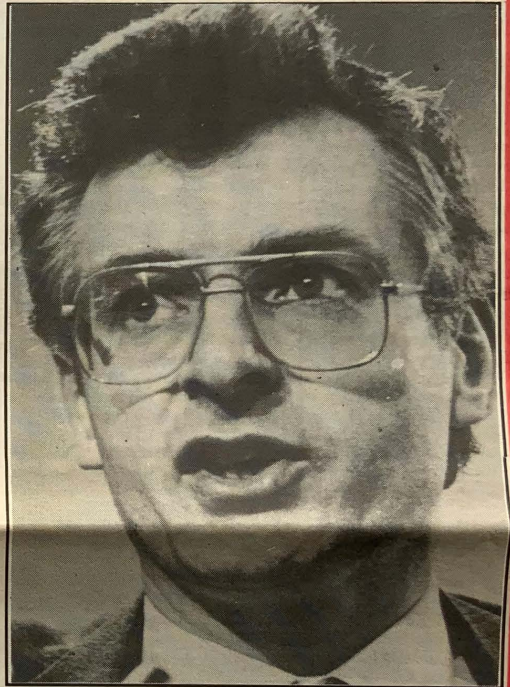


Militant
Welcomes

The
SOCIALIST
Party

A NEW VOICE FOR WORKING CLASS PEOPLE



THERE is an urgent need for a new political force in Irish politics, for a political party that stands by working class people and is completely different from the other political parties. The Socialist Party will be just that.

UNLIKE THE OTHER PARTIES > The Socialist Party will not be for sale to the highest bidder. We will receive no big donations from the likes of Larry Goodman.

UNLIKE THE OTHER PARTIES > The Socialist Party will regard its independence from big business interests as a matter of principle.

UNLIKE THE OTHER PARTIES > Socialist Party representatives will not put their political careers before the interests of working class people. Any Socialist Party member who becomes a TD will live on the wage of an average worker, donating the balance to build the movement for real change.

UNLIKE THE OTHER PARTIES > The Socialist Party will make a real difference. After the Dublin West By-election all the politicians are agreed on the need to abolish double taxation local charges. They are likely to be abolished by the time of the general election. This will be a real victory for PAYE taxpayers, won by the campaigning work of the Socialist Party in initiating and developing the mass campaign against water charges in Dublin.

The Socialist Party is your party. Join Today.

Councillor JOE HIGGINS will be standing for the Socialist Party, along with four other candidates in Dublin in next year's general election. The Socialist Party is poised to make a real breakthrough in that election, giving working class people a real voice, and the opportunity to put real fighters for working class people and real socialists into the Dail.

Inside this month's paper;
Peace Process in Crisis - Page ten
Introducing the Socialist Party - Page six and seven
Community fight against drugs - Page four

THIS IS the last issue of our paper under the name Militant. Militant was first produced in 1972 and has provided a unique socialist analysis of events in Ireland for just under 25 years. Next month we will be producing a new paper, with a new name. Our new paper will be the official paper of the Socialist Party and will continue the proud tradition of Militant. We hope you will continue to read and enjoy Ireland's best Socialist paper.

EQUALITY BILL OPT OUT WILL INCREASE DISCRIMINATION

THE EMPLOYMENT Equality Bill being brought before the Dail by Mervyn Taylor, a Labour Minister, appears to be a piece of progressive legislation outlawing discrimination in employment on grounds of gender, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the travelling community.

However, the Bill provides a "get out" clause for religious, educational and medical institutions, where "discrimination is essential for the maintenance of the religious ethos of the institution or is reasonable in order to avoid offending the religious sensitivities of its members or clients" and the discrimination is on grounds other than gender, age or disability.

This Bill must be viewed in conjunction with another upcoming Bill by a Labour Minister, Niamh Breathnach's Education Boards of Management Bill which will serve to copper fasten and strengthen religious control of schools at a time when there are only fourteen multidemominational schools in the Republic at primary level compared to 3200 Catholic and Protestant schools.

Stephen Quillnan, Chairperson of the Southern Equality Campaign, one of the groups campaigning against these proposals, pointed out to 'Militant' the possible practical consequences of the legislation: "In the 1980s a New Ross teacher Eileen Flynn was sacked from her job in a convent school because she was living with a man outside of marriage. What could this new law open up?"

"A trade union activist working in a hospital for example, could face sacking or discrimination if their private life didn't conform to strict Catholic morality.

"School students from strict Catholic backgrounds might be encouraged to "out" gay and les-

2,000 PRIMARY school teachers, about 10% of total teaching staff at this level, have indicated in a survey that they would prefer not to teach religion.

However, only 3% of those who want to "come out" have actually withdrawn from teaching religion. The overwhelming majority of these teachers fear the consequences for their future mobility and promotions if they do so.

If this is the situation before Taylor's "Equality" Bill, what will be the situation after it comes into force? It will reinforce this climate of fear, where teachers who want to follow their conscience, supposedly a tenet of Christian belief, carry on doing something they don't feel comfortable with.

The reason for teachers' fears are very simple. Discrimination against teachers who don't toe the Church's line is widespread. Clerical vetting of teachers does take place, but the Church will never admit this.

The new law will be irrelevant in



Joe O'Toole of the INTO. The teachers unions must oppose new bill.

terms of protection for teachers. In fact it will institutionalise discrimination and make it even more widespread.

In this Bill the state will be legalising religious discrimination. This flies in the face of the constitution where article 44.2.3 says "The state shall not impose any disability or make any discrimination on the grounds of religious belief or status."

Clear enough? But the government is trying to excuse its outrageous position on constitutional grounds. There is nothing in the Constitution which says that the state is obliged to underpin or reinforce the religious ethos of schools.

The "Opt out" in Taylor's Bill is part of a deal, made behind the scenes, to trade off a very limited democratisation of school boards with a guarantee to the Bishop that their control of education will not be impaired.

Opposition is mounting in the teachers' unions. A rank and file campaign group is being organised.

LAST MONTH we featured a report on multi denominational schools, of which there are fourteen in Ireland.

We reported on an Educate Together school in Inchicore. Since then the school has been served with a notice to quit by the owners of the school site, Zoe developers.

The school is still continuing in Inchicore and parents have launched a campaign to put pressure on the Department of Education to give their school full recognition, and to provide them with alternative premises.

The parents and the Patron company that runs the school are determined to keep their school open. A quiz is being held in Toners of Baggot Street on Wednesday 30th October to raise funds for their campaign. Further information can be obtained from Deirdre Tobin, Secretary of the Patron Company, at (01) 455 4362.

bian teachers to the authorities in the hope of getting them sacked.

"Religious orders would be given extra powers with which to punish a community care worker who might be considering blowing the whistle on clerical child abuse.

"Taxpayers money should not be used to fund bigotry and sectarianism. Equality is indivisible. The exemption clause should be deleted from the Bill, and if this is unconstitutional and we need a referendum to strike them out, so be it".

SAVAGE ATTACK ON JOBS AND WAGES IN IRISH FERRIES

ANGRY IRISH Ferries workers occupied the company's Dublin office at the start of October to protest against a savage attack on their jobs and conditions.

The protest occupation took place on the same day that Irish Ferries were launching a new £60 million ship.

Irish Ferries want to lay off 200 staff for seven months starting in November. The laid off workers will be expected to live off the dole in that period. Irish Ferries will not even maintain their pension contributions.

When the workers go back in June they will face an increase in the working

week from 42 hours to 56 hours, without any extra pay. An example of how these measures will affect pay is that a stewardess now earning £11,500 a year will go to £3,100 a year!

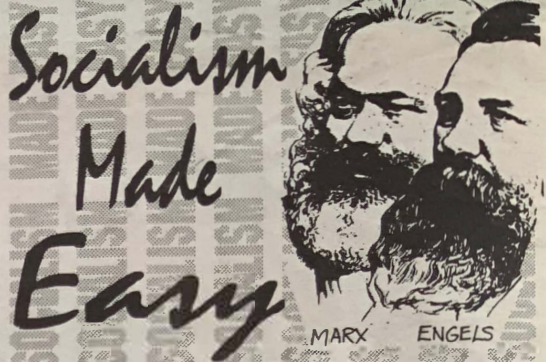
Irish Ferries is expected to make a £12 million profit this year. Irish Ferries was formed by the privatisation of the Irish Continental Line. In 1992 Irish Ferries were handed the B+I line for a mere £7.5 million, while the government wrote off its £40 million debts.

The cuts are planned on the continental route, where no investment has taken place. The two ships working this route are 23 years old. Workers say there is a hidden agenda to run down the service, and to casualise labour on it through these proposals.

The workers are not prepared to accept this attack. After some workers in the Blanchardstown area contacted Socialist Party Councillor Joe Higgins, an angry meeting of some 60

workers was organised, and an action committee set up. Joe Higgins has helped with advice and publicity.

A ballot for strike action on the continental routes has been passed overwhelmingly. A ballot for action on the route to Holyhead is being held. If Irish Ferries succeeds in their plans for the Continental line, it will open the way to attacks on all Irish Ferries workers jobs and conditions.



MILITANT LABOUR has taken the decision to launch itself as a political party. We have decided to call the new party the Socialist Party.

The main reason for doing this is our belief that the idea of a socialist alternative to the market economy has to be put back on the agenda.

Every day of the week, working class people are being faced with the reality of what market forces mean. Capitalism internationally has launched a massive attack on all the hard won rights of working class people.

State services, pensions, sick pay, the right to a permanent job, fixed wages and working hours, holiday pay are all under attack.

Even during the course of a boom in the Irish economy, the bosses have stepped up their so called "restructuring" of companies. Real permanent jobs are being axed, while 70% of new jobs being created are part time, with lower wages and usually without pensions, sick pay etc.

