

# RESISTANCE

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## FOOTSORE and ANGRY ??

The Story so Far.....

This is it! They've gone too far this time. We're not taking it any more. Them, living in the lap of luxury. Us, barely earning enough to keep body together as it is. And now they're at it again, more tax, more cuts, telling us we have to tighten our belts. And the bastards aren't even paying the money they owe themselves. We're not taking this lying down!

Half-day stoppage. A big march to protest. Of course down in Waterford they're just refusing to pay tax. Sounds good. Its driving the bosses and politicians up the walls. Doesn't look like we're going to do that though. My union says it'll backfire on us, and more than that its "illegal". (so?) Anyway, to on the march — meet at Parnell Square, stand around waiting for the banners and people to line up. Collect an armfull of pamphlets, leaflets and papers. Meet people I have not seen for a while. Chat. Admire some banners and wonder how on earth Labour Youth have the nerve to bring theirs and so on. Then we're off. Probably most of the people here could walk the route blindfold. No shouting, no slogans, only the strains of the ITGWU band — "A Nation Once Again". Someone sings

'Half-rations Once Again'. On we dutifully trot, at least its sunny.

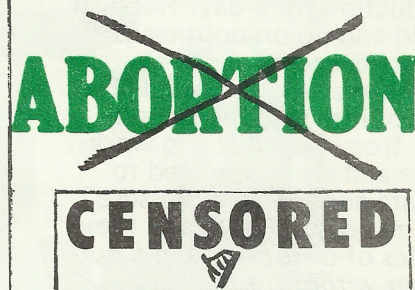
Back at the GPO — the speeches. "We've had enough!", "This is only the beginning, brothers and sisters.", "Make the rich pay!", "The Labour Party stinks!". A platform of cliches and to a crowd of over 100,000 who've heard it all before and are ready and willing for something with a bit more substance, like when do we stop marching and talking and get down to doing something? Can we do anything?, how far do we go?, and what the hell is a 'fair' tax system anyway? Is it when the bosses only earn twice as much as us instead of ten times as much and for less work? What do we mean by equality? How do we WIN?

Now Read on.....

Beyond blisters and speeches there's the refusal of the Waterford Glass workers to pay PRSI and PAYE — a much more direct blow to the bosses and some other workplaces have and are threatening, to follow suit. There's talk of staggered strikes and even general strikes.

All very good, but there are still other tactics which can be

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The Anti-Abortion Amendment debate drags on and on amidst much confusion, politicking and dissent. The March deadline is now passed and it seems that a wording to suit all the politicians views is going to prove pretty difficult.

One thing the whole debate has exposed is the way the State attempts to control our opinions by keeping us in ignorance about moral issues. It would seem to suit them fine if people weren't able to form any opinion on "issues of public morality" other than whats preached to them from Catholic church pulpits.

The state's consorship laws up to 4 years ago banned all literature on the subject of birth control. Although this ban was lifted with the Family Planning Act, the Kilkenny Health Board under pressure from the Church and an ex-Minister for Health saw fit to prohibit an 80 page booklet on child care for married couples which had one half page with scanty information on contraception. Obviously this authoritative body feel it is dangerous for married couples to inform themselves on family planning, (probably believing that this subject is all part of the "abortion trend".

Literature which contains ad-

Cont. p 7

**Inside** • gays under attack, Nicky Kelly, unemployed march, and more

used if with-holding of tax money is not possible. Go-slows and works-to-rule for instance are effective, non-co-operation and sabotage even more so. CIE workers for example, could refuse to collect fares but still issue tickets for a couple of hours on agreed days. Machinery could suddenly break down, screwing up production for a day. Rubbish could end up on politicians' lawns instead of at the tip. Tax-forms can be mislaid. The possibilities are endless and vary from workplace to workplace and are guaranteed to irritate and increase pressure on the bosses. Politically these tactics of disruption show our power *within* the workplace instead or as well as on the streets outside it. And if this is to be a long campaign, (if we are to achieve any real changes in the tax system it possibly will be) industrial

disruption gives us the advantage of still having a pay-packet every week so we are less likely to fall foul of the 'divide and rule' strategies which would have us turn against other workers like married women or to blame the unemployed for the mess. We would be less likely to compromise in our demands in order to avoid the economic hardship strikes often bring.

