

# RESISTANCE

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DUBLIN ANARCHIST COLLECTIVE

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PHOTO - DEREK SPEIRS/REPORT

## NO AMENDMENT

We have been subjected to a fair amount of waffle over the last couple of weeks regarding the wording of the abortion amendment. Loopholes may be found – abortions could be introduced through the back door! Some chance!

Fitzgerald and his ilk are hesitating. Suddenly the rush to have the amendment in March has gone. They want a full and serious debate on the issue before the referendum takes place. This is a recognition of the fact that the opposition to this farce is growing.

Fitzgerald and friends realise that this proposal won't get an easy ride and doesn't command the support of the vast majority of Irish people. The latest poll showed that 37% of the people are opposed to the referendum being held. The possibility of defeating this amendment becomes more and more of a reality as the anti-amendment side of the story is heard. If the truth be known, Fitzgerald is looking for a way out. Its obvious though that the pro-amendment lot won't let him off the hook.

Taking all into account the referendum will be held eventually whether in April or October. The wording of the amendment is irrelevant. This referendum is about abortion and women's rights in general. If this amendment goes through it will only be the beginning of a campaign to erode the limited rights that have been gained over the last ten years.



The amendment – no matter what the wording is – will limit the availability of certain forms of contraception. This has become very clear in light of statements made by Noonan, Minister for Justice – and his speech in the Dail. He was very clear that

life begins at conception. Any contraceptives which work after conception such as the I.U.D., the low-dosage pill and the morning after pill will thus be outlawed. These are the forms of contraception used by large numbers of women in Ireland.

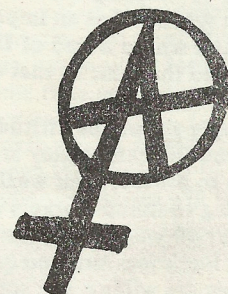
This amendment will not alter the fact

that 10 Irish women go to England every day to have abortions. Ultimately it will further put back the day when these women can exercise their "right to choose" here in Ireland.

As Anarchists we demand that women should have the right to decide if they have children or not, when they have them and how many they have.

This is the core of the amendment. We must defeat it if we are ever to see free, safe, legal abortion in Ireland. Join your local action group and Vote No!

Anti-Amendment Campaign  
P.O. Box 1285, Dublin.  
Phone 308636



International Women's Day Issue

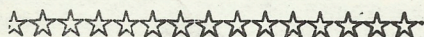
## VICTORY AT RANKS

The freeing of the fourteen Ranks workers from jail was a great victory for the working class. It showed what rank and file workers can actually do if they put their minds to it. The action which came from the various workplaces around Dublin was in stark contrast to the inactivity of the official's in the ICTU, ITGWU and Dublin Trades Council. All that came from these quarters was hot air. They condemned the use of repressive legislation against workers but they did nothing about it.

### BACKGROUND

The Ranks workers occupied in an effort to force management to implement proper redundancy terms. These terms had been agreed to in 1978-79 when the last spate of redundancies took place in Ranks. Workers with under 41 years service would receive 5½ weeks pay for each year of service with those over 41 years getting 6½ weeks pay plus another 10% of total on top of the state redundancy payments. The management agreed to honour the above conditions if people choose to leave at a later date.

However with the latest phase of rationalization, all the above conditions were somehow forgotten. Instead the company insisted that men with up to 44 years service get let go with nothing but the minimum redundancy payment, later increased to 60% above that total. The company also wanted selective redundancies, employees would agree to hand over their jobs to independent non-union hauliers and only 20 employees would be kept on.



### OFFICIAL ACTION

The workers, quite rightly, rejected this plan. The Labour Court recommended that Ranks should honour their previous agreement. The company claimed inability to pay. Yet Ranks, which is a huge international firm made £38 million last year. They claim they can still retain their share of the Irish flour market. Their plan is to transfer their assets from the Dublin mill and set up again under the guise of "Kipling Cakes" which has been registered as an import agency and whose Board of Directors are one and the same as that of Ranks.

This clearly shows the attitude of the bosses and the extent they are willing to go to to protect their wealth. They are willing to dump workers on the dole after 40 years of service with nothing but a few hundred quid. Further, they are willing, not surprisingly to see workers thrown in jail for defending their rights. The government though is not innocent in all of this. The Coalition (including the Labour Party) are clear that there will be no concessions to workers.

# OCCUPY!

Clondalkin was an exception they won't let it become the norm. They will use the whole apparatus of the State — in this case the Forcible Entries & Occupations Act — to defeat workers and force them to toe the line. This is especially important as the recession continues. The likelihood of more occupations increases as more places close down. That's why it's important for the Coalition to put the boot in at this stage. Their action against the workers stands in stark contrast to their inaction against bosses, such as those of Kingdom Tubes, who have withheld payment of workers PRSI and PAYE.

