

THE BOTTOM DOG

Vol. 3

No. 53

Fri, Dec, 5th

A PAPER FOR NORTH MUNSTER WORKERS

"FOR OUR DEMANDS MOST MODERATE ARE WE ONLY WANT THE EARTH."



Within this free enterprise society, unemployment is considered as an unavoidable component. If it was otherwise, industry as we know it would be completely different. Workers would be in an extremely strong position. Demands for wage increases would be put forward in a very different context as bosses would not have the escape valve of unemployment to keep wages down. Certain well established phraseology widely used in the present recession such as - "You should be thankful to have a job, no matter what it is" - would become redundant.

EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS BLEAK - BUT GREAT POTENTIAL

It is important to bear this in mind when considering reports issued periodically by Govt. or semi-state bodies. One such report was released recently by S.F.A.D.Co. covering industrial development in the mid-Western region for 1974. In the "Limerick Weekly Echo" of 22nd Nov. '75, under the heading "Job Outlook Still Bleak", the opening paragraph giving Brendan O'Regan's comment went as follows:- "The industrial and tourism sectors in the Mid-West region are soundly placed to take advantage of any improvement in the general economic climate of the country".

If the obvious contradiction here is not yet apparent, on reading further into the article, the true picture emerges despite the efforts by the authors of the SFADCo. report and the "Echo", (ever willing to do a P.R.O. job for industrialists), to tell us otherwise. When the confusion about figures is eventually overcome, 17 new manufacturing industries approved which would give employment to 7,197, we discover that in 1974 actual jobs lost

CALLINS

THE COPS' ROLE

INSIDE

outstripped new jobs by 651. Even then there are hundreds more on the dole who would persuade SFADCo. that this figure is pulled out of the air.

RECESSION - NO END IN SIGHT

The present economic recession has been with us now since the beginning of 1974. Various reasons and well worded explanations were given for it at the start. The most timely and what proved to be the most acceptable was the October Middle East war. This served a dual purpose - helping us to take our minds off the real problems by directing our hostilities in a racist manner at the Arabs, it also seemed logical that if oil was a basic source of energy, then if it increased in price, the multi-nationals would have to fork out more money to power their machinery. But as the months passed and increased commodity prices soaked up the increases in oil prices, unemployment still continued. We were asked to tighten our belts. Richie Ryan informed us that he overheard the powerful Germans and Americans speaking at one of those important meetings on the crisis, he assured us that there would be an upsurge in mid 1975. We are now into December and the only upswing has been in the unemployment figures - up by 30000. We are once again asked to tighten our belts, this time by Brendan Corish speaking at the annual get-together of the Irish Labour Fakery (more like a badly produced version of Hall's Pictorial Weekly). He obviously isn't sent to the same impressive functions as Richie Ryan. On 23rd Nov. in his address to the comrades he said: "The truth is, the economic crisis is as serious as ever. The last 12 months were bad, the next year could be even worse - if we aren't prudent and patient". He went on to say that unemployment had risen drastically since the 1974 Conference, and in the same breath assured the 'socialist' gathering that fighting unemployment was the Party's main concern and in this Fine Gael were with them all the way.

9,000 OUT OF WORK IN THIS AREA

Mr Tom Morris, president of the Limerick Chamber of Commerce told his members in his presidential address that there were 9,056 workers unemployed in the mid west. He also said that efforts by himself and his Chamber were to no avail when they tried to stop the closure of Danus, Limerick Clothing Company and Condensed Milk. He went on to say that if Banks was in danger the Chamber would again offer its services. Thady Coughlan, recently elected to administrative council of the Labour Party, is also over ready to negotiate in workers interests!! As workers we must learn from the past. Tom Morris has admitted



that his efforts in trying to avert closures have been futile. After all he is a businessman and if Donal O'Donovan closes his factory for 'sound financial reasons', then it makes sense to Mr Morris. As for Mr. Coughlan he represents everything alien to the working class movement. He boasts proudly of his employer's understanding of his public duties who have given him twelve months leave to perform as mayor. Weltrade, with whom he works is involved in selling Irish and International workers into slavery. As was exposed recently in the 'Southill News', this firm regards working people as mere commodities in the Consumer market.

