

# WORKERS REPUBLIC

WORKERS OF ALL LANDS UNITE

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JULY/AUGUST 1968

SIXPENCE

## Island of Saints and Scabs

There has been a big tightening up of security at the E.I. factory in Shannon following the burning of 6 buses at Arthurs Quay, Limerick and the throwing of a molotov cocktail at a bus owned by Mr. Patrick Barry, Oliver Plunkett St., Cork, parked at the Hermitage, Limerick. All the buses were used as transportation by scabs at E.I. Also the cars of a further five scabs had their tyres slashed. As I was saying, an Island of Saints and Scabs.

All trade unionists will also be interested in the following "death" notice that appeared in the Irish Independent late in May—"O Sullivan (Shannon)—May 26th 1968 (Sudden-ly) at Dunadry Inn, Temple Patrick S. His remains will be removed to Shannon Industrial Estate for interment today (Tuesday), St. Joseph the Worker, please intercede for him. Deeply regretted by his sorrowful friend, Mr. O'Donnell, Kerry." Yes you've guessed it. There is an O Sullivan and an O'Donnell from Kerry, both still alive (as we go to press) working at E.I. and scabbing on the strikers. Some others scabs have received mass cards through the post. Jack London once wrote "After God had finished the rattle-snake, the world, and the vampire, he had some awful substance left with which He made a scab. A scab is a two legged animal with a corkscrew soul, a waterlogged brain and a combination back bone of jelly and glue. Where others have hearts he carries a tumour of rotten principles". It looks as if some of the "saints" around Shannon have been reading a lot Jack London.

Owen Doyle

## Connolly parade in Waterford

There were commemoration ceremonies here in Waterford, a few weeks ago, to mark the centenary of Connolly's birth and the golden anniversary of the founding of the local branch of the I.T.G.W.U. The march from the Glen to Ballybricken Cemetery was headed by the Union band, and was attended by trade unionists, various Republican groups, and the usual political big shots and clergy. Wreaths were placed at the National Memorial, and in Ballybricken Cemetery at the grave of Tommy Dunne, an old union warrior of the Twenties and Thirties, Larry White, President of the Waterford Council of Trade Unions introduced the speakers. John Carroll, Head Office, made something of a drum beating "left" speech (after all there is an Union election coming up). He spoke of "oppression and exploitation....abuse of power which perpetuated a class of have nots whose sweat and toil rewarded the money-spinners with abundance.... road to emancipation... 60,000 unemployed... injury to one, concern of all". After Carroll came about half a dozen clergy who tried to tell us what great friends they were of the workers and of Republicans. I didn't wait long: I had heard it all before.

Tadhg de Paor

# Taca agents attack: I.R.A. helps out HANDS OFF THE UNIONS!

The workers are going to give Taca and its political wing Fianna Fail, blow for blow in every attempt these ruling class organs make to hit out at the working class and our organizations. The number of strikes in the 26 counties, after decreasing considerably last year from the world record score of 1966, is once again racing upwards. In the first six months alone this year there were 50% more strikes than in the whole of last year. The big increase in the Labour vote in the Wicklow and Limerick (up 100%) by-elections have thrown the Fine Gael Blueshirts into a Coalition tizzy and have forced Fianna Fail to consider modifying their proposals to scrap the present P.R. election system completely. 50 ESB workers went to jail rather than not man their picket lines. The bus that carried the Cork ESB strikers to Limerick Jail was afterwards smashed up on the return journey. The young strikers at E.I. in Shannon have got sympathy and support all over the country: 6 scab carrying buses have been burned; tyres of managers' cars slashed; E.I. materials blacked almost everywhere; solidarity support from students at Galway University; IRA intervention.

The big move to the left by Republicans is also significant. The IRA have at last discovered the "Other Partition" of Ireland—between the exploiters and the exploited, between rich and poor. On the night of 28th-29th May they swooped and carried out solidarity actions with the E.I. strikers in five areas: Limerick (where the six buses were burned), Meath, Dublin, Kildare, and Clare. They state afterwards that the actions were "taken against these vehicles and their owners' premises because they were being used to carry strike breakers to E.I. in Shannon"; and further that the IRA would "defend the rights of Irish workers whenever these rights were attacked by foreign or native opportunists in their attempt to exploit Irish Labour". These actions were received by the ruling class and their scribblers with the horror and preaching usually reserved for "communist activities". There seems but little doubt indeed that the IRA rank-and-file will form one of the most healthy currents in the growing socialist movement in Ireland.

