

WORKERS SOLIDARITY

March / April 2011

Twenty-Seven Years of Irish Anarchist News

Democracy Delivers

It's great to live in a democracy, right? From the moment we are old enough to grasp the concept, the idea that we live in the freest of all possible worlds is drummed into us. From the pages of our school history books to the celluloid magic of our favourite movies, our way of life is portrayed as the ideal, one which we must preserve at all costs and, if possible, export to the less fortunate.

Marcas MacCaoimhín

Sounds great, but have you ever stopped to think about how much power we really have in making the big decisions that affect our lives? Well, who voted for the bail out of the bankers and speculators who were responsible for the depths of the economic crisis? Who voted for the IMF/ECB deal that ties us to years of debt and austerity? Who voted for cuts in social welfare or public sector wages? If these policies were put to the public in referenda would they have passed?

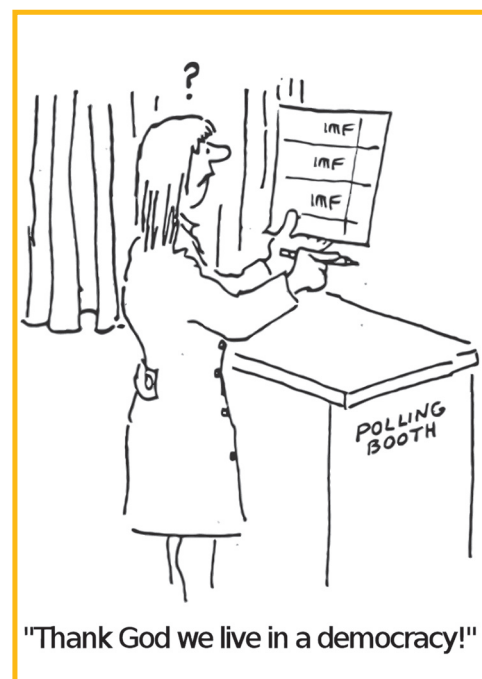
You certainly won't find any of these policies in the 2007 election manifestos of either Fianna Fail or the Green Party. What you will find is a series of un-kept promises. Fianna Fail's manifesto promised to increase the state pension to at least €300 by 2012 and to remove the cohabitation restriction on One Parent Family Payment, replacing it with a "new family friendly allowance" while the Green Party promised to "benchmark the lowest social welfare payment for a single person

at 50% of average income". Instead, increases in the State Pension have ground to a halt, while the One Parent Family Payment has been slashed in line with Jobseekers Benefit.

Of course, Fianna Fail and the Greens might argue that those promises were made under different economic circumstances. Fianna Fail's manifesto explained that all of these improvements were based on "conservative assumptions" such as 4.5% per annum economic growth, 4.5% per annum growth in earnings and growth in employment of 2.5% per annum. However, if the circumstances changed so radically, then why was a new set of policies not put before us to vote on? How come there was no way of removing from office a government who got their economic predictions so horribly wrong? And can any of the new parties of government be trusted to do things differently?

The reality is that our political system is democratic only in the most minimal sense. Rather than voting on the big issues, we get to vote every five years (most of us spend about four hours of our entire life voting!) for the career politicians we want to make those decisions. They don't need to stick to election promises and they are free to think up all sorts of new policies that were never even mentioned. They are advised by ideologically motivated "experts" and encouraged by corporate donations, legal or otherwise.

This is why anarchists advocate direct and participatory democracy, whereby we'd



"Thank God we live in a democracy!"

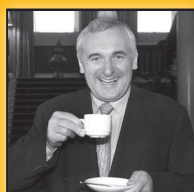
get to vote on the actual issues rather than for people to make our decisions. Where we had to vote for individuals to implement decisions it would be on a delegate basis with a strict mandate and with the right to remove that individual if they did not follow that mandate.

We don't stop there either. As anti-capitalists we believe that the means of production and distribution should be socially owned so as well as being able to decide what to do with the Corrib gas field and Shannon airport, we'd get to vote on what scientific projects get funded, what standards we wanted for food safety, what kind of homes we need and many other issues we have absolutely no say on right now.



