

ADVANCE

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UNITE TO FIGHT WAGE CURBS & INFLATION



THE REJECTION of the proposed national wage agreement by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions represents a failure for the Government and the employers in their plans to contain the workers in restrictive procedures of wage control. It also reflects the

strong spontaneous resistance of the rank and file trade unionists to the lowering of their living standards which has taken place over the past year.

However, the militancy and the will to struggle of the workers must be channelled into political action if gains are to be made in the present circumstances. One of the first obstacles to be overcome is the lack of leadership and a worked out strategy for working class action in the immediate future. It is time for a new upsurge of working class politics. The recent bye-election in Dublin South West, in which the Parliamentary Labour Group lost thousands of votes and only got their candidate elected with the help of transfers from Fine Gael, showed that those representing an alternative working class programme did not gain the confidence of the working people. Obviously, a new and more credible strategy must be presented to the people.

The Socialist Party is prepared, together with other left and progressive forces, to bring into being a militant mass movement which can go on the offensive against the wage-control and unemployment-creating policies of the Government. This movement would use any form of struggle advantageous to the working class, combining political action with trade union action on the economic front. The trade unions and the left and progressive forces could find unity on the basis of the following demands:

- (1) For a programme against inflation with the introduction of legislation to prohibit further price rises and more government subsidies on food and other essential items;
 - (2) For a programme against unemployment with the introduction of a shorter working week without loss of pay, the starting of a massive house building programme, expansion of the home market through raising wages and pensions, the introduction of a lower age for pensioned retirement;
 - (3) For a programme for economic independence for the Irish Republic with nationalisation of all natural resources, nationalisation of the banks and financial institutions, democratisation of all public enterprises;
- These demands, challenging monopoly rule and representing the interests of the majority of the people, backed by the combined weight of the trade union movement and the left political forces can lead the way out of the present crisis without imposing the hardships demanded by Cosgrave and Corish.



● The DCTU march against Unemployment.

UNEMPLOYED MARCH

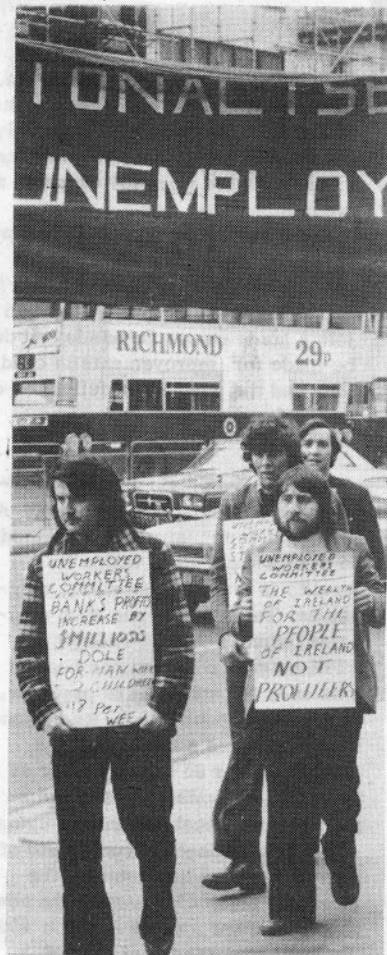
THOUSANDS OF trade unionists marched through the streets of Dublin on 15th June last to protest against the continuing high levels of unemployment. Marching behind the banner of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions, which represents over 400,000 organised workers in the city, the workers, employed and unemployed both, demanded effective government action to curb unemployment and inflation.

This DCTU march in association with the Unemployed Workers Association is seen as a significant beginning to a campaign of mass action in defence of workers' standards of

living and the right to work. In the context of worsening unemployment and inflation in the Irish Republic this trade union action has gained political importance. The Republic's position as the most economically backward of the EEC countries means that we have to suffer the worst of the general crisis of capitalism and the ineptitude and political bankruptcy of our capitalist country is more exposed than ever. The opportunity arises therefore for the trade union movement, supported by workers political organisations, to take certain initiatives on the economic front which can gain mass support and force the government to move in a progressive

direction.

Following the Irish Transport and General Workers Union Conference and its support for progressive economic policies there is a basis for organising within the Irish Congress of Trade Unions a movement for political action on the demands for a planned economy, nationalisation of resources and the bank monopolies coupled with demands for reducing unemployment through reducing the working week and state involvement in large scale manufacturing industry. Action on these lines is required now as all the signs show a worsening of the crisis in the months ahead.



● Unemployed Workers Committee picketing the Bank of Ireland.

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● Workers dismantling the pre-fab at Old Bawn Road.

YOUTH CLUB FIGHTS BACK

AFTER THE closure of 'Doyle's Hall' in Tallaght, a considerable amount of controversy has arisen within the community regarding the lack of recreational facilities. Scarcely six months has passed since the people of Tallaght were deprived

of their main community centre and now, once again, they are faced with a similar situation.

Situated on the Old Bawn Road, facing St Maelruan's Park, there existed a vacant pre-fab church which residents thought would be suitable

for a community centre and which would cater mainly for the youth. The Maelruan Park Youth Committee approached the owners (St Dominick's Priory, Tallaght) and asked for their permission to use the former church which had stood empty for some considerable time. They were refused permission on the grounds that "Archbishop Ryan had offered it to the parish of Lucan" and that it was "unsuitable for a community hall because of its bad structural condition". Workmen, however, engaged in dismantling the pre-fab contradict this statement; adding that it was structurally perfect and, beyond all doubt, could very easily have been used as a recreational facility of some kind by members of the community.

Incensed by the lack of facilities in Tallaght, the Maelruan Park Youth Committee placed pickets on the premises and have also written to the Corporation demanding that the site be acquired by them for the purpose of building a modern centre. Further forms of action have been planned by the Youth Committee and local residents to ensure that the site will not be used for anything other than a recreational centre.

The South-West Branch of the Socialist Party supports the Maelruan Park Youth Committee in their demands and urges all other groups and residents to do likewise.

TALLAGHT'S LACK OF AMENITIES

PLANS HAVE been lodged with Dublin County Council by a consortium of builders to build another 3,715 houses at a rate of 700 per year in Tallaght, County Dublin.

Tallaght at present has a population of about 30,000, the vast majority of whom have moved there inside the last few years.

During this rapid development no

plans to provide recreational services were realised with the exception of a swimming pool in one of the many estates of Tallaght.

This new development now arouses justified fears that the position will not change and that this new estate will receive the same treatment as all the other preceding estates. It is alleged that schools, a shopping area and open ground will be made avail-

able. This was promised on all previous plans but failed to materialise.

The lack of planning in Tallaght is indeed largely to blame for another incident in Tallaght. The privately owned Community Hall, the old Doyle's Hall, was leased to a democratic committee at £30 per week, and then withdrawn. After massive opposition and court injunctions the hall re-opened under the control of new operators who say they are paying £100 per week.

There can be no doubt that this is deliberate exploitation of a large section of the Tallaght community by the owners of the hall, who are urged on by their greed for more profit regardless of the real need of the community.

What Tallaght needs is recreational facilities, built in conjunction with the new estate in Fortunestown, and that a central recreational area be provided in Tallaght to include sports complex, library, halls cinemas, and at least play areas in all estates.

BELGARD PUB EXPLOITATION

IN THE 'Belgard Inn', Tallaght, women workers are paid the miserable sum of 50p an hour (8 - 12pm) and £1 an hour after midnight. For this they have to work not only as bar maids but as waitresses as well. Their job consists of serving drinks and four course meals as well as cleaning up.

