

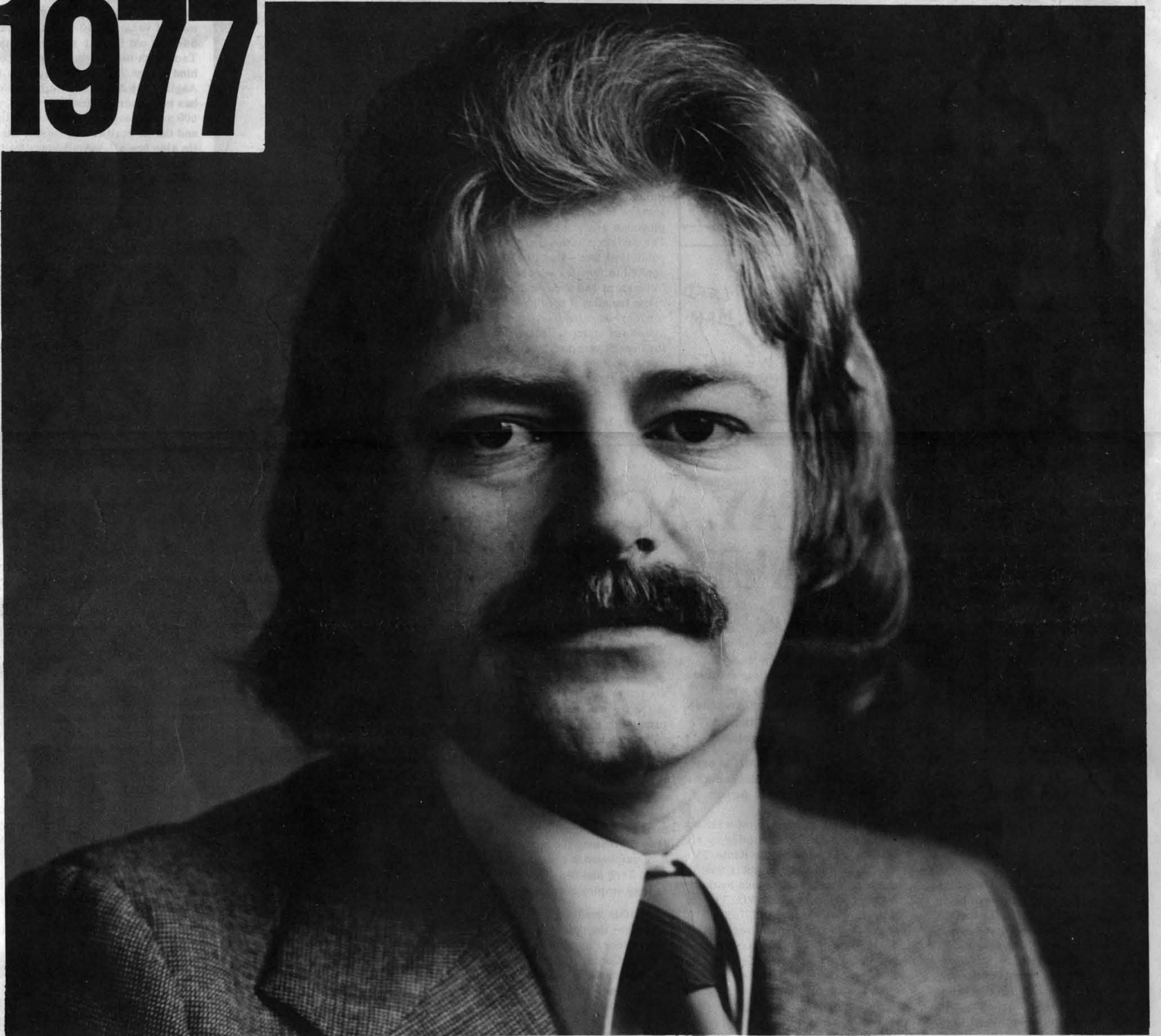


# ADVANCE

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# GENERAL ELECTION 1977



## O BRIEN Eamonn

**YOUR SOCIALIST PARTY TD FOR  
BALLYMUN & NORTH CO. DUBLIN**



'THE IRISH FIELD', a horsey paper produced by the 'Irish Times' was obliged to withdraw a Christmas card under order from the Chairman, Major McDowell. The card read: "Who was born in a stable and has millions of followers?"...and inside... "Arkle".

HUGH TUNNEY, the intervention beef millionaire, is a 'businessman' not a crook. He bought the Gresham Hotel in Dublin and the Talbot Hotel in Wexford for a total of £1.08 million. Now, he's claiming £1.5 million in damages for the bombing of the Gresham.



HEAD OFFICE NOW OPEN DAILY

General enquiries may now be made, and party publications purchased, directly from our Head Office daily.

Hours:  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fridays  
10 am to 4 pm  
Thursdays  
1 pm to 4 pm  
(open during normal lunch-hour)



COMHAIRLE le Leas Oige, the Youth Clubs co-ordinating body, is financed by an annual state grant, supplemented by facilities of the Vocational Education Committee.

This is a non-sectarian body and its executive committee includes Dr John O Connell the Labour TD. Of the 12 youth centres, 11 are run by priests. The other one is run by a nun.



IN AN ARTICLE in the school civics magazine 'Young Citizen', the law which prevents female school leavers from qualifying for unemployment assistance is discussed. The article points out a not too well publicised fact - that the law, when applied to females, deals only with "spinsters and widows", who can claim benefits if they have worked for four years and have at least 52 insurance stamps. (All males qualify for benefit without any stamps or work experience). Thus, a married woman can never qualify for unemployment assistance. The Act makes no provision for a married female who may be separated from her husband.

A LETTER to the Garda Review complains of too many inspections from the Commissioner, Chief Superintendent and Inspectors. "It is not as if these gentlemen are a bit helpful when they arrive - they would not sign a dole form, let alone assist the investigation of a crime.

Yours,  
"Harrassed Sergeant".

THE IDA are still having fun giving away money. The Mitsui plant in Cork has received an IDA grant of £3,000,000 and will employ only 150 people. So, even if every employee were to receive £60 per week, Mitsui will not have to pay out any wages for the next six and a half years, by which time they will probably be off to 'greener' pastures.



A millionaire seven times over, the head of the Guinness brewery giant, Senator Lord Iveagh, says he can't visit Britain for the next few years for fear of the taxman. Fiscal legislation in Britain has forced him to relinquish office as sole chairman of the Guinness Group. He will however continue as Chairman of Arthur Guinness (Dublin). His holding in the company is worth a massive £2.75 million. His other interests have a market value of £43 million. The 38-year old Earl, a nominee of the Taoiseach to the Senate, leaves behind a huge 23,000 acre estate in East Anglia. But Arthur FB Guinness still has two other estates in Ireland, the 600 acre Iveagh farm around Ratoath and the 30 acre estate outside Dublin. He also has a London house. He is a member of the Board of Heinz-Erin and a director of a number of other companies.



AN ARTICLE published by the Council of Europe on the "preservation of the free social order" hits the nail on the head with regard to the dilemma of capitalism. "Democracy must stand up not only to outside but also to inside pressure. Ways must be found of controlling the threats to our free way of life which arise out of the development of modern society".



# 'EQUAL PAY ACT' A FRAUD

THE ESSENTIAL PURPOSE of the Anti-Discrimination (Pay) Act, 1974 is, according to an explanatory leaflet issued by the Department of Labour, "to remove discrimination against women in regard to pay". This is understood by the vast majority of workers to mean that women whose pay is substantially below that of men will now be paid the male rate of pay.

