

ALL WORKING PEOPLE MUST UNITE AGAINST THE CAPITALIST OFFENSIVE AND CUT-BACKS!

MAKE THE RICH PAY FOR THE CRISIS!

On Thursday May 22nd, a massive turnout by workers in the Health sector - doctors, nurses, ambulancemen, domestics and all ancillary staff, took to the streets in a militant display of their total opposition to the cuts in the Health service which the Fianna Fail government, supported by all the bourgeois 'opposition' parties in the Dail, is attempting to implement.

In Dublin over 20,000 health workers demonstrated; in Kilkenny over 3,000 marched in protest against cuts proposed by the South Eastern Health Board and in Tullamore over 2,000 workers protested over cuts in the region.

These large demonstrations in the different regions uniting workers from all sectors of the Health service, have followed on from protests by individual groups and individual hospitals, and was a sure sign that the

WORKERS' and UNEMPLOYED NEWS

May 28th
1987

NEWSPAPER OF THE
WORKERS AND UNEMPLOYED
MOVEMENT

health workers are determined to oppose these cuts - no matter what it takes.

These cuts in the health service are part of an overall offensive aimed against the Irish people to make them pay for the economic crisis. The Health Service whilst at the present being in the frontline for this assault is but one area where this offensive is being carried out - other cuts are being proposed in the education system, and also in the social welfare services. For

the nature of this offensive is not only economic in its nature, but also a major attack on the democratic rights of the people - to attack and smash their organisation and resistance in order to bring in even more sweeping measures in the future. For example if the government is so concerned about making these "necessary" cutbacks in order to provide finance to "create jobs", how come it is axing some 2,575 absolutely necessary jobs, even

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Photo shows massive demonstration in Dublin of over 20,000 health workers protesting against government cutbacks

life-saving jobs in the health service, whilst at the same time imposing on the unemployed a work for dole scheme whereby those on unemployed benefit are forced to take "jobs" which are of purely a cosmetic character i.e. not of real use to the society, at wages which are little more than the dole, or else are forced to go on Anco training courses, the skills which they learn being of no use on completion of such courses anyhow. This government is not just being illogical or incompetent, but is engaged in an offensive to smash the resistance of the workers, to attack both the unemployed and those in work, in order to force wages down, and to dismantle all the essential services which are of benefit to the working people so as to safeguard their system in the face of this worsening crisis. It must be remembered that these latest measures are merely an extension of measures implemented in the past. Take for example the replacement of full-time jobs in the civil service for school leavers at the standard wages, by temporary one year "work experience programmes" for young people for £60 so-called wages. Are we to see the same sort of developments in other areas such as the health service whereby jobs are cut and then so-called "social employment schemes" or "work for dole" "jobs" are used to replace some of them some time in the future and having the effect of also forcing the general level of wages downwards? Already it should be noted that the trainee nurses are to have their wages cut to some pathetic "grant".

Of course the government does not present its policies in such terms. It uses the false language of bourgeois politicians to attack the people and nation, - euphemisms such as "the nation is living beyond its means" and that in the "national interest" all the social partners must unite

together in this time of crisis to make the necessary cuts in expenditure to safeguard the future " etc.. No doubt as the demonstrations, protests and especially as strike action becomes the weapon of the the Health workers (2,000 junior hospital doctors are due to go on strike in Jun and the nurses are shortly to have a ballot to decide on strike action), then the demagoguery of the government and its agencies such as the newsmedia will unite in condemnation of these "sections who are holding the nation to ransom" and "endangering the lives of the sick" by their action etc. This is the stock black propaganda in all strikes, but especially so in the strikes of workers in essential services. This was the outcry, for example in the recent E.S.B. and radiographers strikes, where the justice of the workers demands was denied and concealed from the people.

The workers especially in the health service, but also all workers in the 26 counties must prepare for such blackmail tactics of the bourgeoisie and also their attempts to split them not only within the health service itself, but also cause a split between the health workers and the rest of the working class. The working class as a whole must support those workers engaged in struggle to prevent the dismantling of the health service because not only is the defence of the Health service a vital concern for all workers, but because these workers are in the front line of struggle against a major offensive against the working class as a whole to make them pay for the economic crisis and to smash the organised forces of the workers in order to do this.

The workers in the Health service historically and in the present day have in fact been the guardians of the nations health and have always led in the struggle for the improvement in these services over the years. The government and

opposition parties however are not in the least bit concerned about the health of ordinary people. It is they after all who are endangering the lives of hundreds if not thousands of people through these cuts - with their closures of entire hospitals such as Cork infirmary, and closure of wards in other hospitals, as well withdrawing funds from specialist life-saving and life preserving units, such as the Cardio - Vascular unit and the bone marrow transplant unit (for the treatment of cancer and leukemia patients) at St. James' in Dublin. The hospital charges of £10 per day is another indication of their lack of concern for the health of the poor, which when seen in conjunction with the opening of more and more private hospitals only highlights the brutal philosophy of the capitalist class which Mr. Haughey and his government represents - the philosophy that Mrs Thatcher in her economic policies enunciated most glaringly. "lame ducks should be allowed to go under" - which when the same fascist philosophy of "survival of the fittest" or rather "survival of the richest" is transferred to social relations, means that they would rather let poor people die or starve if they could get away with it. The people have paid many times over for the health and other social services, including the right to decent unemployment benefit, through their high levels of social insurance payments and through the taxes. These service and benefits belong to the people by right. If the governments past and present have squandered this money, this is not the fault of the people.