Bolivia

Resistance to overnight fuel price increases pits social movements against 'leftist' president Evo Morales



Bertie's Back

This time he's part of consortium aiming to privatise Ireland's forests.



Resistance Round-Up

Workers fighting for decent working conditions in hotels and hospitals.

“Gasolinazo” in Bolivia



The following article is adapted from an interview with Bolivian activist, **Oliver Olivera**, a veteran of the **Cochabamba Water War of 2000**, when residents there successfully resisted attempts to privatise their water supply.

The day after Christmas 2010, Vice-President García Linera, in the absence of President Evo Morales, who was on a tour of Venezuela, announced that the state subsidies of some fuels were to be removed. He also spoke of raising taxes on some of them such as gasoline, diesel and aviation fuel. As a result, petrol rose by 72%, diesel by 84% and aviation fuel by 99%.

The problem is that the measure (the “gasolinazo”) resulted in an increase in the price of basic consumer goods such as milk, bread, materials for construction and housing etc. Transport fares rose by almost 100% and this led to an increase in the cost of everyday products. People looked at their wallets, their homes, and realised an increase of such magnitude was unsustainable, leading to a feeling of desperation, disbelief, fear, anger and uncertainty in the whole population.

Morales returned from Venezuela and announced complementary measures such as a 20% increase in the salaries of four sectors: police, army, health and education. Private sector workers were left at the mercy of their employers and the self employed, who do not have any wage security, were left completely at the mercy of supply and demand with many of them also becoming unable to get any of their products on the market due to the increased costs involved.

The government said it was eliminating the subsidy only because of the economic bleeding the country was suffering from fuel being smuggled to neighbouring countries such as Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Peru and Paraguay, where the prices

are two to three times higher than in Bolivia. The government definitively wanted to convince the people with numbers, saying that this process would generate increased revenue to the state, which would then be redistributed to improve people’s quality of life, above all in rural areas, but the people felt abused and cheated and took to the streets to demand that these measures were not passed. What is most shocking is that the government is punishing the people because of fuel smuggling, yet those responsible for this smuggling are mainly the police and the army.

In a very organised but independent way the people took to the streets to protest, to oppose this measure. But they didn’t just protest in the places with a tradition of popular rebellion such as the mining areas of Oruro and Potosi, it was all over the country. Even in Chapare, an Evo stronghold, villagers blocked roads. I think he saw that it was a very serious public response, which could threaten the stability of the government.

People were able to remember very easily what they did in 2000 with the Water War and in 2003 with the Gas War, when popular mobilisations succeeded in changing government policies or removing the government. With those memories and experience, people began to organise, and there was a possibility that Evo could be thrown out of government, which Morales was well aware of.

The government was left with no choice but to announce in a press conference on December 31st that it would repeal the decree, but at the same time warning of the consequences that would come later. In the end, the government was slightly afraid of continuing with a deeply unpopular policy, which was justified in a neo-liberal sense, but was unsustainable for the general population.

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Indymedia Ireland
Alternative user-generated Irish news.
<http://www.indymedia.ie>

Seomra Spraoi
Dublin Social Centre
10 Belvedere Court, Dublin 1.
<http://www.seomraspraoi.org>

Solidarity Books
Cork Radical Bookshop & Meeting Space
43 Douglas Street, Cork.
solidaritybooks@gmail.com

Just Books
Belfast Radical Bookshop
13-15 Clarence Street, Belfast.
justbooks@rocketmail.com

Shell to Sea
Campaign to move Shell’s gas pipeline offshore from Co. Mayo.
<http://www.shelltosea.com>

Hands Off the People of Iran
Anti-imperialist network for solidarity with Iranian trade unionists & the women’s rights movement.
<http://www.hopoi.org>

Choice Ireland
Abortion rights action group
choiceireland@gmail.com
<http://www.choiceireland.org>

Residents Against Racism
Opposing racism and deportations.
24 hour helpline: 087 666 2060

Cork Palestine Link
Part of the Free Gaza Movement that is sending a convoy of aid to Gaza.
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The Workings of Anti-Union Legislation

The Clarion describes itself as one of “Cork’s premier 4 Star City Centre Hotel”. Although it’s well able to charge for its rooms it cannot find its way to granting its workers a 29 cent per hour pay rise.