WORKERS ONLY ALLY - THEIR FELLOW WORKERS

According to a recent report by the International Labour Organisation there are more unemployed in the western industrial countries now than there were 40 years ago. In Britain for the last year 25% of the total of workers who went on strike did so against redundancy. On the Continent of Europe, occupations are becoming the general tactic to offset sackings. Because of this, new methods are being adopted and workers carry on production during occupation initially to finance themselves. The factory occupation in Ireland has also caught on but is still in a very experimental stage. We too must develop our methods of struggle and in this we must throw aside any opportunist politicians trying to make a name for themselves. We must also be wary of T.U. functionaries. The only true friends we have are our fellow workers whether they be Tarbert or Thailand.

FAMILY PLANNING

A committee has been formed to provide a family planning clinic for Limerick City and the surrounding areas. The impetus for forming this committee arose from a long felt need that Limerick people and their rural counterparts should now have available a service which would allow for control by the individual in one of the most fundamental areas of human existence; control in the propagation of the human species, control in conception.

It is important in viewing the morality of contraception that one should take a positive rather than a negative stand. A majority of Irish married couples under the age of 45 (2 out of 3 women and 3 out of 4 men) favour the sale of contraceptives in Ireland. The decision in the Magee case formalised a trend already apparent to observers of the social scene in Ireland.

What has influenced this radical change in outlook from the traditionally felt attitude towards pregnancy of "grinning and bearing it"? - A number of factors have to be taken into account in answering this question. Fundamentally in the '60s the stranglehold which traditional morality in terms of Church Law reflected in social norms and censure of contrary practice began to loose its grip on the Irish people. This was accentuated by urbanisation, diversification in outlook, encouraged by new ideas from abroad, the advent of television, and an increase in prosperity of the average Irish family. Better education and for the middle class greater opportunity, provoked questioning of the traditionally conceived family unit. The emergence of the nuclear family in America, the stirrings of self-awareness of woman in a male-dominated society, a new post-war morality in Britain which positively encouraged a responsible attitude towards the family, all contributed towards affecting a change. Contraceptives became available in Britain and the North. The contraceptive pill, rigorously tested and widely prescribed, was taking the place of the traditional diaphragm and condoms. Irish doctors objectively assessed the nature

and scope of the pill and willingly gave it to those who came seeking advice on limiting families or avoiding pregnancy. In this matter, then as now, traditional moral rulings weren't sufficiently flexible to come to terms with and absorb the new developments in medical science. Because of this they were mentally side-stepped, and those who in conscience used the pill found themselves evolving in a new morality based on a different set of moral presuppositions. If in fact the contraceptive used did abort a foetus in its momentary stage of existence, is this a murder in terms of human life as we know it or should it be balanced against the deprivation the child would suffer if born unwanted?

This new morality gives more thought to the adverse effects, mentally emotionally and physically, which an unnecessary birth will have on those concerned. The facts are obvious. In a large family a mother is asked to tax her capacity to the limits of endurance, the family wage must provide for one more, the other children suffer from the extra deprivation, and the new child for being unwanted. Previously we were told it was selfish not to have children, they were part and parcel of the married state (as indeed were miscarriages and still-births), now we feel it is selfish to allow the birth of a child where the attendant material circumstance or emotional framework does not allow a reasonable chance for the child to live a healthy and fulfilled life. This new morality is child-centred. Because contraception is normally widely available, by implication pregnancy no longer "just happens". If we are going to cherish our children, is it not better that they be born into a situation which positively discriminates for the better development of that child. We in Limerick want to provide a service for those people who have made the conscious decision to allow for a better life for themselves and the most innocent of victims - the child of the future.

- Carmen Cullen.



UNEMPLOYMENT.

Unemployment is one of the main problems facing workers at the moment and in the coming weeks and months intends to involve itself in positive and concrete action on the issue.