Having rejected the rationalisation plan the workers went on strike backed by their union — the ITGWU; Support though was withdrawn from the Dublin workers when Limerick workers reconsidered and accepted the offer. Also at this time Ranks decided to close the mills. On Feb. 4th — with no jobs, no compensation and no union support — the workers decided to occupy. Fourteen of them were jailed for refusing to obey injunctions taken out by the company prohibiting the men from occupying. Five workers continued to occupy. They were joined at one stage by five wives of the jailed workers. The wives continued to play a leading role in the struggle to have the workers released.

### THE UNION RESPONSE

The inactivity of the trade union officials has already been referred to. The workers own union totally abandoned them. Donal Nevin of the ICTU could not support them as their action "was a direct challenge to the institutions of the state". The Dublin Trades Council Executive gave moral support but did not call for the industrial action which was necessary to have the workers released unconditionally. Apparently this occurred as a result of the ITGWU blocking any action — leave it with us for a week and see if we can sort it out. The DCTU Exec. had two emergency meetings, and still no action came — except that is at the level of negotiating and trying to sort things out before they got out of hand.



The executive stalled on calling a general meeting for fear of more militancy among the delegates.

It was only after the workers had been in jail for two weeks that the Irish Transport leadership called for action. This was only after the dockers, Datsun and Mazda took strike action and more was threatened from Rowntrees, the Corporation, the ESB, oil workers, Oldhams, Unidare, Beaumont Hospital and others. Most of these places eventually came out. The others didn't need to.

The statement, which took so long to come and did not directly call for strike action to release the Ranks workers was the result of continuing pressure from the remaining workers and their supporters and those who had taken action. The workers, wives and supporters had spent almost two hours with Eddie Browne (the official who dealt with Ranks) telling him what they thought of him.



### RANK AND FILE

The ranks workers and supporters did not hang around waiting for the leadership to move. Some argued that you could not let the ITGWU off the hook. We say that we can't depend on these people, the officers and officials are out of touch. The officials are unelected and Browne has no idea of what it is like to work in Ranks. Officials know little of what it is like to struggle and survive from week to week. He could not have any idea of why this extra redundancy money is so important to the workers. Browne and his ilk are not interested in defending the right of workers but in preserving their own positions of power, and mediating with the bosses, indeed many of those in the top ranks of the unions accept what the government are saying about us all tightening our belts.

It was only by going directly to the docks and other workplaces that any action resulted. It was as a result of the stoppages that the pressure was finally put on Ranks to remove the injunction and leave the way open for the workers to be released. The workers and wives of Ranks took the initiative into their own hands and put their faith in the rank and file and it worked. (Contd. P.7)

# INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY SPECIAL

## JUST BRIEFLY

The system is obviously not working too well. It has never worked but it manages, periodically, to pretend that it does, until it lurches into the next crisis. Like now.

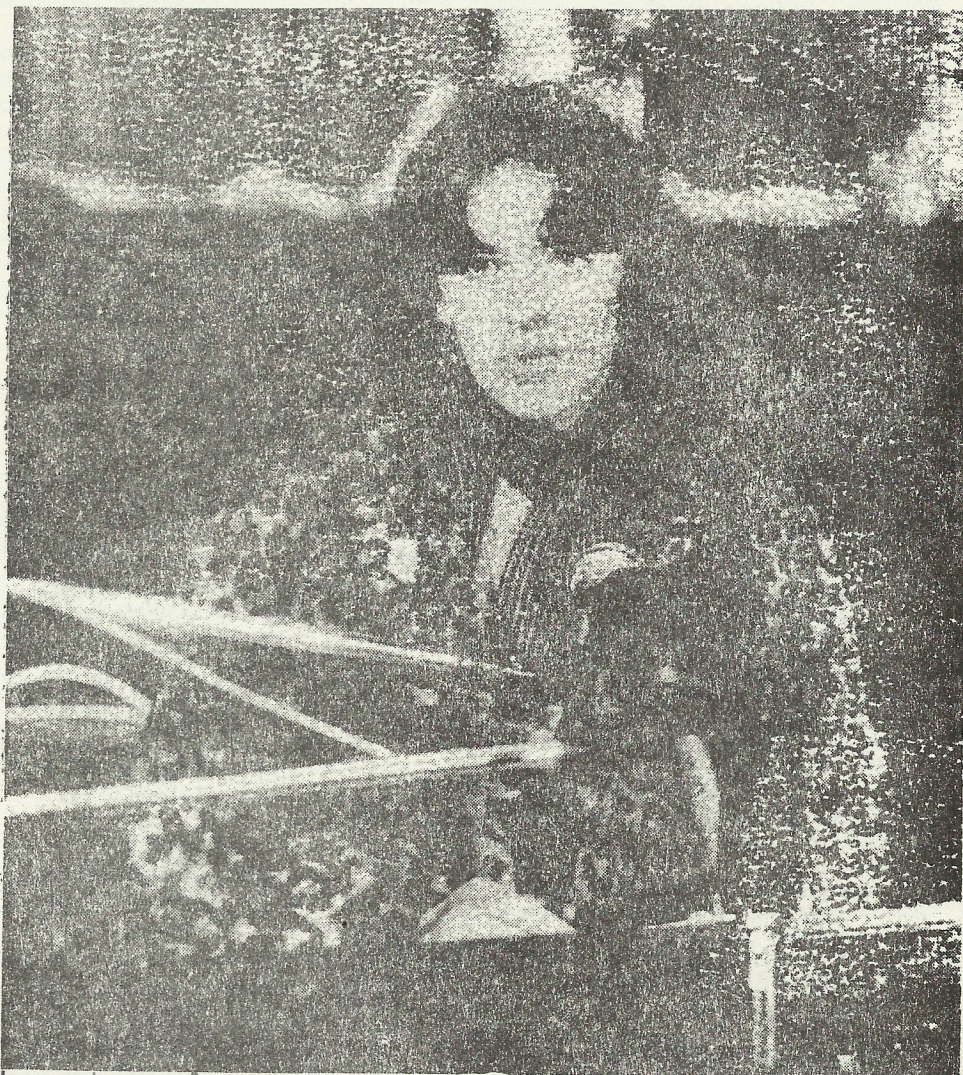
Huge unemployment, even with the youth training schemes to try and keep official numbers down, cuts in living standards and just in case people might seriously begin to blame the system for bringing all this suffering, our rulers look for scapegoats.