But then, what is compromise? Its back to that earlier question of what a fair system actually is. The simple answer being that even if the bosses paid the taxes they owe which are equal to the current budget deficit, they would still be living off us since their profit is our unpaid wages. We produce the wealth they live off it and because this is the case nothing but control by workers of the workplace and the wealth that it produces is fair. That would be real equality!

Of course you'd hear few union beaurocrats saying that,

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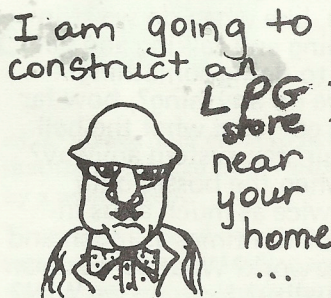
In the end we will win the immediate demands of a fairer tax system by a united and militant campaign which refuses to allow itself to be defeated by the bosses and politicians or sold out by the trade union beaurocrats. Once having exerted our political power through strong industrial action it will hopefully bring optimism that the days of real equality may soon be reached.

# ROASTING RAHENY CLEARING CLONTARF

Meanwhile the planning hearing on the plan to dump underground storage of LPG onto Dublin went off as expected. All the bureaucracies compromised over their conditions for the planning permission; Cavern Systems Ltd. brought over expensive experts (*the more expensive they are, the more expert they are*) to pooch-pooch the locals' fears and the locals could only afford one expert of their own to speak against Cavern Systems' array of experts. (*The more money you have, the more experts you can buy.*). Only the firemen — who'd have to deal with whatever mess-up happens — spoke out loudly and clearly against the plan.

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one casually mentioned that 60% of the LPG they plan to store under Dublin is for export anyway. So this is yet one more example of the dirty risks being exported from the country that benefits from them.

Meanwhile the travesty of democracy will go on. The planning officials will make their report and it'll say, everything's alright, everything's under control. And the local politicians won't make any difference in the long run. Capital intends to build the caverns and the local state supports them. And our old friends, the EEC, are giving a million pounds of a grant for research into the project. And the local people will end up with the dangers of LPG storage, whether they like

it or not.

We should support any initiative aimed at stopping these caverns. Slowing down the plans of capital and state is always a good idea but also the local people are demanding what is a basic anarchist principle: that the people of a community should have the right to make all decisions about that community and should not have plans forced on it by the state and capital. (Though the people of the area probably don't see it that way now, they may after a few years opposing the state).

This plan is yet another gamble capital is taking with our lives. We don't need it. Fancy getting up every morning wondering if this is the day something goes wrong at the PLG jetty?

Trust me



# Gays Under Attack



PHOTO: DEREK SPIERS (REPORT)

## GAYS & THE POLICE

Justice Gannon's decision to let the killers of Declan Flynn free comes as another example of the attitude of the legal system to gay men and women in Ireland.

Last year we were harassed by the police, finger-printed, photographed, raided in our homes and at work, by the police during their investigation of the Charles Self killing. This quickly became a way for them to manipulate the situation into a way of building up a dossier of roughly 1,500 gay men and women. We were documented, filed and numbered against our will under the clever guise of a murder investigation, despite the fact that we were far more the potential victims than potential murderers. No-one was charged for it, incidentally.

Over the years the antique and absurd 1861 Offences Against The Person Act has been used to discriminate against us and it has been used against us in most of our dealings with the law. After all if you are "illegal" to begin with, your civil rights are limited thereafter.

Harassment of gay men and women occurs in nearly every aspect of our lives, from work to families to simply walking around the street and victimisation and discrimination is a matter of daily occurrence. But when it becomes utterly permissible to kill us, the situation reaches a terrifying zenith. Most people who have been bashed don't even report it because the police further humiliate and ridicule them. The old line about "asking for it" is trotted out, as it is to many rape victims. Hospitals refuse to

keep any records of queer-bashing so it has remained an almost invisible thing for years. The double standards of the courts who one day hand down sentences of 2 years for shop-lifting and the Declan Flynn outcome the next is a matter for severe concern. Law reform would indeed be very welcome, if it were across the board. Any attempts at removing our status under the 1861 absurdity have been shot down. The knowledge that now, 120 years on, you can be killed and it not matter, has burned itself onto the consciousness of gay men and women in Ireland forever.