The articles on the subject in this and in the preceding issue of the Bottom Dog are contributions towards

Land League

"Love God and honour the Queen", says the inscription over the main entrance to the Adare Manor. For just 20p you can wander around the house and imagine what it is like to be an Earl, that is if you like that sort of thing. What the guide does not tell you though, is that behind the 'great house', in the hands of one man, lies 3,500 acres of the finest land in the country, under-utilised. Just one example of the big ranches in the region.

Without the title of Earl but in increasing numbers there is now a new breed of landlord coming into his prime. With inflation continuously rising, the value of cash held in hand must fall. On the other hand the economic recession means that industry cannot guarantee the same gilt edged dividends. So land is a logical alternative for the speculators. Result - land is driven far beyond it's normal prices for farming purposes.

Much of this subject demands more space than is available here. However, the main question is, who should own the land anyway? What about the small holder? A few important facts are: 20% of the population are small farmers, 4/5 of these

have been classified by E.E.C. standards as nondevelopment denying them full grants. Their incomes have been hit very badly in the past 3 years and they are just now beginning to organise outside the rancher dominated I.F.A.

Last Monday, a group of small farmers from Killoscully and Toomevara branches of the National Land League held a picket on the Government Land Commission offices in Thurles to highlight the lack of concern for small holders. In both places over a period of 5 years these workers have sought by every possible means to have large, unoccupied farms beside them, taken over by the Land Commission and distributed.

THE FIGHT FOR CONTROL OF LAND BY THE PEOPLE WHO WORK IT MUST HAVE THE SUPPORT OF ALL PROGRESSIVE TRADE UNIONISTS!!!

J. Mc Namara, Secretary, Killoscully,
Land League.

CALLINS

As the strike in Callins drags on a sinister new development has taken place at the plant. While in the past the Gardai confined their role to watching and guarding the factory 24 hours a day, the "Guardians of the Peace" are now showing whose interest they really serve. On Friday Nov. 28th, Garda John O'Hara from Sixmilebridge, not only opened up the factory, but made sure that the fire in the plant was turned on. By doing this, no doubt Garda O'Hara was trying to make the place a bit more comfortable for the few scabs who are still passing the picket. As he sipped his tea in the company of the scabs he was probably dreaming of Liam Cosgrave decorating him with a medal for services rendered to the state. Trade unionists should not be amazed at the role of the Gardai in the Callins dispute, in a capitalist society the organs of the state are there to serve the interests of the employers, not the workers. The Gardai's presence in the Callins plant is to prevent any attempt by the workers to occupy the factory.

Regardless of what further action the employers or the state take, the trade unionists of Callins are determined to continue their fight for a living wage. At a recent branch meeting of the I.T.G.W.U. the Airport workers stated that in the event of Michael O'Leary, the Minister for Labour, not being able to solve the dispute, they would come out in support of the Callins workers. The workers in Shannon like the workers everywhere else, have to make a stand sometime, otherwise they will be stamped into the ground. A victory for the Callins workers would give encouragement to workers in similar situations. If on the other hand the employers were to win, all the employers in the area would jump on the band wagon and adopt the same attitude as the Callins owners.

On Wednesday the 3rd December, the case again comes before the Labour Court. While the company pleaded inability to pay 3% due under the National Wage Agreement last April, this time what the Labour Court decides is not important. What is important is the struggle for a living wage goes on. It is only a few months ago that the owners of Callins invested in a quarter of a million pounds worth of new machinery. The firm believes there is no harm in trying to boost profits but when the workers try to improve their paltry wages their told their not playing cricket.

As prices rise on food items how can people with families exist on £29 a week. Yet this is the wage that the workers in Callins expected to exist on. Let us follow the example of the Airport workers and pledge our solidarity with the Callins workers.

'COMPANY UNIONS'

The existence of Staff Associations (company unions or what ever name they go under) in many factories and business's gives some indication of how discredited unions are in the eyes of some workers. While disillusionment with unions is of course not always the reason for their being ignored by workers many of the workforces which set up these 'unions within factories' will usually tell you that they would not pay 30p a week to keep some bureaucrat sitting on his backside or 14 floors up in Liberty Hall. In other words they do not believe they will get value for their money if they join a union.