The unemployed are usually good for a jibe — call them scroungers or dossers, try and turn the working against those out of work and hope to distract attention from the failures of the system. And women. We have always been a handy section of society to take a dig at — in times of economic boom the bosses employ women as cheap labour and now, in a recession they will try and guilt-trip married women into going back into the home. The structure of society makes this easier for them since from the beginnings of capitalism women have been designated an inferior role in their system.

We have been deemed the servants of men, much as our men have been treated as the servants of the bosses. Our task is to take care of the workers and to produce more workers and not to expect even the very limited say in the management of society that our male counterparts have.

Of course women haven't taken oppression lying down. There have been individual women throughout history who have rebelled against their given role and have fought for women's rights. International Women's Day (March 8th), which this issue of Resistance celebrates, is a recognition of this struggle and the gains which have been made. Its origins are in the early part of this century when for the first time large numbers of women organised to force a change in their situation. They wanted the vote, they wanted economic independence, they wanted equal treatment at work. Political activists, Alexandra Kollontai and Clara Zetkin worked to encourage militancy among women workers and in 1907 the first International Womens' Conference was held in Stuttgart, Germany. The women present discussed their place within the general workers movement and also the particular conditions suffered by women workers.

Since that time, things have changed somewhat, we have made some



REPORT/DIANE SPIERS

IT WAS GREAT TO SEE THE WIVES OF THE RANKS WORKERS COMING TO THE FORE IN THE STRUGGLE. THEY PICKETED AND OCCUPIED IN SUPPORT OF THEIR JAILED HUSBANDS. ABOVE IS BREDA TRIMBLE SPEAKING ABOUT THEIR PROTEST AT THE I.C.T.U.'S WOMENS CONFERENCE FRI 25<sup>th</sup> Feb.

gains, but we are still struggling. We still live in a society which regards us as sub-citizens. Despite legislation our labour is still regarded as less worthy, our culture abuses our bodies, we live under constant threat of male violence against us, if we are married we are still deemed to be the sexual property of our husbands, and we still do not have control over our fertility — so where do we go from here?

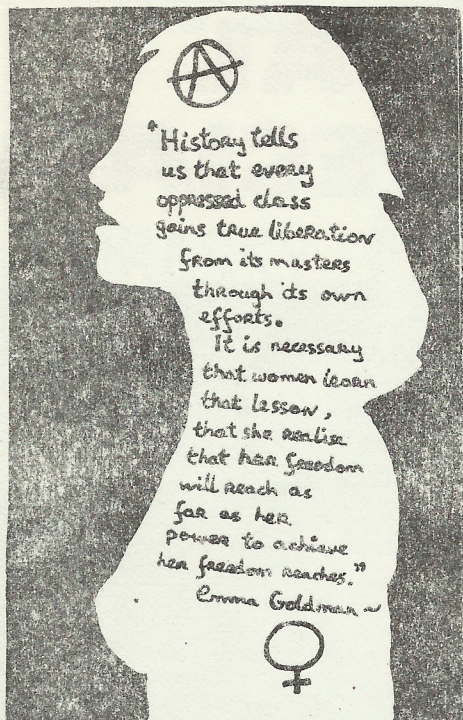
It's obvious that the vote did not liberate women and neither will more female T.D.s and bosses, because the structures of power maintained by capitalism are responsible for our

oppression and must be destroyed. In the meantime we must fight sexual discrimination in all its forms and at the same time point out the sources of all oppression.

On International Women's Day what we can look forward to is a new society when every day will be ours.