Workers are daily bombarded with a massive propaganda campaign that says there is no alternative to this brutal dictatorship of big business. We say there is an alternative, and that that alternative is the genuine ideas of democratic socialism.

So what are these genuine ideas of socialism? The basic premise of socialism is very simple. It is the idea of a society ruled not by greed for profits for people who already have grabbed the lion's share of the world's wealth, but a society run in the interests of all who live in it.

Socialism is not some sort of nice idea, a fairy tale which works in theory but not in practise. Socialism is based on scientific economic and social facts.

The first of these facts is that under capitalism, the production of all the things we need and use, is based on socialised labour.

What does this term mean, in plain English? It means that in our modern society, to produce even the most basic commodity, the co-operation of many individual workers is necessary, increasingly on an international, and not just on a national basis.

Work, that is, the production of the goods and services society requires, it is not individual, it is based on co-operation it has become "socialised". Modern day production is only possible on the basis of planning, matching raw materials, labour, transport ect, usually on an international scale. The development of computers has made this task much easier than in the past.

However, the goods and services produced by this socialised labour are not distributed on a "socialised" basis. Private ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange stand in contradiction to the way work is organised.

The potential to produce all the goods and services society needs in abundance, constantly runs up against this contradiction. The bosses will only allow production to take place if they are going to make big profits out of the process.

The market is dictated by the need for profits, not peoples needs. That is why in the midst of want, factories and workers are left idle, or we have the disgusting spectacle of food mountains while people starve in Africa.

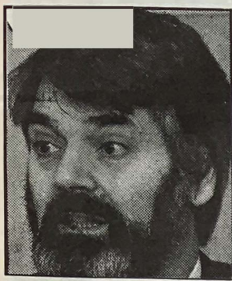
This contradiction will only be resolved by carrying the idea of socialised production to its logical conclusion, the socialisation of the means of production themselves, and the socialisation of the distribution of goods and services.

What would this mean? It would mean common or public ownership of the key areas of economic activity. It means democratic planning of the resources to meet society's need, as determined by society, not a small clique of wealthy businessmen.

The capitalists say a planned economy cannot work. But capitalism is planned, modern economic activity is impossible without planning.

The question is, is it to be planned to rob the majority of the fruits of their work, or a democratic plan to meet the needs of all.

De Rossa should try living on £66 a week!



THE NEED for a national minimum wage and a big increase in social welfare benefits was shown by September's Central Statistics Office survey on so-called "social welfare fraud". The CSO survey showed:

11% of people surveyed were signing and working full time and 10% of people surveyed were signing on and working part-time.

In 28% of cases the person listed on the live register was not at his or her given address. Almost 44% of those surveyed did not describe themselves as unemployed.

Government ministers, led by Democratic Left leader Prionnsias de Rossa, Minister for Social Welfare, seized on this report to denounce 100,000 of the poorest people in the country as cheats and spongers.

It was very significant that this campaign, pushed by the government in order to claim that unemployment is really much lower and prepare the way for cutbacks, got no real echo from the mass of ordinary people.

Most ordinary people understand that a young unemployed person living at home hasn't much option

but to give a false address to the dole if he or she wants to avoid the means test and have any money to live on.

It is also understood that someone in a part-time job getting £2.00 an hour hasn't much option but to 'sign' in order to survive. In reality, in this case, dole is like a state subsidy to low pay employers to top up wages.

Understanding that the vast majority of people who work and 'sign' are forced to do it in order to survive, most ordinary people were not impressed by this attack on the poorest sections of the working class by well-to-do government ministers who have never experienced dole queue poverty in their lives.

The same establishment politicians are the very people who are sheltering the real fraudsters in Irish society - to be found not at the bottom, but at the top of society.

Semperit, the company that announced plans to dump 650 workers on the dole the same week as the "social welfare fraud" controversy, has stashed away £12 million of taxpayers' money in IDA grants.

The following week it was reported that the wealthy owe £1,950 million in unpaid taxes and the Revenue Commissioners expect to get their hands on only a quarter of this.

The reality is that low pay and low welfare benefits are forcing ordinary people to risk breaking the law in order to survive.

Hands off the unemployed! The solution is very different to the Government plans - we need a 50% increase in social welfare payments and a national minimum wage of £5.00 per hour now!

Mick Barry, Cork



The government should go after the real spongers, not the unemployed.

Semperit Axes 650 Jobs in Ballyfermot

650 WORKERS in the Semperit plant in Ballyfermot heard on the 18th of September that the plant will close in December. This will have a big impact on the area, already suffering from high unemployment.

It's not only the 650 jobs in the plant itself that will go but there will be job losses in other companies who supply materials and transport the finished goods. All in all up to 2,000 jobs in Ballyfermot and the surrounding area could be lost. The reason given for the closure by Continental AG, the parent company of Semperit Ireland, is that they want to re locate to low cost countries.

The Irish plant made £5 million profit last year. The workers have implemented various plans to increase efficiency. The company itself compliments the workforce.

Continental AG claim to be making huge efforts to find a buyer for the plant yet when a Korean tyre manu-

facturer made an offer they upped the price by £15 million and refused to sell.

This is to maintain control over the European tyre market between themselves and the US tyre companies. The mood in the plant is demoralised, workers have been ground down by layoffs and short term closures.

Many feel that even if a buyer is found it is likely all the workforce will be laid off and a selected few re-employed.

Workers in Semperit should put pressure on the government to fight to save their jobs. This could be organised in conjunction with the local communities.

THE GOVERNMENT has treated Hepatitis C victims in a disgracefully shabby way.

Brigid McCole, a mother of twelve children, who was given contaminated anti-D, died in early October from liver failure.

Despite her illness, Brigid McCole had to fight in the courts to get the state to apologise and admit liability. Although she was seriously ill the state fought her every step of the way.

She received £175,000 in compensation, as opposed to the lawyers working on the case, who made £800,000!

The government set up a tribunal, to play pass the parcel with the aim of keeping compensation claims down. The tribunal was not allowed to deal with the issue of liability.

Brigid McCole died a day after the state finally conceded liability and apologised to her.

Water Charges: Know Your Rights

THE DUBLIN County Councils are desperate to get as much cash in as possible and have been busy sending out thousands of letters threatening court action, court costs and disconnection unless your water charges are paid within seven days. It is important you know your legal rights, regarding the water charges.

- If you get a court summons, you must contact the campaign or it cannot represent you, phone 8729163, your call will be returned within 24 hours. Please state that you have actually received a court summons.
- For membership of £2 per household the campaign will provide a solicitor and barrister. You do not have to speak in Court.
- Non payment is a civil offence, you will not get a criminal record.
- You cannot be brought to court unless you receive a summons. A letter threatening court action is not a summons.
- The Council cannot disconnect without winning their case in court. No household has been disconnected to date.
- The Council can only legally pursue you for water tax for 1994 and the first half of 1995, at this point, even though you may owe more.
- Any letters threatening action, no matter how strongly worded are just hollow threats to scare you. Ignore them.
- You have a civil right to picket, protest, phone, visit Councilors' clinics and Council offices.

Blair's "New Tory" Party

THE DISTANCE which Tony Blair has managed to travel in transforming "New Labour" into a capitalist party with no connection to the trade union movement was shown graphically at the recent TUC and New Labour conferences.

Just before the TUC conference, shadow employment spokesman Blunkett called for compulsory arbitration in the public sector. This was then changed to binding arbitration, either would effectively mean a New Labour government withdrawing the right to strike from five million workers.

At the TUC conference, Blair attacked the postal workers, calling for a new ballot to call off the strike action.

In the run up to New Labour's Conference, MP Kim Howells called for "humane-



ly phasing out" the term socialism. 80% of the delegates were attending their first conference, reflecting the fact that workers have left the Labour Party in their droves, to be replaced by the new "Yuppie" membership.

The only so-called "highlight" of the conference was

Moorfield Gets Organised

ON THE eve of the Dublin West by-election an angry meeting of householders in the Mooefield estate in Clondalkin attended by Councillor Joe Higgins discussed the many problems in the estate.

People were very angry about horses and the neglect of the estate by the County Council and government agencies. The main problem seemed to be that of organising amongst themselves to tackle these issues.

Following that meeting residents organised an environmental group that has made

great progress in pressurising the Council into making improvements on the estate.

Residents have been active in tackling the problem of local heroin addiction. Socialist Party Councillor Joe Higgins has met representatives of the residents on many occasions and has supported and encouraged them in the work.

If the market's so great, where's my house?

THE MARKET economy is advertised by its supporters as a system where consumers demand will be met by capitalist supply in the market place. This must sound like a sick joke to the tens of thousands of people stuck on local authority housing lists around the country. Militant spoke to one of them, Margaret Long from Passage West in Co. Cork.

"I have been on the 'transfer list' for seven years now. I don't want to move for trivial reasons. My mother lives in Middleton. She'll be 75 next February. She is ill. I want to live in Middleton because its where I'm from and because I want to look after her.

"I visit her at least twice a week, sometimes three or five times. This involves a journey across the river. If I go into Cork City it costs me £6 a journey in petrol. If I take the ferry it costs £8 to get there. I can't spend £25 to £30 a week on petrol out of a weekly in-

come of £134.

"It's not just my mothers' health now, its my health too with the stress and the waiting. Now I'm forced to consider moving into a mobile home with four kids. This would let me be near my mother but I'd have no electricity, no running water, no proper

toilet facilities, and I'd lose a couple of thousand because I'd save on buying my current house having lived here so long but now I'd have to start over again.

"It's basically very inhuman to be treated like this without any positive news for a long time."

How the Netherlands has tried to cope with heroin addiction

Since heroin first hit Dublin in the late 1970s and early '80s the number of addicts has exploded, from a few hundred to between 7,000 and 10,000 (some suggest 20,000).