And unfortunately they can be right. All too often the position of union official is just a stepping stone to a job as personal manager and all too often orders come down from on high and in which the rank and file have no say. So workers, often in co-operation with management, set up their own organisation in their work place. But the fact that managements rarely oppose and in many cases actively support the organising of these associations, should cause us to seriously question their value.

DO THEY WORK.

Do staff associations work? The answer to this question is yes - as long as they don't have to. In other words, as long as all that is involved is cosy chats with management over issues on which each side can afford to compromise, everything is rosy. But as soon as any real conflict of interests between worker and boss arises (usually over changes in income and conditions), staff associations show all their weaknesses. They fall down on a number of counts.



REPRESENTATIVES.

Because staff associations have no real teeth and often depend on the 'goodwill' of the company for the right to even exist, management will have tried over a period to make it a weapon for keeping the workers quiet and in line. Because of this, when faced with real problems workers will find it very difficult to turn the staff association around and into an effective fighting instrument.

Without union representatives, workers will, at meetings, have to take on a management fully trained in industrial relations. Nowadays, most personal officers are groomed in the latest techniques on how to handle worker-management relations to the best advantage of the company. Some multi-national companies even have Industrial Relations Officers who's only job is to travel around the world dealing with labour relation problems within the particular corporation. Against these professionals it is only reasonable to suggest that workers should have someone at their disposal who can devote full attention to that which is in the workers interest. No matter how bad some fulltime officials are, they still possess a wealth of experience, especially in negotiations with management and provided they are considered to be no more than advisors who's advice can be accepted or rejected by the workers, can be very helpful.

FINANCIAL.

When compared to the financial benefits of being in a union during a strike the staff association isn't in the race. If the contribution is 30p a week, after a year, (no matter what size the workforce) it will be possible to pay out strike pay at the union rate of £12 a week for only 6 days before the association goes bankrupt. The management need not be mathematical →

genius's to work this out in advance and usually will be able to hold out for the few days it takes the fund to **dry up**. On the other hand, union members in dispute receive strike pay for an unlimited period.

STAFF ASSOCIATIONS IGNORED.

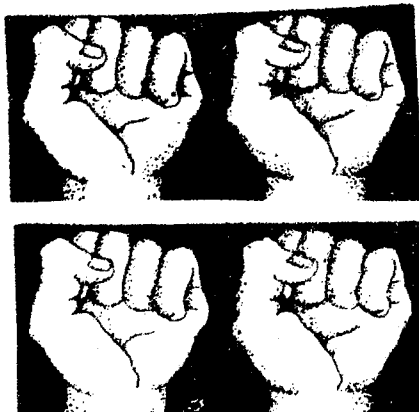
One final point against 'company union'. If it is such a good idea then why is it ignored in favour of unions by the vast majority of workers. Over the decades, the experience of workers has been that unity means strength and that uniting with workers both inside and outside their workplace is the most effective means of defending wages and conditions.

As a defensive instrument unions are still the best workers have come up with. Unfortunately, real power has slipped from the shop floor into the hands of people who cannot claim to have been the choice of the workers and who, in many cases, are interested only in maintaining the status quo, irrespective of whether or not this is in the workers interest. Union officials claim that workers have no interest in their union and so things must be as they are. But what are they doing to arouse the necessary interest. Take one example - **May Day** On a day which should be used to promote a sense of pride in workers of themselves as a class, the trade union leadership in the area have made no real effort to organise any sort of parade or solidarity.

It is within the workers ability to win back the power lost. It is one of the aims of the Bottom Dog to promote the growth of a militant rank and file movement (active trade unionism) among the workers in the area.

The realisation of this task would make staff associations seem like branches of the F.U.E.

Joe Harrington.
I.T.G.W.U.