# POLISH FEMINISTS



"History tells us that every oppressed class gains true liberation from its masters through its own efforts. It is necessary that women learn that lesson, that she realise that her freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve her freedom reaches."  
Emma Goldman ~

Emma Goldman left Russia at the age of 17. She lived and worked amongst activists and intellectuals around the turn of the century. She was an alien, a practising anarchist, a labour agitator, a pacifist in World War 1, an advocate of political violence, a feminist, a supporter of free love and birth control, a communist, a street-fighter for justice. She lived her life with passion and profound thought. She worked in many areas of the radical movement, lecturing, writing, haranguing, and publishing to bring her ideas to the world.

She was a devastatingly honest woman, who spared herself as little as she spared anyone else.

Her autobiography (available from us) called "Living My Life" covers the years 1869-1940, which was her life-span. It is passionately and brilliantly written, and we recommend it highly.

Her own words:

"My life - I had lived in its heights and its depths, in bitter sorrow and ecstatic joy, in black despair and fervent hope. I had drunk the cup to the last drop. I had lived my life. Would I had the gift to paint the life I had lived!"

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Women have played a crucial role in Solidarnosc from the beginning. The firing of Anna Walentynowicz from her job as a crane driver in the Gdansk shipyards sparked the strikes of August 1980, that saw her reinstatement. Aline Pionkowska, a nurse who set up a charter of rights for health service employees and Henrykan Krzywonos, a bus driver who demanded the shipyard workers support other industries that joined their strike, helped strengthen workers' morale in those first crucial days.

In addition, women called and organized many strikes all over Poland. In the predominantly female textile industries of Lodz, women organised a series of 'hunger marches' in July, 1981, as a protest against food shortages. Even after the imposition of martial law in December 1981, women did not resign themselves to their situation. They continue to be defiant, questioning soldiers who stop them in the street, wearing 'solidarnosc' badges and resisting interrogation by the security forces.

Many women and their families have been interned by the military government. They've been sacked from their jobs, their children forcibly put into foster care homes and had their family ration cards taken away. The conditions in most of the women's prisons are also described as harsh. Women had to collect snow to wash themselves. They were allowed no books or visits over Xmas. Medical

care was inadequate.

The release of some dissidents and the promised relaxation of military rule suggests that the authorities have succeeded in permanently suppressing Solidarnosc. Despite the suppression, some of the changes that people fought so hard for and won, still remain.

Women have gained two years maternity leave with the first year paid. Students won an extra year's study in certain university departments. Unemployment benefits were also introduced but they are extremely minimal. But still the internees' question remains.

These events show why the plight of Polish women has been taken up by 'Polski Feministki', a Polish women's group in London which has been meeting for 3½ years. They are concerned with on-going Polish issues and with stabilizing links with women in Poland. They call for the release of all the internees and the restoration of Solidarnosc as an official organization. Polski Feministki has a list of 300 women held in various prisons in Poland. They also have a list of names and addresses of government officials and public bodies to whom letters can be sent. They are asking women's groups to adopt a prisoner, to write to her and put pressure on the government on her behalf. Further information from Polskie Feministki, c/o 374 Grays Inn Rd, London WC1, England.

## LOSING £4 A WEEK?

Women are treated as second-class citizens in this country. Few areas are more blatant in this discrimination than the social welfare code. Within this code women are treated as dependents on men. This saves the government a lot of money because while all workers pay the same amount of PRSI, a married woman gets four pounds a week less for three months than other unemployed workers. Also, they won't let a married woman claim for children or an unemployed husband. Married women are not allowed claim assistance either, thus maintaining their dependence on men and keeping them out of the labour force.

The Social Welfare authorities offer women an allowance which is different to and less than the one they are legally entitled to. Single women are often denied assistance if the welfare officer believes she is living with a man.

This unfair treatment of women

actually breaks an EEC rule which says women and men must be treated equally. Of course, it is in the governments' interest to ignore this.

It was only last year that under pressure from the Women's Dole Campaign that the Dept. of Social Welfare recognised the existence of separated women. But married women continue to be treated as dependents of their husbands.

Disability benefit and invalidity pension are all paid to married women at a lower rate.

This unfair treatment of women is worth fighting against. The Women's Dole Campaign for a unified Social Welfare Code are doing just that and they can be contacted at the Women's Centre, 58 Dame Street, Dublin 1.

They have also produced a very worthwhile leaflet which highlights areas of discrimination and gives helpful suggestions as to what you can do about it.

# NO MORE VETS

## A WOMAN DOCTOR FOR WOMEN PRISONERS

If you ask any woman who's been a prisoner in Mountjoy who was her pet hate in there, the chances are high that she'll say The Vet. The only time the doctors are referred to as doctors is when you put your name down to see any of them. That's because if you ask to see the Vet you won't be let!

If you go on to ask the ex-prisoner what particular medical problem she suffered in there the chances are equally high that she'll say menstrual — if she trusts you.