But, this is not what the Act means. The thinking behind it is that the discrimination against women is being practised by their fellow male workers, not by their employers, some females are underpaid because some males are overpaid but the majority of females are being paid the correct value for their work. These are employed at such work as sewing, light assembly, packing, confectionery, catering etc, which men have traditionally steered clear of. When the Anti-Discrimination legislation is fully operational it will be illegal to offer these jobs to women only.

Accordingly, the Act stipulates that a woman has the right to the same remuneration as a man who is employed on "like work" by the same or associated employer. "Like Work" is defined as "work which is in every respect interchangeable between male and female employees, or where the work is similar in most respects and any differences which occur do so only infrequently and are of small importance". It is obvious that only a small minority of female occupations comply with these definitions. These are mainly clerical or supervisory workers, or the isolated jobs where a male and female would be

in charge of an identical machine. The Act also provides for women workers, where the "work is of equal value in terms of the demands it makes in such matters as skill, physical or mental effort, responsibility and working conditions". Whether or not the job qualifies

The unions, and the ITGWU in particular, have taken a decision not to sanction strike action in support of a claim for equal pay.

An example in practise of a Unisex Pay Scale is the present offer by six leading companies in the Radio/TV/Electronics industry to their 864 workers who are organised by the Number 13 Branch, ITGWU. The present position is that 737 of the workers who are female receive a basic wage of £32.32p, the remaining males get a basic of £42.72p. The new proposals of the employers envisage the creation of three grades. The pay for those in Grade 1 will be increased by one-third of the present differential between males and females, Grade 2 by two-thirds, and Grade 3 the full male rate. These increases will be phased in, in three installments, in December 1976, March 1977 and September 1977.

The proposals move 245 (33%) of the women into Grade 2, and a further 61 (8.3%) into Grade 3, leaving 431 (58.5%) in Grade 1. As a counterbalance 9 men (7.1%) are moved into Grade 2, and a further 8 (6.3%) into Grade 1.

At present, both the males and females in many cases hold premiums above the basic rates, but if the new offer is accepted these premiums in the case of the women will be in-

corporated in the new rates and in the case of men will cease to be paid. Additionally, there are about as many more men employed by the six firms but they are not included in the figures because they carry premiums above the basic rates.

The result of the Unisex Pay Scale is that two new rates of pay £35.78p and £39.24p have been established below the minimum rate of £42.72p within the industry. There is nothing to stop the employers in the months and years ahead, substantially increasing the percentage of men employed in Grades 2 and 1 from 7.1% and 6.3% respectively, as they employ new labour. Equally,

under this heading is a matter of opinion - the opinion of an equal pay officer, or ultimately the Labour Court. It is an accepted fact by the trade union and others that the majority of female occupations will not qualify under this heading.

If the Act was fully understood it would be rejected by women because the majority of them would benefit nothing from it, whilst the men would reject it because in opening up lower paid employments to them it removes the floor or present minimum male rates of pay. One would expect that the trade union leadership, who are fully aware of the implications of the Act, would come out strongly against it. But no, incredible as it may seem, they have joined with the FUE in an effort to have the Act accepted by Irish workers.

To achieve their objective they have produced a new device - the Unisex Pay Scale, which is not

mentioned at all in the Act. This provides intermediate grades for pay between the female and male rate, and sometimes it increases the female rate by a small amount as well. Some female jobs which would not qualify under the Act, and indeed some which would, are placed on the intermediate grades, some are left at the bottom, whilst the majority, which would obviously qualify, are given the top grade - the male rate. To compensate for this increased expenditure by the employers the unions are agreeing to place certain categories of jobs presently done by men and paid the male rate into the new lower grades. To prevent a rebellion by the men, the present holders of the jobs will keep their present wages, but when they are eventually replaced, their successors will have to work at the new reduced rates of pay.

Girls who would qualify for retrospective pay to 31 December 1975, under the Act are being asked to waive this part of their claim in favour of the offer to "all the girls". There is nothing to stop the employers from increasing the percentages of new female employees in the lower grades.

As men predominate in the work force, the effect of the substantial reduction in the minimum rates of pay will be to cause a downward pressure on the higher rates of pay of both male and female. Consequently, the seriousness of the threat posed to wages by the introduction of this type of unisex scale cannot be over emphasised.

This form of Unisex Pay Scale is a device being used in a collaboration between the trade union leadership, the FUE and no doubt, the government, behind the backs of the workers to ease the pressure of wage increases and to improve the competitive position of Irish industry. The trade union leadership have no right to make deals behind our backs.

In the past, a manoeuvre such as this, would have been exposed in the 'Left-wing' press, but since some of these muzzled their criticism of the trade union bureaucracy in return for jobs in the union, (they have exchanged the conspiracy theory of history for the class struggle), it is left to the Socialist Party to campaign for the rejection of the present Equal Pay Act, and to demand that females are paid the male rate for the job.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "The Socialist Future" - Programme of the Socialist Party of Ireland: 20p (post free)
- "Ireland into Slavery" - a history of the EEC and an analysis of its effects on Ireland: 15p (post free)
- "Advance": ten consecutive issues by post £1.50
- "Songs of the workers" : 30p (post free)
- "Struggle" the story of the unions: 30p (post free)

Cash with order to: The Socialist Party of Ireland  
Box 806, 23 Parliament St.  
Dublin 2.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

# WORLD VIEW



## UNEASY PEACE IN LEBANON

PEOPLE the world over have followed with anxiety the events in the Lebanon, where the cities and villages were reduced to ruins. The war which had been going on for more than sixteen months, has taken a toll of 40,000 dead, forced a million and a half people, roughly half of the country's population, to leave their homes, and practically completely ruined the economy, which has suffered losses running to thousands of millions of dollars. The glimmers of light that have appeared from time to time on the Lebanese political horizon have been promptly blotted out by thunderheads. More than fifty cease-fire agreements have already proved in-

effective. The present one may hold. At the same time, the true cause of the bloodshed, the concealed mainspring of the mechanism of the fratricidal war, are becoming increasingly plain to see. It is now, more than ever, obvious that the conflict benefits only imperialism, the local reactionaries and the Israeli expansionists. More, the evidence is adding up that the Right-wing forces in Lebanon, who embarked in August on a new escalation of hostilities against the national patriotic forces and the Palestine Resistance Movement and staged savage massacres in Tel al-Zattar Palestinian refugee camps and elsewhere, by no means acted on their own. They were openly supported by

aggressive NATO quarters and by the Israeli leaders.

A great many instances of Israeli arms deliveries to the Lebanese reactionaries have come to light. For instance, the US diplomat, Dean Brown, now Director of the American Middle East Institute, who spent several months in the Lebanon as a special envoy of the White House, revealed in a recent television interview an important source of arms for the Lebanese Right-wing forces. The impression is, he said, that Israel has become one of the principal suppliers of the arms the Christians are using against the country's Moslem majority. And even, in his opinion, this is a highly unusual "experiment". The Israeli navy is blockading the coastline of the area controlled by the national patriotic forces. As a result of the pirate operations of the Tel Aviv military, the supply to Lebanon of food and medicines provided by international and national democratic organisations has been practically stopped. All of which adds to the suffering of the Lebanese.

The Socialist Party stands in solidarity with the Palestinian and Lebanese patriots, condemns the actions of imperialism and reaction and demands that Lebanon be ensured a return to peace. A mass movement in support of efforts towards this end is gaining momentum in many countries. People everywhere increasingly insist on the immediate end to imperialist interference in the internal affairs of the Lebanon.



■ Chiang Ching in happier days.

## PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA

EVENTS IN CHINA since the death of Mao Tse Tung have given hope to socialists that China's self-imposed isolation from the rest of the socialist world may soon be over.

