

# ADVANCE

Published by the Socialist Party of Ireland

No 24 November — December 1976 / 10p

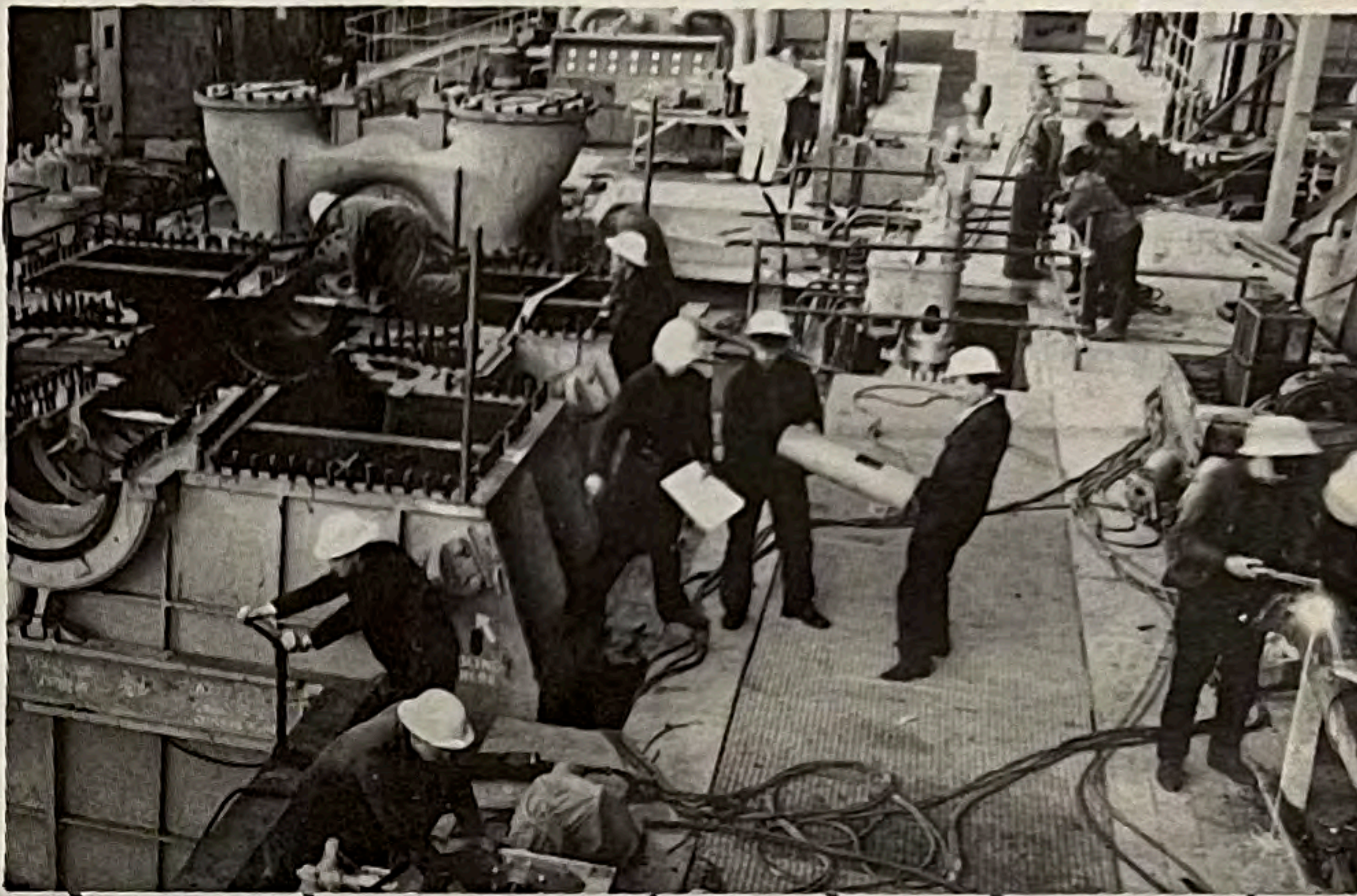
## Expand state sector into productive industry

AFTER 55 YEARS in existence, the Irish capitalist state has proved its failure to meet the needs of the people. Over 100,000 unemployed, high prices and inflation, the lowest wage levels in the EEC, housing shortages and limited social services, provide graphic evidence of this failure. Prime Minister Cosgrave, a leading spokesman for Capitalist interests has publicly admitted this failure in recent speeches. But the solutions he proposes to the current crisis are the same old failed policies of the present and past capitalist governments. In doing this, he dogmatically rules out any possibility of structural changes in the economy which would allow a new initiative by state financed, democratically controlled enterprises, to develop the economy in the interests of the majority of the population.

There are state enterprises which have had commercial success such as Bord Na Mona and Aer Lingus, but they are prevented from expanding into any area which might lead to competition with 'free enterprise' and most of their profits go to the banking monopolies as interest on loans and loan repayments. The role of the Public Sector, now

as in the past, has been one of support and service to the existing Private enterprises. This is done mainly in the form of providing services such as transport, as in CIE and Aer Lingus, or, in the provision of industrial services, such as electricity by the ESB, all of which are generally found to be unprofitable but essential to the running of the state. Others, and probably less obvious services rendered by the Public Sector, are bodies such as Foras Forbatha and the Institute for Industrial Research and Standards (IIRS), which carry out research and design for the private sector. AnCo, which trains workers for the private sector. One could, indeed, look at the whole educational system as being geared to that end. Fior Teoranta and the IDA which respectively bail out ailing private home industries and engage in attracting foreign investors with massive grant aids and tax holidays. Coras Trachtala,

- Strict public control of grants
- Nationalise resources
- End free movement of capital



which finds export markets for the private sector and the Industrial Credit Corporation which provides low interest loans.

The most urgent and basic demand now is that recognising the failure of the Private Sector, the Public Sector go on the economic offensive.

This requires a dramatic switching of its operations away from the previously described role of subservience and support to one of taking the initiative in all the major spheres of the economy, production, distribution and exchange. Required in conjunction with this would be the destruction of the negative attitudes towards this sector, which has been encouraged by Government and Private interests to this day. This change of attitude and the development of a positive philosophy towards the Public Sector could be brought about by a high level of worker participation and democratic control within this new and expanding service. On behalf of the interests of the majority of the population we put forward the following programme of developing as much economic independence as possible for the Irish Republic with the further prospect of progressing to full socialism at a later stage.

(1) Consolidation of the existing state enterprises with rationalisation of overlapping responsibilities where necessary, and the introduction to these enterprises of full democratic representation of the workers.

Full public ownership and democratic control of all energy and natural resources and the industries based on them.

Building of secondary industries under public ownership to process these raw materials at home.

Nationalisation of the banks, insurance companies and all other credit and finance institutions. This will ensure availability of capital for these developments and the control of capital moving in and out of the country.

The development of much closer levels of co-operation between the existing state bodies engaged in research and design and the nationalised productive sector of the economy.

(2) Planned expansion of the home market to provide full employment, higher and continuously improving living standards.

The establishment of a standard 35 hour week for all workers and a minimum national wage.

Guaranteed job security for those employed in the newly developing public sector.

Guaranteed annual or six-monthly increases in pensions, unemployment benefits and all social security payments.

Provision of housing as a public enterprise with the nationalisation of all building land used for public development purposes.

Strict price control of all goods and services.

Complete reform of state taxation with the emphasis on taxing heavily those with most wealth. Exemption from income tax of all those earning less than the national average. Abolition of VAT.

Guaranteed prices for agricultural produce and state incentives for improved methods of farm efficiency and the use of land. Price controls on farm machinery, fuels and fertilisers.

Provision of high-standard health, education, recreation and transport services throughout the state.

## PEACE CAMPAIGN

THE PEACE CAMPAIGN continues to develop in both Northern Ireland and the Republic. This campaign is welcomed by the Socialist Party and other progressive forces who see that that any development towards peace and a normalised bourgeois democracy in Northern Ireland now is preferable to the blind alley of terrorism fired by nationalism and sectarianism.

As well as from the mass of people the campaign also gets support from a cross-section of blatant hypocrites. These people, while giving the campaign their support, maintain their original sectarian or political positions. Positions which are in themselves a source of continuing fuel to the violence.

The most blatant of these became obvious on 13th of October last, when the Irish Catholic Bishops conference which was being held at Maynooth issued a statement supporting the peace movement. The statement referred to "barbaric crimes of ruthless men and women,

the touching scenes as the people from the Falls Road and Shankill embraced with tears in their eyes". The bishops then go on to explain how in modern society "tiny groups of people with closed minds and a perverted moral sense can hold whole populations up to ransom".

At this point it is difficult to be sure who it is exactly the bishops are referring to, the provos or themselves, for they fit the picture as much as any other group. Who has struggled so consistently over the past fifty years, and indeed before, for the maintenance of the sectarian divisions? Who has worked so hard to ensure that the children of different religions did not go to the same schools? Who was refusing religious rites to some children in Derry recently because they went to a state school with Protestants? And who has so often attempted to wreck marriages because the

partners were of different religions? Was it not the bishops who have put obstacles in the path of every attempt to introduce progressive family law, on issues such as contraception and divorce, because it did not comply with their brand of "perverted moral sense"? Is it not the bishops and their minions who have control of the educational system and give a great deal of time to the indoctrination of the children under their 'care' on the superiority of their particular brand of superstition? When the peace marchers have friends like that, who needs enemies?

Other levels of hypocrisy spring just as easily from the politicians of both opposition and the government in the Republic. These also give great verbal support to the peace movement while taking no political action which would isolate the nationalists. This political action which they could take would be to drop the territorial claims on Northern Ireland by the Republic as contained in Articles Two and Three of the Constitution. This they do not have the political guts or the will to do. Instead, they confine themselves to negative action such as the introduction of more and more repression.