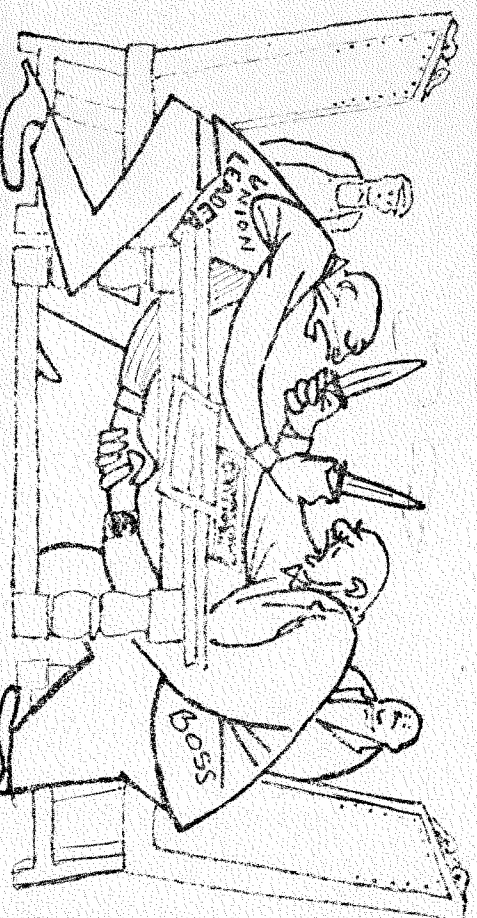
### CRISIS

World capitalism is moving into a period of deep crisis and conflict. The bourgeoisie are bracing themselves for the struggle ahead. They are attempting to shackle the workers and their organizations. World trade is in decline and the parasitic bankers and financiers are sweating hard to shore up their crumbling financial edifices. Vietnam has shown them what to expect in their "colonies" and France has shown that the nightmare of working class revolution is clamouring at their palatial front doors. This is why the new Emergency Powers have been enacted in Germany; this is why De Gaulle has banned all the revolutionary working class tendencies and let loose a fiftsam of right wing scum from the prisons; this is why in Britain arch-Tory Powell feels out the ground for Racistist support and the "Labour" Government consistently tries to undermine the independence of the unions from the capitalist state.

In Ireland Fianna Fail hope that by scrapping P.R. they will get a big Dail majority so as to initiate with the help of the T.U. leaderships, lots of repressive anti-union legislation. Modelled no doubt on the Offences Against the State Act, the Special Powers Act and the ESB anti-strike laws. Now they introduce a so-called Criminal Amendment Act which in

the guise of outlawing flick-knives, is to make sympathetic, effective and comprehensive picketing by strikers illegal. It also hits at the small farmers' agitational activities. And ominously bans "meetings, processions and demonstrations near the Dail". (Curiously there is also a suggestion that "attempted suicide be no longer to safeguard themselves in case their rotten schemes rebound and in case they are so inept as to be unable to get rid of themselves).

## Danger! Labour fakers at work



A Labour Lieutenant of Capital does a turn of "duty"

Throughout the E.I. dispute the attitude of the I.T.G.W.U. leaders has been a mixture of verbal bellicosity, warlike phrases ("We will fight to the death to protect the members of Connolly's Union"—John Conroy) combined with timid actions and secret under-the-table deals with the bosses. See the E.I. article. Conroy has thundered on in public about "the Taca Club, the Conservative Club, the Grand Orange Lodge". This is due to the fact that John is retiring soon and wants his last lap to be one of honour. But it also fits into the well worn rut of the methods of trade union bureaucrats. We will support with everything we've got anything a T.U. leader does in the workers' interests. We don't think that secret talks in Kildare Street with the bosses does this. We don't think that "gentlemen's agreements" and under-hand deals with the employers and

## P.O. workers win ten weeks old strike

The attempt by the Fianna Fail government to browbeat and smash the Post Office Officials Association has been decisively rebuffed. The test case victimization sacking of Frank Power, a member of the union, was met with widespread and determined action by his fellow trade unionists. His co-workers at Dun Laoghaire Post Office held out on strike for 10 weeks. The government promise of no further victimization must be vigilantly watched.

The P.O. Officials Association of which Labour Senator Jack McQuillan is general secretary broke from the yellow belled and soggy Nortonie leadership of the P.O. Workers Union last year. Jack McQuillan has already survived a varicelle and flu-like campaign by the T.U. bosses and especially the Bell leadership of the P.O.W.U. to have him kicked out of the Labour Party.

Fianna Fail does this. We don't think the shabby way the E.S.B. workers were betrayed, represents working class interests.

