

# WORKERS' & UNEMPLOYED NEWS

November 7th. 1987

## VOTE NO! TO NATIONAL PLAN WAGE AGREEMENT!

The trade unions in the 'Free' State, which are members of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, are beginning to conduct a whole series of meetings and ballots to conclude in an overall delegate conference ballot of the ICTU to either accept or reject the Plan for National Recovery negotiated with the government and employers' organisations.

Which way should workers vote?

### A QUESTION OF ACCEPTING REALITY?

The trade union leaders involved in the negotiations who signed the deal clearly are recommending acceptance. The sort of things they are saying are that, whilst they don't regard the agreement as ideal, it is the best settlement possible in the difficult circumstances of the crisis. Basically, these trade union leaders have completely accepted, and taken up as their own and are now trying to force down the throats of the workers, the 'logic' of the governing, ruling class parties, both Fianna Fail and the 'loyal opposition' parties (which of course are all united on the one policy): that 'everybody has to make sacrifices in the interests of a plan for national recovery'.

But already some of the executive committees of their own unions are voting **against** making a recommendation for acceptance to the membership. This means that already there are signs of resistance against accepting the 'logic' of the union negotiators, the government and the employers. For it is becoming increasingly exposed that this policy of 'everybody making sacrifices' is a simple propaganda deception to **make the working class pay for the crisis** and to **maintain and even increase the profits and the wealth of native and**

foreign monopoly capital.

### THERE ARE NO 'ADVANTAGES' TO ACCEPTANCE

Why should the workers accept an agreement which gives them a wage 'increase' of less than the rate of inflation? So why should they accept what amounts to a **wage cut**? And furthermore why should workers accept that for the next three and a half years they have no right to fight against the reduction in their wages, living standards and working conditions which is bound to take place, which is in fact taking place already? Surely it is nothing less than acceptance of slavery to give up the right to strike in this way!

The Fianna Fail government, the

employers and the trade union leaders are quoting lots of complicated figures to try to prove that, when the wage 'increase' is taken in conjunction with the ('promised!') income tax reductions in future years, the workers will be better off. How can this be so? Every wage earner now must know that these sort of statistics on pay in relation to prices - the picture that those in employment are 'better off' than before - does not reflect the reality, especially in the conditions of the crisis: where health cuts are imposing increased charges for treatment, it costs more to put children through school and college, there are unemployed children who have to be supported, maybe also relations to help out etc.etc.

### VOTE NO!

Workers and Unemployed Movement calls on workers to **VOTE NO!** to the 'Plan for National Recovery' Wage Agreement, because it is **not** for national recovery, but only for increased profits to those parasites, whose system has caused the crisis in the first place. It is to the harm of those

Contd. on P.2 -VOTE NO!

## WHAT ARE WE TO MAKE OF THE COMING REAGAN- GORBACHEV SUMMIT?

On December 7th Reagan and Gorbachev are due to sign a treaty for "the total elimination of U.S. and Soviet Intermediate-range and shorter range missiles" at their summit meeting at a venue in New York.

The occasion will undoubtedly be used by the chieftains of the two imperialist superpowers to represent themselves as holding the fate of the world in their hands and to encourage the peoples of the world to place their trust and confidence in them.

The logic being presented to the public with regard to these arms limitation talks, agreements, etc., between the superpowers, is that the source of the danger of another and

even more catastrophic world war is the arms race. It follows therefore that if the arms race can be curtailed and the level of armaments reduced, then the danger of war is lessened. But this is in fact not the case.

The arms race is merely a symptom of a fundamental conflict under imperialism between rival monopoly capitalist groupings of nations, nowadays all organised beneath the nuclear shields of one or other of the two superpowers (not to say that there are not also rivalries and potential defections to the opposite side from within these two groupings. But actually this simply increases potential instability).

Contd. on P.2 -SUMMIT

## Contd. from P.1 - VOTE NO !

who are the wealth creators, the workers.

The workers cannot live on illusions, therefore they cannot afford to swallow this deception that their sacrifices will lead to 'national recovery', whether it is voiced by 'our elected Dail representatives' or the class traitors who are dressed up as 'the official trade union leaders'.

Refusing to accept class conciliation with their exploiters (i.e. class capitulation), the workers must strengthen their own **class struggle** for their rights to decent wages and conditions and to defend their jobs. The workers must fight to **MAKE THE RICH PAY FOR THE CRISIS !**

□

## Contd. from P.1 -SUMMIT

This fundamental conflict stems from capitalist rivalry for markets, sources of raw material, areas for investment of capital, etc., on a world scale. And this reveals a fact of particular importance to the working class. For it is the workers alone who have it in their power to establish a system to end the perpetual threat of war which stems from capitalism - namely, through their revolution to replace capitalism by socialism, i.e. to replace the rule of the capitalist class by the rule of the working class as in socialist Albania, which as it happens - and this is no accident - is one of the few countries in the world today which is fully independent of both superpower blocs and is the most consistent in opposition to both and their warmongering, rather than leaning to one or the other.