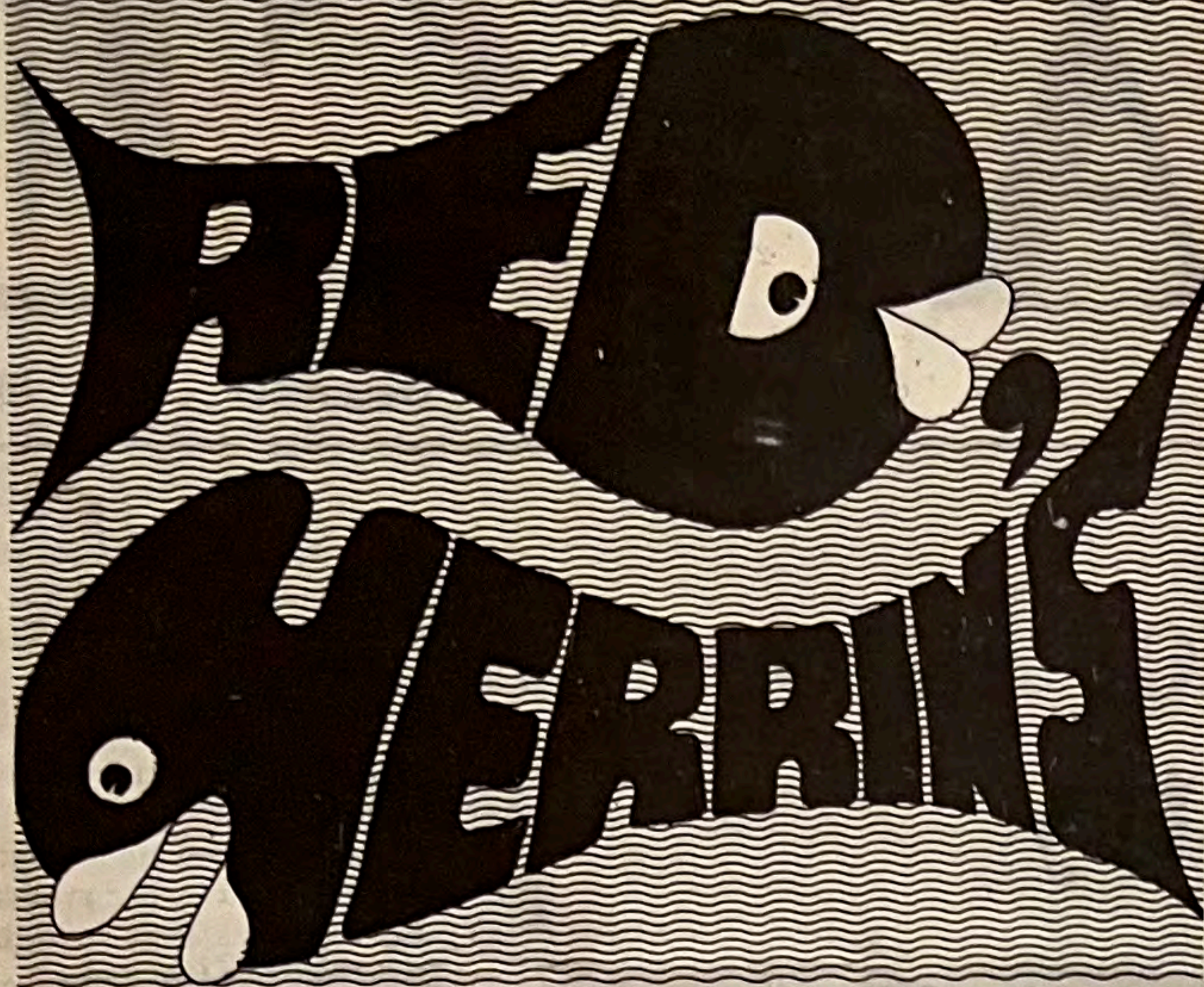
The Socialist Party does not say that it was the bishops nor the nationalist politicians who originally caused the problems which beset Northern Ireland today. We realise full well that these sectarian and territorial divisions are a legacy of British imperialism. When she withdrew politically from the Republic fifty years ago she left behind a divided territory, a divided working class, and the conditions to keep them that way. It must have been obvious that the republicans would

continue the nationalist struggle in some form, and the bigots on all sides would continue to feed sectarianism, thus ensuring that a united working class struggle was kept far away. This of course ensured that imperialism and all other forms of capitalist exploitation could continue undisturbed.

However, to return to the peace movement. As it has already stated, the Socialist Party welcomes its continuing development even though its shallow nature is fully realised. By this is meant that it has no recognisable political base or objective, simply a bland statement for peace with no further content. But in the present very backward state of affairs in Northern Ireland it is only such a movement which will be able to gain the broad base of support necessary for its success. That success would be the weakening of the nationalists will to fight and the protestant reactionaries and minimising their support. This in turn would strengthen the hand of the 'moderates', the bourgeois democrats, allowing the return to a normal capitalist political democracy.

Only from this position is it possible to visualise the development of a united working class in Northern Ireland and a return to genuine class politics. And it is only this force, a united working class within either state of the territory of Ireland which would be capable of defeating British imperialism and all forms of monopoly capitalism. Then could begin the construction of a socialist state or states. When this stage of development is reached then the whole question of territorial divisions will have become irrelevant and they would eventually wither away.





IN A BROCHURE for a Polish poster exhibition, Richard Eckersley of Kilkenny had this to say:

"The Polish designer works in a different environment and for different masters, and is allowed sufficient authority and self-respect to sign his name to his work with conviction. There is nothing of this in Ireland or Britain, where agencies prescribe an unremitting diet of anaemic photography and crass jingles as pap for the mass market".

MICK O'LEARY'S latest plan to reduce the growing unemployment is to raise the school leaving age to 35.

'HIBERNIA' magazine, once an independent journal, but now looking more and more like 'An Phoblacht', carried an advertisement recently for 'volunteers' to go to racist Israel.

ON THE 13th of October, a conference was held in London. The object of the conference was:

"To provide an up-to-date and comprehensive review of the tax planning and avoidance currently available to Directors".

One of the sessions dealt with: "Tax free benefits. Saving higher rate tax by splitting or spreading income by using insurance schemes or trusts. Making the most of your wife and family. Share option and share incentive schemes"

So, now you know how your boss can claim that he never makes any profits.



IAN SMITH, the Rhodesian racist leader has defined a "civilised" man as one who is "educated, owns property and has a stake in the country". Hm m m, 95% of people in Ireland are uncivilised.



ONE BLACK MARK in the ITGWU winter education courses is the notice for the beginners course: "Particularly suitable for female members and for less experienced members". Women's equality is still a long way off.



■ BYE! BYE! HENRY.



THE SOUTH AFRICAN government's heavy-handed propaganda is to be seen in the titles they pick for their laws. The limited representation for blacks in the parliament was ended by the "Promotion of Bantu Self-Government Act"; and joint political organisations of blacks and whites were banned under the "Prohibition of Political Interferences Act".

NOEL CARROLL, Dublin Corporation's public relations man has the annoying habit of talking down to Corporation tenants.

During recent action by Ballymun tenants who had to contend with a continually broken down lift, Carroll wrote to the Ballymun West Branch of the Socialist Party.

He finished with the gratuitous remark, no doubt learned at his American university; -

"Happiness is not having what you want, but wanting what you have".

Carroll lives at Beech Park Drive, Foxrock, where they don't have to climb 15 flights of stairs.



ARMED TRAINING FOR INFANTS? A picture from the Catholic Youth Councils' summer training project.

# FISHING INDUSTRY

THE BATTLE for preservation of Irish control over our fisheries resources and the establishment of the 50-mile exclusive limit is far from won despite Foreign Minister Fitzgerald's optimistic assessment of the results of the Brussels meeting at the end of October.

So far, only a vaguely worded document has been produced with no real concession of the Irish demand by its opponents in the EEC. The Federal German Foreign Minister, Herr Genscher, was reported as saying after the meeting that the EEC had by no means agreed to accept the Irish demands. The chairman of the meeting Mr Van der Stoel said "This does not mean that the Community has committed itself to the Irish Government's position, but it gives an orientation as to what a decision will be".

It is quite clear that Irish fishermen must continue to pressurise the government on this issue, if the fisheries limit which they require to assure their future is to be established legally and without possibility of being undermined by the Brussels bureaucracy.



■ A fifty mile fishing limit is necessary to preserve these jobs

up to the present limits. The real danger to Irish fisheries, and again most Irish fishermen know this, comes from the French, Belgian, West German and British boats, our so-called "partners" in the EEC who are regularly poaching off our coasts, seemingly unnoticed by the Irish Independent.

It should also be said that it is quiet open to the Irish government to negotiate a fisheries agreement with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries which would allow for the sharing of catches and use of advanced equipment of the socialist fishing fleets by Irish fishermen. The socialist countries have already expressed willingness to do this and in addition to pay for establishing processing units on shore in Ireland, if mutual agreement was reached. This kind of development would bring much more prosperity and security to the Irish fishing industry than the crumbs at present being offered by the EEC moguls in Brussels.

at every opportunity using whatever syndicated fabrications are available from the professional anti-Soviet hate-mongers in the USA and Britain.

The truth is, and most Irish fishermen know it, that the USSR fleet is no threat to Irish fisheries. The Soviet Union respects the territorial seas of every country, and further, supports the demand for a 200-mile territorial sea with the 50-mile exclusive zone which is being sought by Ireland in the current EEC talks. But, until such limits become legally established, the Soviet fleet is quite entitled to fish the high seas right

## The union makes us strong

THE RECENT SUCCESS of the ITGWU deckhands in Skerries has been a victory in more ways than one. It was also a victory for working class solidarity and an important event in the history of the Irish fishing industry.