Where there is trade union organisation the average pay would be anything from £10 - £15. As well as this they would have holiday pay, insurance, continuity of employment, etc. But in places such as the 'Belgard Inn' where

the management employ non-union, casual staff they avoid these expenses. The women they employ are mostly housewives trying to make ends meet, and are glad to work for even 50p an hour.

This situation is repeated in many areas throughout the country. An obvious step forward for workers in these situations is to organise and join a trade union. Demands can then be made for improvements in conditions and the payment of full rates of wages for the job.

LOCAL MAGAZINE

ONE OF the most effective ways of keeping a community well informed on day-to-day events within its locality is through community magazines. Tallaght has one such magazine, simply called 'Tallaght'.

The magazine, which has been in existence for some years past now, is a monthly publication. Its content is good and has a fairly average circulation for an area as large as Tallaght. Articles and news information are topical and wide ranging.

Now that Tallaght is comprised of many new sprawling estates, the magazine also helps to keep the new people in these estates in touch with the local atmosphere of the old village.

NEW ARTS COUNCIL FORMED

THE STEERING COMMITTEE of the newly formed Tallaght Arts Council (TAC) is drawing up a directory of who is doing what in the field of the Arts in the Tallaght area.

TAC proposes to put anyone interested in the development of the arts in touch with one another and with the general public. It will also help form a diary of events in the fields of Music, Pottery, Painting, Sculpture, Weaving, Writing, 'Still' and 'Movie' Film, Dancing and Theatre. TAC feels that the exercise involved in the production of a Directory and diary will be a "positive first step in encouraging people to express themselves through Art in its widest sense".

TAC plans a practical exercise for the autumn of 1976. It will establish and promote the First Tallaght Arts Festival. It will be a three day event that will grow into something big over the years.



REMARK OVERHEARD on a dole queue - "Michael O Leary's reduction of unemployment plan is to set up the heavy pedestrian traffic". a task force in Dublin Corporation's

THE EXCLUSIVE Jury's Hotel at Ballsbridge has recently installed a toilet at a cost of £15,000. It has soft lighting, dark terrazzo tiling, a magic eye flush system activated when you walk through an invisible beam and an electronically operated hand towel dispenser. Jury's managing director, Michael McCarthy says it is the "only marketing oriented toilet in the country".

If you are passing that way be sure to drop in and splash your boots.

CHRISTIES, the London auctioneers recently sold an exclusive bottle of claret wine for £8,000 - that's £1,000 a glass.

FATHER Neal Shannon, a priest in Australia has said that it is better for a woman to die if she is raped rather than "sully her soul with immorality".

If rape is immoral for the victim is murder a sin for the corpse?

A PATIENT with a nervous disorder was referred to a psychiatrist in Mercer's Hospital. Part of the first conversation went like this -

"Religion?"
"Atheist".
"No wonder you are the way you are".

ANOTHER SACRED COW under attack is the myth of the Irish mother being the best in the world.

In a paper on mental health, psychiatrist Prof Ivor Browne said, "The Irish mother, especially the mother of many, will say she lives for her children. I put it to you that the woman who lives for her children also lives through them, and is, in fact, the worst possible parent for a child to have, creating dependency and never wanting to let go".

OVERHEARD at a bus stop recently - "Isn't it a pity that CIE didn't put up some speakers at the stops and shelters so that we could listen to the music and chat. After all, we spend more time waiting than travelling on the buses".

AMONG THOSE debunking nationalist myths is historical writer, Liam de Paor.

"Does it make good sense here and now in the late twentieth century, in a nation of mixed blood and even more mixed culture, to think of the twelfth-century Gaelic Irish as somehow representing 'us' and the Anglo-Normans (whom we all must number among our ancestors) as representing 'them'?"

Paving Department to repair the steps of the labour exchanges worn out by the heavy pedestrian traffic".

LATEST DEFECTION from the "United Ireland Socialist Republicanism" is the historian C Desmond Greaves. At a recent seminar he said "At least in the 26 Counties, the government structures which exist are independent and would allow for the establishment of socialism. Mind you, I am not saying you would find the going easy, but it would be possible".

Thank you Mr Greaves, we never expected it to be easy.

ON 22 MAY, the Irish Times carried a heading on its front page - "Jobless total drops".

The story read - "Unemployment dropped by six last week to 114,246".

"AN ENCOURAGING word, small gifts and the human touch are more important to most secretaries than a pay rise, according to a West German poll".

This report was carried in 'Reality' the Redemptorist orders' magazine as a guide for Irish bosses.



MISQUOTE of the year. At the ITGWU annual conference, Senator Fintan Kennedy used a line from one of James Connolly's songs to chide those who make what, he would consider, too great demands. Whoever writes the Senator's stuff obviously didn't tell him that Connolly was in fact being sarky, and directing his fire at time-servers like the senator. Here for the benefit of Fintan is the full verse:

"Be moderate" the timorous cry,
Who dread the tyrant's thunder,
"You ask too much, and people fly
From you aghast in wonder".
Tis passing strange, and I declare
Such statements cause us mirth,
For our demands most moderate are:
We only want THE EARTH.
From 'Songs of the Workers' published by the Socialist Party (1975).

WORLD VIEW



ARGENTINA COMMUNISTS FIGHT ON

THE REACTIONARY coup which took place in Argentina in March last has temporarily squashed the democracy in that country but the progressive forces are continuing the struggle by underground means, led in the main by the Communist Party of Argentina.

Just before the coup took place, in a last despatch during the period of semi-legality, we received a report from the CPA on the situation in the country;

1. Argentina is going through a situation of National emergency, characterised by political instability and the continuing deep economic crisis. The domestic and foreign markets are restricted, there is a galloping rate of inflation; real wages and salaries are descending abruptly; unemployment is rising; the most parasitic forms of capital and smuggling are booming; the technological gap separating us from the great powers is widening; not only scientists and technicians emigrate but also hand labour; dependence grows more acute; the defence of our frontiers is dangerously weakened.

And added to all of this, the crisis in the sphere of government, which is drifting from the moment in which - after the death of Peron - Lopez Rega and his collaborators substituted the programmatic guidelines that spoke of democracy, economic independence and social welfare, for the guidelines of the International Monetary Fund. The national situation has grown worse in direct proportion to the forsaking of the programme of 1973.

The de-stabilising of the country is taking place according to the most refined and perfidious technique of

the CIA. In order to deepen it, the two wings of the ultra-right have acted and act simultaneously: the wing embedded in the Government, led from afar by Lopez Rega; and the wing of the 'gorillas' of diverse types that act from outside the Government. The former wing opens way to the conspirators that lie in ambush awaiting the right moment for the 'Pinochetist' coup. The CIA, the Pentagon and the US Department of State, constituting the 'invisible empire' work with both wings.

The oligarchic and imperialist reaction in hiding in 1973, now openly shows its claws. Such was the case of the 'strike' proposed by the large estate and livestock owners under the slogan "down with controls".

Death still stalks the streets and the roads; homes are profaned: the Triple A (Argentine Anticommunist Alliance) and other similar groups continue committing horrendous crimes with impunity. Couplist statements proliferate. Anti-Communist and anti-Soviet propaganda grows stronger, directing its edge also against all Democrats and Patriots.

The ultra-right considers that the de-stabilisation creates favourable conditions for attempting the assault on power.