For the working class is a class where, unlike the capitalists, the members of the class have no interest in competition with each other, since they rely on mutual co-operation, including between the workers of all countries in the spirit of proletarian internationalism.

Why should anybody today believe that the superpowers are genuinely for peace when every fact points to the opposite? When every year both superpowers unfailingly spend more money than ever before on new generations of weapons more deadly than previous models? When not only do they violate all agreements between each other, they who claim to be the 'peacemakers' are actually

instigating other countries to war as well? (Both the United States and the Soviet Union provide weapons, including chemical weapons - in breach of previous agreements - to both sides in the present Iran-Iraq conflict).

Such an unprincipled position is a true barometer of the evil and anti-people character of both of these superpowers, whatever their respective clap-trap about 'defending the Free World', 'socialist internationalism', 'democracy', 'peace' etc.

Far from actually having anything to do with decreasing the danger of war these 'peace summits' are used as occasions designed to disarm the opposition of the world's people to the two superpowers and their aggressive military blocs NATO and the Warsaw Pact, and to undermine the struggles against their war preparations. As such they actually increase the war danger.

It was a common saying in the periods before both the First and Second World War that when those who are preparing for war are shouting 'Peace!' and 'Disarmament!' the loudest, then the people should watch out. It is no different today.

Genuine, lasting peace in the world can only be achieved when this entire system of imperialism is dismantled and replaced by socialism. But at the same time we cannot simply wait passively hoping that this will occur all of itself.

The workers in Ireland, just as the working class in all the countries, must themselves come forward to denounce the lying promises of the superpowers and the bourgeoisie about this 'peace' summit, and expose the sinister plans of the capitalist bourgeoisie and imperialism before the eyes of the rest of the people.

The vanguard role of the working class - the most progressive and democratic, as well as the most revolutionary of all the classes - will encourage and inspire the people in general to raise the level of their struggle still higher to stay the hand of the warmongers, so as to paralyse their war plans, sure in the knowledge that history has at last brought into existence a force which is capable of eradicating the basis of war from the earth altogether - the working class, the class that in emancipating itself emancipates everybody else, and by abolishing the exploitation of man by man abolishes also the inevitable spin-off of the system of class exploitation - abolishing war itself.

## SAVAGE CONSEQUENCES OF HEALTH CUTS

As the crisis in the capitalist world deepens, the 'Free' State government of the 26 Counties, in common with all the other capitalist countries, is pursuing a policy of forcing the burden of this crisis onto the backs of the working and unemployed people of Ireland.

One of the features of this policy is the deliberate rundown of the health and social services, services which were won by the people through hard-fought struggles over the years.

The practical effects of this policy in regard to health, can be seen for instance, in the ever decreasing number of hospital beds available, and the ever increasing waiting lists for both in-patients' and out-patients' medical treatment. In the past couple of months alone, the number of hospital beds has been cut by 23%, with, it would seem, more to follow. Added to this is the closure of whole hospitals and vital sections of other hospitals, resulting in a situation where sick people can be waiting up to several years for urgent treatment.

Government apologists for this barbarous situation brazenly claim that not only is this 'necessary for the good of the overall financial state of the economy', but that these vicious cutbacks actually improves the level

### MEETING

## DENOUNCE LENIHAN'S PROMOTION OF EMIGRATION

### DUBLIN

Wednesday 18th Nov. - 8 pm  
CLARENCE HOTEL  
(near Capel St. Bridge)

### CORK

Thursday 19th Nov. - 8pm  
CARPENTERS' HALL  
Father Matthew Quay

Speakers from :  
Voice of the Youth and  
Communist Party of Ireland  
(Marxist-Leninist)

of health care for the people! For instance, they say that 'many hospital admissions are unnecessary' and 'patients are abusing the system' etc., and that in any case people in 'genuine need of treatment will be looked after'.

But this is a filthy lie, as can be seen by looking at just one instance which occurred recently in Cork.

Jeremiah O'Mahoney, an elderly homeless man, was admitted to the city's Mercy Hospital having been found unconscious on a city street. Within two hours he was declared fit and well and was discharged into the care of voluntary social workers. On returning to their overcrowded hostel, they soon discovered that he was far from fit and well, and attempted to have him readmitted to the hospital. The hospital refused to accept him saying that they were overcrowded and did not have the facilities for him. Within six hours the man was dead, having been placed on a mattress in the corridor of the hostel. □

## Support Rank Xerox Workers' Fight to Defend Jobs!

Workers at Rank Xerox, the giant multinational photocopying and computer manufacturer employing about 100 workers in Ireland, have been on strike since Tuesday, 27th October. Pickets have been placed at the Dublin Industrial Estate and Cork depots and the headquarters and showrooms at Stephen's Green in Dublin.