The similarity between the organised gangs of queer-bashers here and the Klu Klux Klan in America is obvious. The police knew of the activities of the Fairview Park gang months in advance and they did absolutely nothing about it, except when the murder was committed and they were able to pick up the gang within 2 hours. This, among so many other incidents, shows the police attitude to gays and when the courts go hand-in-hand with this attitude we know exactly where we stand.

Police protection is a myth, a joke, and rather than ask foolishly for it, we demand instead an end to the harassment we live with.

### Post-Script on Gays & Police

The Dept. of Justice has finally, nine months too late, begun an investigation into why Fairview Police Station did nothing about the highly detailed information they had on the gangs of queer-bashers. The old adage about closing the stable door when the horse has gone is too ironic to be humorous.

## CAMPAIGN FOR THE RIGHTS OF LESBIANS & GAY MEN

A public meeting will be held in the Main Auditorium, Liberty Hall on 4th May, 8 p.m. There will be speakers from the Trade Union Movement, political parties and gay speakers.

The aims of the Campaign are:

- (1) Repeal those laws criminalising consenting homosexual relationships between men.
- (2) Enactment of laws, or change the current laws, to ensure equal treatment for all, irrespective of sexual preference.
- (3) Amend the Employment Equality Act to ensure that people can neither be refused employment, nor dismissed from it, on account of their sexual preferences.

Full list of speakers to be announced shortly. Watch for posters in your area.

## BRUTAL SCREW SHOT

Three weeks ago Brian Stack, a prison officer from Portlaoise Prison was shot in the back of the neck as he left a boxing match at the National Stadium. Boxing was Stack's favourite sport - though in his case it consisted of boxing prisoners, and he was particularly adept in the use of the baton. He leaves behind him a legend of brutality next to none. As one ex-prisoner says "Most of them mellow with age - he just got worse". Stack has now been moved to the Rehabilitation Centre in Dun Laoghaire where he is responding to treatment. We trust he will not re-enter the prison service.

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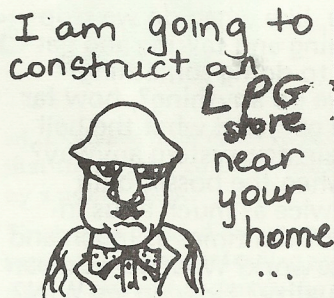
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# UNEMPLOYED

Officially the number on the dole is now 189,000. Again another all-time record. We are going to experience real cuts in other living standards as the budget dole-cuts begin to take effect. On top of the cuts the price of everything will go up and we are expected to pay £7 to £10 for every job application we make to the civil service.

The bosses and the government are determined to make the dole a completely unattractive proposition. The more unattractive they make the dole the easier it is to control those who actually have a job.

They are trying to create an atmosphere in which they can impose a wage freeze and even make people work 'a free day for Ireland'. (People on AnCO and Manpower schemes already know what that's like).

As well as enforced poverty, we're subject to harassment and humiliation. We're made believe we have no value in society because we don't work. You only have value in this society if you're a wage-slave — if you're willing to give most of your life over to some rich boss so that s/he can live a life of luxury on your sweat. We're expected to beg for our pittance of so-called benefits through the prison-like bars you have in every dole office. It goes on and on and we lose every time.