The expulsion of Mao's widow and her friends from their positions, which they held during the last years of the ageing Mao's leadership will definitely mean an end to many of the contradictory policies of China at home and in the international sphere.

The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries as well as the communist and workers parties around the world have continually offered the hand of friendship to China. It is hoped that the new leaders of Peoples China will accept that friendship and return to the solidarity of the socialist camp.

## IN THE WORKERS' PARTIES



● PORTUGAL Alvaro Cunhal, General Secretary of the Portuguese Communist Party speaking in parliament on the programme submitted by Prime Minister Mario Soares, said that the Portuguese Communists believed that the composition and programme of the government do not measure up to the demands of the day. Cunhal said that the government, despite its statements, does not provide sufficient guarantees defending the revolutionary gains, in particular the nationalisation of industry, the agrarian reform and worker control at enterprises.

● JORDAN & ISRAEL A joint meeting of the Communist Parties of Jordan and Israel produced agreement on all problems that were discussed. The two parties declared their support for a realistic settlement of the Middle Eastern problem with withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories and recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination with the creation of an independent state on the West Bank of the Jordan.

● INDIA The past year has seen the membership of the Communist Party of India increase by 130,000. Today the party numbers 550,000. The largest organisation is in the state of Bihar with 135,000 members.

● ECUADOR The Secretary General of the Communist Party of Ecuador, Pedro Saad, speaking about the sharpening of the class struggle in the country warned of imperialist and reactionary attacks on the interests of the working people. He called on the Communists to step up their work in mobilising the people to defend democratic gains and criticised the government for delay in carrying out its proclaimed programme of progressive measures.

PERU Communist farmers in Peru have held their first conference in Lima to review the progress of the agrarian reform which aims at eliminating the big landlords. The conference also decided on ways of bringing more rural working people into the Communist Party.



■ The right wing guns.



■ The dead.

## Fishing Problems in the fleet

AT PRESENT there are two types of problem facing the Irish fishing industry - internal and external.

The external problems have arisen mainly as a result of Ireland joining the EEC. Under the terms of the Common Fisheries Policy, Ireland retains its present limits until 1982. At present Ireland has an exclusive zone of only six miles, and allows very substantial fishing in an outer six mile zone by five other EEC countries - France, Germany, United Kingdom, Belgium and Holland.

These countries' fishing grounds have become depleted as a result of over-fishing, but they still have massive fleets including factory ships. They also have many large back-up industries for fish processing. In fact, Ireland has not only the last remaining fishing ground among the EEC countries but it is also the only member with an expanding industry which has increased its employment by 25% in the last eight years, while the other EEC countries have declined. Therefore, the other EEC countries are only too willing and able to deplete our stocks.

The real threat to our industry is not from illegal fishing by foreign trawlers as more effective policing and stricter laws would solve that problem. It is the EEC that could wipe out our fisheries quite legally if the present EEC Commission proposals are introduced.

The economic position of this state is such that it is in vital need of profitable and productive industry. If the private sector has failed to develop the industry, even with the aid of the state (BIM), then it is necessary for the state to take the initiative and expand the industry by maintaining state sponsored trawlers. This would ensure the rapid development of a fleet of sufficient size to suit our resources.

However, fishing does not stop at trawlers, there is also conservation, research and processing to be developed. As after fourteen years the private sector has failed to contribute to the long term development of the industry, there surely is a strong case for the return by BIM to the processing end which it handed over in 1962, after the ground work for development had been done.

If and when we get an exclusive limit there is no doubt that we will become one of the biggest fish exporters in the EEC. Given the present scale of the Irish processing industry we do not have the outlets to handle the produce on the same scale as the French and German industries. What would happen, most likely, is that other EEC countries would set up processing plants here. A typical example of this was that a Breton fisheries concern wanted to set up a £5,000,000 plant in Galway two years ago when local development bodies were not prepared to invest £500.

Our choice is a clear one. Either other EEC countries develop our industry (and export the profit), or the state, through BIM, returns to the real development of the industry as they were doing prior to 1963. Irish capitalism with regard to the fishing industry is far from being a success story.

If our fishing industry is to be a profitable and successful industry it must be taken out of the hands of the gombeen Irish capitalist and handed back to a capable state body.

As regards the internal problems, it is fine to talk about the potential of the industry but it is not much use if we don't have the means to exploit it. For a start over 70% of our fishing fleet is comprised of trawlers that are 25 feet or less. Although these boats are ideal for salmon and shellfishing, they are confined to this type of fishing. There are about 150 boats between 50 and 150 feet but only a minority of these would be capable of exploiting a 50 mile limit.

The main reason for the lack of expansion into bigger boats is the present system which depends on an individual or company obtaining a loan and purchasing a trawler (the average cost of a modern 80 foot trawler is £250,000). The majority of potential skippers cannot even hope to raise the 5% deposit for a large trawler. Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) has urged and assisted (with 25% non-repayable grants) the fleet to get involved with bigger trawlers and have geared their boatyards for this. Even this method of skipper/owner development is slow and inadequate for the present trends in the industry.

The economic position of this state is such that it is in vital need of profitable and productive industry

## FIGURES FROM THE U.S.

WHO does the Congress of the USA represent? Only three members of the House of Representatives identified themselves as "labour leaders", while the vast majority of Congressmen and Senators gave their occupation as Law, Business and Banking. The following table illustrates this;

OCCUPATION	HOUSE	SENATE
Law	220	66
Business & Banking	140	22
Educator	63	8
Agriculture	31	10
Journalism	24	5
Medicine	5	1
Minister	5	1
Engineering	2	2
Labour leader	3	0
Scientist	2	0
Law enforcement	2	0

The House of Representatives (before the November 1976 elections) had 17 Black members, a mere 3.4% of the total. The Senate had one Black member, while Blacks make up more than 13% of the population of the USA.

Women, 51% of the population had only 19 seats in the House, or 4.4% of the total. There were no women Senators.

## TIGHTEN YOUR BELTS !

DAILY, there are demands in the papers from employers' 'spokesmen' and Government Ministers (both Fine Gael and the lap-dog 'Labour' ones), for a reduction in the living standards of working people. The same old record is repeated again and again - "workers must moderate their demands, tighten their belts, accept less wages, less social welfare". Let's take a look at the facts of the case.

The average earnings for industrial adult workers, according to the latest figures (1975) from the Central Statistics Office, show that men earn £56.16 per week, and women £29.56 for an average of 40 hours. The male/female gap is barely narrowing despite Mick O Leary's paper laws.

And how is the other side making out? Director's pay for 105 public companies whose figures were published last March, totalled £4,775,397. This was an increase on the previous year of 24.9%. (No restraint or moderation here).

How hard do directors work?

A survey conducted by the Irish Management Institute says - "Boards of medium-sized companies have an average of five to six directors and large companies seven to eight directors. Board meetings held each year number four to five (lasting an average of two to three hours) in the case of medium-size companies and eight to twelve in the case of large companies. Thus, on average only eight to fifteen hours in the case of medium-size companies and sixteen to thirty-six hours in the case of large companies are spent at board meetings in a year".

With the aid of your pocket calculator and taking the average number of directors per company as seven, what is the pay of a director? Quite correct, £6,497 per annum. Not bad for a 16 hour year.

So, when next you are called upon to make sacrifices, why don't you oblige. Offer up a few directors.

### BOOK REVIEW

# James Larkin ON TRIAL IN AMERICA

'THE AMERICAN TRIAL OF BIG JIM LARKIN'.  
Published by Athol Books, Belfast.