The T.U. leaders like Conroy, Carroll (ITGWU), Dunne (MPGWU) and McConroy (ETU) are stepping up their campaign with the full support of Fianna Fail against militant groups like the ESB Day Workers Association, against the militant "breakaway" unions like the National Busmen's Union, the Irish Telephonists Association and the Post Office Officials Union. Conroy says "we should not and we must not permit any further splitting and weakening of the Trade Unions" even though in his next breath he gives the reasons why—"a lack of fire in the bellies of some union officials". It was left to Mattie Merrigan, an almost lone voice on the ICTTU Left to remind Conroy

CONTD. ON PAGE 4



# FRENCH REVOLUTION DELAYED

LIAM DALTON

## Trotskyism and the French events

The repressive banning by the butcher government of De Gaulle of the various Trotskyist organisations in the aftermath of the revolution leads one to ask why. Why?

"The Jeunesse (young) Communiste Revolutionaire, J.C.R., the French branch of the world Trotskyist movement, under the unified Secretariat of the Fourth International, can claim to have provided the chief inspiration and political direction of the last two weeks, which may justly be described as the greatest success the Trotskyists have ever achieved in Europe.

"In France they are estimated to have some 1,000 hard core members, spread over thirty cities. In Paris scratch any one of the proliferating Sorbonne committees and you find their man.

"The J.C.R. believes that revolution is war. Like Trotsky, its prophet, it is fascinated by military strategy. Its members are inflamed by the twin themes of the evils of bourgeois society, and what they call "Colonial Revolution" like the Vietnam war".

**London Observer 19th May 1968**

"The student column, 2,000 strong, which seized the Paris Bourse... was acting under J.C.R. command, Krivine said".

**London Observer 26th May 1968**

"The J.C.R., a hard core militant group of Trotskyist inspiration has, in partnership with Daniel Cohn-Bendit, provided much of the political direction of the revolutionary student movement which has swept France in the last three weeks.

"Krivine (Trotskyist leader) outlined last nights objective as (1) to demonstrate that only direct action pays, and it must be mass action; (2) to provide in the students' insurrection a model for a wider workers' rising.

"Yesterday, he claimed 'was a decisive day. The vast demonstrations we rallied proved beyond question that the students did not stand alone, but had been joined by large numbers of workers.

**Observer 26th May 1968**

"In view of the development of the present situation, which cruelly points out the absence of a revolutionary leadership, and considering that it is essential to unify the struggle carried on by the organisations claiming to be Trotskyist, representatives of the Union Communist (U.C.), the Parti Communiste Internationaliste (the French section of the Fourth International) and the J.C.R. met on Sunday May 19th 1968 and decided to form a permanent co-ordinating committee for their three organisations. This co-ordinating committee now calls on all organisations claiming to be Trotskyist to join in this move. The three organisations advise their members everywhere to come together to co-ordinate their activity".

**Joint Statement of U.C., P.C.I., J.C.R.**

The great social explosion of the month of May shook not only the French bourgeoisie but the capitalist class everywhere, and their bureaucratic friends in the so-called "communist" countries. They all well realize how close they came to their moment of truth.

It was not surprising to find Izvestia, Pravda, the Polish press, L'Humanité, etc., competing with and even excelling the capitalist press in their condemnations of the revolutionary students, who detonated such a mighty upsurge in such a powerful country. The emergence of a Socialist France, with workers' councils in control of production would not only have upset the Vietnam talks and the hopes for a deal with the US which the Stalinist bureaucracy in Moscow places on the outcome of these talks. It would have put the skids under capitalism in Europe and the whole world. It cannot be doubted that it would have considerably hastened the far far mightier explosion which is inevitably coming in the Soviet Union itself....

The events of the month of May in France were a powerful demonstration of the revolutionary might of the working class; a demonstration without equal in our time. At peak over ten million workers were on strike. Factories, transport, mines, docks, shipyards, hotels, ships at sea, etc., flew the red flag as the workers took over. Electricity supplies were cut off



**The para-military C.R.S. prepare for action against the revolutionary workers and students of Paris**

at will by the workers. Printing workers censored the lies of the capitalist editors. L'Humanité, organ of Stalinism, escaped having its anti-student, anti-revolutionary and chauvinist outbursts censored)

Universities and Lycées were occupied by revolutionary students and staff. The Bourse, symbol of French capitalism was set ablaze and the tricolor flag above it stripped of its white and blue segments, leaving only the workers' red. Peasants set up barricades around towns, declaring their "solidarity with the students and workers."