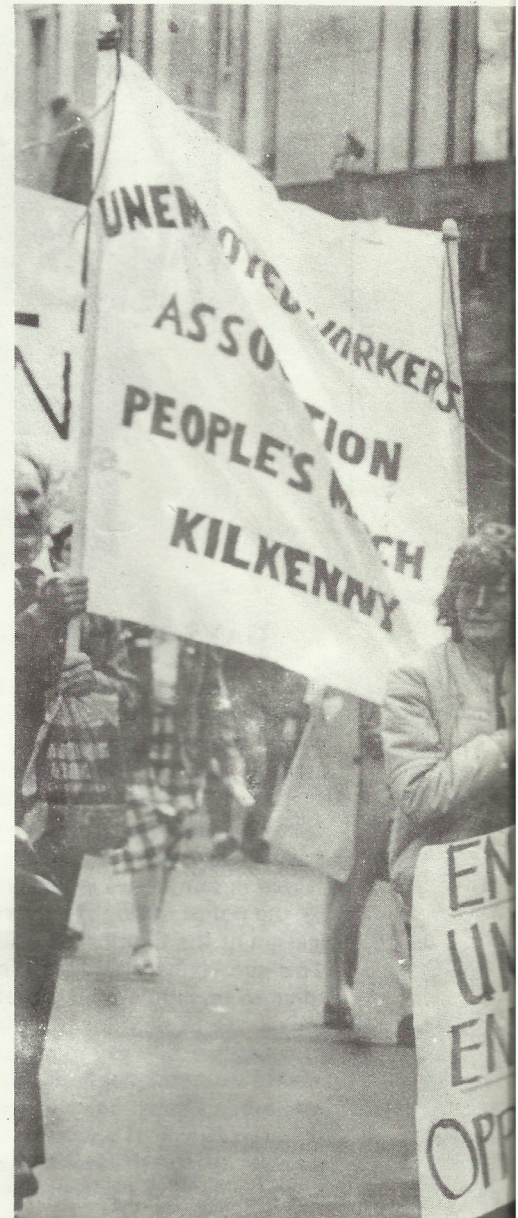
But people are not taking this situation lying down. In Resistance No. 1 we reported the existence of seven unemployed groups, even since then this number has increased with groups being set up in Limerick and Drumcondra. Many people are also responding in more "individualised ways". People are ripping off the dole, doing nixers and basically squeezing as much money out of the system that they can. Others are taking the basics of life because they need them and can't afford to pay for them. Look

at the increase in petty theft and the fact that 700 families are now squatting in the Dublin corporation areas. The problem with these more individualised forms of resistance are that they are often kept private. There is the fear of being caught, being 'criminalised'. Thus things are kept private with accompanying feelings of fear and guilt, rather than made collective with accompanying feelings of solidarity and aggression.

We see no problem with people ripping off the system. Why should they live in poverty when the president gets £1,100 a week for doing nothing. We can't accept poverty because the bosses can't make their system work.

This month 50 unemployed people are going to march from Cork to Dublin. The march sets out from Cork on Monday April 25th and will arrive in Dublin on the following Thursday. It will join the May Day Demo on the following Saturday. The march will be visiting factories, dole-offices and holding public meetings along the way. Its aim is to get unemployed and employed fighting together. It wants to get the message across that we're not accepting responsibility for the present crisis. Its saying *that work places threatened with closure should be occupied*, Clondalkin has showed it can be done. *All repressive legislation (such as that recently used against the Ranks workers) should be smashed*. The march is also calling for a shorter working week and a living income for the unemployed. *It calls for the reversal of all the vicious cuts which have just been implement (not that we'll stop there. We want enough money on the dole so that we can live well).* →

PHOTO: D. SPEIRS /REPORT



## Scroungers !!

We're always hearing politicians going on about the scroungers on the dole. People getting money for doing nothing. Some people even sign on and work at the same time. People on a three day earn more than if they were working full-time — thus, we have the recent cuts for those on short-time. In general they create enough hysteria about scrounging that they create a climate where they can cut all benefits/assistance as they have done.

The funny thing though, is that it is these ranting and raving politicians who are the real scroungers.

