

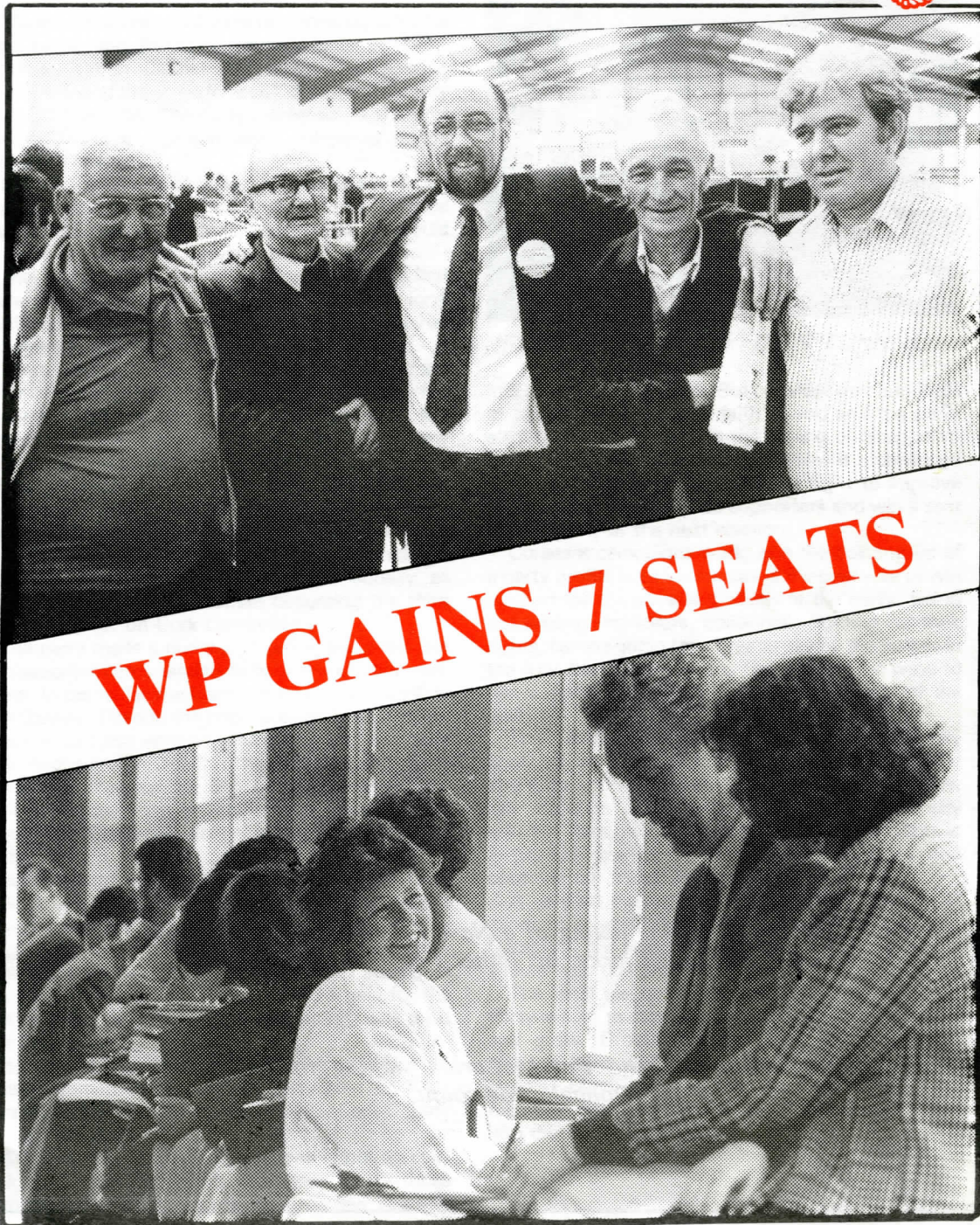
FOCUS

INTERNAL BULLETIN OF THE WORKERS' PARTY

**THE
WORKERS
PARTY**

Head Office: 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1. Tel. 740716/741045

Dáil Office: Leinster House, Dublin 2. Tel. 766554



Christy Gorman celebrates the taking of a Navan Council seat with Brian O'Connor, Larry Clarke, his father Des, and Alec O'Shea.

Candidates Angela Loscher and Pat McCartan waiting for the results of the Donaghmede count.

WP GAINS 7 SEATS

IN the local election campaign in the Republic, the party further consolidated its position on local authorities around the state and gained seven new council seats with a total of 51,322 first preference votes.

From the gaining of the first Dáil seat by the party in 1981 to the breakthrough in additional council seats in 1985, many commentators have been at pains to describe the Workers' Party success as a 'flash in the pan'. The election results reaffirm the continuing growth of the Workers' Party.

The local elections that were held recently were for the County and Borough Councils only. In 1985, however, Urban District and Town Commissions were elected at the same time as County and County Borough Councils. The party increased its share of the vote on this occasion when compared to the 1985 local elections.

It would be unwise to make comparisons with Dáil and European elections as a multiplicity of local factors, type of campaign and voter turnouts would all make any similarity invalid in many respects.

The party obtained a total of 51,322 first preference votes, which is 3.7% in the recent local elections. The party fielded 82 candidates, went into the election with 19 seats, and gained 24 seats.

There were a number of notable successes for the party in getting members elected to councils that previously did not have party representation, like Christy Gorman on Meath County Council and Tony Wright on Waterford County Council.

Catherine Murphy re-took — in comfortable style — the party seat on Kildare County Council. Good consolidation for the party came with the election of three new councillors to Dublin County Council.

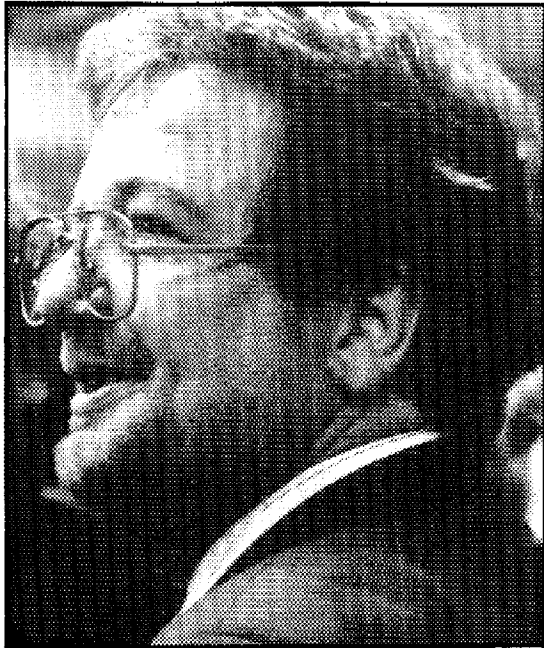
And in Cork, the election proved equally as successful with Jimmy Homan becoming the third party councillor on Cork Corporation.