The dispute started on the trawler 'Sharon Rose' when a shop steward, Davy Page, was dismissed for insisting on his legal right under the Merchant Shipping Act 1894 to see the "sheets". Deckhands are paid by a share of the catch, and the method of calculation of this is known as the "sheets".

The skipper of the 'Sharon Rose' initially refused to meet the union and attempted to replace Davy Page on the trawler's crew. The ITGWU then put its disputes procedure into action. This was met with the dramatic announcement by the skippers of skerries that they were tying up the entire East coast herring fleet. This was clearly an attempt by the skipper/owners to smash the newly organised union, probably inspired by the Irish Fishermens Organisation.

The ITGWU realised that if the strike was to be effective it would have to get the support of other sections of

the industry. The deckhands strike was mainly supported by WUI members involved in fish transport, Dublin market portorage and oil supplies to the trawlers. Also the workers section committee in an Bord Iascaigh Mhara expressed their support and solidarity with the Skerries deckhands in their right to join a union.

The attempt by the skipper/owners to isolate the union members from the rest of the deckhands failed when the Skerries deckhands voted 54 to 13 to support the crew members of the 'Sharon Rose' in their demands. The skipper/owners 'lock-out' petered out rapidly and the Howth boats set to sea leaving the Skerries boat owners on their own. Eventually, the Skerries boats also gave in and set to sea. The 'Sharon Rose' skipper settled the dispute with the ITGWU by reinstating with compensation the shop steward, recognising the union and most important, every skipper in Skerries now has to show the "sheets".

The conclusions to be drawn from this victory are firstly, that with class solidarity the workers can achieve their aims. Although the workers involved in this dispute were in a different section of the industry to those who supported them, they came together to smash the bosses' opposition to a workers' right to join a union. The fact that a once totally unrecognised section of the working class, the deckhands, have won their first victory against the skipper/owners can only lead to the spread of the unions as the benefits are to be seen. After all, the "union makes us strong".

# SOVIET TRAWLER

THE RECENT arrest of a large Soviet fisheries vessel by the Irish Naval Service and the subsequent court case which alleged that the Soviet fishermen had encroached on the Irish 12-mile limit, unleashed a disreputable campaign of anti-Soviet slanders and propaganda in the newspapers here.

Using crude propaganda terms, reminiscent of the worst cold-war hack journalism, the Irish Independent in particular tried to whip up hostile feelings against the Soviet Union and its fishermen. This is not unusual for the Irish Independent which has a consistent editorial policy of slandering the Soviet Union

## 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



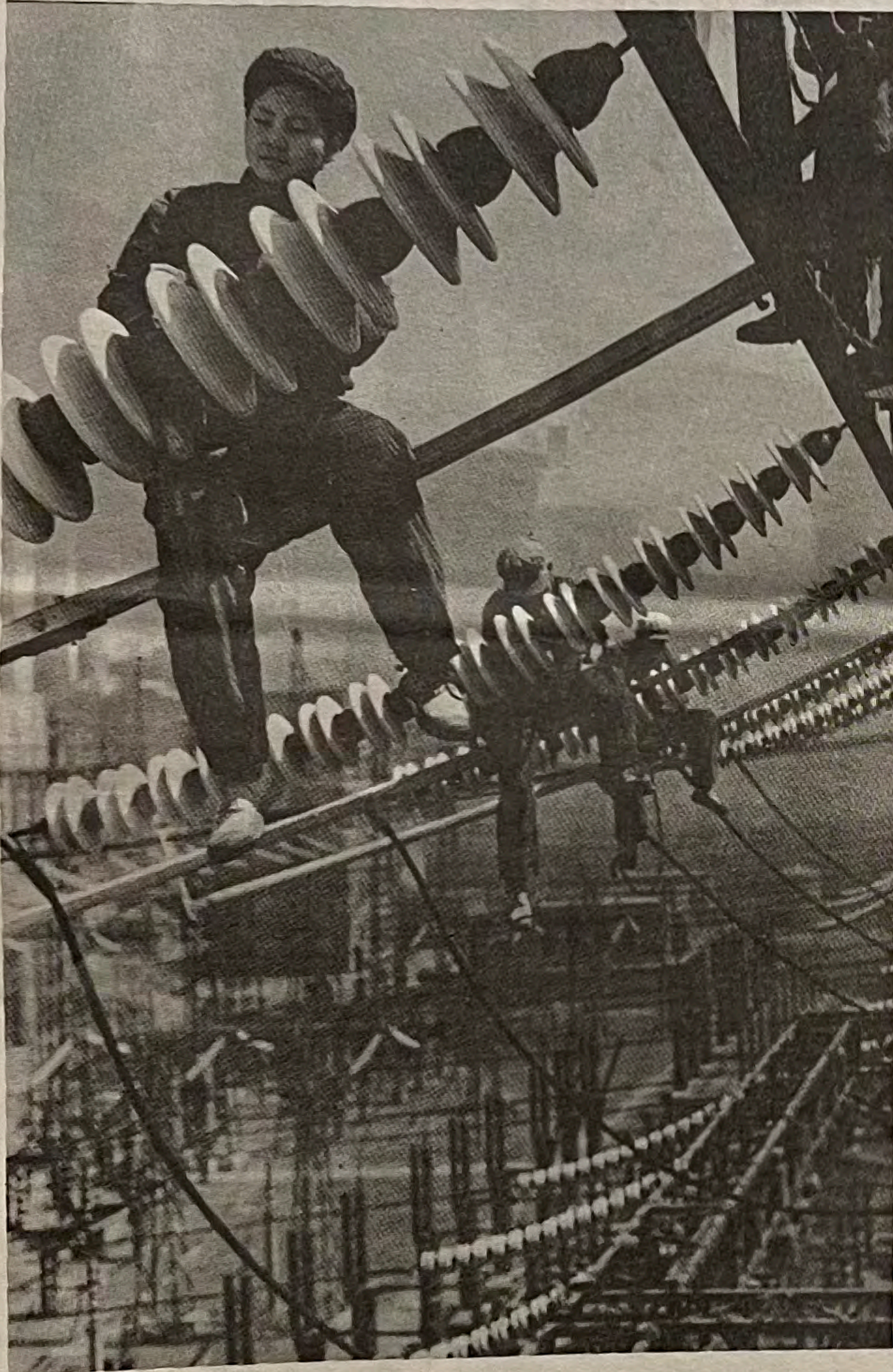
## REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE

THE WORLD IS constantly changing. The people of the world are moving in a definite direction, improving their knowledge and control over nature and bettering the human condition. Periodically there occurs a rapid and far reaching change in this evolutionary process. These periods of rapid change are called revolutions.

The world revolutionary movement consists of three forces fighting for social change.

These are: The working class,  
The socialist countries,  
The national liberation movement.

From the beginning of capitalism, workers began forming organisations to combat the power of bosses and owners. Firstly, trade unions and later political parties. Under the capitalist system, the number of workers increase and the number of capitalists decrease. The workers movement grew in strength until eventually it was able to take over. The first successful workers take-over or socialist revolution occurred in Russia in 1917. Today in the remaining capitalist countries, the workers are organised in massive trade unions and political parties



■ A bright new future.



■ Grinding poverty in the underdeveloped world.

numbering many millions and continually growing. It was Karl Marx who laid the foundation for the revolutionary workers parties and it was V.I. Lenin who led the workers to their first victory.

The socialist world consists of the Soviet Union, and a growing number of countries in every continent where the socialist revolution has been successful. The world's first socialist state was subjected to intervention, disruption and boycott by the imperialist powers who hoped to overthrow the socialist system and restore capitalism. Together with the chronic backwardness of the economy, this made the task of the Russian revolutionaries a difficult one.

Many years of hard work, the enormous strides made in economics, social and cultural affairs, as well as the addition of the many more countries to the socialist world, have ended the isolation of the Soviet Union, but a heavy responsibility still rests on the workers in the capitalist world to defend the gains of their class by supporting the USSR and the world socialist community.

At the end of the second world war, the liberation of a number of European countries by the Soviet rather than the US/British/French forces, together with the leading role of the workers parties in the opposition to Hitler fascism, created particularly favourable conditions for the winning of power by the working class. Socialist governments were successfully established in Yugoslavia (1945) Albania (1946), Poland and Romania (1947), Czechoslovakia and Hungary (1948), Bulgaria and German Democr-

atic Republic (1949).

Independently of this process, revolutions took place in Mongolia (1921) Viet Nam (1945-1974), Korea (1948), China (1949), Cuba (1959), Cambodia (1974), Laos (1975), and Angola (1976).

After the second world war, the imperial powers were confronted in their colonies by movements for national liberation. These movements incorporated peasants, intellectuals and other elements, usually under the leadership of the workers party in demands for independence. With the support of the socialist countries and particularly the Soviet Union many of these colonies won their independence and set about the construction of their countries, in many cases along socialist lines.

The shift in the world can be seen at the United Nations, where the balance now rests with the socialist and 'third world' countries against the declining capitalist states.

This transformation of the world has taken a very short time. From the first success in 1917 and continuing today, where we can witness in every news report the continuing process of world revolutionary change.

Revolution requires the support of the mass of people in any country before it can succeed. It is therefore not the policy of socialists to try to export socialism from one country to another. Such a policy would only lead to more terrible and destructive wars. The policy of Detente, that is peaceful coexistence between states of different social systems, has done much to break down the cold war prejudices which

were an obstacle to workers parties in the capitalist countries, particularly Ireland. The Helsinki Agreement recognises the legality of all existing frontiers in Europe and that these cannot be changed without the consent of the people in any area. This policy has meant that workers parties can pursue their main task of organising, educating and leading the working people for the cause of socialism throughout the world.

