The sectarian battles which have swept the streets of Belfast in recent weeks are a serious warning as to the dangers which exist of a bloody civil war. On June 1st three men died in the Park/Ardoyna area. These deaths are only a small token of terror that deteriorates even further.

These people who, together with John Hume, dismissed the Protestant backlash as a gigantic blight on the home of the events of the past six months. Since February 15th when 60 years old Catholic ex-serviceman, Bernard Rice was gunned down on the Crumlin Road, murder squads have been active in Belfast's Catholic ghettos. The increasing number of these 'honor' killings has made the backlash a reality at least in a subdued form.

Now in the face of the continued Provisional campaign of bombings and shootings, the growing militancy of thousands of Protestant workers trying to transform the present 'soft' backlash into a nightmare of bloodshed on a massive scale.

INTRODUCING THE IRISH MONTHLY

This is the first issue of the MIGHTY Irish Monthly. The great success of the MIGHTY Irish Edition in England has made it clear that there was a real need for a paper which put forward a clear and consistent Socialist view of the bloody events in Ireland.

In future issues we will be covering every aspect of the struggle of the Labour movement against British imperialism and their cohorts, North and South of the border. The mounting number of strikes in Southern Ireland has only one index of the conditions which will be facing the whole of Ireland.

In the North, we have pointed out that a bloody sectarian war would throw the Labour movement backwards. We have consistently argued and campaigned for a united Catholic and Protestant working class for the Trade Union Defence Force; for a struggle against the monstrous unemployment, bad housing, poor social and educational services.

Only class action on a Socialist programme involving the masses in the struggle will do. The Labour movement of the Irish Labour movement will deal with British imperialism and capitalism, and put the death blow to the richly deserving.

We will be carrying articles on the everyday life and struggles of the workers, and in detail the current situation in Ireland. We will be carrying a regular international news section and analyses of the struggles of the British workers and the international Labour movement.

Letters from readers are welcome. But to do all this, we need cash. In the next issue we will be announcing plans for the building of a MIGHTY Irish Monthly Publishing Fund. But even before this, we ask our readers to dig deep and send us a donation right away. We need both our circulation and our accounts. We urge all our readers to take out a subscription to the paper or send in a donation.

For a socialist programme!
The attempted assassination of two members of the Democratic Party in 1976, together with the rise of the militant Basque movement in the North of Ireland, has led to a growing sense of crisis among those who support the idea of independence for the North. The result is a growing sense of disillusionment with the IRA and a move towards support for the idea of a united Ireland.

The IRA has been weakened by a series of setbacks, including the death of its leader, Michael Savage. The group has also lost some of its support among the working class, who have become disillusioned with the group's failure to achieve its goals.

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George Wallace, the gathering from Alabama received in the Delta equality with the new northern and southwestern states, and the quietness of the South. The crowd, however, seemed to be patient and understanding.

Workers support Black Nationalists

The workers, who have been in the forefront of the black nationalist movement, held a rally on the site of the old courthouse in Montgomery, Alabama. The rally was attended by thousands of workers, who sang songs and gave speeches. The Workers Support Black Nationalists (WSBN) was formed in 1968 to support the black nationalist movement. The WSBN has been active in the South, where it has organized workers in the textile, rubber, and steel industries.

KICKBACKS AND BRYDES

Little wonder that the "little man" grasps his teeth in rage at the taunts of his masters, at the helplessness of his position, at the perpetration of every ill. It is he, the worker, against whom the terrors of the world are levied. He is the one who has to bear the brunt of the blackness of the world. He is the one who is destined to suffer and to die.

Eugene Debs stood his "Red Express" campaign train in 1912.

The Pacific Coast dockers have found the longest dock strike in American history. 5,000 workers in San Francisco, Oakland, and Portland have staged a work-to-rule strike against the General Motors management with young workers of 24 and under playing the main role in the recent three years as a "Red Express".

Workers rose to the occasion, with the Workers Support Black Nationalists, and fought back against the forces of reaction.

In this week's 20th of the Republic, workers are living on an average weekly income of less than £5, and this is a time when consumer prices have risen by 10% in the past year (Food prices have gone up by 11% and house prices by 14%).

The Economist has pointed out that the target of 8,000 new jobs last year was not reached, and that a number of workers have been laid off. The Economist's forecasts of the unemployment figures for the years have been increasingly pessimistic.

If the Labour leaders, north and south, were to fight jointly on the question of workers' exploitation even at this late hour, they could unleash a class war capable of transforming the situation. Only through the creation of a united Workers Action to fight sectarianism, coupled to a socialist programme for the working people, can we win the working class, who will then be able to provide the necessary basis for a socialist society.
On April 14th the leaders of the ICTU called on workers in the Electricity Supply Board to prepare for a break the strike workers strike shows how far they have departed from what their proper role should be.

Consequently is made up of representatives of the affiliated Trade Unions and its function should be to co-ordinate the struggles of the T.U. movement and the working class as a whole. This co-operation and leadership is more vital than ever during this period of increased activity on the working class.