Should the fascist coup succeed, the general crisis shall become even more serious. In that case, Argentina shall run the risk of becoming the 'minor partner' of Brazil, herself a 'dependant partner' of the USA.

The ultra-right considers that it could obtain the consensus of the middle strata of the population for its projected coup, by abusing the follow-

ing options: 'Order or Anarchy', 'Morals or Corruption'. Nobody must be fooled: the true option is between Democracy and Fascism, between Liberation and Dependence.

The main enemy of our National sovereignty is US imperialism, basic funder of fascism, in Latin America. The Southern Cone, the Patagonia, the Southern Atlantic, the Antarctic, are key positions for US imperialism's worldwide strategy, that it tries to control by any means whatsoever. US imperialism covets the oil reserves in Southern Argentina, the scarce minerals and the immense possibilities of the West Pampa. US imperialism fears that the people should reconquer the capacity for National decision on decisive aspects of our economic financial policy and of our foreign policy.

Argentina is a country fenced in by reactionary US puppet dictatorships. Washington and its multi-national corporations have anointed Brazil as the key country of South America. Through Brazil, Washington and its multi-national project their menacing shadow over South American countries, and particularly over our own.

The hand of the right lies at the origin of terrorism. The guerrilla seeks to be an answer to that terrorism. It is a false and dangerous answer, as in fact it carries water to the mill of coupism.

Never and in no place whatsoever has the guerrillist voluntarism been a promoter of a true revolution. We have always stated our stand against the infantile ideas of the ultra-left and its adventures; and against the idea that National and Social liberation can be the work of violent actions isolated from the will of the people. The deepest source of victory, Lenin taught, and live practice confirmed, is the organisation of the masses, the actions of the masses.

Although the coup has cut us off from direct contact with our comrades in Argentina we can pledge them our continuing concern for their welfare and our unshakeable solidarity with their struggle. Along with the gallant comrades of neighbouring Chile who are involved in a similar struggle against fascist reactionary forces we feel sure that the Argentine Communists and working class will see victory and the eventual overthrow of the puppets of imperialism who make war on their people.



CYPRUS

Turkey & NATO

Defying UN

Resolutions

THE TALKS which resumed recently between the USA and Panama on the 51-mile Panama Canal are expected to be long and difficult.

The US election campaign has given a new twist to the negotiations, with Ronald Reagan, President Ford's main Republican rival, describing the talks as a 'betrayal' of American interests.

It is, however, the interests of Panama rather than of the USA that are at stake.

The canal zone, a substantial part of Panama, is controlled by the Pentagon. There are 14 US military bases with 12,000 troops there in one of the few remaining colonies in the world.

The USA claims that the troops are there to 'defend' the canal, but it is obvious to all that there is no potential enemy to defend it against. This 'defence' is really camouflage for the Pentagon's military and strategic objectives in Latin America.

The Fort Gulick military school in the canal zone, for example, trains Latin American soldiers for punitive operations against their own people.

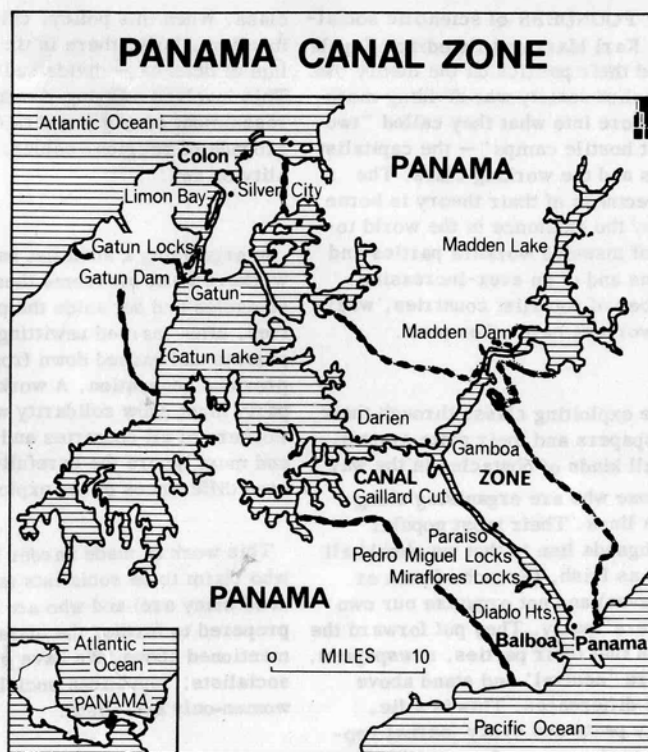
The humiliating agreement whereby the canal was taken by the USA 'for all time' was imposed on Panama way back in 1903. Two years ago the two countries signed a 'Declaration of Principles' by which the 1903 agreement is to be replaced by a new one, which limits American use of the canal to a specified period, and ends US jurisdiction over Panamanian territory.

PANAMA

Now it has become clear that Washington wants to force Panama to agree to a new version of US control of the canal, perpetuating its presence in an independent country. The Panama Canal issue has long transcended bi-

lateral relations and become an international problem.

Support is growing in Latin America for Panama's just demand that the canal should be returned to it.



IT IS NOW two years since the CIA planned coup and also the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Imperialist interests have successfully kept the island of Cyprus divided through the help of the Turkish Government. Turkey originally used the excuse of the coup led by Nicos Sampson, the former EOKA gunman, to 'protect' the Turkish Cypriots from the so-called threat of the Greek Cypriots. But time has shown the facts in a different light. Sampson's EOKA coup had no support from neither the Cypriots nor the Greek people. This was made abundantly clear when Sampson was arrested by the Greek authorities and charged with using armed force against the state and usurping power. Sampson could not find a lawyer in Greece who was prepared to defend him. When Sampson was taken from the court a crowd outside shouted "Sampson Traitor" and "You have destroyed Cyprus".

Meanwhile the island of Cyprus is becoming the 'unsinkable aircraft carrier' for American imperialist interests in their attempts to dominate the Middle East. The only way to a solution of Cyprus' problems is made clear in a statement from the Progressive Party of Working People of Cyprus

(AKEL). "The people of Cyprus appeal to all peace loving peoples of the world to exert even greater pressure on Turkey and NATO imperialist circles supporting Turkey so that UNO resolutions providing the following may be carried out:

- (1) All Turkish and foreign troops to be immediately withdrawn from Cyprus.
- (2) All countries to respect the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-alignment and demilitarisation of Cyprus.
- (3) All refugees to return to their homes and property under conditions of safety.
- (4) Missing persons who are still captive to be let free.
- (5) Meaningful and constructive talks between the representatives of the two communities and under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the UN to be conducted freely on an equal footing with a view to reaching a mutually acceptable agreement on the constitutional issue of the island.
- (6) The independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, nonalignment and demilitarisation to be guaranteed by the Security Council of the UN or by other reliable and effective means".

SQUATTING AND THE HOUSING CRISIS

SOCIALIST PARTY POLICY STATEMENT BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN

JOSEPH
DAVIS

THE AMOUNT of publicity given to the problem of squatting in recent months has done little justice to the overall situation. A general impression is given that two camps only exist; one which condones squatting regardless of circumstances, and the other which is opposed to squatting regardless of circumstances. Taking a closer look at both camps will indicate however that each side is divided by both hard-line and moderate thinkers, thus making up four groups. Discussion on either hard-line viewpoint is simply not necessary.