Take the PRESIDENT who gets

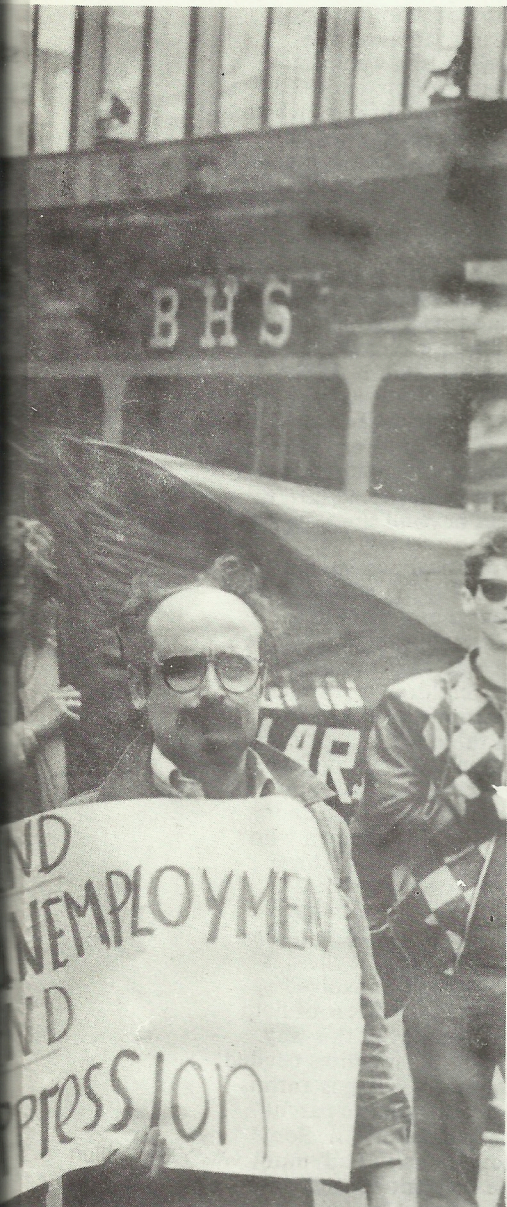
£40,000 a year for doing nothing. In addition to this, he receives TWO PENSIONS — £6,955 a year as a former minister plus a TDs PENSION of £7,246. This all adds up to almost £1,100 A WEEK for entertaining foreign visitors, going on foreign holidays and opening the odd school. He is not alone though. HAUGHEY on top of his salary as leader (just about) of the opposition receives a PENSION of £10,571 a year, LENIHEN, DES O'MALLEY and MICHAEL O'LEARY on top of salaries of £14,000 each receive PENSIONS of £6,955, £6,336 and £5,712 respectively. And we are the ones who are living beyond our means?

## RANKS

The Ranks occupation goes on despite attempts by the media (and others) to play it down. The workers in Dublin have now been joined by the workers from the Limerick Ranks mill. They occupied on the same day that the workers in Dublin took over the offices in the Phibsborough mill. Both groups of workers have locked out management and have complete control over the mills. The Limerick occupation followed a visit from the Dublin workers. They discussed the redundancy deal which the Limerick workers had accepted. It emerges they were misled by their union official who obviously wanted to see an end to the dispute.

The Dublin workers occupied at Carrigaline Pot shared their expressed mutual... The Ranks occupation for a long time for over a year... ermined that this is not repeated... upations to be... workers are no... jobs. They need... they are to win... for them in you... them or arrang... come and speak... of Ranks is of... fighting the att... us by the boss... for them is a w...

# D RESISTANCE



The march will provide an opportunity for activists to come together and discuss whats going on and what can be done next. Its hoped to hold a conference on *Sunday May 1st*.

The march goes under the banner of **The Peoples March For Decent Jobs**". The central theme of the march will be decent jobs or decent dole. The decent isn't meant to be moralistic. To us its quite important. We don't want work at any price. For Anarchists there is nothing desirable about working for a boss or the state. As far as we're concerned the right to work doesn't exist under capitalism except of course when it is profitable. As soon as profits start to fall the right to work disappears. For us the right to work is no more than the right to be exploited by any boss who cares to.

Whats important for us is that we don't just have any jobs but socially useful well-paid ones. Our ultimate aim is to have complete control of our work places. Kicking out the bosses and running the factories ourselves to meet our needs rather than to make profit for them. Thus the amount of time we would have to work would be greatly reduced. Under a system of "workers self-management" which we Anarchists aim for, everybody would work maybe for a couple of days a week ( this has become more realisable with the development of technology). All the shitty jobs would be rotated so nobody would be condemned to doing demoralising work for their whole life.

Until we have such a society, we must demand (and take) as much from this sytem that we can. Thus the decent dole. It takes as much for us to live on the dole as it does

when we are working. We should demand free transport, electricity etc. We should be setting up unemployed centres. Social, cultural and political centres, places where unemployed can come together, socialise and enjoy themselves without being ripped off. A place where activities can be planned.