The issue is that the company wants to eliminate the transport section of their company and farm out this work in future to outside contractors. At first they were demanding redundancy for all 38 drivers etc., but apparently this was reduced to 18.

This tactic of replacing various sections of the workforce, such as fitters etc., has become an increasingly common practice of employers during this continuing recession. It rids them of the financial obligations involved in maintaining the same regular workforce, their own equipment, machinery, maintenance etc. Replacement of company lorries and drivers by outside hackers has been undertaken in particular in many other jobs, for instance at Irish Distillers.

## HOW CAN WORKERS DEFEND THEIR INTERESTS WITH CLASS TRAITORS AS LEADERS!

The logic of the bourgeoisie in dressing up a plan to increase the exploitation and hardship of the workers in the deception of a 'plan for national recovery' is clear. But what has been the logic of the trade union leaders in negotiating and then enthusing about an agreement which is so detrimental to the interests of their own trade union members? They are supposed to be the leaders of the workers, fighting for their rights etc.

The table-talk of such trade union leaders is that the working class can do nothing to defend their interests during this crisis, i.e. that the workers are beaten even before they take up the fight. But this 'analysis' of the state of defence of the working class by these trade union leaders is not an analysis at all, it is **wishful thinking** on their part.

These trade union 'leaders' want the working class to be beaten by the exploiters, **because they are on the side of the capitalists themselves**, they are helping the bourgeoisie to **make the working class pay for the crisis**.

They are the defenders of the capitalist system which keeps them in a handy job acting as the broker between labour and capital.

For decades - in fact ever since they betrayed James Connolly - the leaders of Ireland's trade unions have maintained that the workers do not need to organise the revolution to overthrow the capitalist system. In the first place, they are viciously opposed to workers getting organised to overthrow national subjugation and partition by the foreign British capitalists, which as Connolly explained and fought for, was the precondition to any redress for workers, the precondition to socialism.

According to these theorists of the 'benefits' of class conciliation, the unions should be able to exert

enough pressure to force the employers to give the working class a decent life within capitalism.

What is the difference between the line of these trade union leaders, self-proclaimed 'socialists' - and their 'Labour' Party, 'Workers' Party and revisionist 'Communist' Party etc. - on the one hand, and the capitalists and their openly capitalist parties themselves on the other? This is what all bourgeois 'promise' workers, 'prosperity for the workers under capitalism, by means of capitalism' etc.!

Is it not the case that the problems and hardships inflicted on the workers are all caused by capitalism and the ruling class, their system of exploiting the workers?

The facts show that all the struggles of the workers to better their lot or even just to prevent the erosion of their living standards are all resisted by the capitalists tooth and nail. Therefore such struggle must objectively be a struggle **against** capitalism. How can the workers wage such struggle successfully if, at the head of their own movement and organisations, are people who operate under the theory that capitalism can be made to benefit the workers!

It is clear that, in fighting for their interests (not only long-term, but also short term), for their rights to decent wages and jobs, the workers - at the same time as fighting the capitalists - must also fight to remove these labour aristocrats from leadership of the trade unions and labour movement, and produce leaders themselves for their class who actually do want to fight against the capitalists: leaders who are prepared to fight for a free and reunited Ireland as the very first duty that any militant worker must undertake who is working for the overthrow of capitalism as a system in Ireland and the world. □

The workers have outright rejected this sacrifice of their jobs and the paltry redundancy offer of 2.5 weeks pay per year of service, plus the statutory half week. The issue is that this work remains to be done, regardless of who

does the transporting. But the fact is that the existing drivers at Rank Xerox have been doing it all along already. So why should they be deprived of this work now?

Apparently these moves by Rank  
Contd. on P.4-RANK XEROX

## PARTICIPATE IN BUILDING WORKERS AND UNEMPLOYED MOVEMENT!

You can see from the articles in this issue of our paper some of the main principles which Workers and Unemployed Movement stands for.

Workers and Unemployed Movement was founded at the initiative of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) to help unite the workers as a class, organise the mass struggles to **MAKE THE RICH PAY FOR THE CRISIS!**, and prepare the working class to carry out its historic destiny to **OVERTHROW CAPITALISM AND REPLACE IT BY SOCIALISM** under the rule of the working class.

Whilst a number of organisations of unemployed workers have been formed, before Workers and Unemployed Movement there had been no organisation formed to unite those in jobs and those unemployed.