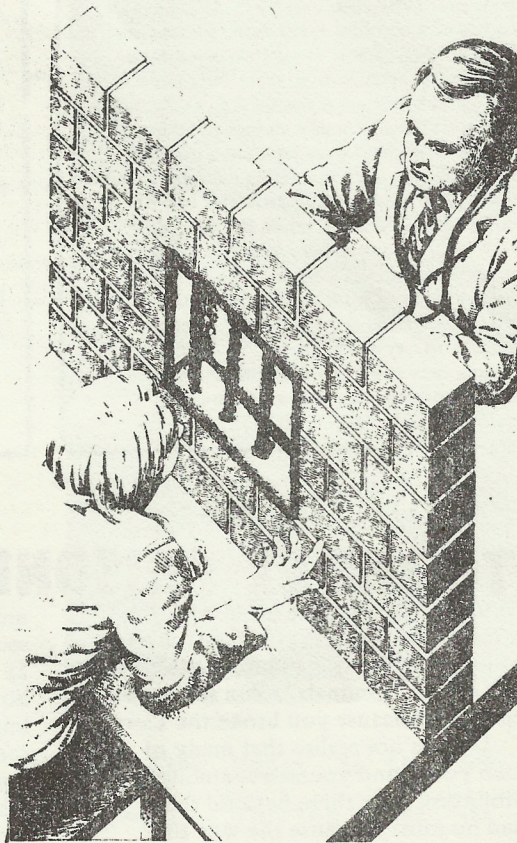
Its that word *trust* that matters. Its highly likely that when she had menstrual trouble inside she *never* went to see the doctor about it. And you can't blame her. She'd rather suffer in pain or anxious silence than broach that subject with them. The lack of trust comes from her previous experience with these unsympathetic and seemingly incompetent professionals.

Experiences like that of traveller women being refused sleeping pills because "Everyone knows you lot used to sleep in ditches by the side of the roads". Like drug addicts being addressed as "Animal" and given an aspirin to cope with cold-turkeying. Like being told "Thats a childish thing to do" when you've slit your wrists. Or even plain lying, like the one who testified in court that there was no health hazard in the old system in which you had to wash your face and teeth in the sink the piss-pots were emptied into or washed out in.

When you're in jail you live in perpetual tension and wariness. There is this insidious contradiction that even within your highly structured and monotonous daily existence you can literally never be sure whats going to happen next. A usually half-way decent screw will come in with a hangover or a personal problem; she'll take it out on a prisoner. A prisoner who seems OK will slit her wrists. When you know someone's freaked out you come to sort-of expect it: when you don't know its even more horrifying. Someone who came in after you gets out before you so you start hoping maybe its your turn next; or you apply for Christmas parole and wait weeks to hear the result. Or a screw whose read your mail makes a sarcastic or downright cruel comment on it. If it's raining or very cold you don't get your hour's exercise in the fresh air. You don't get an expected visit or you do and it turns out to be a horror story. Or your mail is kept and you're not told so you think you've

offended a friend so much they won't write to you anymore.

One of the most direct effects of this perpetual tension is that your menstrual cycle goes haywire. You could start having periods every 2 weeks or every 6 weeks. They last for 2 days or 2 weeks. The blood goes dark and clotty or brilliant red and you wonder if you're haemorrhaging. And as if all that isn't bad enough you haven't even got someone you can trust to go and see about any of it.



So, what happens? More tension and more worries on top of all the others. Particularly if you don't know much about how your body functions.

As Anarchists we are against the whole idea of prisons.

Its not just that we know they don't work in curbing, let alone, stopping crime — anyone who's looked into the prison system knows that.

We find the whole concept of imprisonment obscene and would like to see them all pulled down. However, as realists, we know this is not going to happen in the near future. For this reason we support the Prisoner's Rights Organisation in their call for a woman doctor for

women prisoners. We feel they are right when they say that women prisoners should feel more able to discuss their menstrual problems with a female doctor — providing of course, that she is a sympathetic type of person that the prisoners can trust.

## GERMAN SISTERS

In the majority of films on commercial release, women, if we are not exploited at the most base level as sexual objects, we are at least still defined in terms of our relationships with men. A film which presents women as individuals, with a whole range of attitudes and emotions peculiar to themselves is always very welcome then, and especially when it also manages to deal with universal political issues as well. Margarete Von Trotta's "German Sisters" is one such film.

It deals with the relationship between two sisters, their childhood in an oppressively Protestant family, and their political differences, one being a feminist and the other a member of a Marxist guerilla group (the group is overtly based on the Baader-Meinhoff group).

Both sisters are highly critical of the oppressive society they live in, and the film shows just how bad present day Germany is, and though they argue about the means of changing it, Von Trotta shows how their loyalty to each other survives these differences. This loyalty and love towards each other is shown perhaps most clearly in the harrowing prison scenes, and in the efforts of the older sister to prove that her sister's death in prison was not suicide.

