

# The Irish Worker

"The Irish Working Class is the only incorruptible Inheritor of the Fight for Irish Freedom" Connolly

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## BELFAST TRADE UNIONISTS APPEAL ON H BLOCK



We, the undersigned, appeal to all concerned trade unionists to support a representative trade union lobby on H-Block at the ICTU Annual Conference in Belfast next July. We call on trade unionists to travel to Belfast to express their support for the prisoners' demands for political status. We are dismayed at the failure of the ICTU to intervene on behalf of the men in H-Block and we ask for your support for a public trade union inquiry into conditions in the H-Blocks.

We would remind the ICTU that the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, plus the Dublin, Waterford and other trades councils, have called for the granting of political status to these prisoners. We call on the ICTU to move now on the H-Block issue and we ask all affiliated members and branches to support the demands of the July lobby.

Brian Sullivan, Convenor, NUPE, Royal Victoria Hospital  
Harry Fitzsimons, Branch Committee, Belfast No. 1 Branch, ITGWU  
Brian McAnoy, Shop Steward, EEPTU, Belfast Trades Council  
Eamonn Regan, Shop Steward, ASTMS, Belfast Trades Council  
Jim Birch, Shop Steward, ATGWU, Belfast  
Danny Burke, INTO, Belfast Trades Council  
Michael Rainey, School Steward, INTO, Belfast  
Patrick Murphy, Branch Committee, EEPTU, Belfast Trades Council

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### AFTER ATKINS'S 'CONCESSIONS'

The "concessions" announced by Humphrey Atkins concerning the conditions of the H-Block prisoners are in reality nothing of the sort. Permission to exercise in sports kits, weekly letters, and an extra visit a

month will still leave the prisoners squatting in their cells in only blankets, with no right to communication among themselves, with no remission because of their refusal to do prison work.

The torture and degradation to which the prisoners have been subjected is hardly going to change. Atkins's announcement that the prisoners who are sentenced in the future

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# Editorial

## Fight the Cuts - North and South

The Government have announced that workers cannot expect wage increases to rise in line with inflation. "The country cannot afford it", they tell us. But we cannot afford the continued erosion of our living standards.

And at the same time, the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Dessie O'Malley, reported to a Government meeting on March 21st, the threatened closure of factories around the country, particularly in clothing and textiles, footwear and agriculture-related businesses. The Haughey Government has stated openly (as opposed to Lynch's pretence) that increasing employment is no longer a major priority.

### THATCHER'S BUDGET

£54 million is to be axed from the Budget in the North in the coming year. With inflation running at 15%, this means that a real cut of about £70 million is nearer the truth. £20 million is to come off the subsidy to electricity, which will cut into jobs in industry, as well as raising prices. £7 million is coming off education, and redundancies have already been accepted by the leaders of the teachers' unions.

Jobs in the public service are to be cut. Already, the Board of Enterprise, Ulster, have agreed to lay off 206 manual workers. This is only the tip of the iceberg.

This is what Thatcher's budget means for all workers in the North - unemployment, falling educational standards, cuts in social welfare, on top of massive repression.

### ROLE OF NORTHERN COMMITTEE OF ICTU

And what are the leaders of the Northern Trade Union movement doing about it?



Not only are they doing nothing, they are doing worse than nothing.

Terry Carlin, Northern Officer of the ICTU, agreed with the RUC to sabotage any opposition to the cuts from trade unionists in West Belfast. He proposed the rerouting of the march so that Catholic trade unionists would have to march through Loyalist areas, haven of the "Shankhill butcher" type gangs to the assembly point, (See article P.6),

This is an attack on the rights of trade unionists, and especially on the rights of trade union representatives of the most oppressed workers in Belfast. Already, Carlin's treacherous action is being opposed in the trade union movement.

### ICTU ACCEPT TAX COMMISSION

His counterparts in the South are no better. The ICTU have agreed to be represented on the government commission on taxation. They have done this despite the Government's refusal to index the tax bands to prevent creeping increases in the level of taxation of PAY PAYE tax-payers. Because of this, the level of taxation of the majority of tax payers will remain the same.

Only married couples earning over £12,000 a year between them will make any significant gain. If the reliefs had not been introduced in the budget, the level of taxation would have soared to new heights. Even the most cunning and

treacherous trade union leaders would have been unable to prevent an explosion. What was conceded was the bare minimum needed to allow the trade union leaders to continue collaborating with the government.