Likewise the appeal to the "National interest" justifying these austere economic policies is a fraud and a total hypocrisy. The government couldn't care less for the national interest - for after all these representatives of the rich and their ilk have made it their policy for

decades to sell-out the nation to the highest bidder. They have done this through their commitment to the invasion of Ireland by foreign capital (known as investment) which has progressively wiped out all indigenous Irish industry and which has made the 26 counties merely a massive assembly plant for the foreign multinationals who have been encouraged to "invest" here by the massive hand-outs from the taxpayers money -- such inducements as grants, custom made factories, tax free periods and other tax concessions etc. And in the race to get rich quick the Irish bourgeoisie which has made its fortunes through building the factories and general infrastructure for these foreign industries, getting its commission for handling the finance etc., has pursued the policy of borrowing vast amounts of money from abroad, which again is being paid for by the Irish people through the astronomical interest rates again being paid for out of the revenue generated from taxes. The fact is that this whole economic system which is geared to make massive profits for these huge multinationals as well as the Irish monopoly capitalists, is being paid for by the people of Ireland in one way or another. And yet the government presents the issue to the workers that they should be "grateful" for the investment of the foreign companies, who are providing jobs for the Irish people - when it is the people who have paid many many times over for this act of 'charity' ! The enormous wealth created by the people who are working in these industries, is not going towards building our economic development but is going into the pockets of these foreign industrialists. The fact of the matter is that in the midst of this devastating economic crisis the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer and the sell-out of

the nation is reaching astronomical proportions. This is the policy of the present government, just like its predecessors, to serve the interests of the rich - the foreign and native financiers and monopoly capitalists and to pass off the ensuing economic disaster that this system inevitably creates as some mystical unexplainable phenomenon, which the whole nation must tackle by

taking wage cuts, and cutting all the services the people need to lead a civilised and decent life.

The Irish people should not be fooled by the demagoguery that "rich or poor we are all in this economic crisis together". It is the rich who have profited from the whole economic system and who because of their pursuit of maximum profit has pushed the

economy of the 26 counties like all other countries, but especially the dependent nations throughout the world, to the brink of disaster. The national debt crisis, the factory closures, the mass unemployment, the stagnation of the economy and the ruination of the small farmers is not the fault of the people. The people have not been living beyond their means but

have been subsidising the already stupendously rich. It is time for the people to say no to this state of affairs, to unite in struggle and to fight against the capitalist offensive to make the people pay for the crisis. The time has come to say **NO TO THESE GOVERNMENT CUT-BACKS** and launch the slogan **MAKE THE RICH PAY FOR THE CRISIS!**

Support militant strike struggle of workers at "Next" Restaurant in Dublin

Six young workers at "Next" Restaurant in Grafton Street Dublin have been on strike for over 2 weeks after being unjustly sacked from their employment.

The main issues at the centre of this dispute, therefore is for immediate reinstatement of the workers and for the right of workers to organise in defence of their rights and join a trade union.

Because the reason these workers were sacked in the first place was simply because they had joined a union, and the management did not want any union organisation on their premises.

This is typical particularly of the restaurant and catering trade where almost medieval conditions of work exist, with extremely low rates of pay. These sort of employments trade especially on young people who are desperate for a job, and pay them a pittance. For example the wages at this restaurant are an incredible £1.60p per hour, or £64 per 40 hour week - though the workers there are not even guaranteed 40 hours work. The management in a newspaper article declared in their defence that this £1.60 was in fact the rate for the 6 month training period and that the rate would go up to £2.00 per hour after this 6 months. But whoever heard

of 6 months training period for this kind of work (!) ? And does this employer think that £2.00 per hour is some kind of living wage ! This is nothing other than gross exploitation of these young people, using the conditions of the capitalist economic crisis to keep wages at a scandalously low level, and meting out instant dismissal for anyone who tries to fight for their rights.

All over Dublin and the other major cities in Ireland these sorts of practices still occur in the catering trade. The Shelbourne workers, for example, waged a long struggle of many months against the refusal of the management to pay them a decent wage, and a similarly arrogant attitude to the union organisation in the Hotel -- And this was despite the justice of the workers cause who pointed out that workers' in other hotels, but in the same chain, were receiving higher wages.

The "Next" shop/ restaurant is no different. This is by no means some small operation. It is part of a massive and rapidly expanding chain of stores, which has one or more shops in all the major towns in Britain,

and has now set up in Dublin. Whilst it has been reported that the management has at last agreed to actually discuss the grievances of these workers via the intermediary of the Labour Court, nevertheless the demands of these and any other section of workers can only be won by their actual willingness to fight for their rights. **Workers' and Unemployed Movement** calls on all workers to support these young workers at "Next" Restaurant, their struggle to be re-instated, their right to organise in a trade union and against their exploitation. □

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medium and short-range nuclear missiles are removed from Europe, this will account for some 600 out of a total which the NATO chieftains admit to being some 4,600 nuclear warheads. The superpowers are also making plans to replace these with nuclear weapons of all other types - such as air launched cruise-missiles etc.