Kevin Doyle

The current situation began in 2009 when the workers at the Clarion had their wages cut by a €1 an hour, bringing their rate of pay to €8.80 an hour. Last year a number of workers at the hotel decided to join the Independent Workers Union (IWU). They subsequently lodged a claim for a pay rate of €9.09 an hour. This is the rate of pay established by the Joint Labour Committee Agreement for Hotel Rates (Outside Dublin) and thus legally binding. It would at least give Clarion employees parity with other workers in the sector. Clarion Management rejected the claim by the workers.

The case was taken by the IWU to the Labour Court and opened in January. Noel Murphy of the IWU attended on behalf of the unions’ members. Clarion Management also attended with a number of IBEC (Irish Business and Employers Confederation) advisors. The IBEC legal team immediately raised the matter that none of the Clarion’s employees were actually present at the Labour Court. Citing the Supreme Court ruling in *Ryanair v IMPACT* (2007), which stipulated that “a company was entitled to know and see evidence given by those employees that were claiming an industrial dispute existed”, they asked to see which of their workers were making a claim against them. Cynically Clarion claimed that they had their own ‘internal’ HR mechanism for ‘sorting out disputes’ and that there would be no ill effects for any employee who approached them using this method. The workers

at Clarion do not agree.

Not surprisingly the Labour Court saw the boss’s side of things and applied the ruling in the *Ryanair v IMPACT* case. This led to the case being adjourned immediately until and when the workers from the Clarion showed their faces. Noel Murphy was subsequently unable to persuade the workers at the Clarion to come forward. Many are the sole breadwinners in their families and, as he pointed out, ‘they simply cannot afford to lose their jobs’.

So, for the moment, intimidation, bullying and greed have won the day in Cork. And of course the Labour Court has also shown its true metal. Surprised? Apparently it’s part of an “impartial” mediation procedure as well as being central to Ireland’s legendary “partnership” process! We don’t think so. As conceived, it is a tool of the employers and the privileged in this country, paying fat and lucrative wages to judges who know what side their bread is buttered on. We can expect no sympathy there.

In Dublin, SIPTU placed pickets on the Davenport Hotel after workers were taken off the roster for refusing to sign new contracts reducing their wage rate by almost a euro to €7.70 per hour. The Davenport Hotel is part of the O’Callaghan Hotel Group owned by Persian Properties and property developer, Noel O’Callaghan. SIPTU says he has been a regular financial contributor to Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael over the years. The Group owns three other hotels in Dublin, the Alexander Hotel, the Mont Clare and O’Callaghan Stephen’s Green. It also owns hotels in Gibraltar and in Annapolis, Maryland, USA and is currently building a new hotel in Warsaw, Poland for €21 million.

The situation at the Clarion though does show why it’s crucial that the Davenport workers win. The dispute at the Davenport needs mass solidar-

ity and a mass picket, which is how it could be effective and decisive. But the Davenport’s owners have already challenged SIPTU in the courts under the 1990 Industrial Relations Act. Following on from this SIPTU have been ordered to limit the picketing outside the Davenport. Needless to say SIPTU’s officialdom will be advised by its legal team to comply with this order and duly will. The strike at the Davenport, accordingly, is in grave danger of not being effective enough against a tough and resourceful employer.

The Davenport dispute highlights the real limitation for workers of taking a course of action that respects the law and the industrial relations machinery. It amounts to this: you can strike but you won’t be effective. We all know what that means ultimately.