### IN THE WORKERS' PARTIES



● **ITALY** The daily paper of the Italian Communist Party, *Unita*, is growing in circulation which on Sundays is the country's biggest at 1,300,000. *Unita* is distributed and sold all over the country by thousands of volunteer sellers who are organised in the Friends of *Unita* Society. The Italian Communist Party has 1,800,219 members with young predominating among the new members. The Communists, in alliance with the Socialists and Social Democrats are ruling local government in 39 centres including the cities of Rome, Milan, Turin, Genoa, Venice, Naples and Florence.

● **ROMANIA** Over 17% of the adult population are members of the Romanian Communist Party - 2,577,434. After 32 years of people's rule, Romania has overcome economic backwardness to increase industrial production more than 33 times the pre-war level. The Economic Programme adopted at the 11th Congress of the Communist Party is being successfully carried out.

● **SPAIN** The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Spain (still prevented from functioning openly by the Juan Carlos government) recently held a meeting in Rome, presided over by veteran Communist leader Dolores Ibarruri. Hundreds of Spaniards came to Italy to greet the Communist leaders, enthusiastically chanting the slogan "Delores, to Madrid". Dolores Ibarruri, Chairman of the Party, put forward a resolution which was passed unanimously by the meeting, demanding amnesty for all political prisoners, without exception, and freedom of organisation for all political parties.

## PROVOCATION IN KOREA

US FORCES occupying South Korea carried out a dangerously provocative act against security personnel of the Korean People's Democratic Republic last August near the border of the Republic at Panmunjom.

As usual, reports of the provocation were presented in a distorted light by the western press and television media. In fact, the incident was deliberately organised by the US imperialist forces in order to increase tension in the area. Here is a graphic account of the incident by KPDR military personnel;

"Around 10 hours 45 minutes on the morning of August 18, the US imperialist aggressors suddenly drove out fourteen soldiers carrying

axes and lethal weapons to fell a tree at random in the Joint Security Area.

The tree was planted and tended with much care by our side for a long time.

Seeing the act of the enemy, four security personnel of our side went to the spot and repeatedly told the enemy that the tree must not be felled arbitrarily without a prior consultation with our side as the tree is controlled by our side.

The enemy who came out with the aim of committing a provocation from the outset, far from complying with the just demand of our side, committed the unbearable insulting act of hurling invectives and spitting at the security personnel of our side,

counting on his numerical superiority, and collectively pounced upon and beat security personnel of our side, and injured them by throwing an axe.

This critical situation compelled the security personnel of our side to take a step in self-defence.

The security personnel of our side put up a death-defying resistance against the enemy, throwing back the axe hurled by the enemy.

When things developed in this way, the enemy reinforced his force with more than thirty hooligans he had kept waiting in advance.

In this incident provoked by the enemy five security personnel of our side were wounded heavily or lightly.

This is the truth of the incident. This notwithstanding, now the US imperialists and their lackeys are distorting the facts to make it appear as if our side caused the incident, carrying axes. But this can fool no one. The axe used by the enemy when a free-for-all took place is now in our hands. It is an axe of Austrian make used in the US army units.

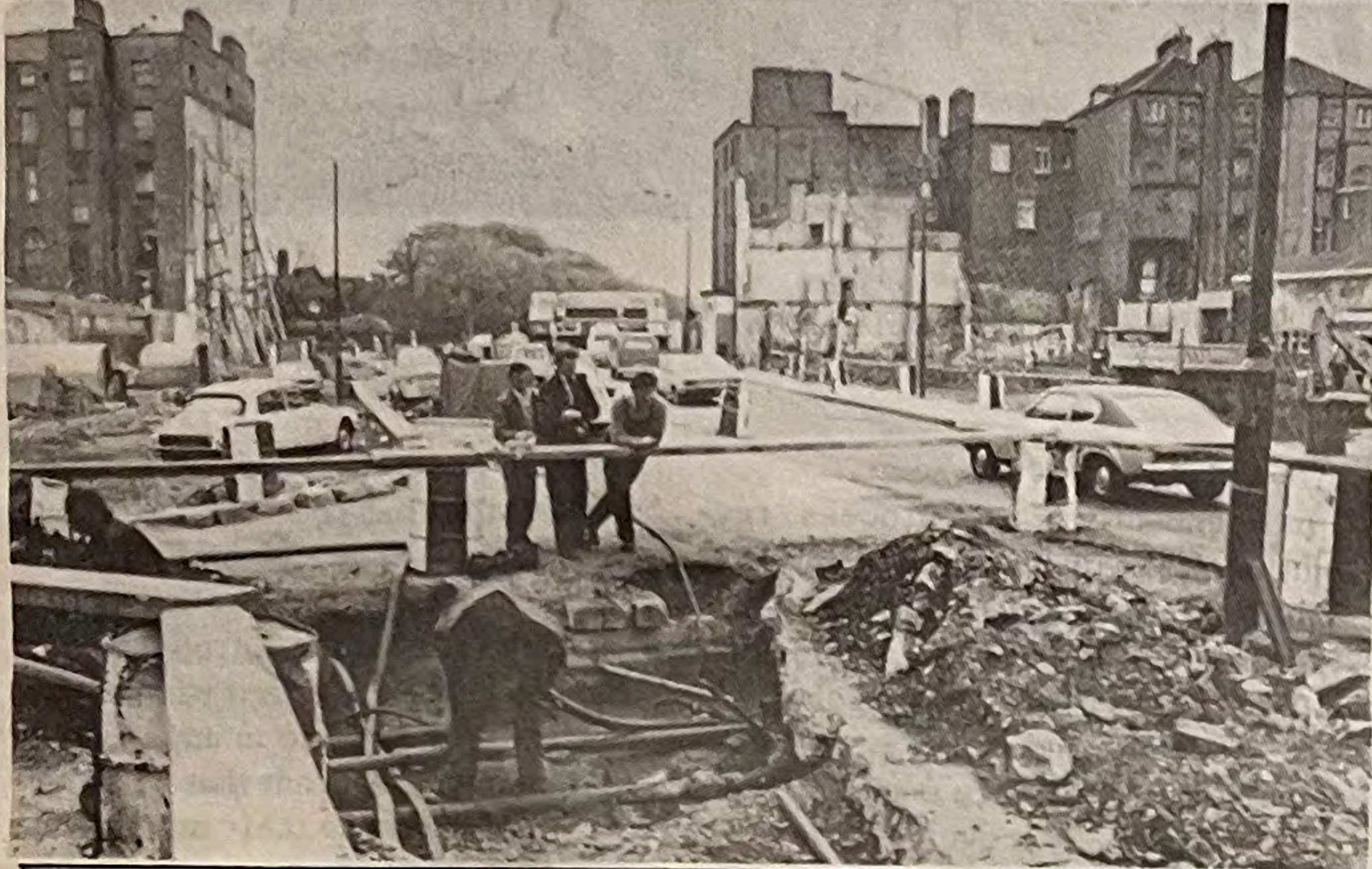
# Dirty Dublin

"HANDS OFF DUBLIN" is mainly a pictorial warning of the destructive possibilities inherent in the road development plans of Dublin Corporation. Excellent photographs by Pat Langan, Irish Times photographer, illustrates the text by Deirdre Kelly of the Living City Group. Miss Kelly concentrates, somewhat nostalgically, on surveying the collection of buildings which the ordinary residents of the city of Dublin have inherited and points out where this and that row of houses may be demolished to make way for the Corporation's motorway. The corporation motorway is roundly condemned and evidence is given of a few alternative projects in other countries but the author avoids advocating a set alter-

native herself. It is suggested that the citizens should lobby their TD's and City Councillors in order to halt the plans for the motorway and this is the only reference to politics in the book. The concluding paragraphs of the text seem to hope for a change of heart on the part of Corporation officials rather than on active opposition by citizens with a positive alternative.

The book is eye-catching and thought-provoking but is by no means a campaign document. Apparently the task of producing this must be left to others.

The battle for good environment in Dublin and the capitalist world generally cannot be fought in isolation from the general struggle by progressive forces against the destructive activities of monopoly. However, Miss Kelly and Mr Langan can be congratulated for drawing attention to the particular situation which has developed in Dublin.



## The Christian Doctrine of Work

### An apology for capitalism

THE CHURCH has for centuries adapted its beliefs and morals to the type of social system which is in power at the time and is one of the main propaganda organs by which the state maintains control over the population.

Indeed, the same is true of Ireland, especially the Catholic Church, which has its power guaranteed in the Constitution of the state. A prime example of the propaganda value of the church can be found in a booklet called 'The Christian Doctrine of Work' which is published by the Catholic Truth Society.

In this booklet, the Rev John Mc Carthy tells us that we work, not to satisfy our own needs or even to make profits for our employers, but, as something ordained by god as a means of thanksgiving to him and that therefore we should not try to improve our status but remain content in the role god picked for us. The Rev McCarthy states that

"man's service of the Creator was primarily to be by way of labour. He was created and directed to work on the natural resources of the earth placed at his disposal, to cultivate, and tend them, to subdue, develop and fashion them, but through regard for man's dignity, god left some things unfinished so that man might have the privilege of finishing them". He goes on to say that Adam and Eve upset things a little by eating an apple which resulted in man having to "work harder".

So, this man, throws out the window all facts gathered on the scientific and historical reasons for the development of social labour and evolution and substitutes in their place "thanksgiving to God" and "adam and Eve". This same tone is carried through the rest of this 15 page booklet, even going on to attack unemployment benefits, saying that it is not the duty of the state to support those who do not help them-

# Ground Rent Opposed

THE CHAIRMAN of the Socialist Party, Fergus Quinlan, was in court on two occasions recently on 19 July and 1 November last to answer a civil process brought against him by Claremont Homes Ltd for the non-payment of ground rent.