Unfortunately the moderates, both defending and opposing squatting, have taken a very limited approach to the situation and each defends their point of view by taking an emotional stance which results in an injustice being done to some segment of Dublin's homeless.

Those opposed to the eviction of squatters have, by taking a stand on the absolute principle of opposing the eviction of all homeless families, failed to pay due respect to those families who have already patiently awaited their turn on the housing list. There is a tendency to ignore the possibility that some young couples may have consciously chosen squatting as a way of queue-jumping. The fact that many families have voluntarily ceased squatting in recent weeks may be considered to corroborate this viewpoint. There has also been a clear absence of proposals which put forward an efficient method of granting priority to families with special circumstances and ensuring that all families, particularly those on the waiting list, are well informed of this method. Proposals of this nature would, if implemented, immediately reduce the emotive arguments being currently used and those families who continue to squat could be seen as wrongfully laying claim to priority.

Their cause will not be served by squatting, but by uniting with all families who are inadequately housed to publicise the real problem which exists. Young couples forced to live temporarily with relatives, sharing Corporation accommodation, should actively support their local tenants associations and assist the National Association of Tenants Organisations (NATO) to put more pressure on the Minister for Local Government.

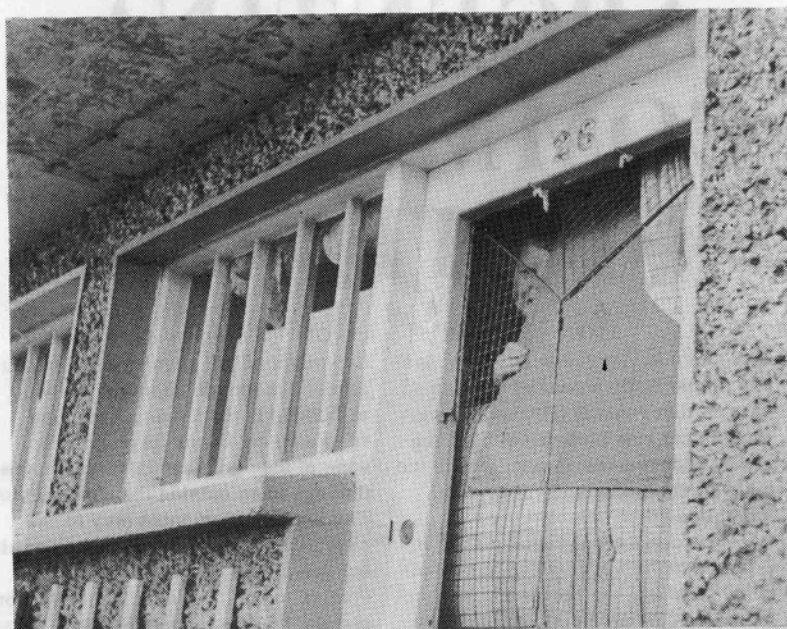
Equally, young couples forced to live in substandard private accommodation and paying exorbitant rents should actively support the Dublin Flat-dwellers Association for the same reason.

On the other side, Dublin Corporation as a local authority is impotent. It is currently faced with a very confused problem built up by the political hypocrisy of successive governments. Politicians deliberately ignored squatting in public property five years ago, treating it as a safety-valve preventing an explosion of public dissatisfaction at the state's neglect of its responsibilities in housing. Now that such squatting is threatening to have a snowballing effect, Dublin Corporation is forced to take some preventive action. It does not have the structure necessary to enable it to solve the present problem.

Qualifications for receiving priority on the housing list seem to be arbitrary, and are definitely a well kept secret. This is to suppress an immediate demand which the Corporation simply could not cope with. The result is a secret system which is so obviously open to abuse that even officials of the highest integrity cannot hope to defend it. So the bungling goes on and on in a vicious circle. Officials then turn to the small minority of extreme abuses within the number of families who are squatting, as a means of distracting public attention from the real issue.

The Socialist Party rejects the views of both moderate groups, however much they may argue that their solution is more humane and 'the lesser of two evils'. Any acceptance of continued delay in tackling the real problem of inadequate housing is a sign of hypocrisy.

The real cause of this situation will not be found by any analysis of recent trends or bad policies on the part of Dublin Corporation. Attempts in that direction only display a complete lack of understanding of political economy and the responsibility of the state. The purpose of a 'free enterprise' economy is not to control capital but to ensure that it has a free rein. The construction industry under such a system largely depends on property and development speculators having a market which will entice them into building at a high profit for themselves. Because there are large numbers of the working class who would never be able to afford homes at the price demanded by speculators, local authorities have been set up to provide for a part of that need. Construction by local authorities is then subsidised by the state from a pool of public funds obtained by taxing the working class. If they effectively catered to the full needs of the working class, the demand on the private sector would disappear. As ours is a 'free' or 'private enterprise' economy, the only control the government will exert will be to maintain the demand on the private sector by ensuring that local authority housing is inadequate.



To evict or not?

The Socialist Party states that the provision of homes and proper amenities is far too important an issue to be left in the hands of speculators and therefore calls on the Minister for Local Government, Mr James Tully, to take some control over the construction industry in the interests of the people rather than in the interests of the profiteers. This should be commenced by declaring a housing emergency and implementing the following:

- (1) compulsorily purchase all the necessary building land in Dublin at the current use value as recommended in the Kenny Report;
- (2) begin a major building programme catering for the needs of all local authorities, not stopping short at providing only dwellings, but including the necessary amenities;
- (3) utilise all available habitable accommodation not in regular use to substantially reduce the present waiting list;
- (4) introduce an impartial points-system for the allocation of dwellings ensuring that all applicants are aware of the qualifications;
- (5) legislate against discriminatory practices by private landlords and subsidise those prospective local authority tenants, enabling them to temporarily use such dwellings at a rent comparable to similar accommodation provided by local authorities;

- (6) legislate against unsuitable premises being rented as dwellings by private landlords, forcing them to either bring their property up to modern standards or sell it to the state at its current use value;
- (7) institute local authority tribunals to control private rental in the public interest as expressed by local democratic organisations.

These demands are made as interim measures which are entirely justified by the present housing problem alone. Their implementation will also have a beneficial effect on the economy as a whole, reducing the present level of unemployment and raising the level of consumer demand which in turn will make existing jobs somewhat more secure. The high cost of such a programme must be accepted because of the present dire circumstances, but even this could be reduced if local authorities were to be made directly responsible for the whole operation. This could cut out large profits usually made by private contractors, and those profits re-channelled to provide low-cost construction. Finally, if an honest effort is seen to be made to solve the problem quickly, there would hardly be any public outcry if a general amnesty was declared for that small number of families now facing eviction.

UNITY AND CLASS STRUGGLE

THE FOUNDERS of scientific socialism, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, based their politics on the theory that capitalist society was dividing more and more into what they called "two great hostile camps" — the capitalist class and the working class. The correctness of their theory is borne out by the existence in the world today of massive workers parties and unions and of an ever-increasing number of socialist countries, where the workers have taken over.

The exploiting class, through their newspapers and their state system, put all kinds of obstacles in the way of those who are organising along class lines. Their most popular propaganda line is that we should all unite as Irish, (French, Dutch or whatever) and not organise our own workers' party. They put forward the notion that their parties, newspapers, etc are 'neutral' and stand above class differences. This is a lie. Every party and every journal represents the views of a particular

class. When this policy, called nationalism, fails, there is the second line of defence — divide and conquer. This involves stirring rivalry and resentment among workers on grounds of religion, colour, nationality or sex.

