and file SIPTU drivers.

After the strike the ICTU argued that ATGWU should hand back ILDA members to SIPTU.

"We tried to met with the SIPTU leaders about this.

Recruit

"We suggested that we embark on a joint recruitment drive to unionise the multi-nationals and drop any nonsense about trying to recruit each other's members.

"But they weren't interested. They wanted Brendan Ogle's head. They hate him with a passion.

"When Mick O'Reilly

stood up against this venom he was a marked man", one ATGWU activist explained.

Behind the scenes, Bertie Ahern got on to the Labour Party in Britain to send the message to Morris to rein O'Reilly in.

The ICTU leaders told the London based leadership of the ATGWU that they would be thrown out of the ICTU unless they broke with the train drivers.

This type of pressure was enough for Morris. He had previously attacked the Liverpool region of his union for supporting the Liverpool Dockers.

Just like the ICTU leaders he puts a cosy relationship with the employers above standing up for working class fighters.

Privatisation

Stand up to PFI

THE Northern Ireland Assembly is set to push through the privatisation of health, education and public transport under a massive extension of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Public Private Partnerships (PPP).

A report by the Assembly's Finance and Committee is set to recommend the extension of PFI and PPP into all areas of the public sector.

Pushed

At the end of June, Tony Blair was pushed onto the defensive about his plans to extend privatisation.

Major unions and even some Labour MPs told Blair that they were not prepared to allow the NHS and schools to go the same path as the disastrous privatised railways.

But in Northern Ireland, there has been virtually no debate on the issue because the UUP, DUP, SDLP and Sinn Fein are all in favour of PFI.

Already, six new schools have been built or planned using PFI, a new building at Derry tech was built with PFI and the new Maternity Hospital in Belfast is to be built using PFI.

Before the Assembly report was even published, the DUP's Gregory Campbell and Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness both set up new PFI working parties in their departments. Campbell wants to use PFI to privatise buses and the public transport system.

McGuinness says that PFI is "an innovative procurement method" for schools.

PFI was dreamt up by the Tory government in 1992. It has been described by the chairman of Balfour Beatty, a major British construction company, as "the Heineken of privatisation - it reaches the parts that other privatisations can't reach."

PFI means paying private firms to build and maintain schools, hospitals and other public services.

The contract is usually for 25 to 30 years, during which the private company is guaranteed a profit of up to 16 or 18 per cent.

At the end of the contract, the private firm owns the building.

PFI gives an incentive to major construction firms to cut corners during building and keep wages of cleaning and security staff low.

New hospitals built using PFI in England report a catalogue of shoddy building work.

PFI projects regularly cost up to two and half times what it would cost to build

using direct public money. The difference is made up by cuts in services.

PFI has led to a reduction in hospital beds by between 25 and 30 percent and cuts in staffing by the same amount.

Despite the appalling record of PFI and its introduction of the profit motive, the main parties in the Assembly, claim that there is no alternative.

Parties

The four major unionist and nationalist parties at Stormont claim that they are unable to get extra money for public spending because of the unfair 'Barnett formula' (which decides the amount of public money given to Northern Ireland) and because they do not have tax varying powers.

But all of them have been lobbying to lower corporation taxes in the North to the same low level as the South, from the present 30 per cent to 12 or even 10 per cent.

This is a formula for less

money for public services rather than more.

As it is, manufacturing industry in the North is already exempted from paying rates.

Local and multinational companies get generous subsidies and 'tax holidays' of up to five years. This is a massive level of corporate welfare.

PFI and PPP is just another means of shovelled more public money into private hands.

There is a growing resistance, especially within the trade unions, to PFI and PPP in Britain. Millions of people have a deep suspicion about the corporate takeover of public services.

Such privatisation is a key part of the WTO trade liberalisation agenda, being promoted by the EU through the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

What is needed is a clear resistance to the privatisation agenda, linked to a demand to tax the rich to pay for health, education, public transport and welfare.

ISPAT

Anger grows at rotten deal

THE full-scale horror of the ISPAT closure in Cork is now emerging. ISPAT took over the state run steel mill in 1996 for a nominal fee from the government. £17 million in debt was also written off.

Under the terms of the deal, ISPAT, had to keep over 200 workers in employment for five years. If they failed to comply they were due to pay a £10,000 penalty.

It now transpires that as soon as the five-year deadline came up, ISPAT announced the closure.

Asset-stripping

In the meantime, they engaged on asset stripping on an unprecedented scale and have not left enough money to pay for workers claims or the decontamination of the bay around Haulbowline. The company had a terrible health and safety record, with one worker being killed in a recent fire.