I. T. G. W. U. SHOP

Over the past few years the educational department of the I.T.G.W.U. has been organising shop stewards training courses. These courses which are of five days duration are held in various parts of the country and from Nov. 17 - 22nd Limerick played host to such a training programme. It was held in the Glentworth Hotel and 21 shop stewards were present from various employments covered by No.1 and No.2 branches of the I.T.G.W.U.

Lectures were given on a wide variety of topics: industrial law, the history of trade unionism, the multi-national firm, worker/shop steward relationships to name but a few. There were also practical exercises, called 'role-plays', in which the stewards had to solve problems that were liable to arise in the normal course of events. Everybody involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves and full marks must be given to the Transport Union for having the initiative to set up these training programmes.

FLAK

However, having said that, I would like to take this opportunity to make some criticisms of the actual 5 day course and at the same time to offer some constructive suggestions to the ITGWU as to how it can improve its overall educational policy. Personally, I thought that the lectures were pitched at too low a level to be of any major use to shop stewards. In fact the present course is more suited to the general membership than to their representatives.

For one thing, the sessions only superficially scratched the surface of many important subjects. Redundancy is one of the major problems facing workers in the Limerick area and one would have expected a really in-depth analysis and discussion on redundancies and how they could be fought. Yet this key issue was glossed over. The same can be said about the talks on industrial law, multi-nationals and so forth.

The programme was also too broad and generalised. It was obviously a standard course which can be delivered equally in Donegal as in Limerick. But I dare say the issues confronting workers in the two counties are not of a similar nature. To be of any use these 5 day sessions should be more localised and geared to the specific requirements of a certain region. It would enable shop stewards to get to grips with situations peculiar to their area.

STEWARDS TRAINING COURSES

Another point worth raising is that local branch officials should be more involved. During the training period the local union machinery came in for a bit of flak, yet there was no one available who could answer our criticisms on such questions as bad communications, lack of information and related matters.

So these are the defects of the course as I see it, O.K. people will argue that I must be realistic and that I can't expect a one-off, 5 day programme (which is devised in Dublin, without local involvement in the planning stages), to be able to give a Limerick worker the Tablets of Stone on Trade Unionism and also turn him into a whizz kid expert on local industry.

This may very well be so, given the present structure of the ITGWU's educational department. But having identified the weaknesses of the course some thought must be given to how these deficiencies can be eliminated.

LOCAL TRAINING OFFICERS

I believe that the education of shop stewards is of prime importance. In its dealings with workers management are becoming increasingly sophisticated. Employers devote much time and attention to the training of managers and equipping them with the necessary mental tools with which to handle shop stewards.

On the other hand a shop steward's education is almost totally based on practical experience on the shop floor. Consequently it takes many a long year before a worker's representative becomes a fully

competent operator, in the meantime he is placed at a serious disadvantage vis-a-vis management.

As well as this the employer has easy access to information, statistics and accounts and what is more, he knows how to interpret this data, whereas trade unionists not only find it difficult to locate this material but they cannot understand it, and when they lay hands upon it.

This gap between the expertise of management and the 'ignorance' of shop stewards must be drastically narrowed otherwise the trade unions will gradually lose ground at a local, tactical level, given the bad economic climate that prevails at the moment.

How can the ITGWU close the gap?

To meet the situation the Union will have to radically re-structure its educational department. There is a crying need for de-centralisation away from Dublin. One important step in the right direction would be to have full-time local training officers to service the educational requirements of the membership.

A training officer is really needed in the Limerick/Shannon region. There are literally hundreds of shop stewards/works committee delegates in our corner of the world and a one-off 5 Day course for a score of stewards is hardly sufficient to reverse the relationship between Management and Workers.

The benefits of having a training officer are manyfold.

He would be able to organise an on-going programme of education all the year round for local union activists. This would include the basic 5 Day Course, but geared to the needs of our particular situation, and the more advanced 10 Day Course.

On top of this night classes could be established which would be of a more specialist nature. For instance detailed lectures on how to de-cypher company accounts and statistics in general. In-depth studies of multi-nationals, with an emphasis on those who have factories in Limerick and Shannon. Also classes on negotiating skills, managerial techniques how to do research projects etc.