The Dublin Council of Trade Unions narrowly rejected participating in the commission. It was the DCTU which organised the first huge tax march on March 20th, against the wishes of the ICTU leaders. The trades councils contain a number of elected delegates, and so bear a closer relationship to the wishes of the working class than do the top bureaucrats of the ICTU. It was their methods - a general strike and a massive demonstration - not talks with the government, that won the few concessions made by the government. Only these methods can destroy the government's plans.

### FULL UNITY OF THE ICTU

Trade unionists in both parts of the country face the same problems - an inflation-creating Budget which will eat into living standards, wage restraint, cuts in public expenditure and growing unemployment. In both parts of the country trade union leaders collaborate with the different governments in their different ways.

Both lots of trade union leaders understand perfectly well that big economic upheavals will undermine the political stability of the two states they are so anxious to defend. That is why they are doing everything in their power to prevent any action against the cuts.

But all these attacks on workers' living standards show that a divided Ireland, with two distorted, backward economies, has nothing to offer Irish workers. A united struggle of all Irish workers, against the division in the ICTU, and for a united Ireland, is the only answer.

# Rule Changes at Teachers' Union Conferences

Haughey and Thatcher have announced big cuts in educational spending in the recent Budgets. Thatcher even attempted without success, to abolish the free school transport scheme. Indeed, some Northern teachers are threatened with redundancy.

The huge class numbers in Southern primary schools, particularly in working class areas, will continue to deprive children of an adequate education. The church authorities will be making further demands on parents. The "free" education system at second level is being eroded at an increasing rate. Draughty prefabs and delapidated buildings will continue to demoralize the young.

Yet the response of the trade union movement, North and South, has been pathetic. Even Professor Dale Tussing, who advocates abolition of free education after Inter Cert, has expressed amazement at the silence of the teacher unions.

## TEACHERS' PAY

Despite the breach of the National Understanding by the government in applying the cuts, the leaders of all three Southern teacher unions have agreed to a commission of inquiry on teachers' pay which will not report finally until January 1981. In spite of threats by the government to freeze pay in the public service, they have agreed to a no strike clause while the commission sits. Northern teachers still await the report of the Clegg commission on salaries more than a year after it was set up. At the forthcoming congresses, teacher union activists will be attempting to throw out the peace clauses and fight for

immediate increases.

## CHURCH CONTROL

Primary teachers in the South are still compelled to teach religion as part of their normal duties. This is a long standing grievance. But the most arrogant and provocative move by the Catholic Church recently is in the second level area. Through the Deeds of Trust for community schools they are trying to establish permanent control over all second-level schools. The publicly controlled vocational schools would be phased out in favour of religious-run schools. Yet there are only 2,400 clerical teachers out of a total of 15,000 second level teachers in the twenty-six counties. Without government policy in support of the religious, they could not control the schools.

Needless to say, this could not be done without the support of the leaders of the teachers' unions and the tacit agreement of the I.C.T.U. Students and parents who do not wish to attend religious run schools will continue to be deprived of their rights. Protestant children attending Birr Vocational School have seen their school turned into a Catholic school. So much for the principles of Wolfe Tone!

Opposition to the sell-out policy of the leaders of the teachers' unions has reached such a pitch that they have decided to change the rules of the unions. In this way, they hope to prevent members putting their wishes into effect. The A.S.T.I. leaders want to set up a rules revision committee. The T.U.I. leaders are attempting to hold a special rules congress at which only the Executive can put down motions. The most right wing group on the I.N.T.O. executive even

tried to introduce full-scale partition into the union with two autonomous executives.

## SUPPORT FOR IMPERIALISM

The subservience of the I.N.T.O. leaders to the British authorities was shown recently when they refused to allow a motion on H-Block to be discussed at their Northern conference. This is in line with their failure to lift a finger to stop the British army building a massive fort beside a primary school in Turf Lodge.

The Irish education system is more backward and under financed than that of other West European countries. It discriminates more against the working class, the churches have more overwhelming control

These are the results of colonial domination, of which partition is the modern form. Indeed, the Church, acting through the education system, is playing a crucial role in the North. In this way they play the same role every day as they played when they excommunicated all those fighting the Free State in 1922. 1922.

It goes without saying, that teachers must organize in their unions to throw out their collaborationist leaders. Teachers who support the "Irish Worker" are doing so already. But parents too, must organize and demand that general unions and the I.C.T.U. as a whole act to protect their interests. While colonial domination lasts, so will the backwardness and sectarian control of Irish education. That is why a number of teacher trade unionists are actively campaigning for the workers' conference for the full unity and independence of Ireland.