Workers and Unemployed Movement is not to replace or split up existing trade unions, but to build an organisation on the basis of unshakeable principles which represent the interests of the working class and which will ensure that the organisation remains loyal to those interests.

Thus Workers and Unemployed Movement, as part of its work, fights in opposition to the betrayal of those interests and fights against the traitors themselves, i.e. against those who are the agents of the exploiters working within the labour movement, such as the labour aristocrats who seized control of the trade unions on the death of James Connolly, who have turned the trade unions into yet another means to keep workers under the control of the capitalists and their state (witness their agreement to this latest 'Free' State 'Plan for National Recovery').

Workers and Unemployed Movement is therefore organised to wage the struggle against class sellout as an integral and

complementary aspect to the workers' struggle against the bourgeoisie and to overthrow the capitalist system itself. Consequently part of the objective is to organise the workers in the trade unions to throw the labour aristocrats out of control of the trade unions, so that the workers can once again make the trade unions their own fighting organisations to wage the class struggle.

Every worker knows that the immediate struggles at the work place and in the community are essential if the workers and their families are not simply to be reduced to complete poverty and servitude. But without workers organising as a class politically and fighting under the leadership of their revolutionary party to achieve socialism there is no end to the recurrent nightmare of capitalist crisis, mass unemployment, forced emigration, poverty from ill-health and in retirement, a life of unremitting insecurity from cradle to grave for workers.

However, workers cannot learn the lessons from their experience of struggles, nor can they fit themselves to become the ruling class in society, unless they seriously study society and the class enemy which they are up against - the capitalists and their system. There are two sides to this - such study shows that struggle against them cannot be based on illusions of easy victory, they are a powerful adversary capable also of defence by deception as well as force; at the same time, a scientific understanding of capitalism reveals the fact that this system is not all-powerful, it is a colossus with feet of clay which is in decline towards its final and inevitable extinction. This brings to light the role of the workers

as the gravediggers who bring capitalism to an end and establish society on the new basis of socialism, where class exploitation and scarcity can be finally abolished and forever.

Beginning in January 1988, Workers and Unemployed Movement will undertake systematic and continuous educational work, enabling workers - of course, both those in jobs and those who are unemployed - to participate in study circles on a weekly basis, and arm themselves with class consciousness.

Workers and Unemployed Movement is, amongst its other activities, going to canvass people during November and December so as to organise these study circles on the basis of definite individuals applying to participate. This way a number of circles will be established to meet at the times and venues to suit the convenience of those who join in.

**Anyone interested to join a Workers and Unemployed Movement Study Circle should make their applications to one of our activists or to 'Progressive Books', 25 Essex Quay, Dublin (next to Capel Street Bridge), or by letter to P.O.Box 695, Dublin 8.**

There is only one qualification needed to join a Workers and Unemployed Movement Study Circle: preparedness to look at the facts about society without prejudice. No educational qualifications are necessary. Whilst an interest to learn is all that is required to join the study circles, those who want to put into practice what they learn by taking up the class struggle themselves will not only be encouraged to do so, Workers and Unemployed Movement will welcome them into its ranks as active members - men and women, regardless of background, party affiliation or any other basis of discrimination. **JOIN A WORKERS AND UNEMPLOYED MOVEMENT STUDY CIRCLE!  
TAKE UP THE CLASS STRUGGLE!**

### Contd. from P.3 -RANK XEROX

Xerox will also involve other redundancies in other sections of their operation as part of some new link-up with their parent company in Britain. This is only goes to show once again, that Irish workers can expect no reward for their work - and certainly not the reward of secure employment - under a system which is entirely foreign-owned by companies whose loyalty is to 'the bottom line' alone, and on a balance sheet of world-scale production. And pointing this out is not to hold out any illusions about Irish-owned companies either. Because the same logic applies also to them. The jobs of Irish workers are at the mercy of the dictates of the world capitalist market - a dictate which must be brought to an end for there to be secure jobs in Ireland. □

### ALL - IRELAND YOUTH CONFERENCE

### IRELAND'S FUTURE - ALL OUR FUTURES

Organised by Voice of the Youth

Sunday Dec.6th  
Dublin

Details from: Progressive Books or  
write to P.O. Box 695 Dublin 8

### Progressive Books

25 Essex Quay, Dublin 8  
(near Capel St Bridge)

### Meeting

Organised by Spirit of Freedom

### NO TO EXTRADITION!

Speakers from:

Spirit of Freedom Committee  
Communist Party of Ireland  
(Marxist-Leninist)

DUBLIN:

Wed. 25th Nov. - 8pm  
CLARENCE HOTEL  
(near Capel St. Bridge)

CORK:

Thurs. 26th Nov - 8pm  
CARPENTERS' HALL  
Father Matthew Quay

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