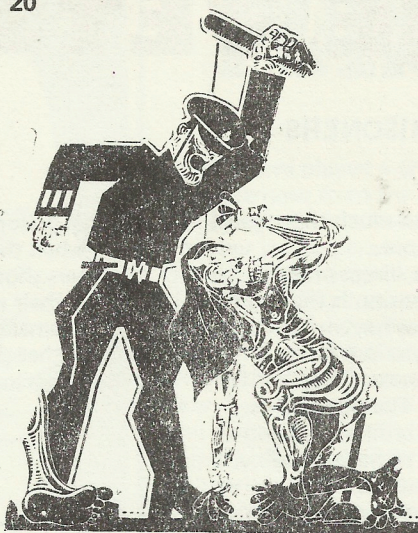
The above is the central theme of the film, but much of its fascination lies in the way it also manages to deal with so much more at the same time — sexual relationships, religion, motherhood and the family. This film is not without its flaws but if you have the money, it will be coming to Dublin in the next few weeks and its definitely worth a visit.

"Power to no one, and to every one: To each the power over her/his own life, and no others.

(From 'Sisterhood is Powerful', printed in New York in 1970.)

# EMBASSY

20



20 people are to appear before the Special Criminal Court on March 16th next, charged with attempting by violent means to prevent Gardai from carrying out their duties during a H-Block demonstration to the British Embassy on July 18th, 1981. One man, Pat Keogh, was sentenced last Dec. to 3 years imprisonment, and is presently serving his time in Portlaoise Prison. His appeal against the conviction failed.

20,000 people marched that day and rioting broke out when gardai in riot gear (carrying their weapons and wearing protective helmets and shields) blocked the route of the march. Six men had died on hunger strike and emotions were running high. Every available cop in Ireland was posted to protect the British Embassy and the representatives of the British Govt. who had allowed these men to die.

The Gardai stopped the march short of the Embassy and when those with a

mark of self-respect who preferred open defiance retaliated at being refused their democratic right to march in support of their brothers and sisters in the North, the cops prevented dispersal by blocking escape routes and clubbed every man, woman and child in their paths. They continued their unmerciful assaults long after the opposition had vanished at the GPO in O'Connell St. hours later: They launched an attack on peaceful protestors who for a number of weeks had been mounting a token relay fast there and one protestor had his wrist and leg broken, while the Gardai tore up the book of condolences for the relatives of Martin Hurson, who had died on the fast and took the money and literature which had been collected. Not one single cop has been charged, while these people face years of imprisonment for throwing sticks and stones, as they sit before a NON JURY COURT.

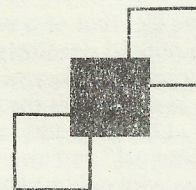
## 1983 — THE YEAR OF THE CRUISE

This year Britain plans to deploy cruise and pershing missiles in Britain and the North of Ireland. The island of Ireland is strategically important to NATO and perhaps that's one of the reasons why it seems so impossible to solve the "problem of Northern Ireland". NATO has no use for a totally neutral Ireland.

Some of the planned sites are Ballykelly (where the pub bombing was, there's a big RAF base there), Bishopscourt, Eglinton. CND people intend setting up peace camps on some sites. We do not have to accept this abuse of our land.

Contact: CND 14 Upper Liffey St, Dublin

1. Not only are the British abusing Irish land, they are also abusing our seas. The Irish sea is the most radioactive in the world, it is the only sea where nuclear waste is dumped and 90% of that waste is British. Radioactivity can be found in measurable quantities in the fish we eat. While other countries are cutting back Britain intends to increase its sea dumping. And sure why wouldn't they, nobody is seriously objecting! Contact HOPE Clean Seas Committee, c/o Knifton, Toreen, Dunmanway, Co. Cork.



## AN OPEN LETTER

## TO THE EX PRISONERS IN RANKS

Fellow-workers and ex-prisoners:

I would first like to say clearly that I support and admire your actions in your occupation of the Mill and the fact that you have consistently carried your actions through to the bitter ends of going to prison, being released and having to return to the occupation. I likewise support and admire your wives and families who have stood so strongly with you, and all the workers and others who marched in solidarity for you. It has been a marvellous sight to see enough people acting together to defeat that far-from-withered-arm of the state, namely the Law. I point out these facts first so that you will understand that what follows is meant in the spirit of solidarity.

You went to prison because you disobeyed the Law. It is immaterial whether you did this in defence of your jobs or for any other reason because that important fact cannot be escaped. Laws are enacted — not as some ignorant people seem to think — for the protection of the people — but for the protection of the property of those who run this country. To them it is immaterial whether this property is attacked by burglars or workers: everyone who does so is lumped into the same category. Since you there-

fore found yourselves faced with this inescapable fact it is not right for you to have put yourselves into some category above "criminals". You too were criminals because you broke the Law.