## APPEAL FOR CONFERENCE

As 1980 opens the British occupation of the 6 counties continues. The death toll has passed 2,000. Torture is used to extract confessions. The horrific conditions in the H-Blocks enter their fourth year.

Neither the British nor the 26-county governments have offered any way forward. Conference has followed conference, talks have followed talks, but the different parties have proved unable and unwilling to strike at the root of the problem - the Partition of Ireland, imposed by force, against the will of the Irish people, in 1921.

The subsequent 60 years have shown the truth of Connolly's prediction. A "carnival of reaction, North and South" was indeed unleashed. Poverty and unemployment are widespread and are worsening. Thatcher's cuts in the North, Haughey's projected cuts in the South, mark a grave new phase in the bosses' attacks on the working class, already burdened by inflation and a disproportionate level of taxation. Both North and South the different Churches hold unwarranted sway in the spheres of education, health and personal liberties.

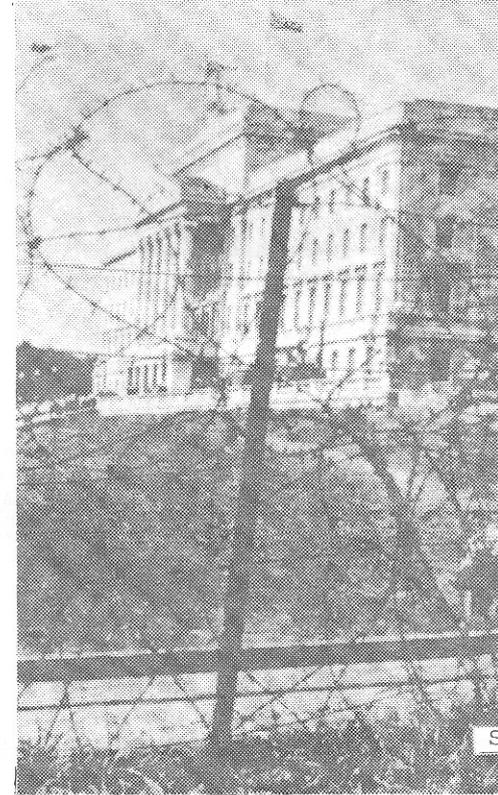
The leaders of the labour movement do no more than feebly echo their capitalist masters. In Connolly's words, they have proved themselves "the Labour tail of the capitalist kite." The ICTU, through its autonomous Northern Committee, is represented on the torturing RUC Authority. The Irish Labour Party, reduced to a 26-county shell, participated in a government which supported to the hilt every aspect of British repression, which stood over the "heavy gang," which introduced a "State of Emergency." It has never repudiated these actions. The flag of Connolly has been dragged into the mire of the torture chamber.

Only the working class, "the incorruptible inheritor of the fight for Irish freedom," can solve these problems. Yet its leaders do everything to prevent them even being discussed. Instead they leave the solution of the problems in the hands of those who have proved over and over again that they cannot solve them, and who in fact have caused them.

The time is long overdue for the Irish working class to seek its own solution to the problem of Partition, of the continued British occupation of the North and all that goes with it, of unemployment, poverty, deprivation and lack of basic democratic rights, North and South. To this end we call for a conference, a workers' conference, for the full unity and independence of Ireland, a conference which would discuss an immediate British withdrawal, a 32-county National Assembly and the full reunification of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

Nora Connolly O'Brien, Kevin McConnell, Joint General Secretary, NEETU, John Daly FWUI, Dublin Regional Council Labour Party, Paddy Healy, TUI, Dublin, Danny Burke, INTO Belfast Trades Council, Colm Fox, INTO, Derry, Paddy Mooney, National Executive Committee, ITGWU, Harry Fitzsimons, Branch Committee, Belfast ITGWU, Brian Higgins, No. 15 Branch Cttee. FWUI, Joe Duffey, President, Trinity College Students' Union, Jim Philips, Secretary, Ulster Polytechnic Students' Union.

## NO TO FEELING DISCUSSION DOCUMENT



The collapse of the Atkins talks has revealed once again that there is no possibility of a "solution" to the crisis of the Northern state within the framework of the maintenance of that state.

The collapse has brought about a renewal of the search for a "solution" from the various spokesmen of the bourgeoisie, who are now getting desperate that if the situation continues it can only explode. Such a "solution" would have to involve the Southern government and at least the appearance of a step towards Irish unity.