The need to defy the Industrial Relations Act is obvious. But no one group of workers can do it on their own. Nor can the workers at the Davenport be expected to lead the way when they do not know what level of support exists behind them and in solidarity with them. Right now, it is necessary to address this issue. Links between those more politicised workers who see the need to resist and fight back must be established. In many areas, in many workplaces across the country, dissent and resistance is alive. But this resistance is often isolated and is disconnected from the broader assault on our wages and conditions. We urgently need to link up and to start talking about building a grassroots workers movement. A key aim of any such momentum would be to deliver solidarity when it’s needed. For times like now with the Davenport dispute but also for workers like those at the Clarion in Cork who must, for the moment, contend with a bullying and greedy employer, who may yet come back for more.



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five continents.*

Bertie, Coillte and the Enclosure of the Public Forest

There is an increasing likelihood that the state owned forestry firm, Coillte, will be part of a rushed fire sale of semi-state companies. Last year, the government asked “An Bord Snip Nua” economist Colm McCarthy to head a semi-state privatisation group and produce a new report, which is believed to be almost complete. The original 2009 McCarthy report recommended the selling of Coillte “with a view to realising optimal return through rationalisation, asset disposal and, possibly, privatisation”. Thus, the prospect of a sell-off of Ireland’s entire public forest estate is now on the cards.

Eric Hayes

Coillte employs approx 1,100 people and owns 4,450 square kilometres of land, of which 79% is forest. It owns 70% of forests within the Republic, 7% of the land in the state. In other words, an area equivalent to two county Meath’s could be sold into private hands.

According to the Department of Finance, Coillte is the most valuable state asset, coming in at over €1.2bn. Coillte’s first act on its establishment in 1989 was to commission a geological survey of its lands, the results of which are not available to the public. Its actual value includes its land and buildings, trees, minerals, and carbon credits. The public is not privy to this information. Thus the governments valuation, only €1,000 an acre, is certainly incorrect and an underestimate.

The implications of a sale are many, including job losses, ownership by a large private monopoly, carbon offsetting, restricted public access to forestry lands and rivers for fishing and further loss of biodiversity. Some of the most treasured native woodland sites will be threatened while private firms may inherit rich mineral deposits.

One possible outcome of a sale of Coillte is that a little known company, based in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Interna-



tional Forestry Fund (IFF) could own 7% of Irish land. The International Forestry Fund (IFF) is backed by Helvetia Wealth AG of Switzerland and chaired by ex-Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern. The IFF posits itself as the equivalent of an offshore bank account with the added benefit of the notoriously lax regulation of both Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

Last Autumn, on a trip to China as chairman of IFF, Bertie Ahern met with the president of the Chinese Investment Corporation (CIC). The CIC was set up by the Chinese government with a view to investing in cheap overseas “natural resources”. Ahern met with Chinese forestry officials, but denied that IFF had an interest in Coillte, which is contradicted by a statement from one of IFF’s directors.

On the 31st of January this year, Coillte posted a tender for an ‘Evaluation of the Public Goods Value on Coillte Public Estate’ on the public procurement website. As with Coillte’s mineral deposits, getting information on the reasons behind the tendering is not easy. Coillte is excluded from FOI (Freedom of Information) legislation and its employees operate under the Official Secrets Act.

Irrespective of whether we get FG or FG/

Lab, the IMF/ECB/EU’s deal stipulates: “State authorities will consult with the Commission Services on the results of this assessment with a view to setting appropriate targets for the possible privatisation of state-owned assets.” The IMF/ECB/EU has supervised Greece’s recently announced 3 year sell-off plan – the cookie-cutter plan is the same – simply change the country’s name on the heading. So Coillte is only the beginning and the vultures are circling already. Asset prices are on the floor and a sell-off would cut semi-state dividends to the state with the proceeds from the sales wasted on the banks and the interest on the bailout.

So what do we do? In the UK, the Con/Dem government proposed to sell off 2,580 square kilometres of public forests in a policy that was not on any manifesto. Their attempt at forest privatisation has floundered in the face of a diverse and concerted movement against it. Thousands protested throughout the country, a petition attracted more than 531,000 signatures and one poll suggested 84% of the country opposed the sale. We need to emulate this and build a broad oppositional movement against the mass sell-off of state assets.