THIS BOOK is a direct transcript of Larkin's trial and makes very interesting reading. Television has accustomed us to courtroom dramas and most readers will be familiar with McCarthyite style of demanding "yes" or "no" to a leading question. The book also sheds a lot of light on Larkin himself and on the early American labour movement.

Q. What school of socialism are you connected with?

A. The school I was connected with is generally known as the British School of Socialism.

Q. What does that mean?

A. The terminology used by advocates of socialism in that school is

more in line with the language used by the English-speaking peoples.

Q. When did you join the Socialist Party?

A. I brought credentials to America from the Independent Labour Party of England and the Irish Socialist Party, and presented them to the officials in New York.

Q. When did you join the Party?

A. 1917, the latter part of 1917, the date for the moment I cannot give.

Q. I want to ask you now what is the class action of the proletariat other than parliamentarianism, that will conquer the power of the State?

A. Schools, colleges, gatherings together in economic organisations, going to such places as the Rand



School and the School of Applied Science, and getting an education as to what the State is.

Q. We have these schools and colleges and Rand Schools existing today?

A. Yes, but -

Q. Under the so-called capitalist form of Government?

A. And the more you get the quicker capitalism will be destroyed.

Q. And the State?

A. Political State, yes.

Q. How will the schools and colleges destroy the State other than by parliamentarianism?

A. By education.

Q. Political State?

A. By education and society of ideas.

Q. Education along what line?

A. Along the lines of knowledge of the political state, expressed in itself.

Q. Assume -

A. Wait, the political state as we know it in America, is the expression of the class interest of four groups of people, those interests were predominant and after the revolution and they took hold of the State and they moulded the political state and moulded it to their own desires, using that state and perfecting their powers as against the great mass of the people. We would educate the people to come together as a class and get rid of this class section, class distinction and class control, and all become citizens of a great nation.

Q. I want to know how you are going to conquer the State other than parliamentarianism, what is the class action in any form other than parliamentarianism whereby you are going to conquer the power of this State?

A. I have told you now, apply the ideas to the program which is apparent to any educated man.

Q. Except the Assistant District Attorney?

A. I am not stating that, I am speaking in the general sense, I wish that you would not be so personal."

Well worth reading at 70p.

## IGNORANCE AND OBSCENITY

MEDICAL SCIENCE has recently come under attack on two fronts, firstly, from the American Father Marx and from Noel McManus, a Dublin chemist.

Perhaps had their actions and comments not been so reactionary and self-righteous, their contributions might at least have been accepted as to be acted upon or not as the individual might decide. But, no, their actions, while merely pursuing their pet subjects, are actions are reactionary to, and rejectful of medical science. Not only are they rejecting medical science but are very directly enforcing their moral standards on the people they come directly, and so-called professionally, in contact with. But they are not content to leave matters at that stage - they are infringing on society's ability and right to determine its morals, having had access to the full facts.

It is not enough for Noel McManus to refuse to dispense oral contraceptives to customers with prescriptions, on the basis that if the medication is not for the purpose of regulating the menstruation cycle rather than for the purpose of artificial contraception, that he cannot allow the use of the drugs because artificial contraception "cuts across the creative power of God". He also states that "this is not within our national heritage. It is not Irish".

Let us access this attitude; McManus pre-supposes that all his customers, and for that matter all customers for oral contraceptives, are christians, and that all christians accept the church's teaching on evolution (or is it non-evolution?) As for not being part of our national heritage and not being Irish, one wonders how this man's sense of morals allows him to dispense such common drugs as Valium and Librium to 'cure' (or more correctly, cover up) social diseases. Are these social diseases from which he makes a living peddling 'cures' part of our heritage, and even if so, are his 'cures' Irish. Seriously, even taking this simplistic example it can be seen that his morals leave much to be desired and that in his ignorance fails to realise that his rules for society have been largely rejected by society.

It is such a pity that customers have to be subject to his interrogation of their personal lives.

Rather more dangerous are the actions of Father Marx. His hobby-horse is to show films of abortions (or of late, a foetus in a bottle) to, among others, pre-Leaving Certificate students, in order to prove the ultimate evil of abortion.

Father Marx shows by his actions that he is not interested in setting forth facts with a view to aiding our young generation to adopt a principled, factual and sensible attitude to

abortion but, rather to instil a very hysterical and ignorant attitude to a very serious subject.

Had he also brought with him films of the slums of Chicago or New York; had he explained the ignorance and low social levels which prevail in such social conditions; had he given the facts about incest in such social conditions; had he given the reported figures for rape, even from his own country; had he documented the feelings of young teenagers who had become pregnant as a result of rape then his abortion films or his bottles could have had a very useful and balanced content.

No, he takes the case of abortion from a very decadent society in America without explaining the social conditions there and puts that situation in a secondary school in Galway, totally out of context. He then proceeds to frighten the life out of a class-room of girls, who may not even know exactly how a pregnancy is commenced and in great detail shows them how a pregnancy is terminated.

This is nothing short of pre-meditated vulgarity. If you take into account the long term effect of such 'ignorant' knowledge on these girls it is clear that Father Marx is guilty of gross obscenity.

## Workers must organise politically to achieve their rights

Many people are dissatisfied with the present political and economic set-up in Ireland. High prices, low wages and unemployment ensure that the heaviest burdens fall on the majority of the population - the working people. In contrast, a small minority enjoy ownership of 75% of the wealth of Ireland and live at a level of luxury never reached by the workers, whose labour produces everything of value. This system of exploitation - capitalism, to give it its scientific title - is not permanent. It can, and will be changed. One of the ways of bringing about change is for the exploited people to organise politically to remove the exploiters. This is the reason for the existence of the Socialist Party of Ireland.

WHAT TO DO  
You can share in the work of transforming society by becoming a member of the Socialist Party of Ireland. All applications will be acknowledged, and details of procedures given by return post. These include a political education programme designed to give an understanding of the relationship of classes in society and how socialism will be established in Ireland.

THE POLICY  
The policy and main objective of the Party is to establish in Ireland a socialist form of society, the economic basis of which will be the public ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange following the abolition of capitalist society.



**Build a better future  
Join the Socialist Party**

Please send me more information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Socialist Party of Ireland · PO Box 806 · 23 Parliament St · Dublin 2

SOMETIME IN 1977 a general election is going to take place. In this election, the Socialist Party will be contesting the Dublin North County constituency. A constituency which includes areas such as the whole of Ballymun Estate, Poppintree, Swords, Skerries, Darndale, Donabate as well as Shanard and Willow Park. The person selected by the Socialist Party to contest the election on its behalf is Mr. Eamonn O'Brien, of 58 Knowth Court, Poppintree. He was selected by the party as far back as January 1975. ADVANCE interviewed him recently to give people an insight into his background and some of his opinions.

## PROFILE of your candidate Eamonn O'Brien

EAMONN O'BRIEN was born in Dublin in 1946. At that time his family lived in Donnycarney on the North side of Dublin City.

When he was three and a half years of age, his father died of TB and his mother was forced, because of financial considerations, to move the family to a flat in Mount Pleasant Buildings. These were difficult years when his mother had to depend heavily on the generosity of her family. It was the time of the depression in the fifties, with mass emigration and cold war politics.

He went to St Joseph's National School in Rathmines, an experience that left very few positive impressions on his mind. He particularly detested the tendency of teachers to refer to children who were not doing well as "potential road-sweepers". There was also, in his opinion, no attempt made to build into children any feeling of the "dignity of labour", nor to provide information on the conditions school-leavers were likely to encounter in places of employment. There was no advice given on the question of joining trade unions — indeed they were never informed that such organisations as trade unions existed.