The realisation that, from the point of view of imperialism and of all defenders of capitalist society, the situation is desperate, was sharply highlighted by the fact that even the Church of Ireland Primate has now called for moves towards Irish unity (though he later denied this).

Speculation about a "new British initiative" abounds. The "Irish

# RENCE FOR IRISH UNITY

## FEDERALISM BY PADDY HEALY



Stormont

"Times" has announced that we are on the brink of "great events" (without specifying what). Late May or early June have been suggested as the date for the "British initiative", involving "devolved government" and the collaboration of the Southern Irish government. The St. Patrick's Day pronouncements of Ted Kennedy, Hugh Carey et al. make clear that American imperialism cannot continue to tolerate a situation where a sustained guerilla war is taking place in Europe.

The Atkins "concessions" on H-Block must be seen in this light. While on the one hand the concessions are paltry, on the other they represent an attempt on the part of the Tory government to prepare the ground in the North for concessions to the Republican movement, an essential part of any settlement.

Of course, such a settlement will be difficult to obtain. Sections of the Tory party and their allies in the North are

opposed to concessions to the Republican movement at any price. Any such concessions will inevitably provoke a political crisis in Britain itself. But their backs are to the wall, and the pressure is mounting.

The essential element of the settlement favoured by all factions of the bourgeoisie and its supporters is federalism. This is the "solution" favoured by such unlikely allies as Blaney and Fitzgerald, the Protestant Primate and the Catholic Cardinal. It even got the implicit support of Michael Mullen, General Secretary of the ITGWU and known for his Republican sympathies, when he spoke in New York last March.

What would such a "federal" solution involve? The variants are many. People close to the Republican movement talk of a four-province federation, leaving an autonomous nine-county Ulster with a Loyalist majority. Garret Fitzgerald talks of a "confederation" of the existing two states. Blaney's position falls somewhere in between, but includes a parliament in Dublin and one at Stormont.

But they all have one thing in common - the maintenance of Partition in some form. And, as Connolly explained, this means the division of the working class. While there is a parliament at Stormont to which elections can take place, while there is any autonomy for the North, the Irish working class will remain divided.

Any form of federalism means, above all, the maintenance of the 26-County state and all that goes with it. This - the maintenance of stability in the South - is the concern of all capitalist politicians in Europe, of the American "four horsemen." It is Leinster House, not Stormont, which was at the heart of the 1921 Treaty and which remains the guarantee of stability in the whole island. The fall of Leinster House would spell the fall of capitalist rule in Ireland and the opening of the socialist

revolution on Britain's back door. It would mark a body blow to the EEC and to political stability in all Europe. That is why both American imperialism and the capitalist politicians of Europe are so concerned about Ireland and about finding a "solution."

But any kind of federal solution has nothing to offer the Irish working class, divided by Partition. It has nothing to offer the small farmers, ravaged by British imperialism. It has nothing to offer all the oppressed of Ireland, who have never got anything from either Leinster House or Stormont, who have watched government succeed government in both of them, which have served only the interests of the big farmers and big business.

There is no solution for the workers and small farmers of Ireland except one parliament and one government for the whole country. One government would not kowtow to any church. It would tackle the problems of the Irish people as a whole, and solve the economic distortion brought about by imperialism and worsened by Partition.

For us in the LWR such a government could only be a workers' and small farmers' government, a government totally independent of the capitalist class. There is only one way to achieve such a government, a government which can fearlessly tackle the problems of unemployment, super-exploitation, of discrimination, of women's oppression, of the privileged position of the various churches in public life - one parliament for the whole country, sovereign and independent, as envisaged by Tone and Connolly.

### APPEAL

As well as covering the cost of production, "The Irish Worker" needs money to organise the workers' conference for Irish unity and to pay its debts (£85). After two issues, the fund stands at £65. Donations to: "The Irish Worker" c/o 13. Lr. Camden st, Dublin 2

# Carlin Opposes Cuts Protest in West Belfast

Terry Carlin, Northern Ireland Officer of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, showed his total opposition to the interests of the most oppressed section of the working class in the six counties yet again recently.

The Belfast Trades Council had called for a march in Belfast against the cuts for April 2nd. The march was to converge on the city centre after assembling at different points around the city. Trade unionists from West Belfast were to assemble at Dunville Park and march down the Falls Road. The march and assembly points were advertised for weeks around Belfast.

However, a week before the march, the West Belfast branch of the INTO received a letter from Terry Carlin informing



INTIMIDATION OF TRADE UNIONISTS

them that the march had been rerouted, and that they would now have to assemble at the back of the Royal Victoria Hospital and march from there. This meant putting trade unionists from West Belfast in the centre of a Loyalist area.