In organising a socialist party, the workers must overcome these obstacles and set aside the prejudices, often learned unwittingly from parents and passed down from the previous generation. A workers' party must show solidarity with workers of all countries and races and must ignore the carefully fostered differences of the exploiters.

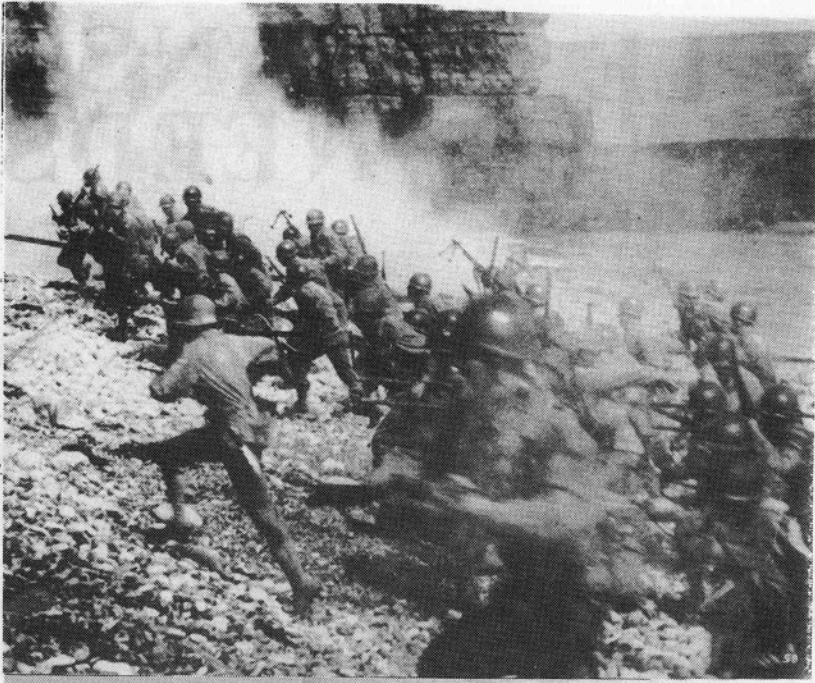
This work is made harder by those who claim to be socialists (and indeed many are) and who are yet prepared to further the divisions mentioned above. We have protestant socialists, republican socialists and women-only socialists.

The Socialist Party of Ireland is building a party which will unite all those suffering from capitalist exploitation. The Second National Congress passed the following clarifications to the party programme: "The policy of the Socialist Party, stated simply, is: to organise the working class in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland; to lead the struggle by the working class to win political power, and at the same time to work with all democratic and anti-monopoly forces to win and retain democratic freedoms and to fight for maximum unity against nationalism and sectarianism".

"The Socialist Party recognises the existing reality of the two states in Ireland. We see no useful purpose being served furthering divisions along the lines of ethnic or national origin and will work to bring about a consciousness in the working class of the main division of society — that is the class division between the capitalist class and the working class".



In the interest of free enterprise



WORLD PEACE

VITAL ISSUE OF OUR TIMES



THE New Stockholm Appeal is a call for mass action to stop the arms race. It is launched by the World Peace Council representing peaceful and progressive forces throughout the world. It focuses on the arms race as not only threatening mankind with nuclear annihilation, but also as the main obstacle to making the process of detente permanent and irreversible. The continuation of the arms race seriously endangers the political detente thus far achieved.

After the Second World War, when imperialism unleashed the cold war, peace often hung by a thread. Both the forces of war and aggression relied on the belligerent show of force or threats. They refused to recognise post World War II realities, and did their utmost to prevent the peoples from choosing their own path of social progress and national development.

The new international correlation of forces which emerged after the Second World War — as a result of the appearance of a number of socialist countries, the rapid process of decolonisation and the upsurge of the national liberation struggle — coupled with certain other constructive developments in the international situation — now presents the new possibility of permanently eliminating the danger of war from the life of mankind. It similarly produces the opportunity of fundamentally reconstructing international relations on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence.



THE NEW STOCKHOLM APPEAL

The victories for peace and detente have created a new international climate, new hopes, new confidence, new optimism among the peoples.

Peace can be defended. A world of peace can be built.

The unity of the peace forces has the power to overcome the obstacles which still remain along the road towards a new world, from which aggression, exploitation and domination, hunger and poverty will be banished for all time.

The principal obstacle to making the process of detente irreversible is the arms race.

The arms race still threatens our planet with nuclear destruction. With detente this threat has begun to recede. The arms race keeps the threat alive and endangers detente itself.

The arms race weighs heavily on the shoulders of vast masses of peoples in many countries of the world — who are faced with an ever-soaring cost of living, inflation and economic crisis. It robs the peoples of a great part of their wealth and resources.

Detente has opened up fresh prospects for victories in the struggles for a new international economic order, for the rights of the peoples to the riches of their own soil. It is a weapon in the fight for ending the plunder by monopolies and multinational corporations.

The arms race, the stockpiles of weapons in the hands of the imperialists, incite and encourage the forces of aggression, militarism and fascism, colonialism and racism; detente is a vital factor for strengthening the efforts in all lands for national independence, justice and social progress.

Detente creates new possibilities for the solution of the most urgent international problems of the day, for the liquidation of the hotbeds of tension and conflict; the ending of the arms race would open the road to mankind's goal: prohibition of all nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, general and complete disarmament — a world without arms.

World public opinion has greater responsibility and greater power than ever before. It can turn the tide against the armaments profiteers, the cold warriors, the enemies of mankind.

The World Peace Council appeals to all governments and parliaments, all peace and other movements, to political parties, trade unions, women's and youth organisations, to religious, social and cultural bodies which are engaged in endeavours for mankind's advance, to join hands in a great new worldwide offensive against the arms race.

To make detente irreversible — STOP THE ARMS RACE

To move forward rapidly towards a New International Economic Order — STOP THE ARMS RACE

To defend peace and build a new world — STOP THE ARMS RACE

TOGETHER for banning all nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction !

TOGETHER for general and complete disarmament !

TOGETHER for the calling without delay of the United Nations World Disarmament Conference !

NAME

ADDRESS

COUNTRY

FOR A BETTER FUTURE

FIGHT THE ARMS RACE



After collecting signatures mail to: WORLD PEACE COUNCIL, LONNROTINKATU 25 A, 00180 HELSINKI 18, FINLAND or; Socialist Party of Ireland, PO Box 806, 23 Parliament Street, Dublin, 2.

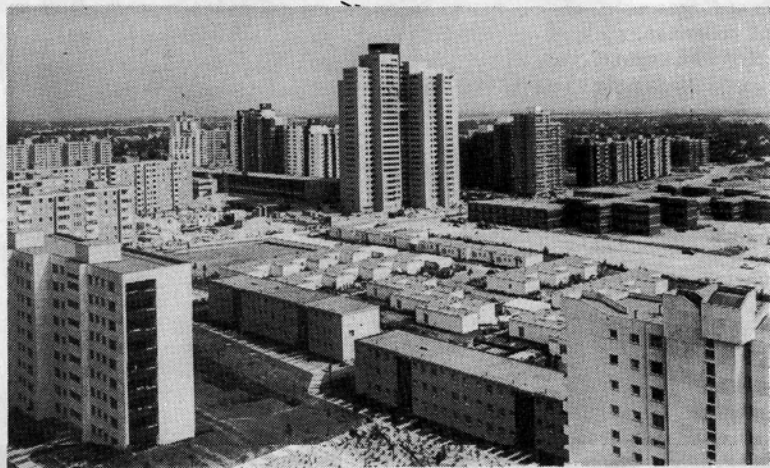
SOCIALISM

news • views • progress

★ **INTERGRATING THE HANDICAPPED** The new residential district at Berlin-Buch in the German Democratic Republic is a complex like many others. The thing that is different about it is that 48 of the flats were handed over to severely disabled people. The project was the result of an exchange of information between doctors, staff members from Berlin's City Council, the Ministry of Health, architects from the Design Institute for Medical Buildings and the housing enterprise concerned. Wide doorways in the flats and a larger-than-average hallway ensure that all rooms are accessible to the person in the wheelchair. Taps, electric sockets, sanitary installations must all be at such a height that the handicapped person can reach them.