School was a place to learn subjects which, for the most part, were a bore — simply because their future uses were not explained. And as you were constantly told "You are going to let me down and end up working in a factory", what was the use of learning subjects for which you would apparently have no use anyway? He feels that the atmosphere in most of the newer schools has undergone a change for the better, and that gradually the powers that be are beginning to realise that the educational needs of a developing industrial country are primarily technological, not academic.

Eamonn served his time as an apprentice in the manufacturing jewellery trade. A trade in which, in his own words, "the conditions were straight out of one of Dickens' novels". In 1969 he joined the National Union of Gold Silver and Allied Trades (NUGSAT) and very quickly worked his way up to the position of district president. In this capacity he was involved in all aspects of trade union work, recruiting, negotiating



### Ballymun

Married in 1966, Eamonn moved to Ballymun with his wife and young child in 1967. At that time Ballymun "Despite the fact that most Irish families do not take kindly to the idea of living in flats, there was nothing wrong with the concept of Ballymun. What was wrong, was that the concept was not implemented in its totality. Instead, the structures were built and occupied without the massive back-up services — so essential to such a development — being brought into operation. This is the problem of Ballymun. Even now, whatever amenities exist on the Estate are the result of consistent pressure being put on the Corporation by the tenants themselves. But piece-meal concessions are no substitute for planned development. was the great unknown. The largest and most unique construction programme ever undertaken by Dublin Corporation. It was Neil Blaney's 'contribution' to the easing of Dublin's massive housing problem.



■ The sit in at Thomas O'Connor & Son in 1975.

### Trade union activist

and, of course, strikes. Early in 1975 the firm for which he was working, Thomas O'Connor & Sons, Harolds Cross, attempted to make a number of workers redundant. This resulted in the workers taking direct action and occupying the factory. The dispute went on for four months, but the sit-in was ended when the company sought and received an injunction restraining the workers from entering and occupying the factory.

He is very bitter about this interference by the courts and sees it as one of the most obvious indications of the state being simply a repressive machine to be used by the employers when the need arises. Its interference in this case was to result in breaking down the resistance of the workers in dispute, with the result that whereas initially only three men were to be made redundant, nearly 40 ended up losing their jobs. Eamonn O'Brien and the most active members of NUGSAT were amongst those made redundant. Since then he has been unemployed. As he says himself "Sometimes the price of trade union activism can be high. In my case, there is very little chance that I will ever work at my chosen trade again".

Early in 1976, NUGSAT merged with the ITGWU. Eamonn O'Brien was elected to the branch committee in the No. 1 Branch and elected as a



■ Speaking in Ballymun.

"The cut backs in maintenance on the Estate and the pressure from the Community and Labour Party Councilors to increase the charge for central heating in the flats is an indication of the lack of understanding of the problems of Ballymun on the part of the Government, Dublin Corporation and most of the political organisations.

"Throughout the country, Ballymun is a symbol of failure. But because of the heroic efforts of the tenants themselves, it is not a failure. Its future is very much dependent on money being made available on a greater scale to supplement the work and vision of its population".

Shortly after moving to Ballymun, Eamonn O'Brien joined the Ballymun Estate Tenants Association (BETA) and eventually became treasurer. This was a traumatic period for the BETA. Its main activity was opposition to the hated B Scale rent. A dispute which broke into open conflict with Dublin Corporation in the form of rent strikes. He believes that the major problem of the BETA

at that time was in seeking the most effective way of building up its organisation on an Estate such as Ballymun. It's task was probably the most difficult of all NATO branches in the country. And he feels that even now, although great strides have been made by the BETA, the problem has not yet been fully overcome.

In 1975, he became the chairman of the 2nd Block Club, Silloge Road. The club was the first in Ballymun to get approval from the Corporation for the use of extensive basement premises at the back of each lift shaft. After demonstrating to the Corporation the use to which these previously unused pramsheds etc. could be put, that body tiled the floors and put in toilets for the use of the club.

"The club ran a playgroup for the very young children five mornings each week. A disco and youth nights with chess, art classes etc. were organised for the older children. It also ran outings and socials. Of course, there were problems, and there still are. But the most satisfying thing about it all was the knowledge that people were prepared to get up off their backsides and do something constructive, once the leadership was there".

Apart from the BETA there are many organisations and clubs on the Estate which he feels are doing great work. It would not be possible to name them all, as they range from the Ballymun Playgroup Association the Ballymun Pipe Band.

"I don't agree 100% with everything each club or organisation does, but then, if we all agreed there would be no problems, would there?"

Nearly a year ago he moved to Poppintree Estate, a new area with new, if more conventional, problems. Shortly after settling in with his wife Freda, and their family, he leafleted the area with the help of his two sons, Eamonn and Jason, for the purpose of organising a meeting to discuss the possibility of electing a tenant association for the Estate. In June 1976, 70 people attended the meeting and elected an interim committee. The Poppintree Tenants Association (PTA) came into being.

He is an active member of the PTA and is immensely pleased with the progress it has made in such a short time. It produces a regular newsletter and the list of its activities is endless. For example, on Saturday 19th December they gave a party for 1,500 children from the Poppintree area.

Eamonn is quick to point out that the task of the PTA in relation to organising is much simpler than

that which faces the BETA.

"Bearing in mind that it has been possible for the PTA to organise its 600 tenants effectively, and in a short period, it might be a worthwhile exercise if the BETA gave some thought to alternative methods of organising".

### The election

In the coming General Election, he believes that people must be made aware of the true nature of the problems facing the country, and of the lack of any real fundamental difference between Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and the Labour Party. "All our major problems, housing, unemployment, education, the economy, stem from our adherence to a free-enterprise economy. An economic system which has failed us miserably since the foundation of the state. The three major political parties, Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and Labour, support the free enterprise system and all the contradictions that go with it. Therefore, a vote for any of these parties is a vote for unemployment, high prices, poor housing and educational facilities etc".

But if the voters in North County Dublin were to vote for the Socialist Party, and if he were to be elected, could one socialist TD make any difference to the running of the country?

"Naturally, one TD would not have a dramatic effect on the running of the country. But what we are speaking about is the election of a socialist TD, someone who will be in a position to put forward real alternative policies in Dail Eireann and who will have no hesitation in exposing in the Dail the contradictions and shortcomings of capitalism.

"My election would be a very important step in the reorientation of politics in the Republic. This is a development that is going to come sooner or later. It would be far better for all concerned that changes in this direction should be led by people who are prepared to, and are capable of, using parliament to put forward their arguments in favour of socialism, and a planned economy based on the ownership by the workers of the means of production".

What does he think are his chances of election?

"I am no prophet. But I believe the voters of North County Dublin, and Ballymun in particular, are in the unique position of being able to vote for me knowing that they have nothing to lose and everything to gain. In the last analysis, it is the voters who have the power to elect me. It is up to them to use it".



■ At play

## SOCIALISM

### news • views • progress

★ **SCHOOL FOR JOURNALISTS FROM EMERGENT COUNTRIES** Some 300 journalists from developing countries have been trained at the School of Solidarity of the German Democratic Republic's Union of Journalists in the past 13 years. Mr Albert Ndindah from Zimbabwe who is a lecturer for photo journalists at the school, gave this fact in BZ am Abend, the Berlin evening paper.

According to Mr Ndindah, the school was preparing a fresh course, the 17th since its foundation, for young journalists from Guinea Bissau and Angola. The school was being run exclusively on solidarity donations from union members, he wrote.

Berlin journalists arranged a big solidarity bazaar in September, marking International Day of Struggle Against Imperialism and War, for solidarity with their colleagues persecuted by reaction. The activities in the heart of Berlin were attended by journalists of 35 papers and journals, of the news agency ADN, of Radio and television.