The West Belfast branch of the INTO voted to ignore the rerouting, and strong objections were made to it among the 5,000-strong Royal Victoria work force. The Executive of the ICTU, learning of the proposed rerouting and the objec-

tions to it overruled Carlin's decision, and the original route was reinstated.

If Terry Carlin can attempt to intimidate trade unionists from West Belfast from taking part in a trade union march against the cuts, which they are bound to suffer most severely, is it any surprise that he is happy to sit on the RUC Police Authority and condone torture of people from West Belfast and other areas, many of them trade unionists? The man is not only a supporter of torture, he is also opposed to the defence of workers' jobs and living standards. He has no place in the leadership of the trade union movement.

The Belfast "Trade Unionists Against H-Block" group will be issuing leaflets to the march on the H-Block question.

## INTO NORTHERN CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the Northern area of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation took place on March 7th and 8th. Considerable opposition was expressed to the policy and activities of the leadership.

This began with an objection from the West Belfast branch to the invitation to Lord Elton, responsible for education in the North, to address the conference. The delegates raised the objection under the standing orders report, demanding who had issued the invitation and pointing that this man was responsible for implementing the Tory education cuts. The protest was well-received by about half the delegates, though the Chairman of the Northern Ireland Committee of the INTO, Colm Lamb, defended his decision to invite Lord Elton.

### H-BLOCK

Colm Lamb also ruled out of order an attempt to raise the question of H-Block under the Northern Ireland Report. The Dungiven branch of the union had tabled a motion on H-Block, but this too was ruled out of order.

A petition to have this motion taken received support from delegates from the West Belfast, East Down, Strabane, Dungiven and Derry branches. However, it was disallowed by Standing Committee.

### VICTORY

A victory was scored over the leadership when the section of the Northern Committee Report dealing with selection and transfer (the old 11-Plus exam which maintains the elitist

grammar school system) was referred back by a small majority. A motion calling for the operation of selection and transfer was defeated by three votes.

### RULES CHANGE

Gerry Quigley came to the rostrum to explain the rules changes to be discussed at the forthcoming annual conference. The most important of these changes is the establishment of a Southern Committee of the union. Ominously, no questions were allowed on this. However, there will be strong opposition to any attempt to introduce a greater degree of Partition into the INTO.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

# Release Edmund Zadrozynsky



Huta Katowice metalworks (Silesia)

On Monday, 25th February, a bizarre trial began in the town of Grudziadz in Poland. Edmund Zadrozynsky, a worker in metal and enamel, was charged with stealing. A whole series of petty criminals claimed that he had put them up to their crimes. His son was called as a prosecution witness, but he changed his testimony during a coffee break on the first day of the trial. Nonetheless, after a three week trial Zadrozynsky was sentenced to three years imprisonment, and he is going to a higher court to face even more serious charges.

### WHO IS EDMUND ZADROZYSKY?

Edmund Zadrozynsky was a trade union delegate in his factory before he was retired as a result of an industrial accident. He is also a member of the editorial board of the underground paper "Robotnik" ("The Worker"). He set up a group of "Robotnik" supporters in Grudziadz, and was one of the authors of a document "Charter of Workers' Rights" published in that paper. He was involved in the organisation of a number of petitions to the government against the jailing of trade union activists, against bad working conditions and against the lack of basic foodstuffs in the town. These petitions had the support of over 1,000 people in the town. These are the activities which resulted in his arrest on the trumped-up charge of stealing.

### APPEAL TO IRISH CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

An appeal has gone from two exiled militants of the Polish workers' movement, who wrote to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions saying:

"We are certain that your organisation will use its influence and its authority to intervene with the Polish authorities to secure the release of Edmund Zadrozynsky as fast as possible. This will give great encouragement to all those who are fighting for democracy in our country, and particularly for the inalienable right of workers to freely establish their trade union organisations independent of the state."

Already, many trade unions and socialist organisations have called for Zadrozynsky's release. These include the German and Italian metal workers' unions, all French trade unions except the Communist Party-led GGT, the American AFL-CIO and the Socialist parties of Italy and France.

### RESPONSE IN IRELAND

In Ireland, trade unionists and those opposed to repression are also taking up his case, such as members of Belfast No. 1 Branch of the I.T.G.W.U., 20 members of the Dublin City Colleges branch of the Teachers' Union of Ireland a member of the Standing Committee of the Association

of Secondary Teachers in Ireland and several other members of the union, Paddy Mooney of the Executive of the ITGWU, Robin Hanan of the Administrative Council of the Labour Party and the Trinity College Students' Union.