The party made a number of gains, but a number of disappointments tended to sour the election outcome. In particular the losing of seats in Dublin City and Galway. Despite the good opinion polls and impressive canvass returns, the party did not take additional seats in Dublin City, although Jim Allen came very close on his first outing in Rathmines. Niall Behan standing in Howth, with Marian White standing in Blackrock were similarly close to taking seats.

In Waterford City the party share of the vote was 22%, the highest of any party in the City, which ensured that the party held its three seats. At one stage during the election counts, the party challenged strongly for five seats. By any standards the party showing in Waterford, with a gain for the first time on Waterford County Council, was solid and impressive.

So too was the party performance in Cork with Jimmy Homan taking a third party seat on Cork Corporation and good increases in the Cork County Council elections.

Standing for the party in elections is not an easy task, and it can be terribly disappointing for those who missed out on taking seats by a few votes or



RE-ELECTED — Cllr. DON TIPPING

indeed quite a few votes. But consider that hundreds of people have put their faith in you and the party election platform. Despite the feeling of disappointment, tiredness and frustration, there is a challenge and responsibility to continue the fight to improve the quality of life for these supporters and win a seat for the party at the next election.

Constant campaigns work, and the building up of a party profile in all local areas is the best way to win support for the socialist policies of the party. Being out among the voters, continually fighting for their rights, campaigning for a greater say by the people in the way this country is run. These are all the ways to win support and defeat unfounded criticism of the party.

This election, like all others, should be carefully analysed at local and national level to find the strengths and weaknesses of the party performance. The Workers' Party needs to be organisationally efficient throughout, and able to react to all events in a political manner, meeting the challenges and continue our march forward.

A detailed questionnaire has been sent out to all candidates and directors of elections by Des Geraghty, the National Director of Elections, which should help this process.

The local elections confirmed that the Workers' Party is here to stay and continues to gather support and grow. Growth for the party can only come through hard work and diligent cultivation of the people. Much appreciation must go to all party members and supporters who put tremendous effort into the election campaign.

MORE PAGE 7

New party logo

The new party logo that was agreed after extensive consultations with party members and branches should be well known to all members by this stage and is: the clasped hands with the stylised name of the party above the hands. This logo was used on all Ard Fheis and most of the local election material.

It is important that all parts of the party use this logo, and only this logo, on all party literature including headed notepaper, leaflets, posters, etc. There are many versions of the party logo floating about; however, there is only one agreed logo and that should be used.

All branches and constituencies who wish to obtain new party headed notepaper for their area can order this from Marie Brady at Head Office. The cost of this printing work will be quite cheap!

WP take important Council posts

SEAMUS LYNCH, the party councillor on Belfast City Council has been elected to a key post on Belfast City Council as Chairperson of the Community Services Committee. Seamus is the first non-unionist to be elected to the chair of any committee since the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement in 1985. The election is not only a personal tribute to the courage and integrity of Seamus Lynch, it is also an indication of the growing respect which the party is winning in Northern Ireland.

FRANCIE DONOGHUE, a party councillor on Carrickmacross Urban District Council was recently elected as chair of that council. Francie has been a member of this council for many years and has built up a good reputation for the party in this area and is in many ways a local legend!

PARTY ESTABLISHES COMMISSION ON RULES AND ORGANISATION

Following the recent Party Ard Fheis at which a new Party programme was adopted, it was agreed by the Ard Fheis to review the workings of the party organisation, structures and rules. At the last meeting of the Executive Political Committee on June 29th, the following members were nominated to serve on the Commission:

Des Geraghty (Convenor), Eamon Gilmore, Deirdre O'Connell, Morgan Nolan, Bernard Lynch, John Lowry, Paddy J. McClean, Pat Rabbittie, with Proinsias De Rossa and Sean Garland ex officio members. Eugene Hickland will be providing secretarial assistance to the Commission.

The Commission held its first meeting on July 18th to formulate a programme of work for the Commission.

GENERAL SECRETARY APPOINTMENT IN SEPTEMBER

The election of the new General Secretary of the party to replace Sean Garland was not made at the CEC/Ard Comhairle meeting on June 9th. It was agreed to fill this post at the next meeting of this body in September. The principal reasons for this delay were to enable any member who wishes to be considered for the post to establish their own current work position as regards getting leave of absence or taking redundancy. The meeting felt that it would be unfair to any member to proceed with an appointment at that meeting in June until they were able to give full consideration to their personal commitments.

The CEC/Ard Comhairle established a committee of Sean Garland, Proinsias De Rossa, Seamus Lynch and Seamus Harrison to meet with prospective candidates for the post of General Secretary, and to bring forward recommendations to the next meeting of the CEC in September on filling the post of General Secretary.

An advertisement for the General Secretary's position is carried in this publication and Tomorrow's People, and all branches have been circulated. If there are any names of possible candidates, please submit them to Sean Garland or Proinsias De Rossa at Head Office as soon as possible.

General Secretary

The Ard Comhairle/Central Executive Committee of the Workers' Party invites applications for the position of party General Secretary.

Applications, which will be treated in strict confidence, should be sent with full C.V. to either Party President Proinsias De Rossa TD, MEP, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, or General Secretary, Sean Garland, Head Office, 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1.

On receipt of applications, full details concerning the position will be sent to applicant.

Applications must be received before 31st July '91.

New title

For some time we have been trying to find a suitable name for this publication as the title *News & Views* was very much an interim one. In the absence of any great and inspiring ideas coming forward we have now decided to call the publication FOCUS.

This publication is the property of the members of this party, and if the name does not meet with your approval, then let us know. The opinions, views and ideas of party members on any subject are welcome, so why not share them with the rest of the party.

As you are aware, this publication has not appeared for the last few months. Quite simply, the lack of finances has meant that we were unable to spend money getting it printed in an outside printing company, and the material for the Ard Fheis and the local elections had to be given priority. It is hoped that FOCUS will be published on a regular basis, at least once per month in future.

Bodenstown

The annual party commemoration to the grave of one of the founders of the United Irishmen, Wolfe Tone, has been postponed to September due to the Local Elections. A date for this event will be notified to all branches in the near future.

FETE DE L'HUMANITE

The party is organising a group to attend the world-famous Fete de l'Humanite in Paris in September. The festival is a major international political and cultural event organised each year by the daily paper of the PCF. Like last year the party has been invited to attend and an organising committee has commenced work on arranging the party participation.

An initial booking of 20 airline seats has been made, more can be booked if necessary. The cost of the flights return Dublin-Paris is £165 plus £5 government tax. Accommodation can be booked on a group rate basis to obtain cheaper prices.

All those who attended last year found the Fete (festival) very worthwhile and enjoyable. If you are interested in going or want further information contact either Eugene Hickland at Dublin 766554, or Don Tipping, Dublin 619557 (w).