Thinking About Anarchism: Policing and the Law

Many people don't see eye to eye with the police, Anarchists much included. While this opposition can manifest itself physically when the police employ repressive tactics, it must be stressed that it has far more to do with ideology and the harsh realities of disaster-capitalism than it does with being beaten off the streets.

Jay Myles

Anarchists are opposed to policing in its current form since it embodies the antithesis of what we believe so strongly in: freedom. By being given a monopoly over force and violence, the legitimised abilities to pin you to the ground, silence you, lock you up - they have the power to violate your liberty at will, all in the name of the law. But who makes the law, and more importantly, whom does it serve?

The police force is the state's physical and intimidatory means of maintaining a desired status quo in society; one of socio-economic divisions and inequalities. Alexander Berkman stated that crime "is the result of economic conditions, of social inequality, of wrongs and evils of which government and monopoly are parents". On the one hand we have the state, politicians, bosses and capitalists, who thrive on vast amounts of money and power. Instances of white collar crime, fraud and embezzlement that are actually investigated and brought before the courts are rare (they make up a small percentile of overall economically motivated crime). Most crime, and thus policing action, targets individuals and communities that suffer greatly from social and economic deprivation.

In the last decade, crime has increased in areas like Tallaght and Blanchardstown. Drugs have devastated these communities, and economic and property related crimes have soared. Policing action in these areas, to quote Berkman again, "can only punish the criminal. They neither cure nor prevent crime. The only real cure for crime is to abolish its causes, and the government can never do that because it is there to preserve those very causes".

To name but a few examples of policing displays that highlight the preservation of existing disparate conditions in society: the historic targeting of black communities in the USA (and the black-white prison ratio that demonstrates this), violent and repressive tactics used against those who stand up for their rights (workers and students who fight against cuts), police using their position of power to commit crimes themselves; violent assault being a big one (one has only to delve back some years to the Terence Wheelock tragedy). To put it plainly, the police have a vast amount of power given to them by the state, and they play a pivotal role in keeping society as it is: serving the interests of few at the expense of the masses.

But even in an anarchist society, freed from the clutches of capitalism, the free market and avarice (and thus a great deal of crime, since economic and property related crime would end, as would numerous other forms of crime, due to different approaches to education and socialisation), crime would probably not disappear entirely. There would still be people who are harmful to others and the general well being of society.

It is important to remember that while anarchists advocate dismantling the state appara-



tus, this does not at all mean that we believe in a society devoid of public services; meaning that the state being abolished would not preclude a fully functional health-care system, for example. As the Russian anarchist Kropotkin stated "voluntary associations" would "substitute themselves for the state in all its functions".

The same would go, to an extent, for policing. Only that policing in an anarchist system would be very different to its present-day form. Proudhon (allegedly the first person to call himself an anarchist and very famous for his quote "Property is theft") stated that in an anarchist society we would see the "police, judiciary, administration, everywhere committed to the hands of the workers". If communities deemed it necessary to have a policing body to prevent anti-social behaviour, then a form of community policing would arise in which all inhabitants participated equally, either actively or by expressing their thoughts. There would not however be a monopoly over the protection of others, or as Malatesta puts it "the special function of the defense of society".