The Stalinist and other reformist Labour leaders were derided and booed by students and workers. There was unease and ferment in the police ranks. The ruling class was off balance and confused. Soldiers of the largely conscript French army said they would not shoot at strikers. "I'm a worker's son myself," one said. The State was naked. **Had there been a sizeable vanguard socialist party the workers could have taken state power, with minimal bloodshed**—and with whole colossal consequences for the whole world, for the future development of man!

The C.P. fought against the movement from scratch. All during May

L'Humanité devoted more effort to attacking the revolutionary left than to attacking the Gaullist state power. While the Right and extreme right attacked the "German Jew" Cohn-Bendit and the students and young workers demonstrated in the streets shouting "We are all German Jews!" L'Humanité in its editorials attacked "this German anarchist Cohn-Bendit".

Stalinism in France in 1968 stinks as badly as it did in 1936 or 1945. The students led the way. The battles in the Latin Quarter, where the police retreated on many occasions, sometimes in total disorder, forced the government to concede the students' demands. The young workers were the students' bridge to the mass of workers who now took action. They downed tools and occupied the factories, locking managements in their offices in some instances.

Having failed to halt the movement the reformist Labour leaders jumped on the bandwagon and called a general strike. "In order to drown the Left" as de Gaulle said. Having regained control, the Stalinist C.G.T. leaders did exactly as they had done in June 1936. Then, the same Seguy and Co., concerned with getting the workers busy again, helped "restore order" by negotiating an agreement in the same Matignon Palace to which they again went recently. In 1936 the workers' economic gains were quickly cancelled out by the capitalist economic crisis. We can expect the same today.

As Andre Barjonet who resigned from the C.G.T. and C.P. said: "I cannot associate myself with the heavy historic responsibility which falls to the C.P...."

## Stalinists betray French workers

"Behind the smoke screen of public polemics M. Pompidou and France's communist (stalinist) leaders established a secret link at the very beginning of the strikes. Messages were exchanged every day and it is well known who the contacts were and how they operated"

**K. S. Karol,  
New Statesman 7th June 1968  
British Labour Magazine**

"The Communist (Stalinist) Union, and the Gaullist Government they appear to be challenging are really on the same side of the barricades"

**London Observer 19th May 1968**

"From the beginning of the crisis the Communist Party leaders have been more concerned to crush the guerrilla challenge on their left than to overthrow M. Pompidou's government".

**London Observer 26th May 1968**

"To reduce the risk of violence, the CGT (Stalinists) banned parades and demonstrations outside plants and in nearly all cases it obtained the release of plant managers sequestered by enthusiastic workers".

**New York Times 20th May 1968**

"The C.P. leaders are Stalinist shite-bags"

**D. Cohn-Bendit**

"It is not our place to judge the government decision"

**George Seguy  
Stalinist leader endorsing  
De Gaulle's edict barring  
Cohn-Bendit from France**

"The German anarchist Cohn-Bendit"

**L'Humanité The Stalinist paper**

"Our flags are not those of anarchy but the red flag of socialism and the tricolore, the flag of the nation"

**Waldeck-Rochet "Communist"  
Party leader in L'Humanité**

"Little bands of Trotskyists, Maoists, and anarchists led by papa's boy's belonging to the upper middle classes"

**L'Humanité Stalinist paper  
attempting to split the workers  
from the students**

"The time has come for the formation of a popular government of democratic union in which the "Communist" Party is ready to take its place"

**Waldeck-Rochet Stalinist leader**

"George Seguy, secretary general of the "Communist" Party led CGT, and Benoit Frachon, one of the leading members of the "Communist" Party Politburo, were booed and whistled at by 12,000 blue shirted strikers cramped between pieces of equipment at the Renault plant in suburban Boulogne-Billancourt".

**New York Times.**

"We are in the presence of a revolutionary movement. The workers don't want just higher wages and shorter working hours though they deserve it. What they want today is power turned to the workers in the factories, and power turned over to the students in the universities".

**Andre Barjonet  
Top economic adviser to the  
Communist Party who resigned  
on the 26th May because of the  
leadership's threacheary.**



# Social Column

By Lord Sutch Muck

The recent visit to Dublin of King Beddown and Queen Flabbyhole of Belgium posed some serious problems for the new Irish big knobs. Every little upstart gommeen—man and his wife wanted to get in on the act. To be seen in the royal presence. And to have the pleasure, if at all possible, of licking a royal back-side. A serious shortage of monkey-suits resulted. The normal supply channels dried up and suppliers of costumes for plays and pantomimes began to do a roaring trade. When eventually all the elite turned up at the evening reception in Dublin Castle it was obvious that there had been no dress rehearsal. Many of the upstarts wore the wrong costumes. Sometimes three or four sizes too big or too small. There were many morning suits worn to the evening reception. The queen got a totally unexpected view of the fat rear of an Irish capitalist when one of the guests had an unfortunate accident with his tight-fitting trousers. Jack Lynch was there, together with his wife, who wore what appeared to be one of the one new non-inflammatory nighties. Jack himself, looked like a well washed butler who had turned up to wait on their majesties.