Do you not realise that many of the men you found yourselves among in Mountjoy were there because they had no jobs? Because the way the country is run few of them ever had even the prospect of having a job and not having to break the law? You are not "better" than them, you have simply been luckier in the draw. And I'm quite sure that your treatment by the screws in Mountjoy will have been with kid gloves compared to the brutality which many of the other prisoners have had to suffer, so your privileged position continued even while you were in jail!

The lesson your actions have forced not only the Government and their pathetic toe-rags, the trade union officials, but also all your fellow workers to learn, will have brought new hopes for solidarity and strength into the hearts of all workers in their struggles against the greed of their bosses.. It matters little whether these bosses are "fellow-Irishmen" or foreign imports like your own, privately run companies,

multi-nationals or the State-run public sector — all of us have been strengthened by your stand and our support. There is, however, another and for me equally important lesson to have learned: that the men and women in prison, by and large, are simply people just like ourselves. They are no better nor no worse than the rest of us. If you fall into the trap of simply branding them with the name criminals you dehumanise and degrade them just as surely as the screws, the law, the State and most other people who have not been to prison do. It constitutes a contradiction to your stand in solidarity with your fellow-workers and ex-workers if you will not stand also in solidarity with your fellow men the ex and still imprisoned. You had an opportunity that few other men have had - the eyes of the country were on you and you could have come to the defence of all prisoners, telling everyone of the dreadful conditions they live in. Instead you fell into the same trap all other imprisoned trade unionists have fallen into. You set yourselves above your fellow-men. And women. It is not worthy of you. In solidarity, An ex-prisoner/worker/Anarchist.

(CONTA. FROM P. 1)

The ICTU was involved in drawing up the agreement which led to the workers being released. Without consulting the workers they agreed to call off all action and didn't get any guarantee that the workers demands would be met. Thus the workers went straight back into occupation, demanding that they get their proper redundancy money.

The Ranks jailings showed what the rank and file workers are capable of. It was only by their direct action in striking that the workers were released. This action is a real boost at a time when morale is low and workers are reluctant to fight. The message of Ranks must be carried on. If we are ever to win it will only be by doing it ourselves.

The Ranks dispute still goes on. The workers must be supported in the fight for their demands. It must be said though that support from other workers would be more forthcoming if they were fighting for their jobs rather than higher redundancy. The issue of this highly repressive Act which allowed for them to be jailed must not be allowed to die. This Act must be smashed.

### FINGLAS UNEMPLOYED FIGHT BACK

A recent survey of the Finglas area discovered that the unemployment rate was 25%. This was almost twice the national average. In the Finglas South area, the rate was 31%. The survey discovered that 26% of the unemployed were not receiving any social welfare - they are mainly under-18 year-olds and married women. All the unemployed had experienced a loss of income when they became unemployed. Most of them said that the money they were receiving was insufficient for them to live on. So much for people having a good time on the dole!

The survey was carried out with money provided by AnCo. Twelve local unemployed people were taken on and paid around £30 a week. AnCo's solution to the unemployment problem?

The unemployed in Finglas are not taking this lying down. Already an Unemployed Action Group has been set up in the area. The group will be fighting on two fronts. Fighting for a decent living income for the unemployed and supporting (and encouraging) those threatened with job losses to fight back. The group has planned to produce two leaflets. One encouraging the Premier Dairy workers to fight the redundancies there and one aimed at the unemployed. They also plan to show a video which was produced by those who did the survey. The group meets every Wed. at 8a Main Street, Finglas. All are welcome to attend.



PHOTO: DEREK SPEARS / REPORT

THE CLONDAIKIN WORKERS JOIN THEIR FELLOW WORKERS FROM RANKS ON THE VICTORY MARCH AFTER THEIR RELEASE

### SUCCESS AT THE MILLS

Congratulations to the Clondalkin Paper Mills workers after over a year of maintaining their sit-in at the mills they have saved their jobs.

Of course the I.C.T.U's final agreement with the government included a clause stating that the saving of the mills was a once-off reaction to the tactic of occupation, well what else can we expect from the trade union big bosses? Despite the terms of the agreement its obvious (see Ranks) that the paper mill workers will be

an inspiration to all workers facing redundancies. Why accept the lump (sell jobs) when occupation is such an effective tactic? Pickets on empty factories are easily ignored, not so when workers are sitting on top of expensive equipment and materials - now we know!

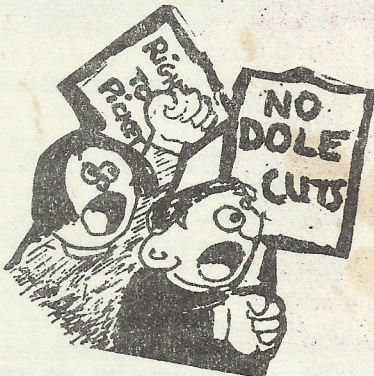
# SCAPEGOATS

We have had one budget, we may have another. What's common to both is their attempt to push the blame for the present economic crisis away from those who are actually responsible for it — the bosses and their lackeys in the government — onto workers in general, specifically those in the public sector and those on the dole.