The superpowers have built up their nuclear and conventional forces in Europe to vast levels for definite strategic reasons, and whatever they say, they will never voluntarily eliminate their vast military forces there. They are each striving for domination in Europe as in the rest of the world.

For the Irish people, like the people in Europe and the rest of the world, these issues of the preparations for war by the two super-

powers are becoming an urgent question needing a solution. Ireland, already part of the imperialist system, is being drawn more and more towards the military bloc of NATO. Indeed it already is a part of it, in the sense that because of the partition of our nation and British imperialisms control over the north - this means that our nation is already part of the NATO war-plans, with radar stations, and the new Bishopscourt military base, which is presently being built. And because of the policy of national sell-out by the traitorous southern section of the Irish bourgeoisie, the 26 counties is more and more becoming enmeshed with western imperialism and with the signing of the Single European Act will mean this will be a further step in that direction.

The Irish people can only contribute to the struggle against the two superpowers and their preparations for war by joining with the people of the world in demanding that all foreign bases, and any other installations belonging to these warmongering blocs should be removed from our land. We should resist all attempts to draw our nation any further in to these war plans. And in the final analysis, only the complete removal of British imperialism from our national territory and the reunification of our nation can guarantee our sovereign independence in these as well as other matters, and thus assist in the struggle to avert another world war.

Superpower arms talks are a fraud.

The continuing melodrama concerning the arms talks between the two superpowers, the United States and Soviet Union is continuing unabated. The working people must be vigilant against the attempts by these warmongering powers to get them to believe the much publicised statements that they are for peace and are genuinely attempting to bring about nuclear disarmament.

In the first place what right have these proven militaristic powers to negotiate on the future of the entire world. These are the very same powers who are responsible for many wars of aggression in the world, such as in Vietnam and Afghanistan, or who indirectly incite wars in order to bring entire nations into their "spheres of influence" and fuel them with their arms trade. One of the purposes of these arms talks is to fill the news-media day by day with all their lies and hypocrisy in order to cover over their crimes against humanity and to disarm the people and make them passive, to persuade them to give up their struggles and leave it to the "all powerful" to decide on the future of mankind.

Experience also shows that none of the previous arms negotiations and treaties has ever brought about any reduction in the level of armaments held by the superpowers, and none has brought peace any closer. Twenty six years ago, in 1961, the U.S. and Soviet Union

signed a joint statement of agreed principles for disarmament negotiations which pledged a serious movement towards "The disbanding of armed forces, the dismantling of military establishments including bases, the cessation of the production of armaments as well as their liquidation or conversion to peaceful uses; the elimination of all stockpiles of nuclear, chemical, bacteriological and other weapons of mass destruction, and the cessation of the production of such weapons." There followed the test-ban treaty of 1963, the 1967 treaty banning weapons from outer space, the non-proliferation treaty of 1970, the anti-ballistic missile treaty of 1972, the strategic arms limitations treaties and many others.

But at the same time as these agreements were being signed the arms race accelerated into a race which is today increasingly out of control, with vast unimaginable sums being spent on bolstering the armed forces of these warmongering superpowers. For example it was announced recently that world military expenditure is expected to reach a total of a trillion, or 1,000 billion dollars, the vast bulk of which is spent in the escalating war preparations of the two superpowers.

Whether these latest rounds of talks arrive at a deadlock again, or whether an agreement is reached is immaterial. For the agreements reached in the past have always been agreements on such things as the level which the armaments should be increased, or on whether new generations of weapons should be brought on stream. This is the case in the recent talks where the militarisation of space is on the agenda. And anyhow even if the NATO

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PUBLIC MEETING

Friday 12th June -8pm
CLARENCE HOTEL, DUBLIN

**ALL WORKING PEOPLE
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Hosted by:
WORKERS AND UNEMPLOYED
MOVEMENT

Speakers from :

Workers and Unemployed Movement

Workers from various sectors of employment
and the community

Communist Party of Ireland
(Marxist-Leninist)

Public Meeting

DUBLIN :
Wednesday 17th June 8pm
CLARENCE HOTEL

CORK:
Thursday 18th June, 8pm
CARPENTERS HALL,
(Father Mathew Quay)

**On the Occasion of the anniversary of the
Birth of Wolfe Tone**

**THE INDIVISIBLE UNITY
OF THE IRISH PEOPLE
IS THE KEY TO VICTORY
IN THE STRUGGLE FOR
NATIONAL LIBERATION**

Hosted by :
Spirit of Freedom Committee

Speakers from :
Spirit of Freedom,
Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist)

Title: Workers' and Unemployed News, May 28th 1987

Organisation: Workers and Unemployed Movement
[Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist)]

Date: 1987

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