★ **GRAIN HARVEST IN THE GDR** This picture shows the highly mechanised process of harvesting grain in the GDR, using several combine harvesters for each field, with trucks working as a team to carry the processed grain from the fields to the factory.

Despite a dry summer, reaching drought proportions in some areas, the GDR's harvest promises to be up to standard.

**COMPUTER SYSTEM TO PREVENT POLLUTION** Construction of an automated system to control the quality of river water has begun in the Soviet Union. The unique water protection complex is being established in the middle reaches of the Northern Donets. The new system will not only control but also regulate discharges of industrial enterprises.

Fourteen stations located at the outlets of the water treatment installations and at other points of the protection zone will conduct automatic analyses of the chemical composition of the water and determine its temperature, acidity and saturation with oxygen.

A computer of the control service fitted out with telemechanical equipment will continually process the data obtained. If the level of pollution increases, its source will be cut off, and the effluent sent to reserve basins for repeated cleansing.

★ **5,000 VIETNAMESE TRAINEES IN THE GDR** A total of 420 young Vietnamese have arrived in Berlin to start a three-year vocational training in the German Democratic Republic. They bring to 5,000 the number of Vietnamese boys and girls being trained in the GDR as skilled workers at present.

Under a Government agreement concluded in 1973, a total of 10,000 young Vietnamese will be trained as skilled workers in the GDR by 1982. The training is tailored to the needs of Vietnam's speedy reconstruction after the United States aggression.

★ **GIANT CANNERY OPENED** The biggest cannery in Bulgaria and one of Europe's largest, was commissioned near the town of Pazardjik by the President of the State Council, Todor Zhivkov.

It will process 120,000 tons of produce annually and turn out 74,000 tons of tinned fruit and vegetables annually. Its latest machinery and equipment will increase labour production fivefold in comparison with the old cannery.

★ **COURSE FOR COOPERATIVE WORKERS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST** Twenty-two cooperative workers from Middle East countries are taking part in a course at the international school of the Union Cooperative Societies in the GDR.

The acquire practical knowledge useful for the cooperatives in their respective home countries. The course ends on 15 September; attendants came from Egypt, Iraq, People's Yemen and Syria.

The school in the town of Dresden which was opened 13 years ago, has so far arranged 22 courses which were attended by more than 700 cooperative workers from 40 countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

THIS YEAR marks the sixth anniversary of the foundation of the Socialist Party of Ireland in January 1971.

In these years since its foundation the Party has made significant gains in the struggle to build a mass workers party in Ireland. It has established itself as a militant defender of the interests of working people, produced a comprehensive political and economic programme which shows the way forward to socialism and, through its publications, consistently defends the socialist gains of the international working class movement.

The Party pursues a policy of firm support for Trade Union action in defence of the workers' standard of living and improvement of working conditions. The Party also supports the Tenants Associations and other democratic organisations of the people in the struggle against mono-

poly exploitation. WHILE THE Black Sheep of Europe - Spain and Portugal - take steady steps away from dictatorship and towards social democracy, Ireland, has truly become the banana republic of Europe. The state now possesses laws of repression which puts us into the same fold as South Africa, Brazil and Chile. Laws which, under the guise of anti-Provo legislation, have the objective of propping up a capitalist state which is incapable of dealing with the social and economic problems which now confront us.

As a result of the introduction of these new laws, the Irish people are faced with the most serious threat to their civil liberties since the foundation of the state. A development which is being actively supported by the Irish Labour Party. The Party which claims to represent the interests of the working class and which coalesced with Fine Gael in 1973 for the expressed purpose of opposing the threat to democracy posed by a Fianna Fail government which had become "arrogant with power". To judge by recent events, this arrogance is a disease which affects all bourgeois governments once they find themselves under serious pressure.

The "political renaissance" which we were promised in 1969, with the introduction of noted liberals into the mainstream of Irish politics, has turned sour. In fact, it is these same liberals who have taken the lead in attacking the very limited freedoms which the working class enjoyed. Freedoms which over the last months have been pared to a minimum. These are the same liberals, who, when in opposition to the last Fianna Fail government, put on a delightful display of academic integrity, marching into Dail

## EDITORIAL

poly exploitation.

The Party has made the most determined effort yet to eliminate bourgeois nationalism from the labour movement. Its realistic policy self-determination and democratic renewal for the people of Northern Ireland is proven more correct every day as the various paramilitary gangs produce ever more futile mutual slaughter and destruction. However, it is still the case that many people with progressive and socialist ideas remain blinded by bourgeois nationalism and have departed completely from Marxism-Leninism in order to favour one or other of the competing paramilitary gangs.

In this coming year, for the first time, the Socialist Party will have to be reckoned with in a General Election. The Party looks upon this effort as an important first step in breaking the bourgeois monopoly of politics in the Republic of Ireland. The successful election of a socialist TD will be the first step in the demolition of the capitalist order in this country. The Party is confident that its members and supporters will make this a reality.

Basing itself on the working class, on proletarian internationalism, the Party is carrying the political struggle against capitalism right into the citadel of the bourgeois parliament. Its TD's will carry on a vigorous policy of challenging monopoly rule and defending the interests of working people at every opportunity. In this spirit we look forward to the year ahead and a big success for the Irish working class.

## The Black Sheep of Europe

Eireann laden down with books of learning, from which they quoted chapter and verse at the then Justice Minister, in an attempt to show that the security situation did not warrant the "repressive" action which Fianna Fail was contemplating. Such hypocrisy. There is no more need for repressive legislation now than there was then. What is needed is positive political action designed to isolate the men and women of violence. But that is something the Coalition government have set their minds against. No doubt, they have their own sinister motives to justify such criminal inaction.

Anyone who has been privy to the rantings of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Taoiseach, John Kelly, can be under no illusion as to the real objectives of the legislation passed by Dail Eireann and approved by the Supreme Court. Its purpose is to hinder the development of working class parties as real alternatives to the capitalist ones. Whether such opposition would come from the trade unions or workers parties would make no difference.

The attack by the Defence Minister on the office of the President, immediately following the passing of this type of legislation, set an ominous precedent the implications of which have yet to be observed by some political commentators. The

Socialist Party does not hold the belief that the President should be above criticism. But, we are of the opinion that in this instance, the type of criticism, the person who made it and the place where it was made, is indicative of a trend of thought on the part of the government, which runs contrary to the interests of the working class and shows strong fascist tendencies.

Patrick Donegan is the typical hard man, hard and thick. A man without tact. Donegan is the type of person who would never be considered for a diplomatic post, even if he were the last one available. But, if one takes into account recent statements by John Kelly and to a lesser extent Conor Cruise O'Brien, there can be no doubt but that Donegan, in his remarks about the President, was reflecting government thinking.

An important factor which has been overlooked, is, that if there had not been a reporter present at the function at which the minister spoke, we could very well have a situation where a substantial number of army officers were impressed with what Donegan had to say and began to develop his reasoning to its logical conclusion.

One thing is clear, the future is full of danger for the organised working class. The traps are being set. Can we recognise the bait?



■ Paddy Donegan - hard and thick.

THIS PAPER has carried articles in previous issues on the plight of temporary workers employed in the Ground Operations Department of Aer Lingus. We are sorry to have to report that the conditions of these men have worsened drastically over the past twelve months. This dis-improvement in conditions has taken place primarily because of weakness on the part of the union concerned - the ITGWU, No 17 Branch.

The ability of the temporary workers to put pressure on Aer Lingus depends entirely on them being properly represented by their union. The union has failed to represent their interests properly and, in fact, they have been prevented from playing any active part in the work of the branch. Over the past three years they have been denied their democratic right to a union meeting to discuss the whole concept of temporary employment.