FÊTE de
l'Humanité

Party Appointments

The first meeting of the incoming CEC/Ard Comhairle of the party was held on June 9th 1991, and fulfilled its constitutional obligation to elect party officers and national committee chairpersons. The following members were elected:

APPOINTMENT OF PARTY OFFICERS

VICE PRESIDENTS: J. Sherlock, T.

Dooney, S. Lynch, S. Rodgers.

GENERAL SECRETARY: S. Garland (until September 1991)

TREASURER: S. Garland

CEC CHAIRPERSON: P. De Rossa

CEC SECRETARY: S. Garland (until September 1991)

PRO: T. Heffernan

NATIONAL ORGANISER: P. Kane

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE: G. Doherty

EPC CHAIRPERSON: P. De Rossa

EPC SECRETARY: D. Geraghty

EPC MEMBERS: P. De Rossa, S. Garland,

S. Lynch, T. Dooney, D. Geraghty, R.

Callender, S. Harrison, D. O'Hagan, T.

MacGiolla, M. McMahon, T. Heffernan, H.

Patterson, J. Lowry, C. Goulding, P.J.

McClellan.

PARTY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Local Govt & Environment: C. Murphy

Health & Social Services: J. McManus

State Education: N. Ward

Economic Affairs: R. Callender

Cultural Affairs: P. Gillan

Civil Liberties: P. McCartan

International Affairs: J. Lowry

Women: D. O'Connell

Electoral Committee: P. Rabbitte

Youth: M. Nolan

Finance: M. Brady

CO-OPTIONS TO CEC: S. Rodgers, T.

Heffernan, M. Nolan, H. Patterson, M.

Brady, D. O'Connell.

INVITED OBSERVERS TO CEC

MEETINGS: N. Ward, J. McManus, E.

Byrne.

The broadcasting of the BBC Northern Ireland Spotlight programme on June 27th last was yet another vicious journalistic attack on the Workers' Party. There is a detailed analysis being prepared on the background to the making of this programme and on the programme itself, which will be available to all party members. As there are a number of libel cases being taken against the programme makers, it would be unwise to go into more detail on the programme at this stage.

The following is the text of the Press statement that was issued by the party in the North immediately after the broadcasting of the programme.

The Workers' Party have emphatically rejected allegations made in the recent Spotlight programme on BBC television suggesting that the Party has links with the Official IRA, and have strongly attacked the behaviour and motivation of the Spotlight team responsible.

The party were not given the opportunity to see the programme before the screening but a number of matters are clear from a first viewing.

Spotlight produced a succession of totally spurious allegations, most of them very old hat indeed, and the more recent gleaned from An Phoblacht/Republican News. They have been trotted out before by the Provisionals and by sectarian politicians such as Brian Feeney. Spotlight dressed them up with stage-managed melodramatics and unattributable smears, in order to blacken our Party's reputation. This programme was conceived in hostility and developed in bad faith and in collaboration with people bitterly opposed to the WP because of our opposition to their support for terrorism and their sectarian politics.

Spotlight consistently refused the simple reasonable request of the Workers' Party that we see the programme before being asked to respond to these allegations in a proper manner on air. Given this refusal, it was with great reluctance that the party agreed to allow an interview to be filmed, and edited, by these programme makers, and it was a step we took only because we were unwilling to allow such a challenge to our party's integrity to go unanswered. Spotlight's behaviour throughout the preparation for this programme was disgraceful. They co-operated with known Provisional supporters to set up pickets on Workers' Party premises and our Annual Conference, and when our party attempted to engage them in discussions about the programme, this resulted merely in leaks to the press, again through sources close to the Provisionals.

The prejudicial allegations around which Spotlight built this attack on the WP are malicious and disgraceful. They have publicly villified people who were not given an opportunity to defend themselves or state their present attitudes or beliefs. They have done this without regard to the great personal risk at which they have placed these individuals by alleging

Spotlight's 'Kangaroo Court' condemned

paramilitary involvement against them, and in particular have given Brian Feeney a platform to set people up for murder by making the outrageous allegation that they are some form of 'British Agents'. That is a calculated piece of incitement to murder by Brian Feeney, marked by his own unique brand of sectarian bitterness and personal malice.

Spotlight attempted to draw quite unfounded conclusions regarding the Workers' Party based on isolated instances, by trawling through the hundreds of names of Party members and non-members alike, who have ever signed nomination papers or have had any connection whatever with the WP. They lump any and all instances of paramilitary racketeering at the feet of the Workers' Party and/or the Official IRA. Where a person with any association, however tenuous, to the WP is involved in a crime or a brawl, this is added to the general conspiracy theory. If every Party were to have all the people who were ever, however remotely, connected with them, subjected to such scrutiny then what party or association in this society could escape censure?

Our own attitude to all paramilitary groups has been unequivocal and remains so. We are opposed to them all and to all paramilitary activity associated with them, and we support all efforts to deal effectively with them within the law and to rid our society of their influence. We have supported, in an open manner, the police in this community, and have dealt with the police in an open manner, and have been attacked viciously from various sources for doing so. Yet Spotlight quotes what they claim to be 'police sources' concerning the Party, but hides these spurious smears behind the convenient cloak of anonymity.

At a time when all the people of Northern Ireland are looking for progress, imagination and courage from political leaders who have shown precious little of any of these qualities in the past, it is pathetic that Spotlight should devote its resources to a denigration of the Workers' Party at the behest of those very elements which have been responsible for the suffering and destruction our community endures today.

Spotlight's programme resembled nothing so much as a paramilitary kangaroo court. In the best traditions of the show trial, there was no counsel for the defence allowed. The Workers' Party was gagged, denied any opportunity to cross examine or see the witnesses against it — it was invited only to confess. The traditional ending for such a charade is the execution of the accused. We can only hope that nobody is shot as a result of this broadcast.

Civic Coalition for Dublin

The loss of absolute control of Dublin City Council by the Fianna Fáil group of councillors has seen the emergence of a majority of councillors in favour of a Civic Charter which outlines an approach to improving the quality of life for the citizens of Dublin. The Civic Charter is supported by the Workers' Party, Green Party, Labour Party, Fine Gael and Community Councillors Group. The Civic coalition

has placed the Workers' Party on Dublin City Council in a much stronger position to influence decisions of the Council with more seats on important committees. This is a clear move away from the wheeling and dealing for the sake of power to a position of obtaining power to carry out a programme of work for the benefit of the people of Dublin City.

THE CIVIC CHARTER

We the undersigned members of Dublin City Council agree to participate in a civic alliance to promote fundamental improvements in the quality of life for the citizens of Dublin.

Our areas of priority for good civic government are:

Creation of a living city by halting outward expansion through rezoning, and by establishing a City Renewal Authority to undertake community and area-based revitalisation.

Tackling the housing crisis facing low-income families by a building, renovation, utilisation and maintenance programme to ensure minimum standards for all dwellings by 1996, and by working in conjunction with the Housing Finance Agency and Voluntary Housing Associations.