The whole pantomime had been arranged to titillate the royal couple who provide a glamorous front for Belgian imperialism, whose mercenary armies of thugs, burned, looted, murdered and raped the Congo in their continuing efforts to enslave the negro people and ensure super profits from African slave-labour. The whole purpose of the visit was to prepare Irish workers for the entry into the Common Market and to try and blind us to the unemployment and emigration which that will entail.

## Wack Fo' Diddle!

In an interview with the posh and worker hating Daily Telegraph in Britain (usually only read by retired colonels and stockbrokers), Brian Lenihan new Free State Minister for Education, made some interesting statements, the same Lenihan who had helped to clamp some 50 E.S.B. strikers in jail a few weeks before. He advised the Welsh and Scottish nationalists not to separate from Britain. And he said that if the Irish Home Rule Act had been applied effectively in Ireland "there would have been no need for the bitterness that arose later between Ireland and England".

For Marxist Socialists, Fianna Fail's oedipus complex for Mother England is no surprise. Having participated in the national independence struggle against British Imperialism they realised that they would have to give full rein to working class policies and to break with capitalism were they to successfully break from imperialism. With their motto "Not that we love Ireland less but that we hate the workers more", they piloted the Free State back into the Imperialist womb, using their former radicalism and the green flag to hoodwink and confuse the working class and the small farmers.

Eventually Fianna Fail may suggest flying the Union Jack (the butchers apron) over some suitable place like the Bank of Ireland or Mountjoy. Who knows? Or maybe Lenihan, Imperialist lover and jailer of strikers thinks the Butcher Apron would look nice adorning his coffin. We do. And we hope he gets it. Soon.

# YOUNG LEFT IN IRELAND (2)

Engels, the great colleague and friend of Marx once wrote about young people and the revolutionary party. "Is it not natural that youth should predominate in our party, the revolutionary party? We are the party of the future and the future belongs to the youth. We are a party of innovators and it is always the youth that most eagerly follows the innovators. We are a party that is waging self-sacrificing struggle against old rottenness, and youth is always the first to undertake a self-sacrificing struggle".

The bulk of the vanguard spearhead in the workers fight for Socialism will come from the youth. While student socialists in the universities and schools should most certainly advance programmes and slogans suitable to their environment and help polarise the anti-capitalist forces in their various establishments, it is vitally important for the student militants to have the closest links with the young worker socialists. This, not just for the success of their specific student struggle but also to help the vastly more revolutionary and more comprehensive struggle of the working class for workers power.

## YOUNG SOCIALISTS

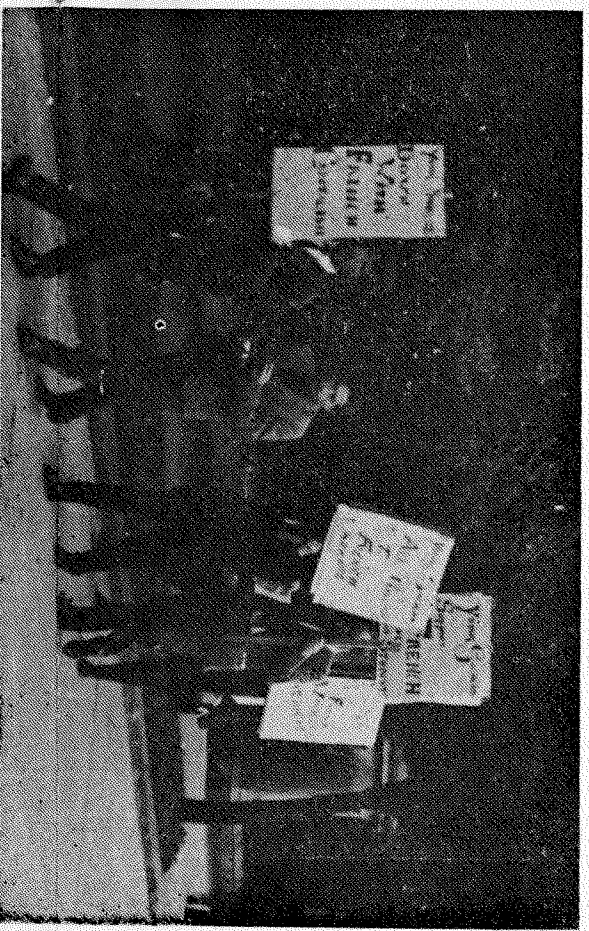
Last month, I wrote about the Connolly Youth Movement and the various student socialist groups. The Labour Party leaders have also for some time been toying with the idea of starting a youth section. However what they seem to want is a completely servile youth movement to help out at election time. They want to channel the enthusiasm and fire of youth into licking envelopes and knocking at doors for careerists, opportunists and chancers. A Young Labour League (YLL) did exist for a brief period last year, but the L.P. leadership soon got scared of the young militants threw them out of L.P. headquarters and disbanded the movement. A left wing attempt to restart the movement as part of the L.P. failed so the militants set up, the Young Socialists outside the Party.