There are dangers with the march. There is the danger of it becoming an annual pilgrimage of the unemployed. It has to happen this year because it happened last year etc. The march should not distract from getting activities off the ground locally. The resistance is there. Its a matter of those involved in different forms of resistance linking together to be more effective.

Secondly, the fact that 50 unemployed are marching from Cork to Dublin could be interpreted as them looking for sympathy — to prove that they are another deserving cause. There can be no begging. We want decent living standards. We won't get them by begging but confronting our rulers. We must link with those who can hit them where it hurts — those in work, the factory visits must be genuine rather than tokenistic gestures.

Poverty is not specific to the unemployed. It effects many who work. Its estimated that one million people live in proverty in Ireland. The march will be one step in bringing some more of these people together to confront the causes of this poverty.

**Contact:** *Peoples March For Decent Jobs, c/o ATGWU, Marlborough St., Dublin*

workers also visited the at Kingdom Tubes & Pottery. The workers experiences and expal solidarity. occupations may drag on me. Clondalkin lasted ear and the State are det- the story of Clondalkin ed. They don't want occ- become the norm. The now fighting for their need your solidarity if win. Make a collection your workplace. Visit nge to have one of them ak to you. The outcome f significance to us all attacks being waged on sses and State. A victory victory for us all.

## PIZZALAND . . . . . THE PITZ

Members of the ITGWU at Pizzaland have been on strike since March 1st. The reasons for the strike included exploitation and harassment of the workers. Two managers were suspended by the Company without any just reason. Waitresses have to buy their uniforms at a cost of £25 before they get any pay and without any subsidy.

Pizzaland Restaurants are owned by United Biscuits, a British-based company. So far, they have refused to negotiate with the Union and will not attend the Labour Court. Instead, they have tried to undermine the strike and mislead the public about the issues involved.

A notice was placed in the window and leaflets were handed out urging people to use the restaurant. They have also brought in scab labour from England in an effort to break the strike.

The strikers believe that the real aim of the Company is to get rid of the present management. Since the arrival of a new Managing Director they have suffered intimidation and victimization and as the managers come from Egypt and Libya the treatment seems to be racially motivated. The Company claims that those suspended were responsible for an unofficial strike and were generally troublesome. But the Union rejects this excuse as all the workers had agreed to strike and no-one person could be held responsible.

However, the strikers are prepared to fight to the bitter end despite the fact that many are getting only £18 a week strike pay. People are passing the picket at Pizzaland. This plays right into the hands of the owners who can continue to refuse to negotiate over the workers claims.

Restaurants have always been notorious for their exploitation of staff. They have taken full advantage of non-unionised and part-time workers. For too long they have got away with it.

So when some workers like those at Pizzaland take action, they deserve our support.

# BALLYMUN NURSERY

This is the first in what we hope will be a series on projects and co-ops which have been organised by groups of people in different parts of the country. The importance of these ventures lies in the fact that they have been organised by ordinary people to fulfil their own needs by their own efforts.

Four years ago, four women were brought together by a local social worker in Ballymun to form a single parents group. None of the women came originally from the area and one of their main problems was isolation. The way society is run had forced them into an empty and vicious circle. The circle went something like this: because they had no-one to help them with the children they could not work, their standards of living were low, their days consisted of childcare, housework and trips to the local shopping centre, their nights staying in and watching the telly, because they didn't have baby-sitters. The women were aware of the bad effects of this isolation both on themselves and their children, and particularly on the effects that it had on their relationships with their children. They realised that the children not only needed to meet and play with other children but needed a break from their mothers just as much as the mothers needed a break from them.



"Why did you take this job, Mum?"

The group had been using an old pre-fab at the back of Shangan School to meet in, so they decided to ask the Parish Priest if they could use the building to run a day nursery for the children of single parents from the area. He agreed, and the hard work of organising money to do up the pre-fab began. It had been wrecked over the years and practically needed to be rebuilt. The funds to do this were all raised by the women themselves: they ran benefits, sales of work, sponsored walks, anything they

could think of, and got a great response from the people of Ballymun where no such facilities existed.