The chairman, who argued his own defence, stated the main objection to payment was one of principle and that in common with many organisations with a large base in the country, it was necessary to make this stand.

The lease in question makes a claim for £20 annual ground rent for a period of 500 years after which the tenant shall "quietly yield up the land, said premises and all fixtures thereon". Such nonsense and claims for everlasting private ownership must be opposed.

Other points raised were that while the lease implied other services by the ground rent landlord, in fact, no service what-so-ever is provided. That the civil summons was served on only one partner to the lease and that the other partner of the lease should also have been

called to court. All this, however, was of no consequence to the court and a court order for the amount due, with costs, was made.

One very interesting point which did emerge during the case was that the chief accountant for Healy Homes the parent company for Claremont Homes admitted that Healy Homes no less than 37 such subsidiary companies, and when questioned by

the Justice on this replied - "To minimise tax commitments, Justice". The Socialist Party's opposition to the ground rent system is not a policy to invest all in private everlasting freeholdings, which is a ridiculous concept anyway, when taken in the context of time and social development. But, that the only valid freeholder of land should be the state.

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It is interesting to note that the only time exploitation is mentioned is in reference to social welfare payments where it states that it "would exploit the hard working citizens and set a premium on idleness, laziness and improvidence".

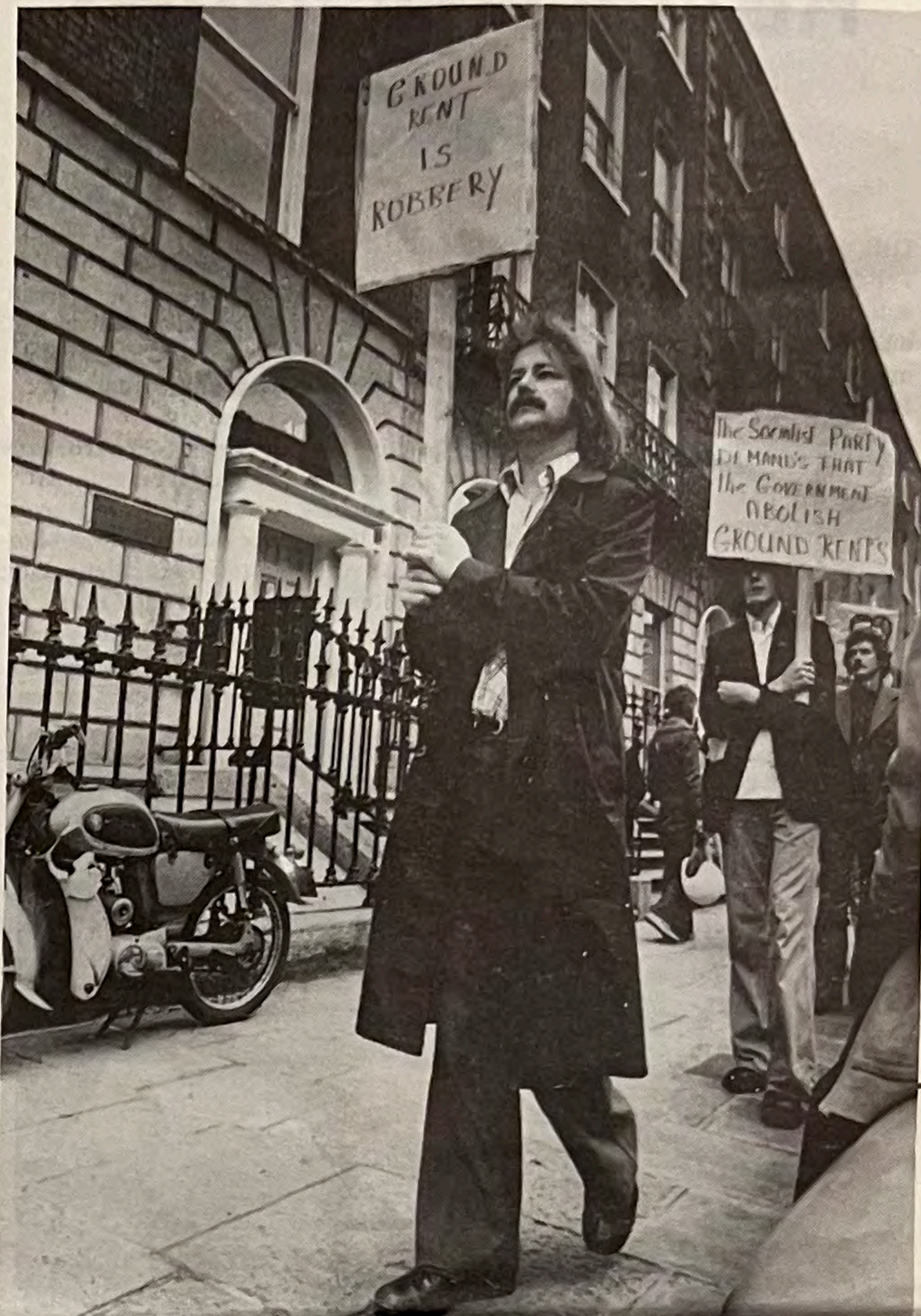
The same apology for capitalism expressed in this booklet can be heard on many a Sunday morning from the pulpit, when the congregation hears echoes of Richie Ryan and the FUE, telling the workers to tighten their belts and not put in claims for higher wages, as the country cannot afford it. Meanwhile, the employers are laughing up their sleeves at the extra profits they are going to make with the help of their white-collared servants.

There is a sad difference in the social awareness of the church in Ireland and that of many of its members in Chile, Brazil and other countries of Latin America and Africa where they defend the rights of the oppressed peoples, often against such hazards as torture and imprisonment. It is obvious that the church has had it too cushy for far too long in Ireland.

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■ Picket by Socialist Party members outside ground Land Lords office during case.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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



■ Connection between church and state must be severed.

# NORTHERN IRELAND

## 1607~1976

WHEN ONE attempts to understand the problems of Northern Ireland, when one attempts to put forward ideas on how these problems might be solved, one is immediately overwhelmed by the volume of historical justification which both sides in the conflict can bring to their defence. It is true, then, to say that the reasons for the conflict in Northern Ireland are historical. It is also true to say that both sides have, up to now, been quite incapable of an objective analysis of historical events and, further, are incapable of distinguishing fact from myth.

One of the most frightening realisations is that most loyalist or republican supporters are completely oblivious to the fact that history cannot be changed, that it cannot be rolled back and remoulded to one's own liking. The belief that all actions are justified simply because they are in pursuit of the task of 'correcting history' leads people to believe that they are morally justified in carrying out the most hor-



■ Who suffers in the destruction?

rific acts of violence against their fellow man. The odd proviso who is capable of giving some explanation for his actions will say that their campaign of violence in Northern Ireland is justified because the Treaty should never have been signed in 1922. That the delegation led by Collins and Griffith had no right to sign anything, no matter what threats were made by Lloyd George and his government. This of course is quite correct. But the fact of the matter is that the Dail ratified the decision taken by that delegation, and in the fifty years that has passed since then, no popular movement emerged to stop the development of the two separate states on this island. That being so, any statement to the effect that the Treaty should never have been signed is subjective and ignores historical reality. There are many people who will contend that the Russian revolution should never have taken place. That Lenin should never have been allowed back into the country. Such people are fools. We can only affect the future, not the past. Any attempt to find a solution to the problem must be based on an acceptance of the realities of the situation. The sectarian day-dreams of the Miriam Dalys, Ian Paisleys and Michael Farrells have no part to play in solutions formulated by scientific socialists. Such solutions, by their very nature, must be in the interests of the working class, therefore

rejecting any solution which puts a low value on human life.

This island was first invaded by the English in 1171 - 800 years ago. This one simple fact gives some idea of the historical complexities which are ignored by those people who attempt to make a case of simple 'right versus wrong'. Further, when people like Miriam Daly suggest that loyalists should either row in with the Provisionals' aspirations of a united Ireland, or swim back to Scotland, they conveniently forget - or ignore - the fact that most of these same loyalists can trace their Irish ancestry back to 1607 (almost 50 years before Robert Boyle transformed alchemy into chemistry, or nearly 200 years before the French Revolution).

The fact that the descendants of those Scots who came to Ulster from

initially stemmed from the success of the Reformation in England and its failure in Ireland. This was further compounded by the willingness of two Catholic countries, Spain and France, to give aid and assistance to Ireland. The English saw this as evidence of an international Popish plot.

In turn, the Irish Catholics became convinced that it was England's intention to exterminate them and spread the work of the devil all over the island. On top of this, the ruling Protestant minority became afraid of the Catholic population and, against its better judgement, pushed Westminster into introducing anti-Catholic measures with the purpose of permanently subjugating the majority to the minority.

When Home Rule became an issue in the latter part of the last century, the Unionist politicians who by this time deplored the previous excesses of the ruling class against the Catholic population saw the roles being reversed if Home Rule became a reality. They feared Catholic domination of the whole island and the suppression of religious and political freedom for the minority. The Unionist population outside Ulster were perturbed by the fact that in an Irish parliament they would be very poorly represented. Mr Richard Bagwell MA, writing in 1912, stated "At the present moment no county or borough in the three southern provinces of Ireland returns a Unionist member. There's a substantial minority in many places, but very few in which there would be any chance of a successful contest". They also felt that in the event of Home Rule their lives would be dominated by Papal decrees such as Ne Temere, which they regarded as wrongful interference by the Catholic church in the area of mixed marriages.