Now again the administrative council of the L.P. has decided to restart the Y.L.L. However their desire and need for a youth movement seems to be cancelled out by their fear of exposure by the militant

young workers. The wily right wing L.P. leaders have learned from their cronies in Britain. In the British Y.S. the bulk of the young militants, shackled, betrayed, and harassed by the reactionaries Wilson & Co. withdrew and set up camp outside the L.P. fold. (The fact that they fell prey to sectarian wolves is another matter. In any case, the Y.S. in Dublin are growing in numbers and influence. Not long after its initiation the Y.S. committee was receiving overtures from the L.P. administrative council on the question of affiliation, but their conception of a youth movement had not changed one whit and the meetings came to nothing. Though only a few months old, the enthusiasm of its members, its internal freedom and willingness to study scientific socialism seriously are admirable and hold

utopian socialist a bit hair brained and immature, but their hearts are very much in the right place.

The great importance of young people to the socialist movement cannot be overstressed. Lenin, at the time of the Bolshevik Revolution, wrote "We need the young forces. This is a time of war. The youth—the students, and still more the young workers — will decide the issue of the whole struggle. Do not fear their lack of training. Do not tremble at their inexperience and lack of development". From these young left-wing movements can come the future working class leadership to spearhead the struggle of the class for a Workers Republic. Young people step forward into life's arena in particular historical circumstances and free from many of the worn out preconceptions



Duplin Young Socialists demonstrate outside French Embassy in solidarity with the revolutionaries of France

out great hope for the future. They have a solidarity position with the N.L.F. revolutionaries in Vietnam and give unconditional support to any workers on strike, official, unofficial, or illegal. Early in June they placed a picket on the French Embassy in Dublin in solidarity with the French workers and students. They carried slogans such as "All power to the French workers", "Down with French Capitalism".

There is also a Y.S. group in Cork. They published a duplicated paper called "Bias". Their politics were

and prejudices of their elders. They can adjust to changed circumstances easier. Many of the older generation are worn out from struggle, from defeats, disappointments and betrayals, and lack the enthusiasm of the young. Hence the building of a socialist youth movement is a prime necessity to prepare for future battles. As Lenin said "Do not tremble at their inexperience". I sometimes nearly tremble at my own. But somebody has got to man the bearna baoil.

**BILL TONE**  
(To be continued)

## Attack on James Connolly Rebuffed

At the onset of the "Great" War in 1914 the British T.U.C. beat the patriotic drums and helped to stampede millions of workers into the ghastly massacre that this imperialist carve-up of the globe was to become. James Connolly wrote at the time "The British Empire is ruled by the most astute ruling class in the world and the British working class is the most easily fooled working class in the world". Because of this and because of his subsequent participation in the Citizen Army in the Easter 1916 insurrection against the British Empire, Stewart Crehan writing in the English Socialist newspaper "Newsletter" concludes that Connolly retreated into Irish Bourgeois patriotism. And further goes on to accuse Connolly even of "racism!"

Before making an appraisal of this judgement let us take a brief look at Leon Trotsky's sketch of the development of British Capitalism and of the British working class. "Britain was the

first country to take the road of capitalist development and won, thanks to that fact, the hegemony of the world market in the nineteenth century. The British bourgeoisie became, again thanks to this fact, the richest, strongest, and most enlightened of the bourgeoisie. These conditions enabled it, as we know, to create a privileged position for the upper strata of the British working class and thereby to blunt class antagonisms. The British working class is becoming conscious of itself as an independent class, hostile to the bourgeoisie, much more slowly than the working class of other countries with less powerful bourgeoisie."

There you have it, comrade! Connolly—bourgeois patriot or blunt socialist?