They were also promised a £500 grant from Dublin Corporation, but in order to get the grant the place had to be fire-proofed. The actual cost of the fire-proofing and making the building a safe place cost £2,000 but not a penny of the grant could be obtained until AFTER the work was done.

By this time there were 10 women involved and between them they had 20 children, nearly all of whom were between the age of 1 and 5 years, who would benefit directly from the opening of the nursery. The women had decided from the beginning that there would be no 'boss' and 'worker' situation there. A committee was set up and all those involved in the fund-raising and rebuilding had an equal share in the decision making. As in any self-help organisation, there were some women who were more vocal than others, but their determination to give every one an equal say has paid off and now everyone plays an active part. The women see this as a very important point since it has stopped the formation of cliques and ensures full participation. Another decision reached early on was that religion would play no part in the activities of the nursery, they saw the two activities as completely separate.

During the last coalition government, when the Dept. of Social Welfare was giving loans to community projects, they got one of £3,000 and this was used for buying equipment from toys to teacups. All the women attended various courses to help them run the nursery. One did an accounts course (and is now a qualified bookkeeper),



others did pre-school training through AnCO. By law people running a nursery must have certificates in the skills the authorities deem necessary. Though obviously, the experience of childrearing itself is the most important.

Four months after the nursery opened they were approached by the Eastern Health Board with an offer of 70% grant towards wages and running costs if they would

undertake to take in children referred to them by the Board. A ceiling of 60% of the children was set on referrals, many of whom are not from one-parent families. The nursery charges £10 a week for a child from 8am to 6pm and £5 a week for a week of half-days which must make it one of the cheapest nurseries in Dublin. The fee includes full supervision and 3 full meals a day. Priority is still given to children of single parent families.

No pressure is put on parents to get involved in running the nursery. Every two months a member of the committee meets each parent to discuss how their child is getting on. Several children when they first came were withdrawn or reacted violently to other children, often as a direct result of the circumstances the family has been forced into by circumstances beyond their control.

No form of physical punishment like slapping or hitting is ever allowed to be given to any child in the nursery. The women there all agree that the best way to communicate or teach these children is through talking, discussion and play. And arguing with them when necessary. The improvement in the children's learning, speaking and behaviour towards each other is magic under these conditions. The women who run the nursery say parents have come to them after a couple of months saying the children have changed beyond recognition. Some of the parents then ask if there is some way they can be involved themselves and these offers of help are happily accepted. In this way participation in the activities needed to keep the nursery going is enthusiastic and not because the parent has been pressurised into it. Some of the single parents in Ballymun are now able to work because there is a place where they know the children will be looked after. Some of them don't work and simply appreciate the break the facilities allow them and their children from each other. There are now 8 full-time workers looking after over 40 children, some of whom come for half days and some for the full day.

We feel that there are many important lessons to be learned from the Ballymun Day Nursery for Single Parents. It was got off the ground and organised by single parents by themselves for themselves. Their dedication and hard work both on the project and each other has ensured this. Though they do not call themselves a co-op or mutual aid society this is what they have achieved in fact. There is no boss there, everyone has an equal say, everyone has used her skills and creativity and developed new ones. The children attending the nursery have been enabled to do the same.

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Another interesting thing is the way the Health Board approached them and not the other way around, thus demonstrating that these women in Ballymun have been able to achieve by themselves what the Eastern Health Board with all its resources has not. Working together on a practical self-help project has made the women aware of skills and abilities they never knew they had, and which might never have been awakened through other means. They believe that everybody contains skills and abilities and creativity which come out when the need arises. They are eager to meet and talk to women in other areas who would be interested in setting up their own nurseries, and you can contact them through

Anarchists have always said that the only way to run a society is through cooperation and mutual aid. We are always called dreamers and hopeless optimists. In our opinion, places like the Ballymun Nursery for Single Parents proves the point that cooperation is a natural instinct in people when it comes to running their own lives and that the so-called ordinary people are quite capable of organising things for themselves, and that these projects in fact work far more successfully than anything the state can do.