Elimination of the 160 acres of derelict sites between the canals through the strict implementation of the Derelict Sites Act 1990, a review of the operation of the Dangerous Buildings Section, the strict enforcement of the planning laws, and the introduction of further measures where necessary.

A five-year programme to provide every local

community in Dublin City with a range of local amenities and leisure facilities for young and old, including the allocation of a block grant from the National Lottery Fund for this purpose.

Establishment of a democratic Dublin Transportation Authority to plan and develop public transport, including Light Rail Transport, and to manage city traffic with increased provision for pedestrians and cyclists; a moratorium in order to review all major road plans with the Corporation's jurisdiction, while a land use and transportation study is being carried out; the Eastern By-Pass/Port Relief road to be deleted from the City Development Plan, and the Northern Cross Route and its access at Ballymun to be reviewed.

Conservation and development of Dublin Bay, the City waterways and the Dublin Mountains as natural amenities for the citizens of Dublin by means of special amenity area orders and other measures.

The establishment of an energy conservation and management programme commencing with the Corporation's own buildings, and involving energy utilities, to reduce overall energy costs and improve the environment.

DUBLIN CITY

T. MacGiolla
P. McCartan
E. Byrne
L. O'Neill
E. O'Brien

DUBLIN COUNTY

P. Rabbitte
D. Tipping
M. Billane
E. Gilmore
D. O'Callaghan
C. Breatnach

KILDARE

C. Murphy

MEATH

C. Gorman

WORKERS' PARTY COUNTY and CO BOROUGH COUNCILLORS IN REPUBLIC

DONEGAL

S. Rodgers

CORK CITY

K. Lynch
J. Kelleher
J. Homan

CORK COUNTY

J. Sherlock
WATERFORD CITY

P. Gallagher

D. Walsh

M. O'Regan

WATERFORD COUNTY

T. Wright

WICKLOW

L. McManus

LIMERICK CITY

J. Ryan

RIGHT WING REVENGE RULES ROOST IN WATERFORD

The local elections brought mixed fortunes for Waterford Workers' Party.

In the County area the party ran two candidates, Tony Wright of Dungarvan, and Eddie Gahan in the Tramore area.

Tony, with a solid base on the Dungarvan UDC, gave a magnificent performance in snatching a seat for the party on the County Council for the first time in history.

Eddie had a very high mountain to climb. With very limited resources at his disposal he campaigned in solid Fianna Fáil territory where there was no previous WP vote. His achievement of 116 first preferences in those circumstances is very creditable, and has ploughed a furrow for us for the future.

Waterford City saw the WP first preference vote increased to a massive 3,668, or 22% of the votes cast, making the party the largest in the city.

As Figure 1 shows, we were unfortunate in not increasing our representation on the City Council, with Martin O'Regan, Paddy Gallagher and Davy Walsh being returned, the latter two as Aldermen. (The top two vote-getters in each of the three Wards are designated Aldermen).

John Halligan who ran with Paddy and Martin in Ward 3, achieved a first preference of 384 from the Party's 2,250 vote in this Ward, and was eliminated on the seventh count.

Billy McCarthy, who ran with Alderman Davy Walsh in Ward 1, took 309 first preferences to be eliminated, again on the seventh count, ceding the seat to Martin Cullen of the PDs.

Olga Redmond, fighting in the city's wealthiest ward, Ward 2, increased the WP vote from 116 in 1985 to 484 first preferences. She was finally forced to yield the seat to the PDs on the seventh and final count.

Immediately the results were known intense back-stage activity began to form voting alliances for the next five years' mayoralities and the compositions of the various Council Committees.

Much of this activity centred around the Independent (and former FG) Councillor Stephen Rogers. In the event the alliance between Rogers, two PDs, two FG and three FF Councillors, known locally as 'The right wing revenge', coalesced to give the magic figure of eight, leaving the three WP, three Labour and Independent antiwater rates Davy Daniels, out in the cold for the next five years.

The minority seven includes all six City Aldermen, and between them they hold 62% of the City's first preference votes, with the right wing revenge, who now rule Waterford's roost, holding only 38% of the people's mandate. (An ancient Greek gentleman, by the name of Democritus, is said to be spinning in his tomb!)

However, for the first time in the history of Waterford, the political battle lines in the City have now been drawn clearly along a Left-Right axis. The Labour party has now been dragged emphatically away from its previous alliance with FF (even though it still links with FG on the County Council).

Interesting times lie ahead!

Flushed with success...

Proinsias De Rossa TD, MEP, pictured with candidates and members of the WP, Waterford.



Sell the paper — win a seat!

(Cllr Jimmy Homan tells how they did it in Cork)

I was asked to put in writing how I think we (The Workers' Party) won a seat on Cork Corporation for Cork City North West. It's simple, but hard — very simple but very hard. Whoever said it's not easy being a member of the Workers' Party? But it can be done anywhere. The NW ward of Cork is no different to any other area.

In 1985, we were fourth in first preferences for five seats, but eventually we were just pipped at the post. People around me were near to tears but I said then don't worry. "This time we've been beaten on points, next time round we'll win by a knockout." It wasn't exactly that, more of a TKO.

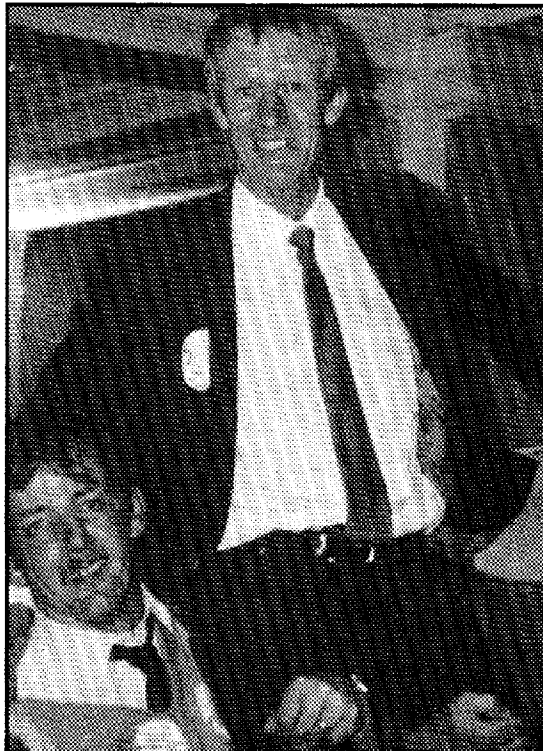
Prior to that my activity related to *Irish People* sales and was confined to pubs (34 of them). I then made a vow that next time round, no matter who our candidate was going to be — he or she would be elected, and so I embarked on door-to-door sales with the IP, starting in Knocknaheeny with 40 sales on the first night in August 1985.