The long-term users are being joined by an ever increasing number of very young addicts. Last year 50% of those seeking treatment for the first time were teenagers. But in the Netherlands the total number of heroin addicts has remained stable and there are hardly any young addicts. In 1981, about 14% of them were under 22 years, in 1991, a mere 2.5%. The average age of addicts rose, from just under 27 years in 1981, to 35 years in 1994.

Why the difference? In the 1970s the Netherlands had a wide range of integrated, national and local services which aim to reduce the harm caused by hard drugs, both to addicts themselves and society at large. There is residential detox, counselling, and rehabilitation for addicts, as well as help for families. Other projects help many addicts take their first step towards treatment, provid-

ing a heroin alternative, such as methadone.

In Amsterdam, there are needle exchange programs, mobile dispensaries and some stationary units, where addicts receive a daily dose of methadone under supervision. These addicts are on a central methadone register. Contrary to what some claimed when the projects were first set up, since then the number of addicts signing up for detox and rehabilitation doubled. Because more than 75% of Amsterdam's drug addicts have regular contact with a program only 30% of intravenous drug users in the city are HIV positive, compared to a 70% rate in New York.

What does it all cost? The Netherlands spends about £58 million on the care of addicts, including clinics and out-patient care. That's £2,300 a year for each of their 25,000 addicts.

There will be no fall in the number of heroin addicts in Dublin, unless they get immediate access to real treatment and rehabilitation. Otherwise even those who want help will continue to feed their addiction, robbing their families and communities, and for many young women resorting to prostitution. Only the immediate abolition of the waiting lists for treatment will end the obscenity of addicts who are on waiting lists dying.

This government like the others before it, has buried its head in the sand while working class communities have been burying their young. Only a powerful campaign, led by the communities most affected, will win the resources needed.

Jacqueline Clarke
A member of the Steering Committee of the Dublin City Wide Drugs Crisis Campaign

The facts speak for themselves

	Addicts	Population
Netherlands	25,000	15.1 million
Ireland	7,000 - 10,000	3.5 million

The situation in Ireland

- Methadone budget £596,167 (£3.80 p.w. for each - if 3,000 seeking treatment).
- 50% of prisoners in Mountjoy are there because of drugs related offences.
- Only 19 detox beds in Dublin.
- About 50 GPs have signed up to the GP protocol (each GP would treat a small number of already stabilized addicts), but even the EHB says that at least 200 are needed in Dublin. There are no back up services and GPs get paid £25 a year (50p p.w.) to treat 18 to 25 years olds.
- The 1994 EHB report showed that of those seeking treatment: 27% lived in the Dublin north or south inner city, 80% were male, over 80% unemployed; and 92% were between 15 and 39.

What we say

- The Socialist Party supports democratic community action in tackling crime and heroin.
- We support the right of working class communities to reclaim their areas for themselves and their children.

• We support all forms of democratic mass action, such as marches, patrols, protests and vigils that have been given the democratically decided support of the community.

• We are opposed to vigilante action, that is, unelected and unrepresentative groups of individuals acting on their own behalf.

• We demand that the resources necessary are put in now to guarantee immediate treatment for any heroin addict who seeks it.

• For community based treatment clinics to deal with addicts in the areas where they live, with the agreement of and monitoring by the local community.

• For concerted action to take on organised crime. For the Gardai, Revenue Commissioners, Social Welfare and local authorities to work with the local communities and to implement policies advocated by the communities.

• No further infringement of civil liberties. No dilution of the concept of innocent until proven guilty.

• For real action to deal with mass unemployment and poverty, and to provide community facilities and services.

Communities have to fight for real solutions

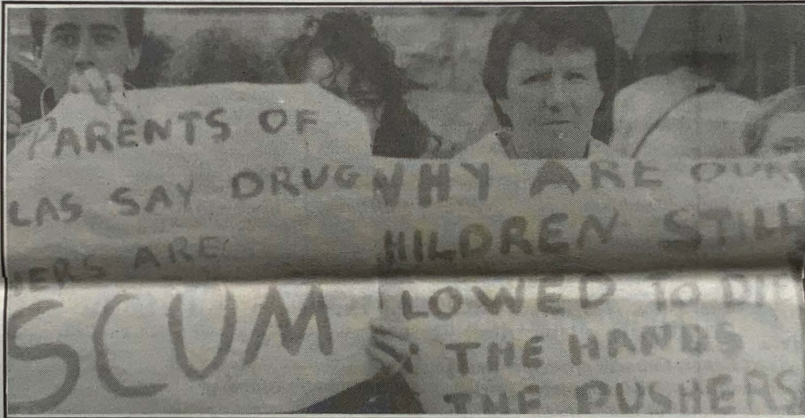
A MASSIVE movement has exploded in Dublin around the issue of heroin. Every night over the last two months has seen mass meetings and marches throughout the city.

This activity is a very positive development. It is rooted in the fact that dealing was more widespread than ever before while at the same time treatment for heroin addicts is practically non-existent.

A real opportunity exists now to build a mass community movement which can force funding from the government to develop a community based programme to deal with the crisis.

A lot is at stake. This issue is a matter of life and death for many communities. It is vital that the mistakes made, which caused the Concerned Parents movements of the 1980s to fail, are understood and not repeated. The leaders of this new movement in all areas bear an enormous responsibility to get things right.

In the 1980s the focus was on getting the dealers out of the areas. This was the understandable reac-



Working class communities can make a real impact in tackling the heroin crisis

tion of the community and initially it was achieved through mass mobilisations. However over time mass action gave way to the chaos of individuals or small groups whose initiatives weren't agreed democratically in the communities. An open democratic movement is vital to success.

For a period in the 1980s areas were free of heroin. But because the addicts weren't assisted the demand for heroin still existed. The market place just shifted. After a while when community activity died down the dealers came back with a vengeance.

The biggest single blow communities can now make against the dealers is to provide the addicts themselves with drug treatment and maintenance. Treatment programmes po-

tentially cut across the dealers, re-integrate the addicts into the community and thereby give the community some control so it can stem the crisis.

In all meetings and marches it is essential that the idea of immediate treatment for all addicts is encouraged and advanced.

Unfortunately separate campaigns have emerged. The Dublin City Wide Drug Crisis Campaign has existed for quite a while but is now supplemented with COCAD - Coalition of Communities Against Drugs.

It is vital that there is a real and active unity of purpose between all groups. People have a responsibility to ensure there is no split in the anti heroin movement which could let

the government and the dealers off the hook.

Initiatives should be taken, like a conference and marches to bring all the areas and campaigns together. A common approach should be hammered out through discussion and then the whole movement must be mobilised on a local basis and centrally to demand emergency action from the government.

We believe that the involvement of the whole community in the anti drugs campaigns and active co-operation and real unity of purpose between the different campaigns and groups are essential.

Kevin McLoughlin

How the Socialist Party is involved

MEMBERS OF the Socialist Party are very active in the movement against heroin in East Tallaght, Whitechurch, Mulhuddart, Cabra and Dublin City. We print a brief report on the work in three of these areas.

On Thursday 26th September 170 people attend a meeting in Blakestown convened by Socialist Party councillor Joe Higgins.

The need for treatment facilities as well as an approach to stopping dealing was stressed by all speakers and accepted readily. One man reported that his son had died through addiction and overdose. He didn't blame his son's friend who had given him the drugs (he was an addict too) but called the big dealers scum.

Finishing the meeting Liam Collins from the Fettercairn treatment programme in Tallaght spoke of a young man whose life had changed as a result of treatment. He now played football for the local team and recently got married and had thanked his father for standing by him. Liam revealed that he was referring to his own son. Thirty six people volunteered their help to get the campaign going.

St Aengus Community Action held

a very important meeting on Tuesday the 1st of October with 150 people in attendance. It was reported that all of the key requirements for the establishment of treatment facilities were in place except for a doctor to issue prescriptions. It was agreed by the community to fully back the treatment facility.

St Aengus is made up of seven estates. Both local authority and private areas were represented. Some estate representatives were agreed

and the overall committee was expanded. Each estate was to individually discuss the appropriate ways to cut across dealing and build the campaign in their area.

This campaign in East Tallaght is very well rooted in the community and is open to all. The Penny Black, the local pub has donated £1,000 to assist the campaign. At the meeting the role Socialist Party activists Lisa Maher, Mick Murphy and Christy Pollard have played in establishing the campaign was raised and warmly appreciated by activists from the area.

In Whitechurch after two meetings of 100 people the campaign is firmly established. Agreement has been reached with the Eastern Health Board to provide a counsellor for addicts twice a week. Some women from the campaign are on training courses to enable them to assist in the work. It has been agreed to try and establish an actual treatment program in the area as soon as possible. In the next month education meetings for 12 to 15 year olds and 15 to 18 year olds will be held. The campaign is also going to establish a support group for the families of addicts.

ANTI CHARGES GROUPS PREPARE FOR GENERAL ELECTION

THE FEDERATION of Dublin Anti Water Charges Campaigns has a special initiative planned for the general election next year. Campaign chairman Socialist Party Councillor Joe Higgins spoke to us about it.

"The General Election offers the movement against water and service charges, a brilliant opportunity to hit hard at the politicians and force the abolition of this hated double taxation.

"At its conference in May the Federation decided that the campaign should sponsor a panel of candidates in the forthcoming general election. These candidates would stand on the programme of opposition to double taxation water charges and for a campaign for justice in taxation. It was also decided to discuss with existing campaigns outside of Dublin about having a common panel of candidates on the same issues.

"Since that conference significant progress has been made. A national panel of candidates is now being prepared. It is possible that up to ten seats nationally will be contested in the general election. The various campaigns are drafting a common tax programme. We will be highlighting the double stan-

The Federation of Dublin Anti Water Charges Campaigns can be contacted at ph:8729163



Anti water charges supporters should mobilise for the Supreme Court hearing on 1st November.

dards in the taxation system, the huge burden which PAYE workers are paying and the scams for privileged sectors of society to avoid paying taxes. The campaigns will agree and publish a united programme.