### A CONFERENCE FOR THE RIGHT TO ORGANISE FREE TRADE UNIONS

Militants from Eastern Europe dedicated, like Zadrozynsky, to the fight for workers' rights, will be present at a conference on the question of free trade unions taking place in Paris in April. The conference is being called by a number of anti-repression committees, which have already taken up the question of repression in Latin America and Ireland, as well as Eastern Europe. It is very important that a representative delegation is present from Ireland, where repression is a daily reality.

### RELEASE ZADROZYSKY!

But above all it is of vital importance that we fight for Zadrozynsky's release, for the ICTU to take up his case, as have many trade union organisations already. We must flood the Polish embassy with protests at this attempt to frame a worker militant for his political activities. The Polish embassy in Paris has responsibility for relations with Ireland. Its address for telegrams and resolutions is: Ambassade de Pologne, 57, Rue Dominique, Paris 75007, France.

c. Coulter

# WATERFORD: Unions Act on H-Block

Over a hundred people attended a public meeting in Connolly Hall, Waterford, on March 19th, at which two ex H-Block prisoners and members of the National H-Block Committee spoke about the conditions in the H-Blocks.

Ciaran Nugent, the first prisoner who went on the blanket, spoke about the origins and development of the H-Block struggle. He stated that the prisoners were campaigning for political status, and that the British authorities would pay dearly if any death occurred in the H-Blocks. Francis McCann, recently released from H-Block, spoke about the continuing torture and harassment of prisoners, which includes regular brutally conducted strip searches.

All strands of left wing, republican, and trade union activists in Waterford city and county were in evidence at this large meeting, with the notable exception of Sinn Fein the Workers' Party members and their supporters, who had strongly opposed and voted

against a motion of support for the H-Block meeting at the February trades council meeting. Despite this, the motion was passed.

Several speakers called for a public demonstration to be organised by Waterford Council of Trade Unions to highlight the issue, and there were also calls for a work stoppage in Waterford in support of the H-Block prisoners. There was also a call for the ending of collaboration of the Irish trade union leadership with the torture policy of the British authorities in the North, personified by the presence of Terry Carlin, member of the INTO and Northern Ireland officer of the ICTU on the Northern Ireland Police Authority, which acts as a rubber stamp for all the barbarities of the H-Blocks. This call to get the starry plough out of the torture chambers, an important part of which will be ensuring that Carlin is removed from the police authority by the ICTU, was well received by the meeting, and hopefully will be acted on by Waterford trade unionists.

Michael O'Brien, secretary of the Trades Council and local ITGWU official, pledged his support for the building of an ongoing campaign.

More than forty people attended a follow up meeting on Tuesday, 26th March, to actively organise the campaign. It was agreed to attempt to build towards a mass demonstration before the summer. This would include canvassing all the major housing estates, and building support in union branches and factories, in order to build up enough momentum to ensure trades council support, and a really large demonstration.

A steering committee was elected, including two trades council executive members, and a representative range of trade union and political activists, as well as representatives from outlying areas, such as Portlawn and Moonchoin.

All possible volunteers are needed to build this campaign. The committee can be contacted through the secretary, Michael O'Brien, ITGWU, Connolly Hall, or Ray Coady, the committee's public relations officer, 13 John Street, Waterford.

## ATKINS'S 'CONCESSIONS' (contd)

for crimes committed before March 1st 1976 will not be granted special category status (as they have been up to now) will probably increase the number of men on the blanket. The struggle for political status will therefore continue.

Whatever the package of demands be it "special category" status, "political" status, or just the demands themselves - the right not to do prison work, not to wear prison clothes, and to have freedom of association with each other, educational facil-

ities and communication with the outside world - and whatever sympathy the prisoners may get on humanitarian grounds because of the inhuman nature of their conditions, their fight is essentially a political fight.

The men are in the H-Blocks because of their commitment to Irish unity and their refusal to be treated as criminals for pursuing this commitment. They are at the very heart of the fight for Irish unity and complete independence.

Only when this fight, and the fight against all forms of torture and repression, is brought into the very heart of the Irish labour movement, giving an organised expression to the very best democratic and republican traditions of the Irish working class, the tradition of Connolly and Larkin, will there exist a force capable of ensuring that abominations like the H-Blocks will be finally eradicated from this island.

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