The budget slapped a 1% levy on all those earning a wage. Dukes claimed it was temporary, but we all know what that means! This levy by itself is expected to raise almost twice as much as capital taxation (that paid by the bosses) this year. On top of this the price of everything will go up with the VAT rates being increased. All this adds up to greater burdens on PAYE workers and a real cut in their living standards.

But the real attack in this budget was on the unemployed and those working a 3-day week. Firstly as unemployment assistance is classified as a short-term benefit, it will only increase by 10%, as will unemployment benefit. Other welfare recipients (such as widows and deserted wives) will get 12% — not that that's much anyway. Both increases actually represent a cut in living standards as inflation is running around 15%.

Dukes (and Desmond, the Labour minister for Social Welfare) really stuck the Govt. into the pay-related. The maximum rate of pay-related benefit has been cut from 40% to 25%. Also the maximum rate will be paid for 23½ weeks instead of 24½. Those on a 3-day week will end up with major cuts in their income. They won't get any pay-related benefit. Also their level of flat-rate benefit will be cut. Thus with the 10% increase they will get even less than they used to.



Dukes is promising another budget later this year — he made no allowances for wage increases in the public sector (civil servants, CIE, ESB etc). If the public servants demand a wage rise well then he is going to have another budget to raise the money to pay for it — i.e. he will increase tax on PAYE workers. This amounts to no more than blackmail.

There are very real reasons why they want a pay-freeze in the public sector. If they can beat the public sector workers they can add to the general diminution of the present recession. If a norm can be set in the public sector then this can also be applied nicely to their strategy of keeping wages down so that profits can be restored. It is noticeable that the main push coming for the wage freeze is from the Confederation of Irish Industry, which represents bosses in the private sector.

The public sector is being pushed first because generally myths have been spread by the bosses, government and media saying that its unproductive, overstaffed and overpaid. The CII in recent speeches have been especially pushing the notion that it is unproductive. "Sure the public servants don't produce anything so why should they get a pay rise?" The logic of what they are saying is that teachers, nurses, house-builders, etc. are not productive. How absurd can you get! Do these people not realise that unless workers can go on public transport to work, get educated in schools or get medical attention when they are sick, their crazy capitalist system could not operate. Such workers cannot produce any profit.

As it turns out the public sector workers are the ones who could do most with a rise (not that other workers should be content with their lot). Between '71 and '81 the pay of public sector workers rose by 20% in real terms. In manufacturing industry it rose by 40%. Executives who work for CII member companies have had pay increases over the past 3 years of between 62% and 81% compared with their public sector counterparts who have received increases of between 35% and 37%.

So where does all this leave us? Firstly the government and the bosses have decided that they are going to make us pay for the crisis — whether we are working or not sacrifices will have to be made (read we must accept cuts in our living standards). Secondly they will try to keep us divided so a united fightback cannot be mounted. People on the dole are responsible for high taxes. If only those lazy people would get jobs then the workers would not be burdened with all this PAYE. Cutting the dole is meant to give us an incentive to work. Of course there is no talk of having jobs to have some incentive for! What they don't seem to realise is that people on the dole are only getting their own money which they have paid over the years in PRSI. They are also trying to divide those in work by trying to make

out that the public sector workers are a burden on the private sector workers. If public sector workers get a rise those in the private sector will have to pay for it. They will try to undermine any unity among all sectors of workers. They realise that this unity is a threat to them. We should not be Scapegoated.

Workers and unemployed did not create the economic crisis. Its not them who close down factories and throw workers on the dole. Its their system which has led to this mess. If it doesn't work well then we must build a new one — through the unity of all working or not.

## HAPPY WOMEN'S DAY

*In case you missed our first issue Resistance is produced by the Dublin Anarchist Collective, a group of Anarchists working together for over a year now. Through this paper we want to spread our understanding of Anarchist ideas and give an Anarchist view of events happening around us.*

*We want to hear what you think of Resistance — letters, articles, info. and revelations are more than welcome.*

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## BIG BROTHER

The West German state continues its march towards total control of its unfortunate citizens. And right on schedule as well. From November 1984, all West German citizens over 16 years will have to carry forge-proof identity cards that can be read by computers. The Government-appointed data protection expert has repeatedly criticised the new cards and says they are a move towards total control of the citizen. (His 5-year term of office ends this month, and he doesn't expect to be the Govt. expert next month!) At a press conference in January he said that the "technical provisions for an intensive surveillance" of the citizen exist in West Germany.

And what police state, sorry, police force, could resist using such "technical provisions"?

Information from the new passes is expected to be fed into central police computers, which will enable them to set up a perfect border control network, be a great help in combatting crime, and be passed on to the security organisations. Said one 'Justice' official: "If we create such a pass, it is only logical to make use of it as often as possible", (More on the 'Computer State' in the next issue, folks!)