"In September there was a meeting in Dublin involving campaign members from Dublin, Cork, Galway, South Tipperary and Limerick.

"Each of the relevant campaign areas both in Dublin and in the other counties will be selecting and ratifying their own candidates."

The various Dail parties seem to be stampeding towards the dropping of the Residential Property Tax, what is your reaction to that?

"This is a cynical exercise on behalf of the right wing parties. Any party which promises to abolish Residential Property Tax while leaving water or service charges or double taxation in place for ordinary PAYE workers will be severely punished at the polls.

BALDOYLE FIGHTS THE WATER TAX

The Federation of Dublin Anti Water Charges Campaigns has built a strong boycott of the double tax in Baldoyle. Brian Greene, an activist from Park Vale spoke to us.

"Baldoyle is a very well organised non-payment area. We have close to a thousand households in membership. At our last public meeting over 100 people attended. A wave of threatening solicitors letters had been sent to non-payers.

"Owen Poole, the local co-ordinator and Vice chairman of the Federation addressed the meeting, telling people to ignore the intimidation, a desperate act by a frustrated council to cause a panic of payment. If anybody subsequently received a summons they should immediately contact the campaign and our legal team would prepare their defence.

"Owen then went on to explain the Federation's election strategy and that there would be a candidate standing in the Dublin

North East constituency with the backing of the Federation. This idea got a very enthusiastic response at the meeting. People are itching to have a go at the politicians.

"Since our meeting in Baldoyle two further meetings took place in Howth and Bayside.

"There's a meeting to be held here soon where all the public representatives for the area will be summoned to account for themselves and their parties in relation to the charges.

"Just to spice it up even more Fingal County Council have issued a series of summonses in Baldoyle (which the Federation is preparing to defend). These people will be queuing up to have a go at the politicians on the night, and then at the ballot box."

Water Charges News

NOVEMBER 1ST will see an all-Dublin protest to coincide with a Supreme Court hearing of a matter relating to the Water Disconnection Act in the appeal of a Federation member.

It is important that the local campaigns really mobilise for a large and lively protest. This is one of the key events in the next months to drive another nail into the coffin of the charges.

November 6th sees the first Civil Process Court case in Swords. Dozens of householders have been summoned. There will be a strong lobby of the court organised. The Council has effectively abandoned the discredited Water Disconnection Act and has now opted to attempt to intimidate non-payers through random summonses under existing debt collection legislation. This is a very protracted process for the Councils and of course the Federation will be fielding a legal defence team for each case.

A series of public meetings will be held to which local Councillors will be invited to account for themselves and their parties before they vote in November as to whether there will or will not be water charges in 1997. These meetings promise to be very lively.

Parallel to the meetings with the Councillors and various public representatives lobbies and pickets will be placed on the clinics of the various Councillors to remind them of the electoral consequences they face should they vote for water charges.

The Dublin Federation put a lively protest on the offices of a debt collecting company in Dublin who have been employed by Cork Corporation to intimidate non payers of service charges in Cork.

Inside the Socialist Party

A VERY good night was had by one and all at the '60s' disco, held in the Commercial Rowing Club by our Dublin City branch last month.

For the slightly less 'mature', a '70s' night is being organised by our members in Palmerston on this November in the Coldcut Club. So get out your platforms and your glitter and be there. Bar will be open till late.

Our members in Mulhuddart are organising what they say will be a huge night out on the 26th October. Music will be provided by the 'Gig Men', to suit all tastes. Admission is £4. The bar will be open till 1am. There will be a raffle with big prizes. The venue is the Verona Club.

Our Annual National Draw will take place at the end of November. Tickets at £10 each (limited to 400) will be on sale from mid October. First prize is £2,000, second prize £500, and there will be five £100 prizes

Special Offer: A Socialist Party supporters club is being established. If you generally agree with our ideas and support what we are doing, and want to show your support, you can join our supporters club. You will receive a regular newsletter letting you know about the ideas and work of the Socialist Party. Our paper will be posted to you every month, along with our political journal *Socialism Today*. In exchange we ask you to make a regular monthly contribution to our Party funds, from £5 upwards. Contact us at (01-6772686) for further details.

BUILD UP SALES TO PREPARE FOR NEW PAPER

THIS MONTH poses a historic opportunity for members to sell, sell, sell the very last issue of the Militant newspaper. Don't panic though readers, next month we will be back but with a new name. Following on from our name change to Socialist Party a discussion is currently taking place on changing the name of the paper.

Estate sales have been particularly good recently. The Dublin South West Branch topped the poll with 174 papers sold on three estate sales on the issue of tackling the heroin crisis. The Mulhuddart Branch also sold forty papers on the drugs issue. In Swords members sold 67 papers in estates and spent time talking to people on the doorsteps, filling people in on what has been happening with the water charges.

The Dublin City branch did excellent work on city centre stalls calling on people to support the Dunnes Stores Strikers, 121 papers was sold on



Selling the Militant

these activities.

Now more than ever increasing opportunities for us to sell the paper are opening up because of the amount of work and issues we are involved in, from the water charges to our work in the colleges, workplaces, anti heroin campaigns along with the many other issues that members are playing a decisive role on in their own areas.

SOCIALIST PARTY GETS GOING IN UCD

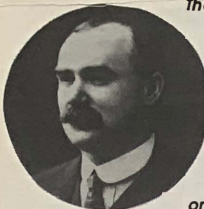
DESPITE THE competition between clubs and societies ranging from the Legion of Mary to the Trampaleen Society, the first stall ever in freshers week in University College Dublin under our new name Socialist Party was very successful.

We have recruited 20 people in the course of a week, even though for two days we were stuck between the Ski Club who had all these very trendy, well-to-do types and the Chess club who really didn't appreciate the amount of conversations that were taking place, it interfered with their concentration. We had nine people attend a lunch time meeting on "Our Plans and Politics"!

One first year law student who joined us, consciously going around socialist groups before deciding which one she would join, explained why she is a socialist, "Every day when I turn on the TV and watch the news I find another reason why the system doesn't work".

Given that this is a somewhat historic issue supporters should be asked for the solidarity price of £1.

Copies of the Militant going back twenty five years are available on file if you would like to check out what was happening back then.



The Socialist Party was launched at a press conference in Dublin on October 3rd, 1996. It has received widespread media coverage, and a very good response already from many working class people. In this feature we explain what the party will stand for, its aim to stand in the socialist tradition of James Connolly and Jim Larkin, and why ordinary working class people should join it and make it their party.

"I'm really pleased that Militant Labour will now become the Socialist Party. Working class people need real socialists in the Dail, and I believe the Socialist Party will make a breakthrough in the next General Election." Councillor Joe Higgins, Chairperson of the Federation of Dublin Anti Water Charges Campaigns.

Where the Socialist Party stands on key issues

- On Jobs**
- Stop the handouts to big business and the multinationals.
 - Develop state owned industry and services to provide secure well paid employment.
 - A guaranteed right to a job or training with decent wages and full workers' rights.
- On Pay**
- For a legal minimum wage of £5 an hour to end the scandal of low pay.
 - No to another national wage programme which keeps wages down and profits up.
 - For democratic trade unions to fight in the interests of their members on pay and conditions.
- On Workers Rights**
- Repeat the 1991 Industrial Relations Act.
 - Opposition to all attacks on workers' rights and conditions.
 - For a 35 hour week.
 - For all workers, whether full-time, part-time or on contracts, to have full pension, sick pay and holiday rights.
 - For a major campaign to unionise all workers and to make it illegal to sack workers for joining a trade union or engaging in union activity.
- On Taxes**
- Increase the tax eligibility level to £8,000 a year.
 - No worker to pay PAYE above a 25% rate.
 - No more tax amnesties for the rich, make them pay their full share.
 - Abolish local charges - No double taxation in any form.
- On Social Welfare**
- No taxation of benefits.
 - Restore pay related benefits in full.
 - For a minimum social welfare payment of £100 as week for the unemployed, pensioners and those on sickness and disability benefits.
 - For the reversal of all cuts that have taken place in health, education and local authority services.

The SOCIALIST PARTY

The Voice of Working Class People

DO YOU think there is a need for a political party that takes an uncompromising stance, in word and in deed, in the interests of ordinary working class people?

Do you think there needs to be an organised struggle against mass unemployment and poverty, against low pay and high PAYE taxes on working class people while wealthy tax dodgers owe £2 billion?

Do you think attacks on welfare and workers' rights should be resisted? Do you think it is a scandal that we have a two tier health service, where those who can afford it get luxury treatment, and those who can't join a 30,000 long queue for hospital care?

Do you believe in the idea of solidarity between ordinary working class people? Are you opposed to all forms of racism, whether it be on the grounds of race or gender? Would you support the idea of a society and economy planned for workers' needs and not for profits, and organised under the democratic control of working class people?

Would you support the idea of working class unity, and common struggle against common misery as the way forward in Northern Ireland, as opposed to sectarianism and bigotry? If so, you already support the main ideas of the Socialist Party. We would like you to join us. We aim to become a major campaigning party of ordinary working class people.

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THE SOCIALIST Party is determined to make a real impact in the political life of the country over the course of the next few years. It will be a campaigning, socialist political party taking up all the issues that affect ordinary working class people.

Labour and Democratic Left claim to be the parties of the "Left". They claim to be the parties that represent ordinary working class people. These claims are completely false. They do not stand up in any examination of the role that both Labour and Democratic Left have played since the last general election.

Labour fought the last general election highlighting the corruption and scandals surrounding Fianna Fail, and promising change. Once the election was over they put Fianna Fail, (who apparently weren't fit to govern in the election), back into power. When that didn't work out, they went into government with Fine Gael. Democratic Left were only too willing to hop into bed with the political establishment as soon as they were asked to.