solidaritybooks



43 Douglas St., Cork

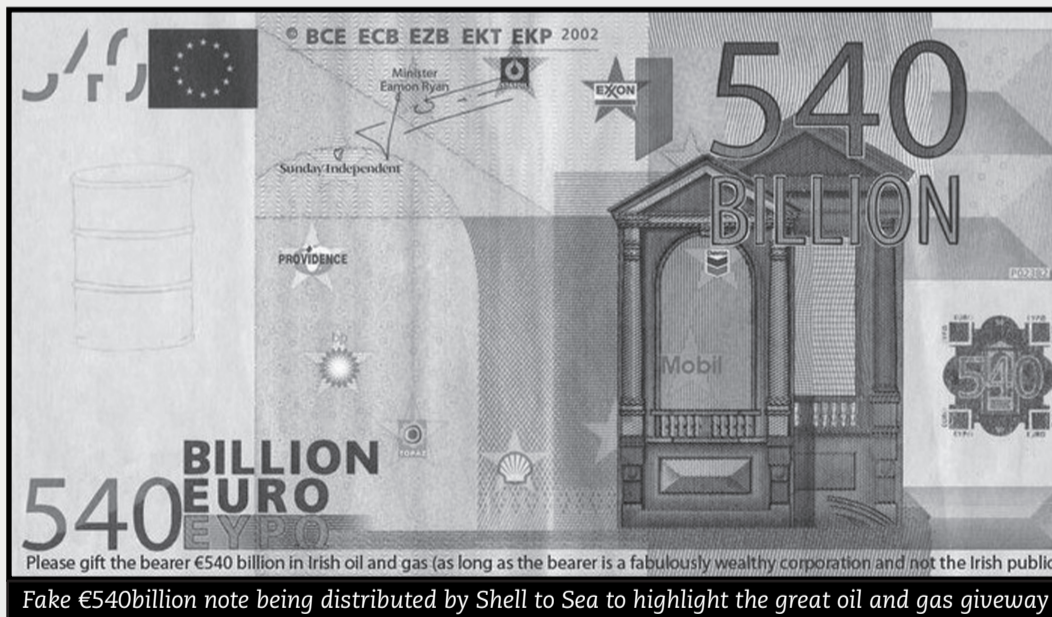
Solidarity Books is a radical bookshop in Cork open for the past year. It has a wide selection of books on anarchism, socialism and Irish history. It also holds regular radical film nights and is a meeting space for progressive groups in the city. It is run by WSM.

Anarchism & the WSM

With almost all political organisations focusing on the general election, we in the WSM spent most of January and February exploring alternative strategies for bringing about societal change in Ireland. To that end, we had a successful internal education weekend in Cork in February, where topics discussed included trade union activity, communications and mobilisations. Our Cork branch also hosted an open meeting in their Solidarity Books premises in January where an anarchist activist recently returned from Afghanistan gave an overview of the situation there.

WSM members remained active in a number of other areas at the beginning of 2011. We were represented at the annual Bloody Sunday commemoration in Derry in January. Elsewhere in the North, guest delegates from the WSM attended the Eirigi Ard Fheis in Belfast.

In the South, members assisted in Shell to Sea's distribution of €540 billion commemorative bank notes to members of the public in eight different towns and cities symbolising the cost to the exchequer of the giveaway of Ireland's oil and gas reserves (According to Caoimhe Kerins of Dublin Shell to Sea, "the general election campaign is being fought against the



backdrop of the greatest economic crisis to face the people of this state since its foundation. Tens of billions of euro have been poured into private banks and the government is imposing savage public spending cuts. Yet voters have been told that there is no alternative to this austerity programme as the state lacks resources. However, the government's own figures, published by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, indicate that Ireland's Atlantic Margin contains ten billion barrels of oil equivalent. The value of this substantial reserve is estimated to

be in excess of €500 billion. ... Proper management of our substantial oil and gas reserves would provide a long-term revenue stream for the state and substantial resources to invest in our public services."

Our student members supported the FEE (Fee Education for Everyone) picket of Fine Gael HQ in protest at their plans to implement a graduate tax (see <http://free-education.info> for more). As Lorcan Myles of FEE put it, "electing Fine Gael to implement the same cuts we've endured under a Fianna Fail/

Green government is not a solution. A vote for Fine Gael will amount to a vote for more savage IMF cuts to public services, and a graduate tax will only result in more young people being forced to emigrate. Fine Gael are just more of the same." Back in Cork, our members remain active in the anarchist forum and social welfare defenders in the city, both of which aim to take actions against government cutbacks. In Castlebar, the WSM was represented at an INMO protest at Mayo General Hospital against the proposed cuts in student nurses pay.