Fellow-member Denis O'Connor and myself gradually extended it to its current 200. Others in the meantime were building up a sale in Churchfield (80), and Gurrabraher (60). They fell out for different understandable reasons, but I was not prepared to let the delivery of the IP go, so I just went into second gear and took it over. Churchfield and Gurrabraher now stands at 300.

When relationships were building up with people I could see the potential in the electoral sense, so I decided to expand further into Fairhill/Farranree (Spangle Hill). After a few weeks putting them in letter-boxes I started with 40 per week. It now stands at 200. The batteries at this stage are somewhat run down, but they will be re-charged with a little help from my friends and comrades.

Between '85 and '91 we had two general elections and we only held our 1985 vote in North West. On those occasions it was said that the activity door-to-door was not beneficial, but Denis O'Connor and Denis Leahy (later transferred to North Central for local election) in Knocknaheeny, and myself in the other areas had been told that they (the people) did not know our candidate. As Denis O'Connor said, if we had not been active our vote might have dropped in NW. The delivery was maintained in all kinds of weather. We had a few hiccups, unexpected events, but we got up and got going again.

From around 1989, people were asking me when I was going to contest an election as they were so familiar with me rather than the people of other parties that they wanted to vote for me. Feeling flattered, I pointed out the method of selection and though it looked like it would be me for the Corporation election, it was a matter for the Party. They appreciated that.



WINNER — JIMMY HOMAN — CORK

So the confidence kept on building. And now it's all over. That is part two.

Part three of this series is the next local elections. If my theory of bringing the Party to the people can prevail in North West, then we will go for two next time. However there are still some who say that it's too simplistic. I agree with them 100%. It is, but it has brought the expected placing and result to the NW Ward.

Satisfied? Elated? For the Party I'm in orbit. Back on earth, for myself I'm easy. The greatest personal satisfaction was living up to the promise that I made to Fianna Fáil TD, Dan Wallace in 1985. He polled 1,883 then. No one had taken anything from him since he was elected to the Dáil in the Farranree area.

In 1985 we got a little over 200 in there. This time we got 434. Wallace is not too far in front with 600. The second best was beating Labour's Gerry O'Sullivan (1989 General Election poll topper) in Churchfield. Churchfield is our strongest area. In 1985 we had 20%. This time I predicted at least double, and that's where we are. Having said all that, I cannot emphasise too strongly that it could not have been done without the regular contact made through IP/Tomorrow's People paper sales.

TOMORROW'S PEOPLE

Price 20p

...our direct link with the people

The party's relaunched paper, **Tomorrow's People** is developing an interested readership — where it is being sold.

Despite inadequate technology (this is being looked at) editorially the paper is proceeding along the lines agreed by the party's Executive Management Committee.

It strives to be topical, lively and frank, and produced up to a reasonably professional standard.

It is an eight-page tabloid and sells for 20p; 10p goes to the branch or seller. The possibility is there for a branch to develop a useful income from sales, but this should not be the prime motive. It is one element in the party's drive to present itself as a challenging, active, open and lively socialist party — with a sense of humour as well as a sense of dedication.

The party cannot rely on a hostile and begrudging establishment media to get its message across. The only option is to open its own direct link with the people.

The possibility of a small amount of commercial distribution is being explored, but distributors are seeking various strictures — including very expensive libel insurance.

The party is putting effort, and more importantly, scarce resources into establishing Tomorrow's People.

The bottom line is this: its success now depends entirely on party members and supporters selling the paper and paying up promptly to its business manager, Alexandra Klemm (Dublin 786052).

Old rounds must be revived quickly and new ones developed.

If members make the effort, there are plans for further sustainable development. New attempts to promote the paper are being currently examined by the paper's staff and sub-group of the EMC.

Possibly because of election work, the response from too many branches has been poor, particularly in Dublin (the paper has been making good progress in other areas, especially in Cork, where dedicated and alert members see it correctly as an important link between branch and community).

For full information on collection and distribution, including special offers for first-time sellers, contact Alex Klemm, at 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1 (Dublin 786052).

And if you have information on a possible story, feature or a topical issue, contact Noel McFarlane, editor, at the same address.

BERTIE'S BILL



by Pat Rabbitte TD
and Eamon Gilmore TD

*Concise Guide
to new
Industrial Relations
Act
available from
Pat Rabbitte and
Eamon Gilmore
at Dáil Office,
785396 and 785147
respectively*

Women in a changing Europe

WOMEN IN A CHANGING EUROPE is the theme for the major Public Conference to be held in September as part of the Year of the Woman celebration by the Workers' Party.

This will be a one-day seminar on Saturday, September 28th, and speakers will include women members of the European Parliament. Full details to members and branches next month.

It is important that not every activity be organised for the year centrally and we ask constituencies and branches to think of how they might contribute to the Year locally.

The Dun Laoghaire constituency took a lead by organising a series of WORKERS' PARTY WOMEN'S FORUMS, held monthly on a wide variety of topics. Dublin West is organising a similar programme tailored to their own constituency. Some areas might think of doing things like donating a prize to some appropriate local club/ organisation, planting a tree, etc.

ALSO SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO RECRUITING WOMEN AS MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS THIS YEAR. Discuss this in your branch and constituency, and consider setting a target percentage to aim at. Could you realistically aim at increasing the percentage of women in your branch to 30% or 40% over the next two years? If not what do you see as the difficulties and how could they be overcome?

The local government elections in which over a quarter of our candidates were women brought the party into contact with women all over the country and we had a number of excellent women candidates. The election provided a good opportunity to impress women with the relevance of our policies to their lives.

DEIRDRE O'CONNELL, National Women's Committee.
Tel. 960198 (home); 693244 ext. 7530 (work).

Workers Party Youth — update

THE THIRD Annual Workers' Party Youth Conference was held earlier this year in Trinity College, Dublin.

The conference consisted of two sections.

On the Saturday, policy was discussed on a wide range of areas such as International Affairs, Civil Liberties and Education. Sunday was spent discussing organisational changes and aspirations for the coming year.

A discussion document was also debated which served its purpose on stimulating and provoking debate as to our beliefs and direction.

Delegates attended from Derry, Dublin, Kildare and a large delegation from Belfast. Student members also attended from UCD, TCD, Maynooth College and Bolton Street College.

Guest speakers included Ray Maher (Pax Christi) who represented the Gulf Peace Committee, and who spoke on the Gulf Crisis and its global implications.

Liz McManus from the party spoke about the situation of young women and the problems which they face.

Representatives from other organisations also attended, such as the El Salvador Support Group and the Nicaragua Support Group.

Overall the conference went very well with the exception of a very minor and unfortunate incident on the Sunday of the conference which arose due to some confusion regarding the wording of a resolution on constitutional changes.

Although WPY is still, relatively speaking, only in its infancy, it has, as an organisation, matured quite markedly as was evident for most of the conference.