The only change they have delivered is a change in their own political fortunes and careers. The end result of the abandonment of any pretence of being socialists, and the abandonment of the people who voted for them by Labour and Democratic Left, is that there isn't an iota of difference between any of the parties now in the Dail.

We live in a virtual one party state. There is a consensus everything and a real debate on nothing. They all agree on European Monetary Union, there is no debate on what the consequences will be on jobs, working conditions, or social services. They all slavishly worship the capitalist market. There is no protest when multinationals close down, companies like Packard and Sempert with disastrous effects on areas already ravished by mass unemployment.

They all agree on the need for tax cuts, but have nothing to say about real tax reform, or the scandal of £2 billion owed in taxes by the wealthy. The Socialist Party will challenge this smug consensus.

There is an urgent need for debate on an alternative to the brutal dictatorship of market forces, an alternative which will put the interests of people before the interests of greed. The Socialist Party will proudly stand over and fight for the ideas of genuine, democratic socialism.

We believe there is an urgent need for the building of a genuine Socialist Party which will regard its independence from the parties supported by big business interests as a matter of principle.

The Socialist Party will be looking to mass campaigns by working class people, such as the anti water charges and anti drug campaigns in Dublin as a natural constituency of support.

Members of the Socialist Party are playing leading roles in these movements in a wide number of areas. Our aim is to give all those who are in struggle on the issues affecting working class people, or who are just simply sickened by the lack of concern and lack of action by the politicians, a party they can believe in.

The Socialist Party will be an active, campaigning organisation. While it will challenge the other parties in elections, this will be just a part of its work. Unlike the other political parties who have abandoned working class communities, only to appear on door steps during elections, Socialist Party members will continue to work with local communities, helping people to get organised on the issues. Our members in the unions will continue to fight for democratic, fighting unions which will really represent their interests.

The launching of the Socialist Party is a bold and adventurous step into the future. We aim to build a broad political party of working class people, for working class people. We will have no millionaire backers like Larry Goodman. The Socialist Party will not be for sale to big business.

Our aim is to end the rule of the millionaires and their system based on greed, and to replace their rule with a democratic socialist society.

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"I think it's very good that there will be candidates standing as socialists in the next general election. The parties who claimed this in the past no longer have any commitment to socialist ideas." Martin Welsh, Ex-Packard Electric Shop Steward.

"This is just what we need down here in Shannon and in the mid-west generally. I think there is great potential for a socialist party here." Dominic Haugh, Postman, Shannon, Co. Clare.

"I like the name change. It will save explaining what 'Militant' means. I think people will react to this name better. It's more modern, broader, a good name for the future." Margaret Long, Cork



The Socialist Party will represent 25 years of rich experience by the supporters of Militant in fighting for the rights of working class people and defending the real ideas of socialism.

SOCIALIST Party

Join It Today!

Ring us at (01) 677 2592

P.O. Box 3434, Dublin 8.

New Intifada Rocks Occupied Territories

RMED BATTLES have ruptured across the occupied territories in the biggest confrontations since the early days of the Intifada. Israel's opening of a tunnel near the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem ignited an explosion which released the accumulated anger and frustration of the Palestinians.

The so called "Peace Process" had only brought the masses increased destitution. They had hoped that the Peace Process would lead to a better future, independence and dignity. But the election of the right wing Likud government in Israel, whose hard-line rhetoric denounced any concessions to the Palestinians had rushed these hopes.

The Oslo agreement has replaced Israeli troops in the urban centres with Palestinian Police. The demonstrators, armed with stones and bottles marched to the edge of the towns, to reach the Israeli checkpoints.

In scenes reminiscent of the Intifada, they fearlessly stoned the Israeli soldiers, who responded with gunfire. (Despite the peace agreements, Israeli Army orders still allow the shooting of unarmed Palestinians). The Palestinian police who were sent to restrain the demonstrators were accused as traitors and in some places



The mass struggles of Palestinians is the key to winning an independent state, not negotiations with imperialism.

were even stoned themselves for doing nothing to protect the masses from Israeli bullets. At a critical point they turned around and began to fire back at the Israeli soldiers. The crowd cheered them.

US and European governments fear an upsurge of conflict will spread across the Middle East, threatening their client states. This is why they are pressuring Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Arafat to meet to defuse the crisis.

Netanyahu's policy of be-

ing tough with the Palestinians has rebounded on him. The illusion of peace in the Middle East has exploded.

Israelis are deeply divided, with a large proportion blaming the Likud government for recent events. A hastily organised demonstration in Tel Aviv attracted 40,000 people. A speaker called for mass protests to bring the government down.

The Oslo Peace Process has shown that it has not solved the basic conflict. Neither can it provide the Palestinian people with the minimum materi-

al conditions necessary for a decent human existence.

Every advance in the rights of the Palestinians has not been given by the good will of the oppressors but has been won by the struggles of the masses. Tragically Arafat is likely to squander the painful sacrifices of his people as bargaining chips in the misnamed peace negotiations, to soften the terms of Israeli domination.

To win independence and freedom, the Palestinians will need to build a new leadership prepared to go beyond

the limitations of what the oppressors are prepared to provide, which bases itself on the struggles of the masses, and turns the Palestinian struggle into the spearhead of a regional struggle against imperialist domination and capitalism.

The newly opened tunnel should be closed immediately. The border closure enforced by the Israeli authorities between Israel and Palestine should be ended.

Town and village curfews in the West Bank and Gaza, imposed by the Israeli De-

fence Forces must be stopped. Israeli Defence Forces and security personnel must be withdrawn from the Gaza and West Bank.

All opposition forces linked to the peace movement should launch a mass campaign to force the Likud government from office and force a general election.

The confrontations over the last week mark the beginning of the second Intifada. The awakening of the Palestinian masses to struggle marks a vital step forward.

Cyprus

Fascist Killers Backed By Turkish State

ENCLOSED IS a copy of a letter I recently received from a sympathiser of the Committee for a Workers International in Northern (Turkish) Cyprus.

Kutlu Adali wrote for the newspaper of the ex-Communist Party, the CTP, or Republican Turkish Party, which is something like Democratic Left. This party was a minority party in a coalition government in Northern Cyprus, but was still too left wing for elements of the Turkish state. In March, its Lefkosa office was bombed by people connected with the state: as Northern Cyprus is very small, with only one airport and one ferry-port, it is not the most sensible place in the world to omit even the most minor crime.

Miraculously, no-one was caught for either the bombing or the later murder. A Turkish newspaper has named the two killers of Kutlu Adali, but there has been no attempt to even question them.

Almost 10% of the Turkish Cypriot community attended Kutlu Adali's funeral. They chanted political slogans like "Down with Fascism" and "No to unity with Turkey". When two Greek Cypriots were murdered at the border by some of the 4,000 fascist Grey Wolves imported from

Turkey for the occasion, there was a demonstration in protest by three hundred Turkish Cypriots.

They marched to Kutlu Adali's house and pointed out that the same forces had murdered both. The demonstration was organised by the small socialist New Cyprus Party and by expelled members of the Republican Turkish Party.

The Turkish Cypriots are now a minority in Northern Cyprus - 70,000 of them in contrast to 80,000 settlers, who may be used to stage a 'referendum' to unite Northern Cyprus with Turkey.

Anton McCabe, Omagh

"THANKS A lot for your letter of 10 July, 1996 which I received two weeks after the murder of my best friend. Kutlu Adali was 61 years old and he was writing in the last seven years in Yeni Duzen, organ of the Republican Turkish Party (CTP).

"He was very much against the partitionist policies of the Turkish Cypriot leadership and he was criticising continuously their population policy which was characterised by bringing more and more mainland Turkish settlers and causing the exodus of the Turkish Cypriots from their homeland, Cyprus.

"He was one of the active members of our Movement for an Independent and Federal Cyprus which we formed in 1989.

"On the night of June 7th, Kutlu was murdered in front of his home, in a Nicosia suburb, after a discussion which ended with Kutlu's shout "Don't do it!", later two series

of machine gun shots were heard by neighbours. The type of machine gun (MP-5) was supposed to be only in the possession of the Civil Defence Department.

"A car left the place in a hurry as one neighbour could see and five minutes later the special team members were there, since they were on alert in the surroundings because a murder and an attempt to murder took place in the week before. He was left on the street for more than an hour as he bled to death and he was taken later to the hospital not by the ambulance but by the special team.

"I was interrogated by the police as one of his close

friends, but it seemed to me that the police were not really searching into the matter. I don't think that the "murderers" will ever be found out, since it was really committed professionally. An organisation called the "Turkish Revenge Brigade" took the responsibility of the Adali murder by phoning the "Kibris" newspaper which that night published an article by Kutlu criticising the population policy of the Turkish side. Maybe warning others approving this line of thought!!! This "Turkish Revenge Brigade" is also known in other "not cleared" political murders in south-eastern Turkey."

Motion condemning state intimidation of labour movement activists

This trade union organisation condemns the murder of Kutlu Adali, and other acts of intimidation against socialists in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. We are most concerned that the murderers of Mr Adali appeared to act as if they did not fear arrest by the security forces, and that no arrests have been made in connection either with this murder or with the earlier bombing of the offices of the Republican Turkish Party in Lefkosa. We call on the government

of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus to safeguard all its citizens.

Copies to: Rauf Denktash, President, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Lefkosa, Mersin 10, Turkey. The Turkish Ambassador, 60 Merrion Road, Dublin 4.

The New Cyprus Party, 28 Sht 1 Ramadan, Lefkosa, Mersin 10, Turkey (write on message "For publication in Yeni Cag").



Latin America

CWI members are contesting the forthcoming elections in Brazil and Chile. In Brazil we are standing two candidates including one in Sao Paulo, while in Chile there will be one candidate in Santiago and another in the provinces.