Whatever the make up of the new government, ongoing austerity will be the name of the day. Successful resistance will only come about through activity on the streets, in our workplaces and in our communities. WSM members will be involved and if you would like to be also, then get in touch!

www.anarchistblackcat.org



A friendly and respectful online discussion board for anarchists of all stripes and those just interested in seeing what anarchists think.

Interview: Cork Social Welfare Defenders

Workers Solidarity spoke to Dave Higgins of the recently formed Cork Social Welfare Defenders.

WS Who's in the group, what's your reason for organising?

DH "The group consists of unemployed and other social welfare recipients, disabled, pensioners etc. We were formed to defend the welfare state and make sure that the poorest in society are looked after. With all the attacks by the government on the poorest we had a choice, lie down and take it or get organised and fight back."

WS What sort of activities do you get up to?

DH "We have been involved in several protests. Most famously we occupied Anglo Irish bank and mobilised for the IWU march against the budget. We had a speaker at that demo too. We have further actions in the pipeline."

WS How did you get organised?

DH "We do stalls and leafletting at the Labour Exchange and invite people to meetings from there. There has been a great response to this and it's proved a great way of engaging with people. Initially we were mostly politicians but this

has broadened out a lot. Everyone is welcome regardless of their affiliation once they hold with our aims, we are on the go about 4 months."

WS What are the numbers involved like?

DH "We have had meetings with up to 50 along, numbers vary depending on the activity, but we definitely have a degree of recognition and support amongst the unemployed now."

WS Beyond defending welfare any other ideas?

DH "We would like to see state aid to co-operative or voluntary projects set up and run by unemployed workers. This should be socially enhancing work. They would have to be run by people off the dole not bureaucrats or civil servants, we don't want to be fodder for the likes of IBEC and ISME, with their work for free schemes. We have ideas and skills by the score, what we need is the money to get projects up and running."

WS Your own situation?

DH "I'm 49 and highly qualified, but experience can tell against you that's the truth. I'm not optimistic, could be 10 years before economy picks up."