All these unions have increased intensity through the holding down of wages, unemployment, redundancies and rising prices and devaluation. The working class have shown their determination to fight. This is reflected in the strike of the ESBI strike workers, with the threat of further strikes in that industry over redundancy, the sit-down of 40 workers in the small town of Navan, and the strike of workers in Stoney, the token strike of council workers in the outside area, and dozens of other strikes on a national wide scale. Along with these there are the rent strikes in the South over rent increases and the continuing rent strike in the North against Intermittent without trial.

WORK OR FULL PAY?

In 1970 the number of working days lost through strikes in the 20 countries was the greatest since 1937.

Instead of the vague and sporadic pickets in the past, the ICTU must draw up a programme based on the needs of the working class, our right to work or full pay, our right to a living wage and not a breadline, and while doing so they must remember that their function is to represent the interests of the working class and not to act as arbitrators between the workers and the bosses.

This sees the issue of the fight over the trade union movement. All ICTU officials should be elected in free elections and the trade union movement will be subject to recall at any time by the trade union members.

On the question of the rate of pay for full-time officials: this must never exceed the average wage of the skilled workers within the union. When the TU leaders are on the same wage as the men they represent they will have a greater incentive to fight more energetically for their own members.

When faced with redundancies, Congress must stand firm on the call for no redundancies - work sharing on full pay.

If the bosses 'cry poverty' they must demand that the company books are opened to the inspection by the trade unions. A campaign must be launched for a 60 per week minimum wage tied to the cost of living. They must also fight on the issue of exorbitant rents pointing out that, for example in N.I., more than £1 in every £1 paid in rent is paid to the banks.

This reflects that the house building agencies in N.I. have to borrow money to pay the interest on money previously borrowed to build houses. They must demand the immediate cancellation of this debt and the nationalisation of the banks along with the house building industry as the only way to provide low cost housing in sufficient quantity.

Irish Troops advance against Demonsration against Special Courts

The complete abolition of leadership by the ICTU, not only on economic issues but also on political issues, is obviously in relation to the struggle in the North. While the working class in N.I. are being crushed by British imperialism and the workers in the South are oppressed by the economic domination of British imperialism, the leading business of the organisation remains silent claiming to be 'not political'! Instead of their usual condemnations of violence, they should be giving a class lead.

Their idea of building class unity seems to be to say nothing that would upset their own position. Class Unity can only be achieved by driving up a programme which relates to the needs of all sections of workers. On defence, a crucial issue at present, they must come out for the right of any working class area to defend itself. The task of congress must be to co-ordinate this defence by the formation of a Trade Union Army.

This must be linked to a social programme to fight unemployment, redundancies, poverty wages and the housing shortage. Such a programme must have the support of the working class in N.I. along with the Southern working class and common struggle against British imperialism.

The weight of the struggle over the N.I. crisis and the national question along with the overthrow of the capitalist system crisis the working class are being offered, and the Trade Union movement as the co-ordinating body of the Irish working class.

NATIONALISATION

They must face this task by converting the ICTU into a working class body and the N.L.P. and South must join up with the ICTU and take up and expand the call of Brendan Hurley, chairman of the Northern Committee of ICTU for public ownership of the Harland and Wolff yards. A programme of nationalisation of the electricity, steel and transport companies, Major Industrial Monopolies and national wealth of the country. Only by implementing such a programme can the forces of the working class and Native Capitalism be overthrown and the conditions created for the socialist transformation of society.

WHO OWNS IRELAND?

It is a well-read question from James Connolly, but let us examine it again in relation to the Ireland of today: "If you remove the cover of the capitalists, you will see green fields stretching to the horizon. The Republic your efforts will be in vain. England would still rule you. She would rule you through capitalists..." When Lenin was resigned in 1917, the slogan "the land to the ploughs" was put forward. But when Lenin became Premier he headed the Soviet government. The state owned all the land in the country, the factories and the means of production. The peasants were dispossessed their fields were expropriated and Lenin simply became another bond of exploitation.

The Fiaona Fail peers are always around when there is big money to be made. The New Ireland Company, whose board is adored with Ryan of Fiaona Fail and Irish Life Assurance Co., one of whose directors is Paddy Lemass, has been backed by the British Treasury in its bid for the Ulster Bank and the Northern bank are controlled by the National Westminster and Midland Bank groups respectively. The Irish Central Bank is the slave of the City of London. Sections of the working class in the South join up with the ICTU and take on the capitalist order.

"...Through the whole array of commercial and individualist trade unionism they have done their best to destroy this country and watered with the tears of our mothers and the blood of our martyrs..." British imperialism reigns in the 26 counties through the agency of Fiaona Fail. The task of fighting monopoly capitalism and fighting Fiaona Fail cannot be overestimated and the real goal is a Socialist United Ireland.

FINN GANEY

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LANDLORDS

"...through her landlords..." The Earl of Portmouth owns the town of Kinsale in West Cork. The Earl of Cork owns two thirds of Cork. Other aristocratic landlords such as the Marquis of Headfort and Lord Downought are maintained by the sweat of Irish workers and small farmers through 'ground rent'. Not all the landlords of Ireland are English peers. Haughey owned extensive property in the Dublin area and Donough O'Malley extracted 'ground rent' from tenants in Limerick.