Sir Edward Carson MP in the introduction to the book 'Against Home Rule', published in 1912, stated "All Protestants in Ireland feel deep respect for much of the work being carried on by the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland. They gladly acknowledge the influence of its priesthood in maintaining and upholding the traditional morality and purity of the Irish race. They venerate the memories of those brave Irish priests who defied persecution in order to bring succour to their flock in time of need... But they are bound to deal with the present political situation as they see it. We must rem-



■ The orange card



■ Terrorism divides workers and plays into the hands of imperialism.

ember that since the Ne Temere decree has come into force, the marriages of Protestants and Roman Catholics are held to be absolutely null and void unless they are celebrated in a Roman Catholic Church. We have also to bear in mind that these marriages will not be permitted, except under conditions which many Irish Protestants find humiliating and impossible".

So, coming up to 1916 the situation in the country was complicated. Outside Ulster there was widespread support for Home Rule, but not for complete independence from Britain. In Ulster the Unionist population was completely opposed to Home Rule and had demonstrated their opposition in no uncertain manner. There were, in fact, two completely different situations which would have to be tackled in different ways. Most nationalists including the provos have failed to recognise this, and have continued to act as if it would have been possible to free the entire country in the one go by physical force. This would not have been possible. James Connolly knew this during 1916, and when he was told in the GPO that there were a number of Volunteers in Belfast, prepared to take action in that city, he commanded that they should make their way to a town outside Ulster. He did this because he had the foresight to know that any action by republicans in Belfast would cause a sectarian reaction. A reaction which would play into the hands of British imperialism.

Everyone above fifth grade knows that British imperialism fostered the cultural and religious divisions which existed between the Unionist and Nationalist population. The workers of industrialised Belfast would have been the natural enemies of the employer class. But in the conditions fostered by British imperialism, workers fought amongst themselves on the basis of political or religious beliefs, leaving the trade unions divided and ineffective.

On the rare occasions when both sections of the working class united, the employers felt the pressure of organised labour and retreated. Unfortunately, these retreats were always short-lived. The employers lost no time in playing the celebrated 'orange card', which in a very short time had the working class divided again, in the interests of imperialism.

Fundamentally the blame for the present crisis can be laid at the door of British imperialism. But this fact does not mean that the interests of the Irish people are being served by waging a war of attrition in Northern Ireland. To do so is to fail to recognise the definite cultural and political differences which do exist, albeit exaggerated by the interests of imperialism.

Imperialism has created a cauldron of hate and confusion in Northern Ireland. Those who wish to end this situation must sidestep the trap which it has set and avoid taking up a dogmatic position on either side. Those who, like the provos, have studied history for the purpose of seeking justification for a position already held, are blindly working in the interests of a weakened British imperialism by perpetuating the division which it has cultivated among the working class. British imperialism will be defeated, not by a ragbag army of nationalist lunatics, but by the unstoppable surge forward of a united and disciplined working class.



The important question which faces socialists and all progressive people is how to bring about the unity of the two communities in Northern Ireland. If one accepts reality, the answer is simple:

- (1) take all possible steps to remove the fear with which each community views the other. Immediate steps in this direction would be the introduction of a comprehensive Bill of Rights in Northern Ireland and the deletion by the Republic of Articles Two and Three from the Constitution,
  - (2) the building of a common identity between the two communities. Logically, this would most effectively be done by people being able to put trust in a Northern Ireland state which had agreed institutions and which adhered to the norms of bourgeois democracy,
  - (3) the complete and visible separation of church and state both in Northern Ireland and the Republic and the introduction of a secular system of education in both states.
- Such developments would go a long way towards ensuring the development of class politics on both sides. The development of such politics and their inevitable conclusion will determine not only the future political structures of this island, but of the whole planet.

# SOCIALISM

## news • views • progress

★ **SOVIET EDUCATION** From the early days of its existence the Soviet state financed the entire cultural and educational work in the country. It was responsible for publishing text books and books for the people. Lenin's Decree on the Elimination of Illiteracy adopted in 1919 gave a powerful boost to the development of culture and education. Incidentally, the Decree was adopted at the height of the civil war and the struggle against foreign intervention. In twenty years more than 90 million illiterate and semi-literate men and women received training and, according to the 1959 census, literacy in the USSR embraced more than 98.3 per cent of the population.



★ **LAND RECLAMATION IN THE USSR** Land reclamation operations are now being carried out in many regions of the Soviet Union and increasing every year.

In this picture, work is in progress on a trunk canal in the Kyzyl Kum desert in the Kazakh Union Republic. The most modern equipment is being used to dig the trunk canals, temporary irrigation networks and to deliver water to the fields from underground sources.

Most land reclamation work in the USSR is financed by the state, which in 1976 will allocate 7,000 million roubles for these tasks. No charges are paid by field and livestock farms for the use of irrigated and drained lands.

★ **NEW TEXTBOOKS FOR GDR SCHOOLS** Some 31.2 million textbooks comprising 300 different titles are available to school students in the GDR for the school year beginning in September.

A number of compendiums specially prepared for school students have come out this year. They cover subjects taught at ten and twelve-year schools such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, technology and production.

A new atlas has been published which considers the political changes in a number of countries.

A comprehensive programme of new publication is still being prepared for teaching retarded and physically handicapped children. New improved curriculums are to be introduced at such schools.

Prices for textbooks are low and remain stable, most pupils do not have to pay for their books.



★ **SOCIALIST REHABILITATION IN LAOS** Women dancers at the Don Tao rehabilitation centre in Laos. Since the socialist revolution in Laos last year, the centre is used to re-educate prostitutes, drug addicts and other social victims.

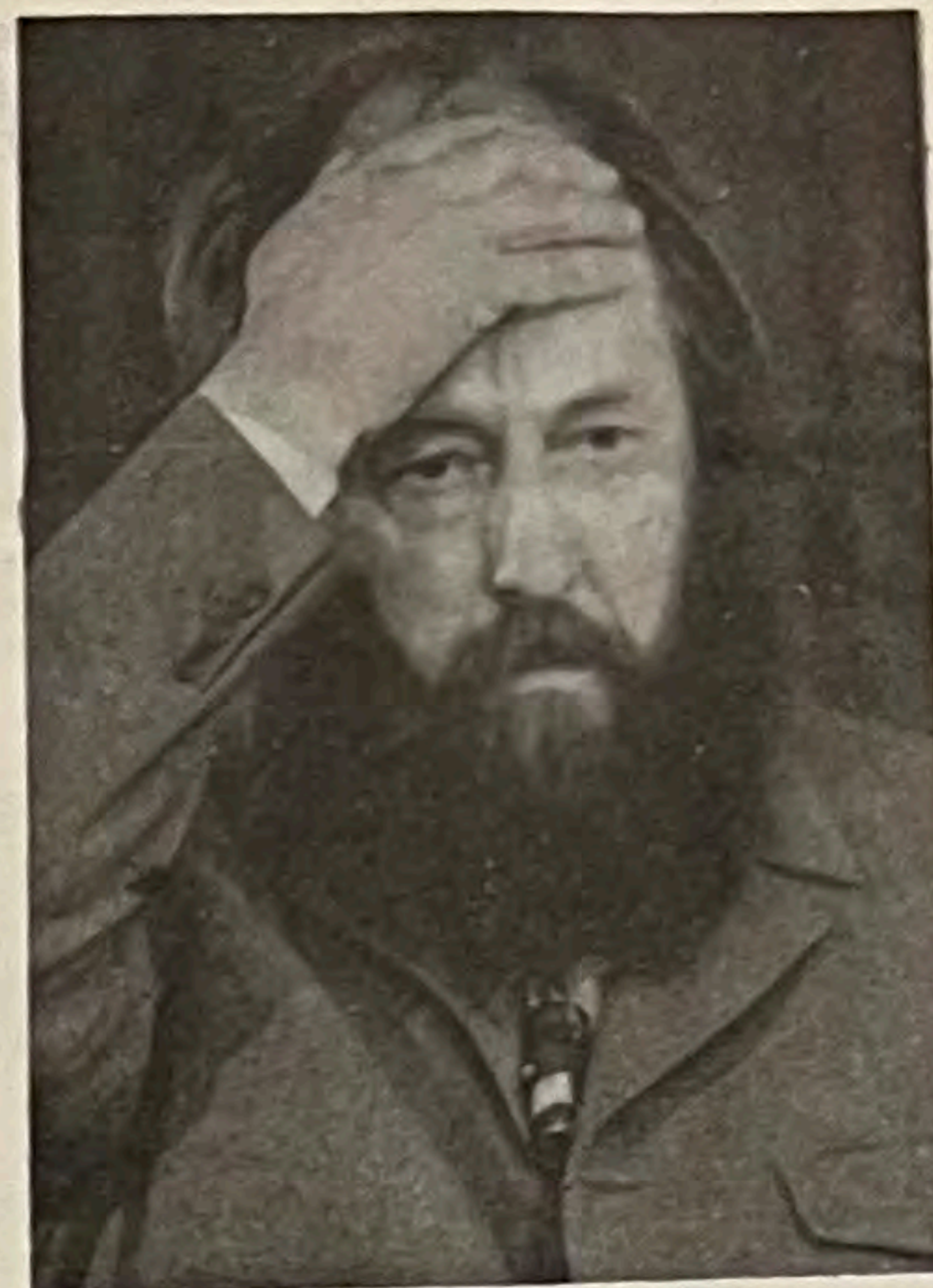
THE CAPITALIST newspapers and media have lately given a noticeable amount of coverage to what they term 'dissidents' in the Soviet Union. The most frequent performers being Alexander Solzhenitsyn and Dr Sakharov. Solzhenitsyn has embarrassed many of his capitalist friends with his anti-detente ravings and his calls for a third world war. He also sides with one of America's most right-wing politicians, Senator Henry Jackson who not only opposes workers parties but any type of organised labour, even trade unions. However, Solzhenitsyn has worn out his usefulness and it is Sakharov who is now given most press coverage for his 'smuggled' statements and 'appeals' to the so-called 'free world'.