The WPY conference has developed into a truly

open and democratic forum for debate and discussion of a diverse number of opinions.

Although attendance was low this year it is the unanimous feeling of the National Youth Executive, and as far as we can gauge, the youth members, that we are stronger and more committed since the conference, a fact which is borne out by the level of activity within WPY since February.

The following people were elected to the National Youth Executive at the conference:

Paul Moloney, Paul Kerwick, Niall Behan, Mark Murphy, Roby McKnight and Ian Boersma.

WPY NEW EXECUTIVE

Paul Kerwick — Organiser
Paul Moloney — International Affairs
Paul Kerwick — Finance
Niall Behan — Women's Officer
Mark Murphy — Juniors and Vice Chair
Roby McKnight — Education
Ian Boersma — Cultural Officer
Morgan Nolan — Chair
Richie Keane — Public Relations

OBSERVERS

Fiacra Ó Ceillcabhair (students), Emer O'Hagan, Therese Keating, Emer Connolly.

OTHER AREAS

Finian McCrea (Dublin Youth Committee Chairperson)

Women's Participation Group Chair — to be elected

Gay and Lesbian Rights spokesperson — to be discussed.

You can help... get in touch

WPY strives to operate with a scarce allocation of financial resources and personnel. Any suggestions or offers of help would be gratefully accepted from party members and individual branches.

Any members who have specialist skills in Youth Work or Youth Affairs ... your opinions and suggestions are welcome. Money, any colour or denomination, as you can appreciate, is doubly welcome.

Finally, a request for constituency councils to draw up a list of daughters and sons of party members and other young people who might help out party branches occasionally so that we may increase our mailing list and perhaps poach some new members. Contact PAUL KERWICK, National Organiser, Workers' Party Youth, at Head Office.

NEW TCD BRANCH

A NEW BRANCH has been established in Trinity College Dublin. For many years a Workers' Party Society existed, but it is hoped that the branch will be more active both within the College and within the party.

The branch had a great start with a campaign on overcrowding in Third Level Colleges, which included petitions, leaflets, press releases, a campaign document and a public meeting addressed by Eamon Gilmore TD.

A campaign on inequality of access to education is currently being prepared, in conjunction with the newly formed Students Committee. Other activities will include public meetings, campaigns and activity within the Students' Union etc.

LOW PAY COALITION

Workers' Party Youth is attempting to broaden its **LOW PAY COALITION**. This coalition has been initiated by ourselves, Young Christian Workers and Interculture Ireland.

Support has been received from the Childminders' Union, Fingal Centre for the Unemployed, AFRI and Macra na Feirme are considering support, whilst St. Vincent de Paul Youth Clubs, who have indirectly expressed support, are unable to participate due to a clause in their constitution.

Any party members who are involved in community, poverty and unemployment groups, and interested in pushing the Low Pay Coalition and participating in a possible seminar/conference later on in the year, should contact RICHIE KEANE, (Low Pay Campaign Co-ordinator), at Head Office.

PEOPLE DO MATTER

IN THIS MODERN age with all its electronics, its statisticians and its mechanisation, are we not in danger of being taken over by machines, of becoming a mere statistic for the greater glory of science? Can humanity control the machinery and use it for good purposes? Or will the machines eventually take over, and everything will be controlled by pressing buttons?

Behind every statistic there are human beings that have been herded together and represented by percentages and those 'damned' decimal points. In all fields the media is trying to get ahead of events.

They now seek to tell you the results of elections before they take place; they give the results (based on straw polls) taken at polling stations before the votes have been sorted and counted. Psephology is at the best an inexact science and can, at best, only give a guide. There is no guarantee that the small number of people who are polled actually tell the truth.

Yes, people do matter. Maybe they are not perfect in scientific terms, but they are still capable of thinking for themselves, despite efforts to do their thinking for them. The daily blast of opinion-forming efforts on the part of TV, the press and sundry other more subtle methods of propaganda, seek only to confuse people and then implant ideas into people's minds. It is amazing that most people's minds reject this sort of pressure although it serves to leave them more and more confused. What are we as a party doing to bring the truth before the public? Only too often the statements and utterances of our own people add to the confusion particularly as the media tend to distort our efforts by only reporting part of what we say and even taking sentences out of context. We tend to leave ourselves open to this by not being clear and concise in what we say. It is important that we think carefully before we commit ourselves to public utterances.

We often tend to speak before we have thought and do not convey the real meaning of what we intend to say.

If we are able to get our message across in simple straightforward terms that everyone can understand, we are on the road to defeating the menace of the mass media. We need to stop thinking of people in computerised terms and think of them as human beings. You cannot put people into specified groups and expect them always to act in that manner. Science must be the servant and not the master.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

A SEMINAR for members to discuss the content of a position paper dealing with the history, future and basis of Party international policy was held in March, following which the discussion paper was circulated to branches. More on this in next issue.

Much work has been done in revitalising the activities of party members and supporters in Britain. Progress to date has been encouraging and we have developed the basis of a sound organisational structure. Party supporters are joining the Labour Committee for Peace and Progress in Ireland, LCPPI.

This committee was to have held a major conference on Ireland in London on 9th Feb. which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the severe weather in Britain. Party President Proinsias de Rossa did however make a one day trip to London on 8 Feb, where he had meetings at Westminster with TGWU officials Bill Morris and Ron Tod; Ken Cameron of the Fire Brigades Union and leading anti-war campaigner, and the Irish Ambassador in London.

Press coverage in the *Morning Star* and the Labour Party's *Tribune* has been good and an open debate on the WP and Ireland is taking off in these publications.

Party members throughout the country have been involved in the broad anti-war activities. The Party

profile has been good on this issue. Well-known activist John de Courcey Ireland wrote a pamphlet dealing with the morality of war and arms sales which has been published by the International Affairs Committee and is available from Head Office on request.

It is an excellent tract coming at a time when many proclaimed imperialism to be dead. The speech of Party President Proinsias De Rossa during the emergency Dáil debate on the Gulf War is also available in printed form.

The following delegations have visited the WP in Ireland. They met with Party members in the Dáil, Dublin and Belfast.

November: **Japanese Communist Party**

November: **Social Democratic Party of Poland.**

THE PARTY WAS REPRESENTED AT THE FOLLOWING GATHERINGS:

November: **Dutch Greens**, Cllr Davy Kettles and Jim O'Donnell.

November: **European Security and Co-Operation** Paris, John Lowry and Eamon Gilmore TD.

December: **Congress of the French Communist Party**, Paris. Des O'Hagan.

January: **Congress of the Italian Communist Party**, Rimini, Cllr Seamus Lynch and Paddy Gillan.

Further details of any of these events or any other international matter available from John Lowry, Chairperson, International Affairs Committee.

Labour Committee for Peace and Progress in Ireland

THE re-launch of the Labour Committee for Peace and Progress in Ireland (LCPPI) which was to take place in London in February had to be cancelled at the last minute because of the appalling weather conditions. A new date for launch is in the process of being agreed.