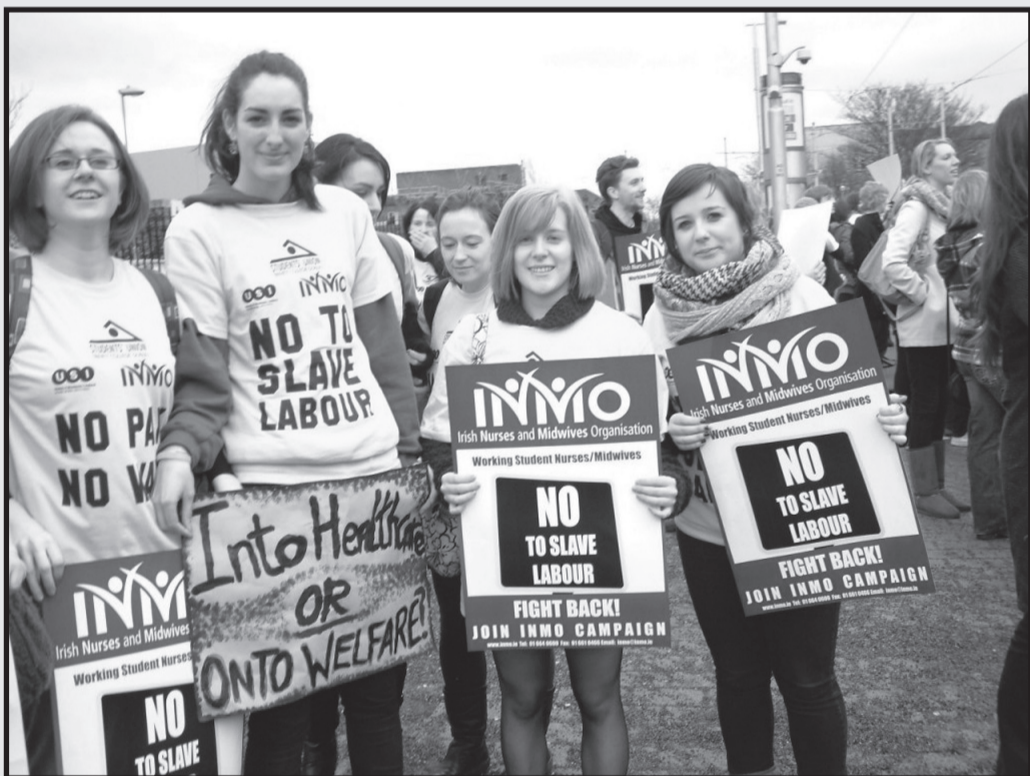


Irish Anarchist Review

The Workers Solidarity Movement is very pleased to announce the second issue of *The Irish Anarchist Review*. This magazine is dedicated to understanding the contemporary political, economic and social situation that confronts us, and finding ways to advance alternatives.

Contact us with your postal address if you would like to receive a copy or download a PDF from <http://www.wsm.ie/c/irish-anarchist-review-2>

Signs of Resistance



Amidst the myriad of austerity measures, in both the public and private sectors, there are some signs of resistance.

Greg O'Suilleabhain

The Irish Nurse and Midwives Organisation (INMO) carried out a series of protests as part of a campaign designed to resist and prevent the government's plan to phase out the payment to fourth year nursing students (described as nursing interns) by 2015. Cur-

rently these full time workers earn 80% of the salary of a newly qualified nurse in his first year of service. The Department of Health and Children's (DOHC) plan is to reduce this 80% to 76% this year and further reductions to 60%, 50% and 40% over the coming three years, with these interns effectively becoming slave labour in 2015. This plan will further cripple the already failing health service.

Lunchtime protests were carried out at thirteen hospitals across the county on February 9th and a national rally in Dublin a week later, attended by INMO and SIPTU nurses and their supporters, attracted around three

thousand people. Following on from the protests, the DOHC has agreed to review the decision. The INMO has nevertheless resolved to continue its campaign until the decision is reversed.

Elsewhere in the nursing sector, the threat of SIPTU pickets at the Mater private hospitals in Dublin and Limerick was sufficient to secure the restoration of pay scales and allowances scrapped unilaterally in January. SIPTU pickets were put in place on the Royal Hospital in Donnybrook in Dublin on January 29th following the decision to outsource the jobs of a laundry operator and a porter to a private contractor. Pickets were subsequently lifted when hospital management agreed to attend talks in the Labour Relations Commission

Just to indicate that the union bureaucracy are often as much part of the problem as employers, eight hundred delegates representing Irish National Teachers Organisation members from across the country voted overwhelmingly to reject a government scheme which would have seen unemployed teachers working for free in our schools, instructing the union's Central Executive Committee (CEC) to issue a directive to all union members not to participate in the scheme. The gulf between the union membership and the leadership was evident when the only delegates voting against the directive were members of the CEC.

This scheme, known as the FAS Work

Placement Programme, and sold on the basis that it would give unemployed teachers 'a chance to gain experience', was originally announced by Minister for Education & Skills, Mary Coughlan, at the end of November. With the announcement coming just days after the announcement of cuts of 1,200 teaching jobs, members of the union across the country were furious and expected the union's leadership to immediately reject the scheme. The CEC instead entered talks with the Department of Education and Skills on implementation and monitoring of the scheme.

Members of the union were not willing to accept this however. Spurred on by young members and newly qualified teachers, members organised to resist the scheme. To ask or expect people to work for nothing was identified clearly as exploitation and an insult to basic trade union principles. With the issuing of the directive, principal teachers will refuse to have anything to do with the scheme so it will be impossible for it to proceed.

This was a massive victory for the ordinary members of the union. It shows that when union members get together and organise in a co-ordinated and cogent manner they can prove that the union belongs to the members and not to the leadership.