Let us examine some of Dr Sakharov's opinions on world affairs and see how valid they are. In 1968 a 160 page text was published by the New York Times. Of this text, 70 pages were by Dr Sakharov and 90 pages were by Harrison Salisbury (a well known right-wing journalist) by way of introductory notes, afterword and interpretations. The text was entitled "Progress, Co-existence and Intellectual Freedom". Incidentally, this text was praised as "one of the most important documents on communist affairs" by none other than Dr Henry Kissinger. From this text one gets the impression that Dr Sakharov is either very naive or he is deliberately playing down the actual role and reality of the capitalist system. It is important to note that his main point of reference in the capitalist world is the USA. For example — "The presence of millionaires in the US is not a serious economic burden in view of their small number. The total consumption of the rich in the US is less than 20%". It is not their consumption we resent, Dr Sakharov, but the fact that a minority group in society can control the destiny of millions of workers and their families, grow rich and powerful by robbing the labour power of workers in industrial countries and brutally suppress the underdeveloped countries while robbing their raw materials.

Of course the capitalist class is a serious economic burden on the working class — who causes unemployment, housing crises and low wages? Yet Dr Sakharov seems to suggest that we should accept all this so that a minority group of parasites can continue to exist.

More interesting still is Dr Sakharov's opinion of imperialism — "National egoism gave rise to colonial oppression, nationalism and racism". National egoism is not the cause of imperialism. Imperialism is the logical development of multinational companies and capitalist states which, in their pursuit of profits, dominate the economies of underdeveloped countries. As for nationalism and racism, these are used to split and divert workers attention from real issues in a capitalist state. A worker, black or white, Irish or British, is exploited by a common enemy — the capitalist class, and in certain cases by the same multinational corporation. For example, in the US alone, the steel industry is controlled by three corporations. The car, chemical, tyre and electrical industries are each owned and control-

# DARLINGS OF THE WESTERN PRESS



Solzhenitsyn, now an embarrassment to his "friends".

led by three corporations. Imperialism, nationalism and racism are parcel and parcel of capitalism. Egoism has nothing to do with any of them.

As regards the national liberation movements and other anti-imperialist forces, Dr Sakharov maintains that they unite "for the purpose of combating the underlying so-called imperialist peril somewhere in Africa, in Latin America and in the Middle East". This 'so-called imperialist peril' as Dr Sakharov so lightly puts it, has maimed and killed millions of human beings in Indochina, Africa and the Middle East. power, socialism and the Soviet Union. Sakharov and his cronies are not supported by the Soviet people, in fact 99.9% of intellectuals in the USSR support and actively participate in the building of socialism. socialism.

What has he said about the capitalist system where the vast majority of newspapers and publishers including the New York Times have a total ban on articles and books written by communists, especially American communists? The majority of American communists have served prison sentences for thinking against capitalism. What did Mr Solzhenitsyn or Dr Sakharov say or do when Angela Davis was framed or when for more than twenty five years American communists were denied passports out of the US, denied rights to travel to Cuba or the Democratic Republic of Vietnam or the fact that Israel denies the right to Palestinians to travel to their homeland in Israel? One thing that Dr Sakharov did do was congratulate the fascists in Chile when they overthrew the democratic government of President Allende.

It was Gus Hall, general secretary of the Communist Party of the USA who analysed Sakharov and his type perfectly in the following statement: "This tiny group of ideological throw-backs all seem to have an extremely puffed exaggerated opinion of themselves. They all paint self-portraits in a Messianic image. They are under the illusion that only they are concerned with the 'security of future mankind'. They all seem to suffer from an illness of self-worship. They have infantile fixations about fantasy concepts based on conjured-up images of reality. Their political and ideological concepts are basically anti-working class and anti-socialist. Their theses are open apologies for imperialism and the crimes of imperialism".

But it is concerning the Soviet Union that Dr Sakharov shows his true colours — "In the Middle East direct responsibility rests not with the United States but with the Soviet Union". According to him the fact that the Soviet Union supported the national independence struggles of Egypt, Syria, Iraq and the people of Palestine against imperialism means that they are responsible for the problems in the Middle East. Maybe Dr Sakharov does not know that the USA supports Israel and its invasions of Egypt, Jordan and Syria, not to mention the fact that they are forcing the Palestinian people out of their homeland. Direct responsibility rests with US imperialism and its ally Israel, not with the USSR. Perhaps Dr Sakharov does not know that Dr Kissinger threatened to invade the Arab countries during the so-called oil crisis?

Sakharov advocates a convergence between capitalism and socialism. To think that the dying, oppressive system of exploitation which is capitalism can converge with the progressive, humanitarian system of socialism is to display a complete misunderstanding of both the capitalist and the socialist systems. If he is so serious about world peace why has he not come out in favour of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, trade agreements between socialist countries and the rest of the world, or supported the socialist world's call for detente?

It is Dr Sakharov himself we must examine to find these answers. He continues to receive his salary and has an apartment in the city of Moscow and a summer house in the country but claims that he has no 'intellectual freedom'. This 'intellectual freedom' he talks about does not discuss the weather, holidays, gardening, problems of production, housing, health, science, energy etc but how to slander working class

## Vote Socialist

THE COALITION GOVERNMENT came to power in 1973 with a list of promises for improvements in the standard of living and control over price rises. We all know what the reality has turned out to be — high prices, unemployment and a cut in the purchasing power of working class families. The latest blows are Jimmy Tully's cut-backs in payments to local author-

ities, which will result in a staggering increase in rates payments next year. Ryan hints at the possible abolition of children's allowances and Cosgrave demands a wages standstill until 1980. Fianna Fail offers no better.

Working people must consider the reality that these parties represent wage slavery and exploitation and must begin to take action that will result in the election of representatives of their own class in the Dail. The way forward is clearer now than ever before — at the next election, vote working class, Vote Socialist Party.

Take action and help in the fight against monopoly rule and the lowering of living standards.

Join the Socialist Party and Build a Better Future.

## Public Meeting

FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER 1976  
at  
23 PARLIAMENT STREET

IF YOU want to know more about the Socialist Party, who we are, what we are doing and what we hope to do, then you are welcome to come along. The meeting will last one hour from 7pm to 8pm.

# VICTORY FOR BUILDING WORKERS

EARLY THIS YEAR seventeen unions representing 35,000 building workers sought negotiations with the private building employers, the Construction Industry Federation (CIF) with a view to eliminating the differential between private and local authority wage scale's.

The differential of approximately eleven pounds had arisen because of traditionally stronger union organisation in the public sector. The CIF at first refused to enter into negotiations on the claim which had become known as the relativity claim. But following pressure from the National Group of Building Unions talks were formally opened. By July a draft agreement had been accomplished and this was put to a vote of the rank and file of the various unions and accepted. This agreement involved considerable concessions by the Trade Unions. They settled for half the original claim, £5.50, and accepted a productivity deal which abolished many traditional extra payments such as 'tool money' and 'dirty money'. What's more it legalised the right of management to sack employees without first consulting the unions (the by-now famous phrase 'prerogative of management') On top of all this the employers refused to pay unless the deal was sanctioned by the Labour Court so in August it was referred to the Labour Court for ratification. The increase was due to come into effect from the first of September and as this date approached the Labour Court showed no sign of making its recommendation despite protests by the various unions and the CIF.

During this period rank and file pressure was growing within the various unions. On 10th September a general meeting of Dublin members of the Building Workers Trade Union (BWTU) voted in favour of having a

twenty-four hour strike from starting time on the 21st September. In a statement issued at the meeting the branch committee explained the reasons for calling the strike. It was not just a protest at the delay by the Labour Court in issuing a recommendation but also at the failure of the employers to honour their agreement to pay the increase from the 1st September. It also brought into question the impartiality of the Labour Court and the confidence that workers could have in it. On that date, the 21st over 1,000 workers marched to the Department of Labour. The demonstration was attended by many members of the other unions and was officially supported by the ITGWU.

On Thursday, 23rd September, the Labour Court began its hearing. Representatives and submissions were invited from the FUE, the Department of the Public Service which is a government body, as well as the construction employers and unions. This was a totally unprecedented act by the Labour Court. Two bodies which were not direct partners in the deal were being treated as equal partners with the building unions and employers. The building unions refused to take part in the court hearing until the FUE and the Department of Public Service were withdrawn. They were supported by the Construction Industry Federation and the ICTU in this. Eventually they were reduced to observer status and no submissions were accepted from them. It was clear that the government and the FUE were attempting to halt the wage increase as they had done to the Bank Workers by intervening in a freely negotiated productivity deal between boss and worker. However, with the threat of a national building strike and mass street demonstrations they did not push their luck. One small craft

union with only 1,000 members in Dublin had a 100% turnout on a street demonstration. What would the government do with 35,000 organised workers on the march?

On the 5th October the Labour Court recommended that the first phase of the increase be paid in full and back-dated to the first of September. They are to issue recommendations on the next two phases due in March and September 1977, before they are due, and the trade unions are confident that they will recommend payment.

This is a clear victory for the organised working class movement. The government and the FUE have been forced to retreat by the unity and strength of the working class. The solidarity of the building unions showed the importance of working class unity and should be a lesson to the Irish Bank Officials Association and other unions who favour withdrawing or remaining outside the ICTU.

Mr Silverwater dragged himself from the problem of his stock with some difficulty. He stared at Rashers. "I did Tierney. Let me see. You can leave the boards and the bell here tonight".