Yet they have only made provision for £1.7 million for future compensation claims by workers. This is not expected to be enough to cover all the claims.

There are also claims for £2.4 million in unpaid wages, holiday pay, statutory redundancy and minimum notice payments.

Workers at the former

Irish Steel plant have long been told that they had to 'make sacrifices' in order to be competitive.

In 1995, for example, under the Dineen Plan, they accepted wage cuts and 200 redundancies.

But the more they listened to this advice - usually from SIPTU leaders- it only sharpened the appetite of management for more.

Right up to the bitter end, workers were again being encouraged to accept more wage cuts to 'save the plant'.

In reality they were being made ready for mass sacking by a vicious Indian multinational firm.

It shows that return to fighting trade unions is what is needed — not talk that the employers are 'our partners'.

Health Boards

CRAFT workers in the health boards and local authorities are looking for increased stand by time.

"At the moment we are getting only £20 a week. But you can be on call for a whole weekend or from 6pm in the evening to the following morning. You are stuck in one place, as you have to be within travelling distance of the workplace. You cannot plan your own life as you want."

At the moment, craft workers only get 4 hours extra pay for being on stand by time. They are demanding that this be increased to 24 hours.

Service Charges

Bin charge protestor vindicated

DROGHEDA anti-bins campaign scored a victory in the Circuit Criminal Court in June.

Since the local council introduced refuse

charges, only rubbish carrying a sticker is collected by binmen.

Drogheda Residents against Bin Charges and Privatisation have been collecting the refuse bags of those refusing to pay

the charges and putting them in the bin trucks each week.

Some months ago Harry Phelan was prosecuted under the litter acts for this.

He was fined and bound over to keep the peace.

Appeal

At his appeal in June both these were quashed and instead he was given the Probation Acts.

Harry told *Socialist Worker*, "We have been vindicated in our fight to maintain our essential service.. We will continue to dispose of waste in the refuse truck. The campaign goes on!"

A blockades of the road was organised by leafleting houses in the area.

Two days before the planned protest councilors were in the area promising ramps. And Corporation engineers came to take measurements for the work.

One local resident told *Socialist Worker* "This shows direct action works. Even the threat of it was enough to spur the Corporation into action. The protest was only postponed and we have made it clear that if the ramps don't appear quickly we will be out in force again."

Traffic protest wins

Residents in the Dominick's Place in Waterford won a victory over road safety in June.

After a series of accidents in which several children had been injured, residents formed a committee some years ago to lobby the Corporation for traffic calming measures in the road.

But as the years went by and no speed ramps appeared it became clear that the Corporation had no intention of taking the residents' grievances seriously.

In June residents decided to try more militant tactics.

Dun Laoghaire baths

Thousands of signatures are being gathered on a petition to oppose any plans by Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown Co. Council to sell off Dun Laoghaire baths.

The Dun Laoghaire Heritage and Renewal Campaign has been gathering the signatures in an effort retain the baths in public ownership and re-open them as an amenity for local people.

In recent years the council has allowed private developers to grab prime sites on the Dun Laoghaire coastline to build exclusive apartments..

The old pavilion site beside Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown was handed over to developers to build luxury apartments.

The developers

promised to build a theatre for use by the local theatre groups but now want charge them £1000 per night.

There was also large campaign of opposition to the newly built Marina in Dun Laoghaire Harbour because it would squeeze out local users and limit public access.

The developers now have their sights on Dun Laoghaire and Blackrock baths and the Carlisle pier.

Local councillors, such as Barry Andrews of Fianna Fail are pushing the idea of public private partnership (PPP) as a way of trying to make privatisation acceptable.

But the organisers of the campaign to save the baths oppose this.

SIPTU

A SIPTU official, Norman Croke, has been awarded £5000 after a Labour Court investigation into the conduct of his employers - SIPTU.

Croke ran as a candidate in recent SIPTU national election against the official machine candidate.

He was subsequently replaced as a Branch Secretary of the Hotel, Restaurants and Catering Branch. A special report concluded that he had been 'punished for expressing views contrary to those of the officer board.'

SWP activist meetings — all welcome

□ ATHLONE: Contact 01-872 2682 for details
□ BRAY: Meets every Thursday at the Mayfair Hotel at 8.30pm

□ BELFAST CENTRAL: Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in Kitchen Bar, 16 Victoria Square, near Cornmarket

□ BELFAST SOUTH: Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Queens Students Union

□ BELFAST WEST ring for details

□ BELFAST QUEENS UNIVERSITY Wednesdays 1pm, Peter Froggatt Centre

□ CORK: Meets every Wednesday at 8.00pm in O'Donoghue's, Drawbridge St

□ DERRY: Meets every Wednesday at 8.15pm in Badgers Bar upstairs, Orchard St.