Austria

In Austria our comrades are contesting the European Parliament elections as part of a joint list with the Communist Party. Socialist Party Councillor Joe Higgins will travel to Austria to speak at a rally to launch the election campaign.

Zapatista Conference

In August the CWI was represented at the Zapatista conference in Mexico. The event was attended by 4,000 people; the CWI was alone in arguing a socialist alternative to the dictatorship of the market and the yoke of imperialism.

REVIEW SOME MOTHER'S SON

SOME MOTHER'S SON is a story based on events at the time of the Maze hunger strikes. The story is told primarily through the lives of two mothers and their struggle to keep their sons alive.

The personalising of the story in this way, allows viewers to strongly identify with the plight of the prisoners and the rightness of their demands. For this reason in some hysterical media quarters the film has been slammed as conveying a pro-IRA message.

Two sons are sent to the Maze prison for the attempted murder of a British soldier following their conviction by a non-jury diplock court. Seeing themselves as prisoners of war they refuse to wear prison clothes. They go 'on the blanket'. Having been refused the right to wear their own clothes and access to education rather

than prison work they go on hunger strike.

The two mothers, played by Helen Mirren and Finuala Flanagan are thrown together by their sons' shared plight. Mirren's character is politically unbiased and was unaware of her son's IRA involvement until he is imprisoned. The character played by Flanagan however is a staunch Republican and she grapples with

the conflicting feelings of her maternal instincts and her political conviction in the struggle to keep her son alive.

Bobby Sands is elected as an MP (giving birth to the gun and the ballot box strategy) and dies shortly afterwards. In all ten prisoners die before the hunger strike collapses as mothers take their comatose sons off the protest to save

their lives.

Mirren gives a strong performance as the mother battling against the Thatcher government's hard-line "We do not negotiate with terrorists", while being repulsed on the other hand by what she sees as Sinn Fein's willingness to allow prisoners to die in order to improve a bargaining position.

Mark Cleary



Helen Mirren and Finuala Flanagan

THE COMPLIANCE OF IGNORANCE

Derek Murphy, from Rathmines has sent us this poem. If you are into expressing yourself in verse and words, why not send us something, we will be only too happy to print it.

In the minds of the comfortably blind, there lies the compliance of ignorance - a subconscious surrender. An unspoken promise to remain within the one dimensional mind:

To remain behind barriers of insecurity and oppression: a denial of truth which may shatter your life's foundations and false presumptions:

How the infallible priest lied for two thousand years, How your conscience is supplied through conditioning and fear.

Don't dare question ambiguous answers given for our existence

They've preyed on your frightened willingness to believe any justification for our being, that we have some divine purpose here.

Dreams are supplied through media, consensus; of happy homes, of bright children and small social circles.

A lifetime designed for the good of a nation; working, eating, sleeping - small thinking
Fast bright images flash across our TV, increases short attention;

Easy access for boredom to discourage question or thoughts of freedom, so, bred to live in darkness, many are scared to accept this understanding;
Instinct in denial.

Outright dismissal of another

Threatening of perspective.

A natural reaction, an act of self-protection.

But is it a tragedy that there seems no other solution in a world of over pollution?

In sadness I must concede most are scared of freedom,

And think it as a burden; They'll be happy to comply to ignorance.

I think it may have always been that way.

I still pray that every person experiences some small self-liberation; Who knows I might even see that day?

the story and that the response of the Republican movement and Gerry Adams as an important player in the situation offered no solution. Gerry Adams describes himself as a socialist but he has never recognised that it is only through building a united struggle of working class people, Protestant and Catholic, on the social and economic issues, the very issues

that gave birth to the civil rights movement in the 1960s, that a socialist movement can be built that is capable of dealing with not only the problems of everyday working class life but the national question also.

Before the Dawn is published by William Heinemann in association with Brandon Book publishers Ltd.

Alan Bermingham

REVIEW BEFORE THE DAWN

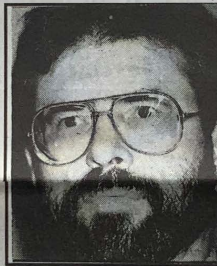
HALF WAY through his new autobiography Gerry Adams describes the feeling among young Catholics in July 1970 when the British army shot and killed Danny O'Hagan during a riot: "...the killing of Danny O'Hagan came as a dreadful confirmation of the fact that what had started as a peaceful campaign for civil rights was now resolving itself into a violent confrontation between the armed forces and ordinary people...bitterness at the violence with which our demands for justice had been met crystallised for many around the death of our young contemporary, and a steely determination entered many hearts, a feeling that if it was war they wanted, then it was war they would get."

When he left his job as a bar man to become a full time organiser during the heat of events in 1969 he sums up his feelings about the IRA getting involved. "I disagreed, feeling that any attempt to militarise the situation, to

bring the IRA into it and to engage the RUC on their own terms would take it out of the hands of the people and bring the entire situation down to a gunfight, which the RUC would surely win."

I will remember this book

for its description of how the lead up to the troubles developed, how ordinary people were effected, their situation becoming intolerable and the sacrifice and indeed heroism they showed in taking on huge odds. The willingness and abili-



ty of people to struggle in the face of adversity and the brutality of the attacks by the RUC, the Specials, the British Army and loyalist thugs is powerfully told.

However we have to remind ourselves that this is one side of

Saif Box

A LETTER TO THE POLITICIANS

Dear Politicians,

Do you remember me? You must. You called one night a few years ago. You told me to keep in touch. Well, how time flies and I'm only getting around to it now. I only remembered when I started to get all your leaflets through the door this week. So I thought it was about time I wrote to you.

Where will I start, oh I know, the hubby first. To tell you the truth he's not too well. He needs a new hip. Moan, moan, moan, that's all I hear out of him. Just because the doctor told him he'll have to wait two years for it. Hasn't he got pain killers. What more could he want?

Our Susie is grand. She's still living with us. Her husband and the baby are all grand. They are still in the back bedroom. She keeps going to the Council to get a house, she just won't be told.

If they told her once they told her a million times, they aren't building anymore houses for the foreseeable future. I suppose if she had three or four more kids she might get one. But I can't get any more cots into that room.

Our Jane is great, she got nine



Politicians like Labour's Ruari Quinn might take note.

honours in her leaving cert two years ago. I was so proud of her. She wrote off for loads of jobs, but I think it must have been around the time of a postal strike, because she got no replies.

I don't know, she was weeks crying and having temper tantrums. In the end her father went down to the credit union and borrowed the money to let her go to America. She hasn't been home yet. I don't understand it. She says she can't because she's an illegal alien. I told her that's rubbish, she's no alien, she was born in the Rotunda

and I have the birth cert to prove it. I was never on any other planet.

You must remember my father. He was here the night you called. You told him what a great man he was working all those years in Guinness's. Do you not remember him going on about the good old days and him saying he was seventy eight and never a policeman to the door. Well he's in trouble now. He has to go to court over not paying his water tax.

There's no talking to him. I told him it's wrong, sure hasn't he paid all his taxes. When you come

around you can reassure him.

Listen, before I sign off, I better warn you. It's got a bit violent down our way. People are going to be waiting on you to call. They say they have a dangerous weapon and they are going to use it on you. It's called a vote. I'd better sign off now as Mrs. O' Reilly from next door is calling me, she's probably after getting another threatening letter off the E.S.B. I don't know what she does with her £66 a week.

Love

Mrs. Gullible.

(From Gina Ward, Mulhuddart.)

Social Welfare Fraud WHO IS ABUSING WHO?

Dear Editor,

I wish to refer to the recent success of the media in further vilifying and engendering oppression of unemployed people.

Those of us who are most vulnerable, living below the poverty line, are not to blame for the situation we find ourselves in. This seems to be borne out through an economic policy which claims that due to the changing nature of our economy and in order to allay a peculiarly European fear of a slightly higher inflation rate.

Since 1992 one third of our pop-

ulation have emigrated to look for work. During this boom that we are currently enjoying, levels of unemployment, one of the highest in the EU, are testimony to the failure of economic planners and politicians to provide sustainable jobs and decent living standards for all our citizens.

Unemployed people are divided, isolated, caught in a struggle for survival which sometimes forces them into the black economy from which many businesses profit. A day's low paid work to pay for essentials; a mortgage repayment; stamps, phone calls or clothes for job hunting.

We are people struggling with early experiences of discrimination in education, in accommodation, in employment and poverty - struggling to grow and develop to maybe leave a better future for our children who after all are society's most important resource for the future.

Who then is the abuser and who is the victim of abuse in our current economic and welfare systems?

It is time that the truth is named and that the sacrifice of unemployed people is applauded rather than vilified!

Yours Faithfully
Eileen Stephens.

Northern Ireland Talks in Crisis

WORKERS MUST DEVELOP A NEW WAY FORWARD

THE NORTHERN Ireland peace process is in serious trouble. The timing of the bomb at an army barracks in Lisburn indicates an attempt by at least a section of the IRA to provoke a breakdown of the Loyalist ceasefire.

David Trimble of the Ulster Unionists is again using decommissioning as a means to keep Sinn Fein out of the talks, and probably to try and push the so-called "fringe" loyalist parties, the PUP and UDP out of the talks.

Following Drumcree there was a highly charged and extremely polarised situation which had the potential of overflowing out of control.

This did not happen because in the working class communities, Catholic and Protestant, there was an underlying feeling that things were getting out of hand and that the parades issue should be dealt with through dialogue not confrontation.

During this period Militant Labour did not bend to the sectarian pressures from either side. We recognised that there were two rights at issue, the right to parade, but also the right of residents not to have to put up with parades to which they objected and not to be corralled into their areas by the RUC.

Beyond these we pointed to a greater right - the right of the working class

as a whole not to be dragged towards civil war by the refusal of either side to compromise.