The new tenants recently attended a meeting where they reported on their experiences to representatives from the Clinic, state bodies and architects. One improvement was suggested: certain features of the interior design — the height of handles and taps on the bathroom fittings, for example — should only be finalised when it is known who is going to occupy the flats, as individual requirements vary considerably. This suggestion was taken up immediately for in the coming year flats are to be provided for handicapped people in many other parts of the GDR — both in new blocks of flats and also in older buildings that are being converted. The new tenants have already elected their tenant's committee and made contact with their neighbours.

It is a policy of the socialist government to actively involve all citizens in the running of their estates.



★ **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN USSR** No one in the USSR is forced to be a believer or an atheist, to observe religious rites or not to do so. All this is a matter for the conscience of each citizen. The USSR Constitution, Article 124 says: "In order to ensure freedom of conscience to citizens, the church in the USSR is separated from the state and the school from the church. Freedom of religious worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda is recognised for all citizens". Patriarch Pimen of Moscow in a recent article has said "All religious associations, including the Russian Orthodox Church, are on an equal status in relation to the state, everyone of them is self-governed. Soviet legislation prescribes strict responsibility for the slightest infringement of the civil rights of the religious part of the population, including the priesthood. Believers of all denominations, just like priests, are citizens of the Soviet state with full rights, taking an active part in the country's political, economic and social life".



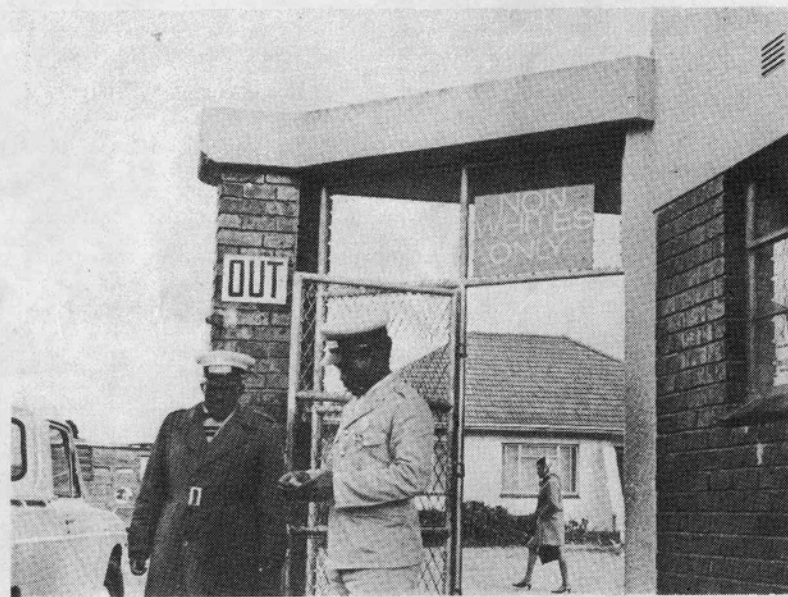
★ The first Aeroflot Elyushin jetliner transitted Shannon recently and Aer Rianta Director, Mr J G Ryan, made a presentation of an Aran sweater to Chief Pilot, Captain Vladimir Uskov. Also pictured is Mr Michael Guerin, Aer Rianta's Administration and Services Manager. A presentation of Waterford crystal was made to the aircraft's chief hostess. Aeroflot will have transitted some 100 flights through Shannon by the end of the year.

STRUGGLE AGAINST APARTHEID NEEDS SUPPORT

THE WORLD was shocked by the murders committed by the South African police in Soweto and other parts of South Africa. Along with a feeling of rage most people also felt frustration at their inability to do anything positive to help.

However, there is work to be done here in Ireland which can have a positive effect on the liberation of the peoples of Southern Africa.

The Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement has, for more than 12 years campaigned to isolate the apartheid regime internationally. It believes that maximum pressure must be mounted to ensure that public opinion in Ireland and throughout the world is fully aware that the apartheid system, based as it is on racism and exploitation, constitutes a grave threat to world peace. There can be no peace for the people of Africa and the world until apartheid is finally ended.



If you want to know what is happening in Southern Africa today and what you can do to assist in the struggle for freedom, join the Anti-Apartheid Movement. AAM members receive newsletters detailing current activities, annual reports and through the Annual General Meeting take part in

determining the future work of the movement. For information write to: The Secretary, Anti-Apartheid Movement, 20, Beechpark Road, Foxrock, Co. Dublin.

TERROR IN WEST JORDAN



APARTHEID'S twin sister, Zionism, is blooming in the Arab lands that Israel has seized.

Homes are bulldozed, fields and orchards destroyed, demonstrators jailed.

Today the west bank of the Jordan and the city of Jerusalem are arenas of raging terror.

On 30 March the police opened fire on a peaceful demonstration in Galilee, killing six and wounding many more Arabs. More than 300 Arabs were arrested, their 'crime' a demand that the Israeli occupation of their country should end.

Already more than 30 Israeli villages, bristling with weapons, have been established in the occupied areas, but this is just a first step. Already more than 100 such settlements have been planned.

The driving out of the Arabs from their homes is a flagrant violation of human rights. Even the US representative in the Security Council had to condemn the setting up of the West Bank villages.

That did not, however, stop him from vetoing the otherwise unanimous Security Council resolution denouncing Israel's actions.

And if anyone still doubts whether the UN Assembly denunciation of Zionism as a form of racism was correct, the outrages on the West Bank surely provide all the evidence they need.

Foreign Culture In USSR

ALLEGATIONS in the West that the Soviet people are ignorant of western culture and the USSR does not want to promote genuine international cultural exchanges are shown up for the nonsense they are in the journal 'International Life'.

"No country in the world has ever carried out such extensive programmes to bring the cultural values of other countries within the reach of the masses," it declares — and it provides the facts to prove that claim.

In the USSR, it points out, today some 12 million people are studying English, 11 million German and 2½ million French.

No fewer than 129 western plays are at present being staged by Soviet theatres. How many Soviet plays have you seen presented in Dublin?

Performers from abroad gave more than 6,000 concerts in 92 Soviet towns last year.

An even more telling statistic: From 1966-75, the USSR bought 61 American feature films, while the USA bought only 25 and gave them very limited showings.

Every year the USSR buys some 50-60 western feature films and many TV programmes, but very few Soviet films or TV programmes are ever seen in the West — despite the fact that they win many festival awards.

In recent years the USSR has published 28,000 books by foreign authors, translating them into 76 languages spoken in the USSR.

This year alone some 1,500 are being translated from 40 languages and published in total prints of more than 60 million copies.