In order to give some idea of the conditions which these workers have to endure, here is a brief outline. They are employed by Aer Lingus as loader/cleaners to supplement the permanent staff during the airline's so-called 'peak period'. The problem is that this 'peak period' lasts for seven months during the summer and three to four weeks at Christmas. Taking holiday and lieu day entitlements into account, they spend a total of nine months in the employment of Aer Lingus. This is virtually full-time employment without any of the security or privileges which come with permanent employ-

# AER LINGUS UNION FAILS TO ACT FOR TEMPORARY STAFF

ment. It is a limbo of frustration and resentment, made the more unbearable by an un-sympathetic and anti-social attitude on the part of Aer Lingus and the complete lack of support on the part of the union.

Up to 1971 there was at least something to look forward to in the sense that when a permanent vacancy occurred, through replacement or expansion, the temporary workers were guaranteed the job on the basis of seniority. In 1971, the union accepted a productivity agreement which included a clause allowing the company to dispense with the practice of filling a vacancy with the most senior temporary employee. This clause has not been put into effect yet simply because there are still temporary workers who started in Aer Lingus before the agreement was signed, and they must be employed on a seniority basis. These particular workers will be starting their seventh season of employment next March, and one will be starting on his eight. If any of these workers are lucky enough to be kept on, due to replacement etc, next year, they

will have to put in eighteen months continuous service before the become permanent. Should their service be broken for more than two weeks during that period, they will have to start back again from scratch.

Upon achieving permanency, the worker carries no part of his temporary service with him. It is time lost, never to be retrieved.

However, the area of most concern now must be those workers who started in Aer Lingus after the 1971 agreement. Their future is bleak. Not only because there is no guarantee of their ever becoming permanent, but because the company have adopted a policy of non-replacement of staff, which has been accepted without a challenge by the union. Normally, one might accept that in times of economic necessity such a policy is an inevitable method of combating a temporary loss of business. But in this case, the existence of temporary workers rules out this practice as incompatible with the basic principles of trade unionism.

The company would also appear to be hell-bent on making life more difficult for the workers. This year for the first time, temporary staff were told that their children could not use the staff travel facilities, and that they could only have one flight per season. This year also, the medical requirements have become more stringent. Workers who have been employed for three to five seasons have been told that their hearing is not up to standard and if it has not improved by next year they will not be re-employed. The irony of this, of course, is that after three or more seasons working beside commercial jet airliners day in and day out without hearing protection, anyone's ears would be affected.

Naturally, such conditions give rise to a certain militancy, relative to the very precarious nature of the employment. The company has reacted very quickly attempting to dismiss, under various pretences, those whom they thought were capable of giving leadership. These attacks on union activists have been made much more easy by the union branch's poor understanding of the fundamentals of trade unionism, and its failure to respond to the needs of the temporary employees. The main responsibility for this state of affairs rests on the shoulders of the branch chairman, Mr Eamonn Griffin. This man, who was narrowly defeated for election to the National Executive Committee of the ITGWU this year - an defeat apparently related to his attempted sell-out of a temporary worker at a Labour Court hearing prior to the Conference - has refused point blank, despite several requests and petitions over the last three years, to hold a meeting to discuss matters of particular interest to temporary employees, including proposals for improvement of conditions.



■ Eamonn Griffin - sights on higher things!

Mr Griffin has his sights set on a directorship on the board of Aer Lingus. His best chance of achieving this objective is to keep the level of involvement by members in trade union activities as low and uninformative as he possibly can. In such a situation attendance at general meetings will be low, resulting with little pressure on him and no challenge to his position. He is able to get away with this on the branch committee because it is composed completely of shop stewards, each looking after his own section. As a result the general membership have no real access to the branch committee other than through their shop steward.

If the present situation is allowed to continue it will not be in the interests of the workers, the union or trade unionism generally. The dilemma of the temporary workers can be solved with a little bit of understanding, intelligence and imagination. It will not be solved with people like Griffin acting out the role of dictator and career opportunist.



■ All is not this smooth in Aer Lingus.

CONTRACEPTION, Divorce, Nullity, Abortion, Legitimacy, Desertion, Maintenance, Separation, Property Rights, Family Courts, Adoption. Family Law deals with these things and right now in the Republic of Ireland Family Law is in a state of shambles. This bears most heavily on working class people who in Family Law areas again confront the "One Law for the Rich and One Law for the Poor" situation so typical in our society. Even this year's reform on matters of Desertion and Maintenance payments (the first updating this century) retains this class aspect because High Court actions need high-priced lawyers. So, here again ordinary people have to depend on the voluntary aid of the free legal aid committees.

At recent public meetings in Dublin City and suburbs, the Socialist Party condemned the bigotry and hypocrisy of present and past governments exemplified in the area of Family Law, and called for immediate reforms based on humane and commonsense demands to relieve some of the misery caused by the present state of affairs. But the point was made that much of the benefit of such law reform will not be achieved until the change is made from today's Bosses' Government to an advanced state run by a Workers' Government.

Overnight, Cosgrave & Co can bring in laws banning wage increases and emergency laws which are wholly unnecessary for putting down the Provos - these laws may actually increase the tacit support for the bombers and their dying cult of nationalism. Meanwhile, things like

## URGENT NEED FOR FAMILY LAW REFORM

the Family Law fiasco are ignored. The Contraception Bill attitude is typical of Cosgrave & Co who listen to old-fashioned Catholic Bishops and try to keep the ban on family planning for everyone in Ireland, whether Catholic, Protestant, Jew, Hindu, Moslem, Atheist, or whatever. They make their kind of Catholic rules for their kind of Catholic people and to hell with the rest of us, whatever our religion, who don't think the same. That's religious bigotry.

The Socialist Party wants humane, civilised and reasonable Family Law reforms, NOW. While law reforms are steps forward, we know the real gains won't arrive until the change is made from the present capitalist state - the big bosses' machine - to the Socialist State where all the workers own all the means of production. For instance, Equal Pay for Women is a reform worth fighting for, but if there are no jobs available its benefits are accordingly limited. Apart from the 110,000 registered unemployed, there are tens of thousands more women, married and single, who would take a job if they had the chance. But capitalism in Ireland will never provide that chance; where you have the small number of capitalists at the top making all the profits (wealth made by the large number of workers at

the bottom), the capitalists don't plan for more jobs, only for more profits. Profits are reinvested in the interest of the few, not the many, and the social cost of unemployment and the wasted skills and talents are ignored by the rich bosses. So, until we achieve socialism, with the economy run by the workers (not your Labour Party reformist jinglers) the fraction of willing women workers who can take advantage of equal pay reforms will remain very small.

Nevertheless, the Socialist Party calls for reform now, and two examples in the area of Family Law are contraception and divorce.

Firstly, contraceptive methods and services should be legalised and available through the health services to whoever wants them. People have the right to plan their families with the voluntary use of advances in medical science. We are not saying that contraceptives be forced on anyone, that mysterious chemicals be put in our water supply, or milk, or cornflakes. We are not against big families. We are against the old Catholic bigotry in Irish laws.

The Socialist Party wants divorce legalised for the protection of men, women and children in broken marriages. We are not forcing the destruction of the family unit. We do

not welcome the fact that some marriages do not work out. But we know that some do not and the lack of humane, reasonable divorce laws causes all sorts of misery. The latest Government manouvre to catch up on the Catholic Church's annulment game - another game which can only be played by the rich class, of course - is another hypocritical farce where Catholic rules are being made for a Catholic people and to hell with the rest of us.