The whole parades issue has reinforced the notion that not just estates but eventowns and villages are either 'nationalist' or 'unionist'. A step along the road to a 'solution' based on cantonisation and re-division has been taken.

The two governments and the political parties in the North have completely failed to develop anything out of the opportunity presented while the ceasefires lasted. The whole situation is now balanced on the brink.

A real solution must be built from the bottom up, not from the top of society down. Instead of unity between the sectarians and reactionaries who misrepresent the working class, we need unity on the ground, in the workplaces and in the communities.

The basis for this exists in the trade unions and in community organisations, especially those who have built up cross community links. Postal workers have shown that shop floor unity and solidarity is still intact. At community level



After the events of this Summer and the failure of the political parties, an extremely tense situation now exists.

there have been many initiatives to hold things together.

With the recently elected Forum a discredited Unionist talking shop, there is a case for an initiative to set up an alternative 'Workers Forum' made up of representatives of trade unionists, community organisations, women's and youth groups, plus those political groups which want to participate.

Already there are in existence groups like the Labour Coalition and the Women's Coalition which could play an important role.

The way to a lasting solution is by building on the unity of the working class in the North, by linking arms with the struggles of working people in southern Ireland and in Britain.

The only 'agreed' Ireland which can have the consent

of all sections of the working class is a socialist Ireland. Likewise the only link with Britain which can have similar consent is the link with a socialist Britain.

A new working class organisation campaigning for a socialist Ireland could inspire the working class, Catholic and Protestant, to defeat their sectarian enemies, Orange and Green.

INTERNATIONAL PROTEST ON NIGERIA

INTERNATIONAL DAYS of action against oppression in Nigeria will take place on the 9th and 10th November. This is to mark one year after Ken Saro Wiwa and eight other Ogoni activists were brutally murdered by the Nigerian military regime for opposing the dictatorship and environmental destruction by Shell.

Shell have devastated Ogoniland. Fisheries and drinking water have been destroyed by Shell laying oil pipes above ground. Oil gases burning twenty four hours a day for years have caused wide scale pollution and led to severe respiratory problems.

In 1993 mass demonstrations in Nigeria and internationally caused Shell to cease oil production in the area, but still no compensation has been given to the people from the oil producing areas.

When faced with these peaceful demonstrations in 1993, Shell called in the army and the dreaded Mobile Police Force to viciously put an end to any opposition. They were responsible for the massacre of 2,000 people. 27 villages were reduced to ashes forcing thousands to leave their homes.

Hundreds of activists who dared opposed the regime and Shells environmental destruction now lie in jails, put there without trial and left to languish in shocking conditions.

As part of the International days of action and protest YLR will organise a public meeting on the issue. A Nigerian trade unionist will be speaking.

The speaker is a prominent member of the National Union of Public Corporations Employees (NUPCE) and an executive member of the Campaign for Independent Unionism

In August the regime banned the three main unions in Nigerian universities, this is an opportunity for Irish Student Unions to show their solidarity and opposition to the regime.

We will also be organising protests on the Nigerian Embassy and Shell outlets, visits to colleges and schools as well as city centre stalls.

- ◆ Boycott Shell products.
- ◆ Get your trade union, student union or school to send an immediate letter of protest against the regime to General Abacha, State House, Abuja, Nigeria. Fax: 0023495232138
- ◆ If you want to organise some campaigning activity in your own area contact YLR at P.O. Box 3434, Ph: (01) 6772592

Susan Fitzgerald, Dublin

JOB SEEKERS ALLOWANCE IS AN ATTACK ON THE UNEMPLOYED

FROM MONDAY 7th October a new state 'benefit', the Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) will be introduced in the North. This replaces unemployment benefit, income support and invalidity benefit.

What it will mean, in reality, is that unemployed people can be forced off the dole into jobs that pay as little as £1 per hour and schemes that give you a £10 top up on your dole.

If you don't take one of these jobs or schemes your dole will be cut, possibly altogether. This is the worst attack on working class people in seventeen years of Tory government.

To sign on now you have to draw up a job seekers agreement with your client advisor. This will set out what you will do in an effort to find work. If you cannot physically prove that you've applied for jobs then you lose your benefit!

Young people and the long term (over six months) unemployed will be the first target. And because they know how people will react

to the cuts protective screens have been erected in all the dole offices to save the staff from attack.

The Campaign against the JSA has been set up with organisations like the National Union of Students and the Union of Students in Ireland, unemployed centres, disability action groups as well as the Socialist Party and the Young Socialists.

A demonstration took place

on Friday 5th October, over 80 people turned out on the day.

This was the first step in the campaign, we now plan to hold action meetings in all areas and have other protests, pickets and sit ins.

When people ask if we can beat it what we've said is look what happened in the 1930s. Then unemployed workers were forced onto 'outdoor relief schemes' to

work for their dole. They organised against it, Catholics and Protestants united, went on strike and won major concessions from the government of the time. Now sixty four years later we can do the same.

We won't be used as slave labour, we want real jobs with decent wages, we're going to beat the JSA. Barbara Hawkes, Belfast

trade union, picket line and workplace news

National Programmes Have Failed To Deliver

ATA special delegate conference of ICTU, in September, the unions voted five to one to enter talks on a new national pay deal with the government and employers.

This was the largest ever vote for going into talks, but it doesn't reflect the reality on the ground for trade union members.

This reality is, despite the boom in output and profits, workers have only received on average a 1% rise in pay every year under the national programmes. Tax concessions have given a further 1% rise in take home pay, but for many workers even this was lost due to the reduction in tax allowances on mortgages and VHI payments.

Workers have experienced no benefits from the boom, in fact the experience of nearly all workers has been a "restructuring" of their jobs, pay and working conditions. The boom has been based on increased exploitation of workers.

Two particular examples of this stand out. One of the growth areas in the economy is tourism. Dublin's Temple Bar will have 35 new hotels opening between this year and last year. This obviously shows increased business and the big profits to be made.

But the reality for hotel workers is shown by the strike at the Royal Dublin, wages as low as £2 an hour, no fixed holiday pay or proper overtime rates, no pension, no sick pay, and no recognition of the union.

Similarly, the big supermarkets are undergoing a boom in trade. Why else would they want to open on Sundays and extend late night shopping?



Workers in Team Aer Lingus, who like many others have seen their jobs, pay and conditions eroded.

Does this mean a share in the good times for the workers? You only have to look at the Dunnes Stores dispute to see that what's happening is the exact opposite. The drive to cut costs to achieve a maximum share in new business is all at the expense of shop workers.

There was no discussion on these issues at the ICTU conference. After ten years of the national programmes it is time for union leaders to face up to the real realities of what these agreements have delivered. Of 32 multinational companies who located in Ireland in the last few years, only two of them have recognised unions. Union membership in the private sector is at an all time

low, with somewhere between only 25% and 35% of workers organised.

In the last year, nurses, teachers and civil servants have rejected deals negotiated under the PCW. Increasingly rank and file members are seeing through these agreements. If a serious campaign can be organised for a no vote on a new deal, there will be possibly the best chance of defeating the programmes over the last ten years.

This would be a very important first step in developing a different and much needed strategy for the unions. This is not to say that national bargaining has no role. The unions have a responsibility

Bus And Rail Workers Ballot For Action

THE NATIONAL Bus and Rail workers' Union have taken court action to stop Bus Eireann introducing a rationalisation plan without agreement with the unions. No court decision on their case has been given at this stage.

Workers in the three CIE companies, Dublin Bus, Bus Eireann and Iarnrod Eireann are balloting on strike action to oppose CIE's massive programme of cuts.

CIE, faced with major running losses, £200 million in debts, and a need for £250

million for investment, are looking for £44 million to be cut from payroll costs.

600 jobs losses, the elimination of overtime and shift allowances, greater use of part timers, lower entry rates of pay for new staff, and the inclusion of Sunday as a normal working day are all part of the rationalisation plans.

CIE claim they want to end "antiquated practices", yet the unions say they are breaking agreements made just eighteen months ago.

Rank and file plans for a 'No' vote

A TRADE Union Forum was held on Saturday 28th of September in the Teachers' Club Parnell Square. Over forty rank and file trade unionists attended to discuss how to mobilise opposition to a new national wage programme, how to get information and debate into the unions and the possibility of winning a no vote in the unions.

The Forum was organised as an alternative to the ICTU special conference which was held on 26th September and agreed to go into talks on a new deal.

The speakers on the platform were, Mary Muldowney SIPTU, Eddie Conlon TUI, Des Derwin SIPTU and Michael O'Reilly, general secretary of the ATGWU.

A striker from the picket line of the Royal Dublin Hotel gave a run down on the kind of partnership his work mates were in with the bosses in the Royal Dublin. He appealed for support from the Trade Union Forum at the meeting.

The discussion covered issues like, have the deals benefited workers? Have they tackled the unemployment problem? Should the Campaign begin to put through the unions specific demands for the unions in the talks or should the Campaign call for a "no vote, no partnership" on the proven record of failure to deliver by the programmes.

The general feeling was that a campaign should be set up in as many unions as possible. It was agreed that a further meeting be held on 16th October in the Teachers Club, Parnell Square at 8pm. A secretary, PRO, etc. will be elected and anyone interested in getting involved in the committee to campaign for a No vote should turn up and get active.

Joan Collins, CWU

to make demands on the government on issues such as jobs, social welfare, taxation, the health service, etc. They should be demanding a legal minimum wage, and the abolition of anti-union laws.

But they should negotiate, not by trading off wage increases for empty promises, but on the basis of mobilising their own members, debating all the issues, having a clear cut programme of demands, and a strategy of action to force progress on them.

Wages and conditions

should be negotiated in general at workplace level, except where in some areas, like the public service for example, a better deal could be won by maximising unity and strength in numbers. This would serve to re-invigorate the unions at local level, with members having a real say in the demands their shop stewards should take into negotiations.