"And what about the morning?" "You won't need them. I've decided to stop this advertising".

"Are you not opening tomorrow?" Rashers asked.

"Our arrangement has come to an end", Mr Silverwater said. He was still preoccupied.

"Do you mean I'm sacked?" Rashers asked.

He was rooted to the ground. "You finish up tonight", Mr Silverwater said.

"Mr Johnston will put away the bell somewhere. Give it to him on your way out".

"And my money - what about what's due to me?"

"Call at the weekend for it", Mr Silverwater said.

"We'll settle whatever you're entitled to then".

Rashers felt an ache inside him, as though something were eating at the wall of his stomach.

"Could I not finish out the week?" he asked.

"Not another hour", Mr Silverwater said to him. He waved at the junk which surrounded them.

"Do you think I can afford to take any more of it. The half of it will never be redeemed and there is no one I know would buy it. It's regular customers only from this out. I'm busy now. Call back on Saturday for your money".



■ The building workers march to the Labour Court.



■ Building workers delegation.

## short story

# THE SACKING

THE STORY OF 'Rasher's' Tierney is taken from James Plunkett's 'Strumpet City', set in Dublin in 1913.

He put on his boards again and tested his bell. The birds rose from the chimney stack in fright. He was stiff from sitting. He put one foot carefully in front of him and then the other and after a few difficult steps walking became a simple enough matter. More or less. The bloody boards were a weight. Take up your cross was right. Here I come, Jesus, one front and back. At doors in the unexpected sun the old and the cripples had been left out to air. He greeted each of them. "A Grand Day", he shouted. "Thanks be to God" they shouted back. Or gave no answer but smiled. Or made no response whatever, neither seeing him nor hearing him nor anything else, habituated to separateness, aware only of being put out and taken in like clothes off a line with each change of the weather. "When I can no longer fend for myself", Rashers prayed, "then God, let me die". The thought stirred him to activity. His voice resounded in the street that had opened its hall-doors to let in the sunshine.

"Have yiz e'er a blanket to pawn or sell. E'er a table or e'er a chair. Best prices in town for pairs of ornamental pieces".

He worked contentedly through the afternoon, until at half past six or thereabouts his bell was heard once again outside Mr Silverwater's shop. By that time he was weary. He wondered about his dog, which had been locked up all day. He wanted to get home to it, to make himself tea with water which Mrs Bartley wouldn't mind boiling for him, to take off the boots which were crucifying his feet. There were no customers at that late hour. The interior of the shop was dark after the lights of the streets. Mr Johnston looked up from a ledger, blinking at him.

"Tierney", he said, "Mr Silverwater wants to see you".

"Where is he".

"In the store at the back".

Rashers used to the place now, lifted the counter panel and let himself through. He groped his way down a dim passage. Mr Silverwater was trying to make sense out of the conglomeration which had built up as a result of the lock-out.

"You wanted me", Rashers said.



He turned his whole attention to his stock. Rashers tried to piece an appeal together. It was useless. The ache wouldn't allow it. He stared foolishly at Mr Silverwater's back. He could think of nothing. In the end there was nothing to be done except take off the boards and leave them against the wall.

He went back through the passage and into the shop. Mr Johnston was still engrossed in his ledger, staring hard at it in the poor light. Rashers

put the bell on the counter beside him. He looked up at that but Rashers made no effort to talk to him. He opened the door of the shop and stepped out onto the street. Dusk was setting over it and the pavement was giving back a little of the heat it had stored during the course of the beautiful, unseasonable day. It's ghost still haunted the sky. As Rashers moved slowly towards Chandlers Court, it faded away. The sick and the dying had been taken in again from the steps.

# DARNDALE

## Cutbacks cause problems



DARNDALE ESTATE, on the north side of Dublin, is one of the "wonder estates" of architecture. It has a unique layout that excludes any traffic from entering the populated areas and also a not-so unique lack of facilities for either parents or children. All that exists in this estate of over 1,000 houses is a community hall that contains both the church, the public bar, a national school and a few van-shops parasiting on the tenants.

In common with a number of other new estates, many houses in Darndale are badly affected by dampness. The tenants have a double battle —

the improvement of their community and the improvement of their own homes.

Darndale Tenants Association, succeeded in forcing the government to send out its experts, the Institute for Industrial Research and Standards, to investigate their complaints. The Institute admitted that at least 10% of the houses were affected by dampness due to structural faults. Yet, despite this, Dublin Corporation claims that they cannot repair the houses or re-house the tenants because of the cutbacks in public expenditure. The tenants are being told, in fact, that they must remain

in these substandard dwellings.

Is this becoming Dublin Corporation's new housing policy? Are future tenants going to be offered substandard housing as they have been in Darndale Estate and Avonbeg Estate, Tallaght. The tenants of Darndale are not accepting it and have already started to campaign against it.

So much for Jimmy Tully, the Labour Party's minister for substandard housing. The tenants of Darndale won't forget him. They have already forgotten the 'Labour' Party.

# ADVANCE

Published by the Socialist Party of Ireland



## THE ECONOMY

THE SO-CALLED 'tripartite talks' of representatives of Government, Federated Union of Employers and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions have failed so far to achieve their immediate purpose which was to tie the trade union movement to a 'voluntary' wage freeze throughout 1977 and into 1978.

They have failed so far because the Government and the FUE could not produce a sufficiently attractive 'carrot' which the ICTU leaders could wave before the rank-and-file trade unionists who are in no mood to be bought off by more false promises and wage deals which do not meet the workers current needs. So, the propaganda barrage has opened up again with threatening speeches by Finance Minister Ryan and his friends in the FUE demanding further sacrifices by the working people.

According to Ryan and the FUE, the present crisis can only be resolved by lowering the standard of living of the majority of the population so as to provide more funds for capitalist investment and "restore confidence" in the economy. Although using the collective nouns "we" and "our", they are careful to exclude themselves from any proposed "incomes restraint" and "sacrifices". As a government the present Coalition has already cut back on important areas of public spending in the Departments of Education and in Health and Social Security services.

To their shame, the Parliamentary Labour renegades, Corish, O'Leary, Keating and the rest, have joined in

on behalf of the Fine Gael reactionaries, the FUE and the Banking monopolies in attacking the living standards of the working people. The Parliamentary Labour Group is now a mere appendix of Fine Gael and the monopoly interests it serves. The working class cannot expect any positive initiatives or leadership from this disreputable group of political mercenaries. If anything, the economic crisis has shown up more than ever the complete failure of the class collaboration policies of the right-wing Labour and Trade Union leaders.

It is time now to take action to reverse the trend initiated by the right-wing ICTU leaders in destroying collective bargaining and entangling the trade union movement in employer dictated wage agreements which have included surrender of the right to strike and other hard-won gains of the workers. A militant struggle against Fine Gael and the monopolies is now needed on the basis of the following minimum demands; pressure on the government to implement a policy of full employment, restoration of genuine collective bargaining, extension of collective bargaining to give the unions a say in state economic and social policy, an end to the 'prerogatives of management' in investment policy, production, manpower policy and technological change. A return of the trade unions to labour solidarity and militant defence of the workers interests is the best answer to the threats of Ritchie Ryan and the FUE.

BALLYMUN BRANCHES

## BOOKSTALL

PARTY PUBLICATIONS.  
BOOKS, PAPERS AND PERIODICALS  
FROM THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

SATURDAY MORNINGS

SHOPPING CENTRE

## PLAYGROUPS Let's get started



THE INCLUSION of all able-bodied people into the work-force is one of the aims of the socialist revolution. This will abolish the position of 'house-wife' which ties women to a position, which strangles and stultifies their personal and social development. Instead of a street of 100 housewives, where 100 housewives wash 100 shirts and cook 100 dinners, there can be a community creche, a community laundry and a community restaurant and the 100 housewives can be working, and participating in the social and economic life of the community along with the men.

Why wait for the revolution?

The basis of the socialist reorganisation of society can be started within the present system just as the economic basis is present in large scale industry and state enterprises. Starting now will put the pressure on for more change which in turn will bring the revolution closer. Those who are waiting for the revolution to come along, may wait for ever.

Creches and playgroups can and should be started by parents on a cooperative basis in either the neighbourhood or work-place. For this, organisers are needed. That is, people with enough drive and will-power to get the job done. These are the real revolutionaries.

Writing on this need, Lenin said: "We need working women who are able to organise in a practical way, without the abundance of phrases, fuss, squabbling and chatter about plans, systems, etc, which our swelled-headed 'intelligentsia' or half-baked 'communists' always suffer from".

The message is plain. Lets get started.



## NOTICE

WE WISH to inform supporters in the Ballymun area that Norman McGrath is no longer a member of our Party. Mr McGrath has left the area and his wife is now seeking a maintenance order for the support of her four children.

In keeping with its humanitarian policy, the Socialist Party demands that its members pay more than lip service to the socialist goal of changing society for the benefit of all.

Mr McGrath is now believed to have joined the 'Communist' Party of Ireland, where there is a safe berth to hold

forth on the needs of the people while acting to the contrary.

The Ballymun West and Ballymun East Branches of the Socialist Party are determined to overcome the damage caused by Mr McGrath's treachery and are confident that their hard-won reputation of selfless work in the people's interest will be restored.

Published by  
The Socialist Party of Ireland  
23 Parliament Street  
Dublin 2

Printed in Ireland

AFTER 55 Y...  
Irish capitali...  
failure to me...  
people. Over...  
High prices a...  
wage levels in...  
shortages and...  
ices, provide...  
this failure. I...  
grave, a leadi...  
Capitalist inte...  
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In doing this, I...  
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**Title:** Advance, No. 24

**Organisation:** Socialist Party of Ireland

**Date:** 1976

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