If anyone knows of party members and supporters in Britain why not put them in touch with the LCPPI at the following address: Councillor Judy McDevitt, 9 Brunswick Hill, Reading.

AT YOUR SERVICE

The Party has a print machine at its disposal this can be availed of by branches and constituencies for leaflets, small newsletters, advice centre cards, notepaper and so on.

All work from branches

and constituencies must come through Head Office. Margaret O'Leary and Paddy Gillan will arrange typesetting and layout.

To discuss your order phone Marie Brady at 740716 or Margaret O'Leary at 786052. All jobs must be paid for on collection or with order.

Northern Ireland Conference

'TOWARDS A DEMOCRATIC FUTURE' was the theme of this year's Annual Northern Ireland Conference of The Workers' Party, held in the Europa Hotel Belfast

The central theme was developed through a number of sections on related issues. Dr Brice Dickson of QUB gave a paper on a **Bill of Rights**; Belfast Community Worker Imelda Hynds raised challenging questions on **Moves to Break Down Sectarianism Within the Community**; Cllr Seamus Lynch dealt with the future for **Democratic Structures of Government for NI** in the light of the current political situation; Paul Teague, Lecturer in Economics at the University of Ulster discussed the issue of **Full Employment — Myth or Reality**; and Party President and MEP Proinsias De Rossa talked about **Human Rights and the European Dimension in NI**. The Conference was opened by Mary McMahon and closed by an address from John Lowry, Belfast Chairperson.

It was the Third Annual NI Conference and built on the success of the previous two years, with a well improved attendance by Party members and supporters, and by interested guests and observers from outside the Party. An additional feature this year was an Exhibition area where a wide range of special interest groups and organisations active within the Northern Ireland community set up literature and information stalls.

These included the NI Housing Executive, the Fair Employment Agency, the Equal Opportunities Commission, Families Against Intimidation and Terror, New Consensus, Friends of the Earth, the Irish Congress of Trades Unions Youth Committee, and the Campaign for Peace in the Gulf.

All the papers were followed by discussion from the floor — a debate in which Workers' Party members and the guests at the Conference



Speaker: Tom French

participated. The Conference took place during the course of the murderous bombing raids on Iraq, and an extra addition to the published Agenda was a vigorous speech from Noel Synanon of the **Campaign For Peace in the Gulf**, who was introduced to the Conference by Gerry Grainger.

The full text of the papers delivered at the Conference will, as in the two previous years, be published in pamphlet form by the NI Committee of the Workers' Party, and can be obtained from 6 Springfield Road, Belfast. The proceedings were also recorded on video as was last year's Conference.

Privatisation — time for action

AT A RECENT meeting of the Economic Affairs Committee and of the Executive Political Committee of the party, concern was expressed at the serious issue of privatisation and that every effort must be made to generate a national debate on the issue.

In the Dáil the party almost singlehandedly fought against the privatisation of the Irish Sugar Company. Many of the traditional arguments in favour of privatisation are weak, and because the membership is already knowledgeable and well briefed on the issue, it should make it easier to start a campaign on the issue.

The extremely muted response of the unions; in relation to the privatisation of Irish Life and the Sugar Company, appears to add fuel to the belief that they will accept the privatisation of all non-utilities without a fight or even criticism, provided the utilities

(ESB, Telecom, etc. are not privatised).

Therefore, the EPC and the Economic Affairs Committee recommend that the party continue to take a very strong line against privatisation, and more strenuous efforts be made to generate debate.

All party members are being asked to generate a debate on privatisation. It is suggested that a letter-writing campaign be undertaken. All constituencies should consider what activities they can organise to highlight the issues involved. Any branch which wants assistance on facts or whatever on the issue of privatisation can contact any member of the Economic Affairs Committee, and especially Rosheen Callender, Proinsias Breathnach and Paul Sweeney. The EPC has also asked the Economic Affairs Committee to produce a small pamphlet on privatisation.

WORKING FOR A DEMOCRATIC EUROPE

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT is for many people an unknown institution which seems to be getting increasingly more powerful. On the election of Proinsias De Rossa to Europe in June 1989, the Workers' Party had obtained its first seat in this parliament and with this our first opportunity to have an input into the mainstream of European politics and the ongoing process of the creation of the Single European market.

On taking up the seat in the European Parliament the party's MEP had to decide what political group to be attached to. The subsequent decision was to help form the Left Unity Group.

In this issue and in the following issues it is intended to outline the political approach of the component parties of the Left Unity Group to Europe, their own country and to Northern Ireland.

All the parties in the group have been asked to submit their views and we hope to print them all in full.

In this issue we carry the Platform of the LEFT UNITY GROUP.

● The evolution of the European Community increasingly influences the politics of each member state of the community.

● We believe that our future lies in a Europe not governed by the forces of the market but based on the advancement of all its citizens' rights.

● We support a Europe composed of all states of the continent not merely those in the present European Community.

● We are fighting for democracy and for socialism in Europe. We are committed to building a community that contributes to a new world order.

To pursue our objectives the LEFT UNITY GROUP will seek convergence and common actions with other left and progressive forces; with them we can influence and change the policies of the European Community and secure real gains for Europe's working people.

With the people of Europe we can change the whole political agenda for the 1990s. We can help to create a new politics and a new social reality for the people of Europe.

The Group will have the following set of common objectives:

★ The development of a social Europe; economic development, equality of women. Equality of rights for all migrant workers.

★ We must work to end the artificial division of the European continent, we must work for the building of a common European home, and, simultaneously dismantle the NATO and the Warsaw Pact, and work for a Europe non-aligned to blocs. The group shall work progressively for a Europe without nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. Reducing regional and social inequalities, elimination of poverty and defending and promoting the principles of economic and social cohesion which cannot depend merely on assistance from the structural funds.

★ A progressive social harmonisation policy, defending workers, fighting against unemployment and social dumping, and to develop employment.

★ An environmental protection policy as an indispensable condition for developing the economy, quality of life, and a common heritage of all European peoples, increasing budget allocations for

Left Unity

the environment, with high standards of environmental protection.

★ The struggle for real freedom of movement for workers, ending the discrimination against immigrants, providing means for immigrants full citizenship rights, opposition to racism, xenophobia and terrorism, whose upsurge favours the growth of fascist ideologies and organisations in Europe.

★ Defending and promoting free movement for citizens in the Community, in particular young people, students, pensioners and also academic, university, scientific and technical exchanges.

★ Developing an incentive policy for research, science and technology, which serve the people.

★ Promoting co-operation in cultural areas, based on the common values and respect for the regional and cultural differences that exist in Europe.

★ Developing a new international political and economic order and, in particular, stronger relations based on justice with all less developed countries to help resolve their most serious problems, in particular the external debt.