A real debate now needs to be opened up in the unions on all these issues.

Left puts forward alternative strategy for civil servants

FOLLOWING THE defeat of the recent Grade Restructuring ballot, the two sides, those in favour and those against, are again at loggerheads as to what is the way forward for our pay strategy.

What's complicating the situation is that the Department of Finance have now stated that they want the talks to be finished by the end of the year. They say that if the talks are not finalised this year then there is no guarantee that there will be money allocated in next years budget.

Also IMPACT have recently, narrowly, accepted a pay deal which was very similar to the deal the CPSU members threw out.

Our officials are now telling us that our negotiating position has now been weakened due to the above. We argue that we are still in a very powerful position because the pressure is on the government. They want a deal concluded to ensure industrial relations peace in the public service and they want the talks concluded this year because next year the government want their spending, particularly public service spending, to be within the guidelines set down for EMU.

Those of us who opposed the original pay deal have formulated our position on looking for pay improvements for our members. This includes a £20 increase for all our members, reduction in the amount of time it takes for members to reach the maximum of their scale and automatic progression to certain higher grades.

When this position was put before the Executive our officials told us that our demands were unattainable due to the time constraints imposed by the Department of Finance. They now propose that we return to the Department of Finance and attempt to seek some improvements on the pay aspects of the deal and in particular the flexibility being sought in return.

A special consultative meeting has been called for the end of October this will enable all branches to give their opinions on the way forward.

Denis Keane, CPSU Executive member

Royal Dublin Strike goes on

Martin Walsh spoke to two young strikers on the picket line at the Royal Dublin Hotel. Dolores is a waitress working there for two and a half years. Paul is a kitchen porter working there for five years.

You've been on strike since the end of August, what are the main issues?

Paul: "The Royal Dublin is the lowest paid hotel in Dublin and we want basic trade union pay and conditions."

Dolores: "Pay ranges from £2.00 to £3.60 an hour. £1.12 is the highest wage anyone takes home from the restaurant. We have to pay our rent, bus fares, taxis, food and even our uniforms out of that. The hotel only supplies our waistcoats."

Paul: "We have to achieve a basic income, £5.50 an hour should be the standard wage. We've no sick pay, holiday pay or pension scheme, Sunday is paid at flat time and if your shift

finishes after midnight you have to pay for a taxi home."

Thirty five of you are members of SIPTU and on strike, what has been the management's response so far?

Dolores: "The manager John Kavanagh said he would rather shut the hotel than settle the dispute, they have constantly tried to intimidate us."

Paul: "Three of us got our P45s while on picket duty. Others have received warnings and told they will be on three weeks trial."

Dolores: "Management have given the workers inside the 3% increase which they refused the union and threw a party for the staff for achieving the ISO 9000 quality award, which we sweated for too."

What has the public response been like?

Paul: "Very good, it's only the people with plenty of money who will pass the picket."

Dolores: "It's only businessmen and some TDs from Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, Paddy Burke a Fianna Fail TD said 'So what if we are F***ing TDs?!'"

After five weeks what is the mood of people on the picket line?

Paul: "Well we know we're hurting them, they made a profit of £460,000 in '95 but it's very frustrating when they won't talk to SIPTU. We're determined to win because we know our demands are just."

Dolores: "We won't accept any intimidation when we get back. We will be out on strike



On the picket line at the Royal Dublin Hotel.

again. Other hotels in our position of low pay are looking at this dispute. If we win it'll be a real boost for other hotel workers."

Paul: "Can we thank the majority of Meath and Mayo fans for not using the hotel after the match and better luck to Mayo next year?"

The Dublin South West Socialist Party Branch meets every second Wednesday in the St. Aengus Community Centre, Tymon North, Tallaght at 8pm. The meetings this month are on the 16th and 30th. An advice centre will operate between 7.00 and 8.00pm on the same evenings in the same venue. Mick Murphy can be contacted at ph:4934696

SOCIALIST PARTY TO STAND IN DUBLIN S.W.

Mick Murphy has been selected to stand for the Dail in Dublin South West. He spoke to Militant on what he sees as the key issues.

"Dublin South West is an area predominately made up of workers and unemployed. Given the nature of the constituency the major problems would be taxation, like what we are doing in the anti water charges campaign, but also fighting for a better deal for PAYE workers.

"In this area there is a serious heroin problem and its not going to go away, that will have to continue to be fought on, fighting for treatment facilities and to raise peoples' awareness. I think the other major problem in the area is that there is a huge youth population and there is massive unemployment with all the associated problems.

"I think they would be the main issues and certainly the ones that we would be fighting on.

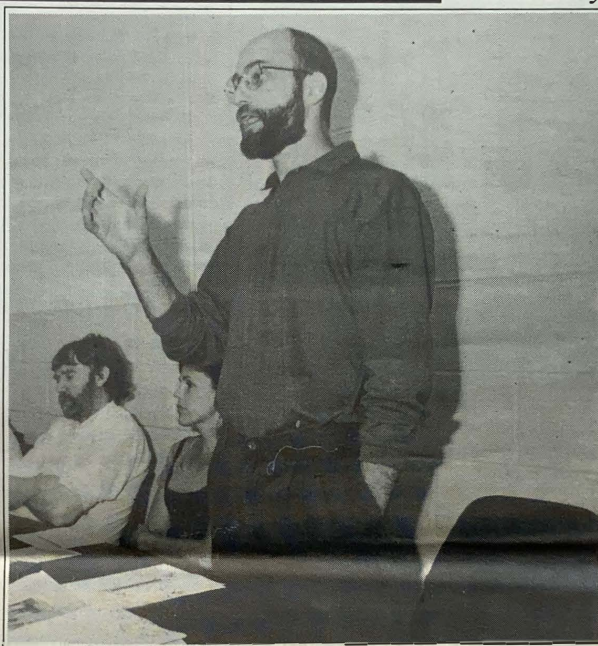
There are three supposedly "left" TDs here but to call them left is an interesting idea when you're talking about Mervin Taylor, Eamon Walsh and Pat Rabbitte. The three of them have been elected since 1992 and

I think most people in the constituency would recognise that little has changed.

"There is a need for something a lot more radical. Much more has been done by the likes of ourselves, people in the anti water charges campaign and we're not even elected.

"The only promise that I will make to people is that I will continue to do what I'm doing now. For the last three years I have been fighting on the water charges issue. The last six months I've been organising on the heroin problem. If I'm elected, or get a good vote I'll just use the increased profile to strengthen the campaigns we're already involved in and getting involved in other campaigns.

My lifestyle won't change in any way even if I was elected. As well as that I would take the average wage, I'm living in a council estate now, I'll continue to live there. There will be no change in my circumstances and no change in my outlook as to what needs to be done in these areas."



Mick Murphy speaking at a community meeting against heroin in Tallaght.

WHERE MICK MURPHY IS COMING FROM

"I'm 32 years of age, I come from South Tipperary. I was raised on a small farm, one of the youngest of a very big family. I originally left school when I was fifteen, spent a year and a half in various jobs mainly as an apprentice mechanic. I also worked on a farm and as a labourer for Bord na Mona. I went back to school, studied, went on to college in Cork to become a mechanical engineering technician, and finished up with a degree there in 1988.

"During my six years in Cork I spent a year full time as student union president in Cork Regional Technical College. We fought for improvement in college facilities and better conditions all round for the students.

"I went on in 1988 to be elected as the National Campaigns Officer for the Union of Students in Ireland (USI). I was re-elected in 1989 to the same position. During that two years I would have edited the national magazine and the main campaign was for the right to travel and information.

"I worked for three years as the plant engineer in the Jaymont factory in Finglas.

I was elected to a union position in the factory in March 1993 but was let go from the factory in May 1993 when the company realised what my intentions were with the union. While I was sacked in May I wasn't finally let go from the factory until October of that year. The union and I fought it all the way in the Labour Court, on the basis that I was sacked, not because of my work record but because I was seen to be pulling the union together.

"I have been Treasurer of the Federation of Dublin Anti Water Charges Campaigns for three years, and I am the co-ordinator for the campaign in Tallaght."

MICK MURPHY SAYS:

ON THE FIGHT AGAINST HEROIN

"This is an extremely serious problem, every family is concerned and nervous. The Socialist Party has some excellent ideas on

this that we need to take into as many areas as possible. Particularly we emphasise measures that cut the market for hard drugs. One way to do that is by treating those already addicted to heroin.

"There should also be a huge effort made to educate the entire population, young and old as to the dangers of these drugs and to try to keep them off these drugs. By cutting the market for the drugs you're affecting the whole situation with the pushers.

"More recently with the flare up of the anti heroin campaign in Tallaght people who are involved in the anti water charges campaign in East Tallaght were saying there was a problem there, so we organised a public meeting and since that time we now have a campaign in the St Aengus parish area

that covers 1,700 houses. Within the next week or two we intend to open up a treatment programme for local addicts. We have done a lot of work in the campaign in that area and it has been very successful. I'm a member of the area committee.

ON FIGHTING THE DOUBLE TAXATION WATER CHARGES

"I was one of the first people to organise meetings against the water charges. Even before they were introduced or the bills were sent, people like me were organising meetings. I've been involved from the very start and have been one of the key people organising not just in Tallaght but in the whole of the south side of Dublin.

"There is talk now of ending the charges. The anti water charges campaign has always been clear, the councils have a problem with funding and that funding should come from central government. Workers are paying more than their fair share toward central government funds therefore they should not have to pay anymore to fund essential council services.

It is the wealthy tax dodgers who should be gone after for the extra funds. Any attempt by the government to increase the tax burden of PAYE workers, be it double taxation or increased income taxes, we will oppose and campaign against."

Title: Militant, No. 247

Organisation: The Socialist Party

Date: 1996

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