With such a continuous educational drive, of course harnessed to local requirements, the ITGWU would be well on the way to bridging the chasm that at the moment exists between the negotiating ability of management and shop stewards.

Tony Walsh
Secretary Ferenka
Works Committee ITGWU



— THE BOTTOM DOG —

The Bottom Dog is a radical working-class paper published fortnightly by a group of trade unionists from the North Munster area.

The paper is a response to the present economic recession which has resulted in redundancies, factory closures, increased attacks on workers living standards and the proven inability of the official trade union leadership to effectively counter those attacks.

Like its predecessor (published from 1917 to 1918) it will highlight and support the everyday struggles of the working people and will be open to workers to air their grievances and express their views on such issues as strikes, unemployment and redundancies, the cost of living and other social issues.

Particular attention will be given to the problems facing women workers

Articles are particularly welcome from workers who wish to publicise struggles in which they are involved or who wish to convey the lessons of former struggles to their fellow workers.

Where ever possible we will build active solidarity with those involved in struggle.

The Bottom Dog is not a platform for any individual or political group.

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial Board of The Bottom Dog.

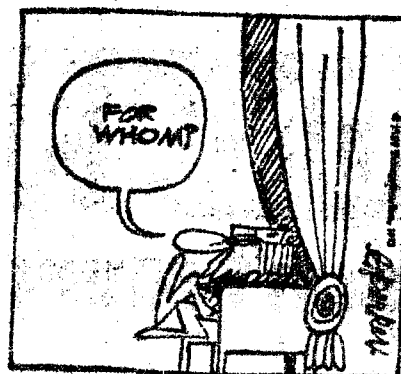
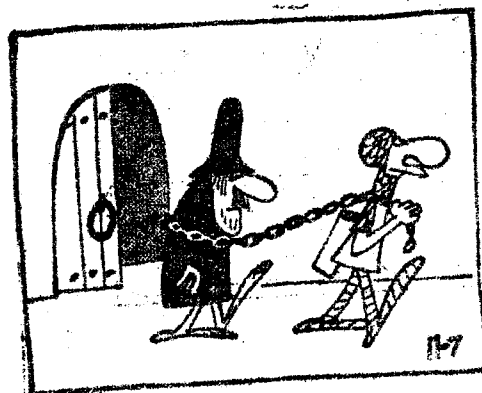
Anyone wishing to have articles inserted in The Bottom Dog should contact any of the following. -

Joe Harrington,
41 Glenview Cdns,
Farranshane, Limerick City

Tom Hayes,
36 St. Patricks Villas,
Castleconnell.

Aileen Dillane,
208 Ballinacurra Cdns, Limerick.

Jim Curtin,
11 Tradaree Court,
Shannon Town,
Co. Clare.



Labour - The New Tories!

Last weekend saw the Labour Party conference in full swing in Dun Laoighre. As usual, it was not a conference at which open discussion was the order of the day. On the contrary, the Parliamentary Party dominated, using all sorts of threats to intimidate any potential opposition.

In his major speech on Saturday the party leader, Corish, held the "big stick" of a General Election over the heads of the delegates if his deals with Fine Gael were not ratified.

Staying in power at all costs seems to be the main object and the costs are very indeed for the workers. Corish warned that if pay restrictions are not accepted "voluntarily" legislation will be introduced to cut standards of living. Furthermore, we are asked to accept the "toughest budget in twenty years" without an objection. More repressive legislation is promised in the way of the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Bill.

These are the messages which the Leader of the Labour Party had for those whom he is supposed to represent. An onlooker would be excused if he mistook this conference for a British Tory or Fine Gael meeting. One thing should be clear from this conference - the Labour Party as it is no longer represents the workers of this country. On the contrary, it advocates legislation against the interests of the workers.

Crown Controls

The Bottom Dog committee expresses its support for the workers at Crown Control Galway in their long and important struggle. We deplore the months of hardship imposed on our colleagues because of an alleged triviality and the absolute arrogance of the company even to take the matter to the Labour Court. We shall continue to support any workers who fight for the right to work and organise."