This is where the Socialist Party stands on these three matters of Family Law today. Cosgrave, Lynch, Corish & Co stand convicted as hypocritical bigots in this area: legally they stick their heads in the sand, morally they stick their heads in the air.

Realising their limits under the capitalist system, we call for these reforms now. More and more today the Irish people are shaking off the narrow viewpoints of the past: they are thinking for themselves and resenting the undemocratic predominance of one church in important areas like Family Law and education. The Socialist Party exists to raise consciousness about all realms of social and economic and political reality. When enough workers (men and women) realise their real position and act on it, we will kick the Cosgraves, Lynchs and Corishes and their capitalist system into the dustbins of history.

## Paid by cheque?

TODAY, more and more workers are allowing themselves to be paid monthly, and by cheque. It must be pointed out that workers receiving their wages in this manner are in fact losing money.

Because of the rapid rate of inflation, the purchasing power of wages drops considerably when being paid monthly instead of weekly. Being paid monthly means that the employer uses the accumulation of wages for the period as extra capital for investment and, thus, makes himself an extra profit, by the way of interest gained.

Most workers paid on a monthly basis receive their wages by cheque and this is usually lodged by the company in a current account on behalf of the worker. This of course means that the worker has the extra expense of bank charges and the cost of cheque books.

Psychological propaganda, on behalf of the employers, has duped workers into believing that this system of payment increases their status within the community. All it really does is lower workers wages, increase bosses profits and increase bank business.

Workers, paid in this manner, should seriously think about reverting to the weekly cash-in-hand method, and workers offered this system should reject it without hesitation.

# LABOUR PARTY SELL OUT Heating Costs Allowed To Rise By 80%

EAMONN O'BRIEN, a member of the Ballymun East branch of the Socialist Party, speaking at a public meeting in Ballymun Shopping Centre on Saturday 27th November, said:

"During the last two weeks there has been a debate on the question of increasing the price of the central heating in the flats in Ballymun. Central to the debate are the efforts of the Community Councillors, in particular, Councillor Vincent Manning, to whip up public hysteria over the fact that the tenants in Ballymun are not paying the economic cost for their central heating.

This, of course, is true, but there is a good reason for it. More than any other single factor, the subsidised heating has been responsible for stabilising the community in Ballymun, relative to the situation which existed before the oil-producing countries increased their prices. This stabilisation has been recognised by most of the organisations - social and political - working in Ballymun. In fact, I think even the local clergy have recognised it and the church has benefitted from it. Without this stabilisation it would be impossible to even begin to tackle the social problems which are unique to Ballymun. Problems which stem, not from the people who live here, but from the high-rise environment in which they live.

The cost to Dublin Corporation of subsidising the heating is tiny when compared to the costs it would have to meet if Ballymun were to return to the 'transit camp' era of the late sixties and early seventies. The outcome of such a development would be another Keogh Square, on a massive scale.

Another 'truth' which the Community Councillors (and indeed, those Labour Party Councillors who support increasing the heating charges) should be made aware of, is the fact that not only have the tenants no control over the level of their heating, but the heating system itself is completely inadequate in providing a proper level of heat. Many, many tenants, and the number is determined simply by those who can afford it, are forced to use electric and gas heating appliances to supplement the level of heat provided by the central heating system. Also, the method of heating through the floor has caused skin diseases in

the feet of adults and, in particular, young children.

How would Councillor Manning feel if he were asked to pay the full economic cost of a heating system over which he had no control, which was inadequate and which is in some respects unhealthy? He would undoubtedly be suing for breach of contract.

I think the Community Councillors, and others, sometimes forget that local authority tenants are also rate payers. We have no wish to see the rates being increased, but we will not lower ourselves to the same level as the Community Councillors by attacking that section of the working class community which is in the process of buying their own homes.

We, in the Socialist Party, call on Dublin City Council to refrain from interfering with the heating subsidy in Ballymun. The Estate has already suffered through maintenance cut-backs. There are numerous people and organisations working on this Estate trying to improve the quality of life. Don't make our task any more difficult than it already is".

# ADVANCE

Published by the Socialist Party of Ireland



## PUBLIC LIBRARY

Excellent new facility for Ballymun



Maureen O Byrne, Chief Librarian at the opening of the Ballymun branch.

WITH THE OPENING of the new library in Ballymun has come a new and welcome source of information and general reading for the people of Ballymun and the surrounding areas.

This library is the biggest and most modern of its kind in Ireland, carrying an initial stock of 35,000 books and has an adults section, a childrens section and facilities for remedial reading.

Already it is one of the busiest libraries in the city with readers coming from Finglas, Whitehall, Drumcondra and even in some cases from as far away as Co Meath.

To clear up any confusion in the minds of people who may have doubts about whether they are entitled to join the library or not, the facts are as follows:

Any person who is a tenant of Dublin Corporation, or a private householder, may apply for and hold library tickets. That is, all rate-payers are eligible.

If a person is not a Corporation tenant or householder, library tickets may be obtained by getting as a guarantor someone who is a Corporation tenant or householder. Failing that, a teacher, doctor, etc, any person employed in a public capacity may stand as guarantor.

In the case of Ballymun Estate, which is still divided by the city boundary (pending the outcome of Dublin City Council's Subcommittee Report on the extension of the city boundary) it makes no difference, a tenant is a tenant and may therefore join the library.

TOM ROCHE of Bula and Cement-Roadstone has, as a result of recent dealings, earned himself the envy of Irish capitalists and a bitter spot in the memories of the Irish working class.

Roche received £3 million from the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Justin Keating, to allow the government to buy a share in Bula Ltd, of which Roche is a part owner. Another of the owners, Mr Wymes also received £3 million. The irony of all this is that it was not Roche and his pal that discovered the minerals in the Navan area but the Soils Division of An Foras Taluntais - a state body - with taxpayers money in 1968. Bula "claim-jumped" Tara and bought out the land where the minerals were discovered. Now, the state,

## CLAIM JUMPER

has at enormous cost, bought back from these parasites only part of what it originally discovered. Again, it is handing over taxpayers money to Roche and his pals.

But, Roche's escapades do not end here, now he has gotten away with permission to construct a private toll bridge across the Liffey, from East Wall Road to Ringsend, and charge 20p for cars and 40p for trucks for the use of the bridge.

By way of face saving, the developers of the bridge have agreed to hand over the bridge to the Dublin Port and Docks Board after 21 years. This will in any event give Roche and his pals several years profit after the completion of the bridge.

## SOCIALIST PARTY ECONOMIC PLAN SEND FOR FREE COPY

### ECONOMY IN CRISIS



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ALL THE KNOWLEDGE accumulated by mankind, belongs to mankind. Therefore all forms of education should be free and accessible to all members of society. As this is not so, the conditions necessary for it must be created. These conditions can only be achieved by taking the path of socialism. All achievements of science, culture and art should be the property of all the people. All the doors of education should be open to everyone, regardless of sex, nationality, religion or social position. As the policy of the propertied class is to divide and rule, then this opening of doors can only be realised through socialism whose priority is one of unity and mutual benefit.

Education should be an important part of social development which provides the worker with a creative approach to his work and also equips him with a sound world outlook based on science and love of his fellow man. Education is not a personal matter for the individual but the concern of society as a whole. General education should teach the pupil the fund-

## KNOWLEDGE

amentals of the humanities, science and technology which are essential for the all round development of man.

As education is connected to the economic structure of society, it cannot progress without the development of that economic system. The aspirations to a progressive development of education can only materialise if such steps are taken to ensure that the path the working people take to free themselves from the clutching arms of exploitation, ignorance and hunger, is the path that leads to socialism.

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