□ DROGHEDA: Meets Wednesdays 8:30pm in McHugh's Pub St, Lawrences Gate

□ DUNDALK Meets Wednesdays 8pm phone 01-8722682 for details

□ DUN LAOGHAIRE: Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in the Christian Institute

□ DUBLIN ARTANE / COOLOCK: Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in Artane / Beaumont Recreational Centre (opp. Artane Castle)

□ DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL: Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Conways Pub, Parnell St

□ DUBLIN BALLYFERMOTT: Meets Tues 8:30pm in Ruby Finigans Pub

□ DUBLIN CABRA: Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in Aughrim St Parish Hall, 13 Prussia St

□ DUBLIN BALLYMUN: Meets every Wednesday at 6.30pm in Balcouris Road Phone Kevin on

for details

□ DUBLIN DUNDURM: Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Dundrum Family Recreation Centre

□ DUBLIN RIALTO: Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm St. Andrews Community Centre, SCR

□ DUBLIN RATHMINES: Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm downstairs J O'Connells (Pub) Sth. Richmond Street Dublin 2.

□ DUBLIN SOUTH CENTRAL: Meets at 8.30pm every Tuesday upstairs Bowes (pub) Fleet Street Dublin 2

□ DUBLIN TALLAGHT: Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Jobstown Community Centre

□ ENNISKILLEN: Phone 01 - 872 2682 for details
□ GALWAY: Meets every Wednesday in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square (beside Cuba) 8.30pm

□ LIMERICK: Phone 01 - 872 2682 for details

□ MAYNOOTH meets Thursday lunchtime ring (01)8722682 for details

□ SLIGO Phone 087 6329511 for details

□ SWORDS Meets Tuesdays 8pm Senior Citizens Hall

□ TRALEE:

□ TRINITY COLLEGE: Meets Thursdays 7pm see posters for details

□ UCD meets Wednesdays 1pm see posters for details

□ WATERFORD: Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the ATGWU Hall, Keizer St.

Socialist Worker

Contact SWP: (01) 8722682 <http://www.clubi.ie/swp> e-mail: swp@clubi.ie

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

50p

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When workers ran the factories

Solidarity price £1

Support the Tesco strike

£1 BILLION IN PROFITS BUT PEANUTS FOR WORKERS

TESCO THE giant British retail chain has been hit by a major strike in the Irish Republic. 9,500 workers who are members of the Mandate and SIPTU trade union have placed pickets on stores in a dispute over low pay.

Tesco is one of the most successful companies in Europe in the retail business. In the past few months, it declared profits of £1 billion.

Staggering

Its boss, Terry Leahy, received a super-salary of £1.6 million. He lectures workers about the need to stay 'competitive' but his own already large pay packet has risen by a staggering 37 percent.

Five other executives of Tesco are also earning over £1 million a year.

Yet these greed merchants want to keep their own staff on miserly low

wages.

Workers in city stores start off on £4.85 an hour, which is just marginally above the minimum wage.

"They expect us to live, eat and put a roof over our heads on this pathetic wage. Rents and house prices in the Celtic Tiger have shot up.

Afford

Why should we have to live in hovels when the bosses can afford to live in palaces" one Tesco worker said.

Another Tesco worker, Jonathan Mahon, recently wrote a letter to the national press explaining why workers are angry.

"Their profits have increased by 13 percent last year to £1.17 billion. Surely a company doing this business, alongside a booming economy can afford to pay better wages. The massive 93 percent vote among workers in favour of industrial action should give Tesco an idea of the determination of workers to have our pay grievances addressed in a real and meaningful way."

Human need or corporate greed

TESCO HAVE tried to intimidate their staff to prevent the strike.

"Managers have been coming around telling us that a strike will make us less 'competitive' and so we will all lose our jobs. We just laughed at them" one worker said.

The company are also starting to make new offers to increase the entry grade wage. But they are trying to squeeze as much out of workers as they can for any increase.

"They want to cut back on the man hours for each department. This will mean increasing the work pressure on everyone. It will also be a way of cutting back on paying overtime rates.

"We need to make sure that we win the battle for higher pay - and we should not have to give any extra productivity to Tesco," one worker said.

The battle at Tesco is about workers rights versus corporate greed. That is why we should get behind the Tesco staff and give them all the support they deserve.

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SUMMER OF RESISTANCE

35,000 march against World Bank in Barcelona



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