Above is the text of a press statement issued on Nov. 24. Since then there has been an attempt to further demoralise the workers by an injunction at the High and Supreme Courts to declare their strike unofficial. Despite all the legalistic arguments by baristers and apologies by union chiefs, the company's ten year tax holiday got no mention.

There are not enough four letter words in existence to express the frustration of sincere shop-stewards with multinational and native bosses alike.

1913 - 1975 Has Anything Changed?

"In Dublin city in 1913 the boss was rich and he employed the slave"

In the month of August the bossman told us no union man for him could work" These are just two lines from a wellknown song about the 1913 lockout when the Dublin workers were being denied the right to join a trade union. The result was that over 100,000 of them took to the streets to demand that right. On Saturday Nov 16 1975 about 600 people took to those same streets (over half of them women) believe it or not for the very same purpose!

Irish workers are supposed to have the constitutional right to join a union but it is not much use having the "right" if you are left without a job if you exercise that right! When that right is being denied then who will rally to their support? Only their fellow workers !

The march on Nov. 15 was in support of eight women workers who were being denied that right by Thoms Directories. This is a small commercial publishing firm whose main publication is a directory similar to the Golden Pages. The boss is one Mr Wooton, a white South African, who was probably of the opinion that Irish workers can be handled in the same way as black South African workers who can be and are shot for going on strike. (Happily these particular Bottom Dogs are beginning to sharpen their teeth also) When the employees of Thoms asked for a meeting with management, as regards the union their reply was to hand the

CONT. PAGE 10



Joe Hill

"the man who never died"
His last words were
"Don't waste time mourning
- organise"



Joe Hill was a native of Sweden (whose real name was probably Joe Haaglund) who emigrated to the USA in 1905. He became a leader of the trade union movement Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), popularly called the "Wobblies". He was framed on a murder charge by the US government in 1915, tried by a kangaroo court and shot by firing squad

(1)

I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night,
Alive as you and me.
Said I: "But Joe, you're ten years dead"
"I never died" said he.
"I never died" said he.

(2)

"In Salt Lake City, Joe", said I,
Him standing by my bed,
"They framed you on a murder charge"
Said Joe, "But I ain't dead".
Said Joe, "But I ain't dead".

(3)

"The copper bosses shot you, Joe,
They filled you full of lead".
"Takes more than guns to kill a man"
Said Joe, "And I ain't dead".
Said Joe, "And I ain't dead".

(4)

And standing there as big as life
And smiling with his eyes,
Said Joe, "What they forgot to kill
Went on to organise,
Went on to organise".

(5)

From San Diego up to Maine,
In every mine and mill,
Where working men defend their rights
Its there you'll find Joe Hill,
Its there you'll find Joe Hill.

(6)

I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night,
Alive as you and me.
Said I: "But Joe, you're ten years dead"
"I never died", said he,
"I never died", said he.

ght union members their cards at 5.28p.m. on Thurs. July 17th, in breach of the MINIMUM NOTICE
Terms of Employment Act of 1973. Since August these girls have been picketing the Merrion Sq. off
when the weather was not against them it is alleged that Wooton, or one of his lackeys threw water
on them from the windows. This strike has proved that the only ally the workers have in this situ
on, is fellow workers. Many unions have financially and physically supported the Thoms strike.
Wooton and the F.U.E. (who invited him to join after they had seen him in action against these you
(rls) and their ilk must not be allowed to take away any of the hard won rights of the workers.

Title: The Bottom Dog, Vol. 3, No. 53

Date: 1975

Downloaded from the Irish Left Archive.

Visit www.leftarchive.ie

The Irish Left Archive is provided as a non-commercial historical resource, open to all, and has reproduced this document as an accessible digital reference. Copyright remains with its original authors. If used on other sites, we would appreciate a link back and reference to the Irish Left Archive, in addition to the original creators. For re-publication, commercial, or other uses, please contact the original owners. If documents provided to the Irish Left Archive have been created for or added to other online archives, please inform us so sources can be credited.