VIEWPOINT



Answer: I think its a question of the old story "you had jam yesterday and you'll have jam tomorrow, but you can't have jam today". In other words they'll never be able to remove unemployment from any country as long as they are dependent on maximum profits, so therefore they'll have to have a reserve of labour as a big stick to hold over the militants in the trade union movement.

AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHN CLARKE OF U.W.A.

DURING 1975, various political organisations engaged in campaigns of one sort or another, with the general intention of making people aware of the seriousness of the unemployment problem. The Socialist Party covered the city with huge colour posters which declared "103,000 UNEMPLOYED, Capitalism the Cause, Socialism the Cure". Throughout the spring of 1975, the party mounted a massive 'Fight Back' campaign outside the labour exchanges in Dublin, collecting the signatures of 7,000 unemployed men and women in support of a petition demanding and proposing positive action to combat the high level of unemployment. In July the petition was handed over to a representative of the Minister for Industry and Commerce at a meeting between a delegation from the Socialist Party and senior civil servants from various government departments and the IDA. Throughout the winter of 1975, unemployed members of the Socialist Party made life that bit more difficult for Government Ministers by turning up at meetings and seminars at which they were due to speak, and publicly challenging the Government's explanation of the economic crisis. It was against this background of political action that John Clarke, now secretary of the Unemployed Workers

Association (UWA), came to the conclusion that there was a crying need for an organisation with no political connections to organise and pressurise in the interests of the unemployed. He was of the opinion that although the activities being engaged in by the different Left organisations were commendable, it was unlikely that political parties would be able to attract the broad support needed if the trade unions were to be mobilised in support of the unemployed. He approached a wide range of organisations asking for donations of paper, and then asked the Union of Students in Ireland to provide printing facilities, which they did. Armed with his leaflets he began the long task of distributing them around the labour exchanges and, in January 1976 his work was rewarded with the setting up of the UWA at a public meeting held in the premises of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union in Marlboro Street.

On the evening of 15th June last, the UWA and the Dublin Council of Trade Unions (DCTU) organised a meeting at the corner of Abbey Street, followed by a march to Dail Eireann where a delegation handed in a petition with many thousands of signatures protesting against unemployment. It was an impressive display, with nearly 2,000 trade unionists taking part including many prominent trade union leaders like Michael Mullen and Denis Larkin. But what now? Where does the UWA and the trade union movement go from here? ADVANCE invited John Clarke into our office to give his views on the subject:

Question: The UWA has been in existence for about six months. What kind of success has it had in that period?

Answer: Well, we have only been in existence for, say, five months. Our tactics and strategy, as I saw it anyhow, was to involve the trade union movement in the unemployment problem, and that meant that we were

just a ginger group to ginger up the whole trade union movement into doing something.

Now what we have done is this; we have got the DCTU interested in the unemployment problem to the extent that they have set up this committee. And although they were a bit reluctant to carry it on from the 15th June demonstration, we have definitely got them to accept a report-back meeting on Monday 21st June and we think we can get them to carry on with it. The next phase of our struggle as I see it, is to involve the ICTU and I think that can only be done through the various trade union councils, with the DCTU giving the lead.

INTERVIEW BY

Question: It is generally accepted that the situation which exists today is in many ways different to the one which gave rise to the unemployed marches of the fifties. Have you found the changed conditions much of a hindrance to the objectives of the UWA?

Answer: Well, I would say unemployment is more of a political issue now because in the fifties there was this recession, but inflation wasn't hitting them as high, and the fact that a man could still get £3 on the dole meant he would still be able to meet his commitments outside, in relation to buying commodities and that. But here we have a situation where a single man may be getting £8.50 or £9 on the dole and when he goes out to meet his commitments to the shops, he just can't meet them. The whole idea of private industry at the moment, is to pass on the higher cost of the raw materials etc to the consumer.

Question: If the UWA were to succeed in organising the unemployed, what do you feel would be its maximum effect?

Answer: I didn't see the UWA as an organiser of the unemployed really, as I said, I saw them as just an association which would ginger the trade union movement into organising the unemployed, and what we would be, would be a link between the unemployed and the active trade union movement. At the moment, I can't see that we have definitely linked all the unemployed up with the trade union movement. Some of the people that were on the demonstration on the 15th June, I would say, were unemployed people, but they fell in with their trade union banners, which is fair enough.

Question: What action could the present Government take to deal with unemployment?

Answer: Well, in the demands that we have put forward for example, there is the stopping of the export of capital, which could be one of the immediate actions they could take, and by pouring some of this money back into the economy we could start working on some of the immediate tasks that need to be done, like street repairs and clearing the slums, getting the building industry back to work, and things like that.

Question: There have been a lot of statements from Fianna Fail lately to the effect that (1) under a Fianna Fail government unemployment would not have reached the crisis proportions of today, and (2) that if voted back into government, Fianna Fail would immediately tackle the task of creating jobs. What is your reaction to such statements?

Answer: I think Fianna Fail, like Fine Gael and the Parliamentary

Labour Party, are linked up with monopoly capital and they can't avoid it. They do what they're told and the whole tactics of international monopoly capital is to attack the working class' standard of living and to bring down the workers to a low pitch by first of all disorganising them through unemployment, then reorganising them on a basis where they would be prepared to accept a lower standard of living through lower wages. Fianna Fail would have been under the same orders as Fine Gael or the Parliamentary Labour Party.

E. O. FEARGHAIL

Question: The term 'full employment' means different things to different people. To capitalist economists it would seem to mean that unemployment would be brought down to an 'acceptable' level of thirty to fifty thousand. To scientific socialists the term means employment for all those who are capable of working. What does it mean to the UWA?

Answer: I would say that it means to the UWA that unemployment should be removed altogether from the vocabulary, it should be a foreign word to a healthy form of society. We all know that capitalist governments need a reserve of labour as a big stick to hold over any militant organisations of the working class.

Question: Do you think that the statement issued by the EEC Commission recently to the effect that they intend to do away with unemployment by 1986, is a realistic objective for capitalist governments?

Question: Quite a lot of employers representatives have attacked the unemployed and the principle of pay-related benefits, claiming that a rich and easy life is the lot of many of the unemployed. What is your reaction to these charges?

Answer: As I stated before, I say that most of these people - working people - would rather be at work. OK, maybe some of them are getting £35 to £45 per week, but with the present day cost of living I would say that a person would need that, whether he was working or not, to keep things going. Any man that's getting anything under £25 per week isn't living at all, he is just existing.

I would say in relation to benefits and the social welfare system, its an outmoded system. For example, a single man like myself would be getting £8.90p per week, and would pay £5 for his rent, therefore he would be left with £3.90p to keep himself going, which is an impossible task these days. To give you an example, I went into a butcher's shop yesterday and I asked for two lamb chops, which were about an inch square and five inches long, and I was told they would be fifty-five pence. Well, I just had to refuse to take them. I had to tell him to put them back in the window because I could not afford them. And then you have young single girls, say from eighteen onwards, some of them would be getting £7.50 and others I know are only getting £6.50 a week. Well, those girls would probably have to pay the same rent as a single man.

They just can't meet their commitments - nobody on the dole can.



● Ann Kilmartin (left) and Susan Kennedy in a scene from the play.

"SAME SWEAT, DIFFERENT PAY", a play on equal pay, produced by Team Workshop has had a very favourable reception from trade unionists. The play has been staged at the Project Theatre, at Liberty Hall and in work places. It runs for about 45 minutes and is ideal for lunch-hours. It can be presented in canteens or any suitable office space. The Socialist Party will be happy to pass on enquiries from shop stewards or other interested parties to the organisers.