The present upsurge in racialist support in Britain illustrates Connolly's and Trotsky's point gratefully. Because of the decline in Britain's imperialist loot the reforms aren't coming

any more and past reforms are being eaten away. Hence the workers are pressed into defensive militancy. However, precisely because of Britain's pristine imperialist supremacy over colonial peoples a runt like Powell can whip up a racialist frenzy, split the workers and attempt to divert the workers militancy from socialist solutions and into neofascist ones.

Of course, the British workers will eventually gain revolutionary class consciousness. Sooner, I opine, rather than later.

Lenin speaking of the advanced capitalist countries and the Russia of his day, said that it would be hard to start the revolution, say, in England but easy to continue it along socialist lines, and that the converse was the situation in Russia. One of these days he'll be proved right. Speed the day. There is nothing that we as followers of Connolly would like better.

**C. H.**



# Whats happening at E. I. Shannon?

The I.T.G.W.U. leaders were badly roughed up and had their sell-out settlement proposals rejected out of hand by the striking workers (mostly young girls) at E.I. in Shannon late in June. The terms of the sellout were hatched out at secret meetings held early in June between the top union bureaucrats and the union having E.I. Management at Dept. of Labour H.Q. in Kildare Street, Dublin. THE BOSSES CONCEDED NOTHING. The Liberty Hall traitors agreed to recommend an end to the strike "phased out" to save their face. They want a "calm examination" by a Fianna Fail commission of the "issues which led to the strike". As we go to press they are trying to sell the same poison yet again, though in a different bottle to the strikers.

The Liberty Hall tops for all their jibbering about Connolly have bugger all to do with his real politics. And then they complain bitterly about the militant breakaway unions!! Their actions in this strike far from "fighting to the death" have been half hearted from beginning to end. Just what has happened in Shannon ?

While E.S.B. workers are denied the right to strike, and to picket, in Shannon the militants at the E.I. factory have taken strike action primarily to defend their right to join a union. About 250 workers have refused to pass the pickets. The strikers position is weakened by the following facts: The economic strength of the employers, the lack of union tradition of many of the workers and the compromising stances of the I.T.G.W.U. leaders.

The E.I. factory in Shannon is a marginal production section of the vast American General Electric monopoly. Almost all the raw materials come in direct to Shannon Airport and all the products are exported. E.I. was set up in Shannon simply because of the generous perks and comprehensive factory grants of the Free State, and because they can get labour at a quarter of the American rates.

### MARTIN MURPHY

Only last year hundreds of workers were made redundant and the wages of the remainder slashed, when business went slack. The union has been opposed with intimidation, and ceaseless Martin Murphy type propaganda by the bosses. The lack of union tradition was epitomised by what one man who passed the pickets said on T.V. "What are they doing outside the door, aren't they getting E11 a week, what more do they want." Also only a few months ago the priests were admonishing the workers of another factory on strike in the zone to cross the picket line. Such are the difficulties of the union militants in Shannon.

What of the Union "Leaders"? The present situation is in fact a result of the I.T.G.W.U. attempting to unionise the factory with the "co-operation" of the employers. The Union leaders forsook the fundamental right of each worker to belong to a union, by accepting the referendum proposal of the bosses—"No majority No union—" in the mistaken belief that the majority of the workers would vote to join the union. For that they must stand in

the dock to be judged by the working class. Then just before the referendum the bosses hotted up the war against the union by a vicious campaign of intimidation and hostility. The E.I. bosses were not prepared to tolerate any sort of union, because even though they know full well the toothless, emaciated and decrepit nature of the leadership, they also know well what would happen with a militant and organised rank and file. The Union only withdrew from the bosses referendum at the last minute.

### STRIKE

The union members voted for strike action in support of their wages claim and placed pickets on the 19th of March. The initial temporary injunction against picketing was subsequently overruled.

The half-hearted attitude of the union leaders was again apparent when they organised a ballot on whether to return to work or not. The majority vote was overwhelmingly in favour of a fight to the finish. White John Carroll Chief Industrial Officer I.T.G.W.U. rambles on and on about "peaceful picketing" we get the rank and file reply.

A garage owner who supplied fuel oil to E.I. buses, brought in the courts to remove the picket outside. Shortly after a van was burned to cinders outside the garage. Six buses have also been burned, that were used to bring scabs past the picket lines.

The strike is clearly a test case for the various foreign capitalists coming in to Ireland for cheap labour. All "closure" threats by the bosses must be countered by a demand for nationalisation of the factory. The union must pay full wages to all their members out, and organise solidarity actions in the area. This is a vital strike. It must be won.

Word has come through as we go to press, that the strikers have yet again rejected the sellout of the Union Leaders. Finian Kennedy I.T.G.W.U. Secretary said: "I am very disappointed indeed at this result."