★ Defending peace, disarmament and international co-operation, and support for deepening of the European Cooperation and Security process with the development of relations with Comecon and all the other countries.

★ The Group is seriously concerned about the fact that the decisions at Community level are increasingly outside parliamentary, popular and democratic control; are monopolised by bodies of a bureaucratic nature, and thereby increasing what is usually called the Community's 'democratic deficit'.

To strengthen effective popular control on decisions and to ensure the democratisation of the institutions. With this aim, the Group consider it necessary to strengthen the European Parliament's rights, especially creating and developing effective powers to control the activity of the Commission, the process of appointing its president and the adopting of its programmes. And by increasing the European Parliament's role in the process of co-operation with the Council, and for the strengthening of the European Parliament's powers on the budget and drawing up of Community legislation, and for real co-operation with the Community's National Parliaments.

The Group will also fight for the involvement of regional and local democratic organisations of social and professional movements of workers, and all social partners, in defining the Community policies and programmes which directly affect them.

In carrying out its activity the Group will systematically seek to undertake broadly-based actions, jointly or concerted with other political, trade unionist and left progressive forces, including those who are represented in the European Parliament, and seek to create a progressive majority in the European Parliament.

To achieve these objectives we consider it indispensable that our Group must seek to establish relations of co-operation as a group with all Parliamentary Groups on the left and seek to gain the greatest possible unity of the left.

OUR GROUP IS OPEN TO EACH MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WHO AGREES WITH THESE OBJECTIVES.

LANDMARKS 1791 - 1916 - 1991

MOST PEOPLE are aware that 1991 is the 75th Anniversary of the Easter rising of 1916, but this year is also the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the Society of the United Irishmen. The Workers' Party is a Democratic Socialist Party with our foundations in the republican and progressive struggles of Irish history. The Easter rising and the founding of the United Irishmen are both significant events in the shaping of the political philosophy that underpins the politics of the Workers' Party.

The 1916 rising is an important landmark in the founding of the modern Irish Republic. As an historical event it has provided much material for debating on the whys and ifs of the major participants like James Connolly, the actions committed once the rising started and its importance to politics today. Often there are people who describe themselves as forward-looking, who consider that the rising has no relevancy to today. There were attempts by nationalists and Provo groupings to steer the 75th Anniversary events into some kind of macabre justification of the continuing Provo terror campaign.

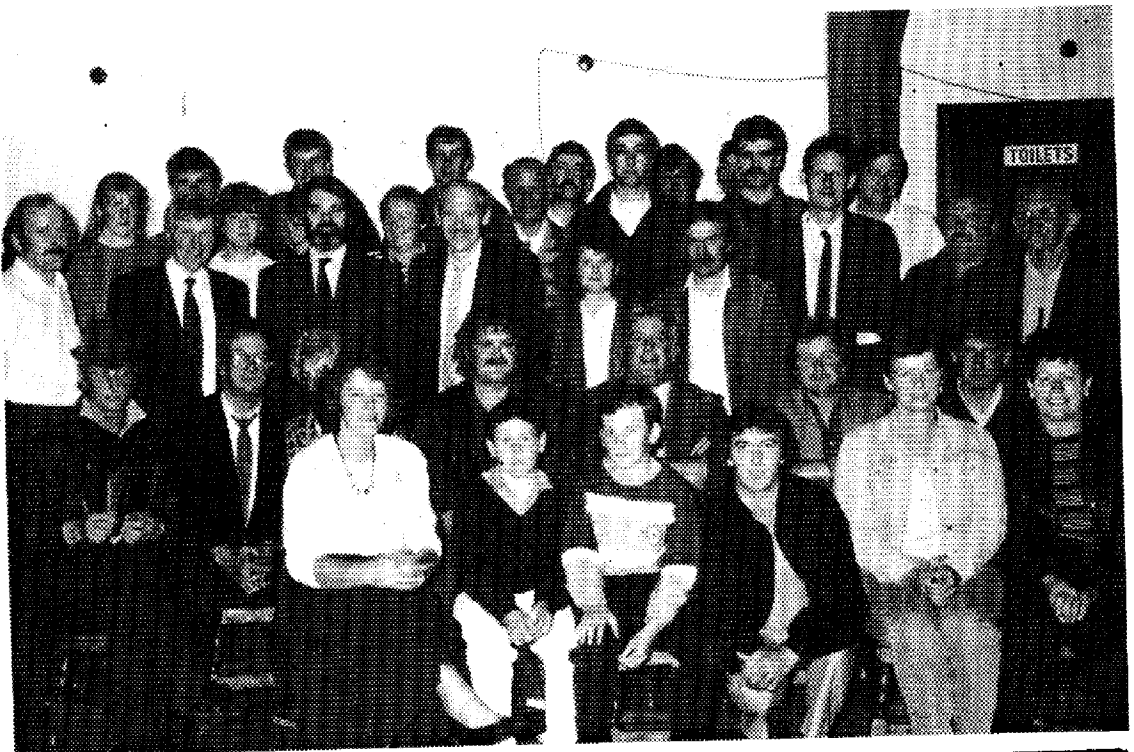
In Belfast on October 14th 1991, a political club was formed called the Belfast Society of the United Irishmen. The club's declaration stated that the only

way that English influence over the Government of Ireland could be effectively opposed was by a radical reform of the representation of the people, and that no reform would be practicable which did not include Irishmen of every religious persuasion. A similar club was established by Napper Tandy in Dublin on November 9th 1791, and adopted the resolutions passed by the Belfast Society.

The founders of the United Irishmen movement, the vital impetus of Irish radicalism, cannot be separated from the general reaction to the French Revolution. And hence the development of the basic tenets of Irish republicanism, Separatism, Socialism and Internationalism. The EMC is currently planning events to mark the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the United Irishmen.

The Workers' Party needs to continually address itself to ongoing debates surrounding certain historical events of Irish and European history in order to analyse and help define the shape and nature of Irish society today. Henry Ford once remarked that 'All History is Bunk', such an attitude is prevalent but mistaken. Many lessons can be learned from the study of history that can be helpful to us in our political struggles today.

Party members and supporters — visiting and local — in Co. Kilkenny meet with a deputation of local fishermen.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE PARTY AVAILABLE FROM HEAD OFFICE

**(Full details
from 01-740716)**

- ★ Equal to the Best — proposals for women's rights
- ★ The Workers' Party in the Dáil: The First Ten Years
- ★ Programme for a Democratic Future — submission by Northern Ireland Region Workers' Party to the Northern Ireland Office.
- ★ Transport Document — Get Dublin Going
- ★ International Relations in the 20th Century (a brief analysis by Dr John de Courcy Ireland)
- ★ The Local Election Manifesto
- ★ The Women's Charter: The Fundamental Rights of Mná na hEireann
- ★ The PESP: The Workers' Party contributions to the Dáil debate
- ★ Presidential Address by Proinsias De Rossa to the 1991 Ard Fheis

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