WORK PLACE THEATRE

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 public ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange following the abolition of capitalist ownership.



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

BALLYMUN SUMMER PROJECT

FOR THE SECOND year running the Summer Project has come to Ballymun Estate. The purpose of this venture, according to a leaflet being distributed to children in the local schools, is to arrange to keep children active throughout the summer holidays and that the people themselves should run it.

The leaflet is, to say the least, both vague and misleading as to who is behind the project and what its purpose really is. At a meeting in the Holy Spirit School, Silloge Road, the answers to these questions became quite apparent. Joe Duffy, a representative of the Catholic Youth Council and one of the two full time employees for the period involved (both appointed by the CYC) informed the meeting that the Summer Project had the official support of the Catholic Youth Council, Dublin Corporation and the Department of Education, with Dublin Corporation contributing a grant of £350 to the project. He also stated that it was intended to carry on in the area working to promote full time clubs after the holiday period was over.

When some people at the meeting referred to the point in the leaflet where it says that the tenants themselves would run the project, and to do this democratically would have to elect a committee, Mr Duffy replied that this was not necessary. The Summer Project did not work that way and anyway the word committee to

him was a dirty word. The project would be based on volunteers only.

Mr Duffy remarked that he would have to see the hall committee of the Holy Spirit School to obtain the use of it for the venture, even if it meant paying the nominal fee. One tenant objected to having to pay any fee as the hall had already been paid for by the peoples' taxes. This tenant proposed to attend the meeting with Mr Duffy, but Mr Duffy declined the offer saying that all present should attend, (attendance 32). All present were then invited to attend a further meeting to be held the following night in the CYC Head Quarters, Arran Quay. Mr Duffy got somewhat carried away towards the end of the meeting when a tenant asked about affiliation procedures to the CYC. He became acutely elated, clasped his hands, and grinned from ear to ear at the prospect. It was asked by another tenant, "was the Summer Project a front for a recruiting and interference drive in Ballymun Estate by the CYC?" The meeting closed. Yet some questions remain unanswered.

Why does Dublin Corporation not give grants to democratically elected tenants associations, such as the Ballymun Estate Tenants Association? Why does Dublin Corporation give grants to a movement which is known to be both sectarian and divisive?

Perhaps its because the latter are 'nice people' and the former are 'rights people'.

ADVANCE

Published by the Socialist Party of Ireland

July August



POPPINTREE FORM TENANTS ASSOCIATION

NEARLY 70 people attended a meeting in Balcurris National School on the 24th June, for the purpose of setting up a tenants association for Poppintree Estate. The meeting was called by Eamonn O'Brien of 58 Knowth

Court who leafleted the estate advertising the meeting, and was attended by the representatives of the Ballymun Estate Tenants Association, Andy Bolton (Secretary) and Larry Byrne (Editorial Board).

After an opening address by Eamonn O'Brien, Andy Bolton explained to the meeting how tenants associations operated and outlined the advantages of NATO membership.

Following discussion, a proposal to elect a committee was taken and accepted by the meeting. A committee of 20 was elected and it was agreed that it would report back to

the general body in six months time presenting a progress report and a proposed constitution for amendment and ratification. It was also agreed that the Poppintree Tenants Association would affiliate to NATO. The officers of the new committee are as follows:

Eamonn O'Brien, Chairman.
Tom Lindsay, Secretary.
Paul Mullen, Treasurer.
Stephen Ryan, PRO.
Mary Conch, Asst Secretary.
Mona Hickey, Asst Treasurer.
Noel Lynch, Trustee.
William Manning, Trustee.

BALLYMUN ADVISORY SERVICE

OPEN EVERY SUNDAY MORNING
FROM 11am-1pm.

1B Silloge Road.
OR
5A Shangan Road.

A Limit On Speeding

SPEAKING on the RTE Radio programme 'Here 'n' Now', Eamonn O'Brien, Socialist Party candidate, in Dublin North County, stated that the 30 miles speed limit should be enforced on the roads of Ballymun Estate. This would be a necessary first step to the eventual introduction of a 15 or 10 mph speed limit.

"When the open plan lay-out of Ballymun and its high population density are taken into consideration, a 10 mph speed limit on the roads of the estate is not an unreasonable demand. However, as is often the problem in Ballymun, it is not a question of what should be done, but who should do it.

"The danger posed to the children of the estate is very serious. It is a fact that on certain roads of the estate motorists can zoom along at 60 mph and not break the law. The responsibility for the introduction or alteration of speed limits lies with the Minister for Local Government, at the request of the relevant local authority. A boundary line divides the area between the City Council and the County Council, but Dublin County Council has not taken all of the roads in charge," he said.

It is the intention of the Socialist Party to pursue this matter and

should we fail to get satisfaction within a reasonable period of time, it is our intention to engage in effective protest action, in the interests of all the tenants.

RENTS UP...??

IT IS well known that when the agreement to freeze rents between the National Association of Tenants Organisations (NATO) and the Minister for Local Government expires (July) all local authority tenants will be threatened with massive increases.

The recent plan by the Minister to cut back on maintenance services and increase the heating charges, in some cases by 200%, leaves no doubt as to the serious nature of the threat posed.

To offset this threat, a strong tenant voice will be needed. This the people of Ballymun have in the Ballymun Estate Tenants Association. It is not unknown for a Minister for Local Government to divide and weaken such a voice. The setting up of the Central Community Councils was one such attempt. What new plan could the Minister have up his sleeve?



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QUALIFICATIONS: Must be members of the non-exploiting class.
EXPERIENCE: Previous political experience is not necessary, as continuous training and education is given.
CONDITIONS: Interesting work, conducted in a comradely atmosphere with an opportunity to make many friends. No wages.
COMMITMENT: Those applying must be prepared to carry out a fair share of the work to be done. Must accept the Party's Constitution and Programme and adhere to all democratic decisions taken.
REWARD: A better life for all.
HOW TO APPLY: Fill in the coupon in this paper or contact any member of the Socialist Party.

HIGH-RISE LIVING UNDER SOCIALISM

A PROGRAMME for schools, recently shown on RTE about life in the Soviet Union, showed a high rise housing scheme similar to Ballymun and made some comparisons of the two. There are big differences in the lifestyle of the working people in the flats in the two countries.

For instance, in the USSR flats lived the families of doctors, dentists, lawyers, paying the same rents as their neighbours who may work in the steel factory, and receiving just about the same wages from the state. The narrator pointed out that unlike Ballymun where workers sometimes have to travel right across the city to their jobs, in the Soviet Union

workers are housed as close to their job as possible to cut out wasted time which can be better spent at home with his or her family.

And for the children a playground right outside their front door with swings, slides, sand pits, adventure playgrounds and, most important of all, these playgrounds ran the same length as the flats, so children could be seen right from their own homes. The bottom row of the flats consisted of shops, nurseries, clinics and practically every amenity necessary to make life easier for the families living on these estates. These things cannot be said of Ballymun. Playgrounds, as such, do not exist, there is not one doctor living in the estate,

and working people often leave their homes at seven in the morning for work and do not return until seven or later at night due to the distance they must travel to their work. Ballymun was built to live in and sleep in with no thought for social activities whatsoever. Such are the comparisons between the real Ballymun Estate and a Ballymun Estate in the Soviet Union

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