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## More Militant demonstrations in Dublin

The cops are escalating their violence against the homeless in Dublin. These Black-Guards, the repressive agents of the Taca boardroom boys, have attacked two demonstrations organised to protest against the continuing and appalling housing shortages in Dublin, against the slum landlords, rackrenters, and building speculators. Early in May the usual picket had been organised and had been on duty outside the City Hall while the Corporation had its monthly meeting inside. The usual quota of cops and special branch (wolves in sheeps clothing) were hanging around, but so also, were the riot squad headed by "Lugs" Branningan. So what happened was quite predictable. In the course of the picket the Fianna Fail hired brutes unleashed their savagery on the picket. Three demonstrators were taken to hospital. The riot squad had earned its wages for the week.

### LUMUMBA

The following Saturday a public meeting of protest was organised. There was a march up to the Mansion House and then back to the city centre. By this time the numbers had dwindled greatly. On reaching town, three times as many cops as had been together earlier, awaited them. When the demonstration did not break up quickly enough, the cops attacked the demonstrators and accelerated the scattering.

Noticably prominent on these marches were the radical students. One student grouping, the Internationalists, independently organised a picket of protest against Belgium Imperialism when the King and Queen of the Belgians visited Trinity College. This pair were greeted with cries of "Down with Belgian Imperialism," "Murderers of Lumumba". The police attacked the picket of about 10 or 12 and beat up the students. During the course of these beatings some bystanders were likewise assaulted by the

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## Workers Republic



LESSONS OF E.I. E.S.B. STRIKE, ICTU CONGRESS

## Beware Labour fakers

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and Co. that it had already been agreed by Congress that the ESB anti-strike Act was "an unwarranted interference with the industrial relationship affairs of ESB" and that "if the unions are legally prevented from doing their job the unofficial chaps will do their job regardless of the Congress."

Another individual who is hotting up the war against the militant small unions is Jimmy Dunne the ICTU president for this year. This is the same Jimmy who got into a prickly pickle some years ago when he made some snotty references about Dublin dockers at some big shots meeting and that happened to get into the papers. He is no friend of Labour either. "I would not recommend to my union that it should affiliate to any particular political party". He was a very well known face at the reactionary Catholic "Workers" College. He doesn't like the ordinary rank and file trade unionists who demand value for their union dues. He calls that a "selfish Juke Box" mentality!

fatfaced-bully boys. The Evening Herald (same stable as the Irish Independent that screamed for the blood of the wounded James Connolly in 1916) carried an article saying that the students had attacked the coppers and that they had intended to physically manhandle the King and Queen!

These lies and slanders were replied to by a student demonstration to Independent House. The Herald lies found a ready echo in the Dail from the Blue Shirt Fine Gael Party. (It has been well said that the difference between the political parties in Ireland is that when the clergy say "boo" the Labour leaders fall on their knees, Fianna Fail fall on their back-sides, but Fine Gael fall on their faces.) Fine Gael defended the police brutality, and the capitalist press lies saying that Trinity College was a breeding ground for communists(!) and that the arrival in Ireland of Ralph Schoenmann of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation was part of an international plan to create student unrest in Ireland. Actually Schoenmann had just come to Ireland to meet Noel Browne!

### STALINIST

The organisers of the initial student demonstration, cranky and wretched though they sometimes are, the Internationalists, must be supported in this action. But they and all the other Stalinist groupings in Dublin, whether they follow the thoughts of Mao or of Moscow must be condemned for not swelling the ranks of the Young Socialist picket organised outside the French Embassy in solidarity with the revolutionary French workers and students. The Connolly Youth Movement leaders claimed it was ultra left and insisted that there was not a revolutionary situation in France!!! The Irish "Communist" Organisation (Maoist) promised support but true to their sectarian form did not turn up.

Bill Tone

John Conroy claims that the "actions of splinter groups and ginger groups are helping the acceptance of repressive legislation on the T.U.s and the placing of more power and more control in the hands of the Establishment." No, Brother John! The militant groups and unions are the best guarantee the workers have that any repressive anti-union laws will be ignored or fought against to ensure a better life for their members. A long time ago Connolly and Larkin, to strengthen the powers of the workers, did form a "splitter and breakaway" union—they called it the Irish Transport and General Workers Union! They found a way indeed to fight anti-union laws! Today rank and file trade unionists will have to tread the path mapped out for them by Connolly if they are to resist the attacks of employers, capitalist state and avoid being fooled by the trade union bureaucrats.

Paddy Fitzgerald