Amendment from P.1

vice on abortion is still illegal under the censorship laws, but nothing was actually banned under this law in the few years following the Family Planning Act in 1979. In the last 8 months however 2 books have been banned on these grounds — one a sex education book for teenagers, the other a pamphlet 'Abortion Internationally' which tells of women's struggles in different countries to achieve the right to choose, and have control over their own fertility. The pamphlet has been available for at least 4 years in this country, yet it was banned last month. Obviously these prohibitions are directly related to the present climate, where every attempt is being made to curtail discussion and information likely to educate people about abortion.

Under the laws, these books are now banned indefinitely. The Censorship Laws are also concerned with prohibiting publications which are considered 'indecent or obscene' — broadly speaking pornographic, and a ban on these will last 12 years. In other words the law recognises that changes come about in society and something which



I think, if women don't like the way we run things here, they can go back where they came from. That's what I think.

was considered unacceptable 12 years ago might be fit for us to read today. This applies to books with titles like "The Wife-Spanker's Club" But it was decided in 1967 that the subject of abortion will never even be read about and so publications relating to it are banned forever.

In addition it is a statutory offence — i.e. criminal — to be in possession of literature advocating abortion, police have the authority to seize and prosecute people for it. But 'indecent or obscene' literature, may be impounded and it is the publishers who are liable for penalties. This certainly says a lot for our State's attitude to women — but that's nothing new.

Apart from attempting to control people's ideas through censorship, there has been considerable moves by the powers that be to keep rational argument out of the media. The debate has been confined to the newspapers and what we read in these on the subject seems to be dictated by the whims of editors and the bias of journalists. The Irish Times is the only paper to give much coverage and present some information — but how many people read, or can afford — the Times? And RTE, if Fred O'Donovan had his way, would pretend the Amendment didn't exist at all. As it is, TV coverage has been boring to say the least. As usual we're subjected to the opinions of "leading experts" — mostly men who'll never be in the position of having to make a decision about abortion — rambling on as on Today Tonight. Ordinary people — especially women — don't come into this debate at all as far as RTE is concerned, except maybe as nameless statistics in opinion polls, which vary every week.

The Bishops are now stepping in with a vengeance, preaching SPUC's propaganda from the pulpit. Like the rest of the lobby they will only be satisfied with a blatantly anti-women, anti-birth control

wording to add to a law which already criminalizes women who have abortions in this country. It looks like agreement among church leaders and politicians on a wording will be an impossible task. But any wording on this issue is an attack on women, a repressive piece of legislation, which sets out to deny women the right to choose, denies that they have any right at all to make decisions about controlling their own fertility.

Our access to knowledge and information is a key issue in this amendment. Traditionally the way the State has dealt with issues to do with 'public morality' is to attempt to suppress debate - keep the people in ignorance and they'll toe the line — is the way they usually operate. But its becoming very clear that the more that people become informed about the amendment, the more they are making up their own minds just how anti-life and wasteful it is.



VALENTINOVICH FREED!

Those of ye who read the last issue of 'Resistance' may remember we carried a short piece on Ms Valentinovich, the crane-driver from Gdansk in Poland who was to stand trial on anti-state activities — ie helping to organise Solidarity in the shipyards there.

We are delighted to report that due to international support and outcry and the courageous actions of those who were to go witness against her refusing to testify, Ms Valentinovich went free following her trial.

We feel that it is particularly significant that people refused to testify against her - in a police-state such as Poland this must have taken enormous courage, and we salute these people who showed so clearly the courage of their convictions.



READERS MEETINGS

We have had a very positive and enthusiastic response to this paper from the readers. This response has included offers to write articles for us on numerous interesting subjects. In order to get to know you better and have a chance to discuss both the contents of the paper and new ideas we would like to start readers/writers meetings once a month. Would all those of you interested in coming along please contact us through our post box? We look forward to meeting you!



# NICKY KELLY:

## Hunger Protest



### SUPPORT THE RELEASE NICKY KELLY CAMPAIGN

On the 1st of May, Mayday, Nicky Kelly will go on hunger strike. Wrongly imprisoned in Portlaoise prison, the decision to go on hunger strike is Nicky's final desperate attempt to protest his innocence. For as he said, he would rather starve to death than complete his unjust twelve year sentence. Nicky was one of the four men charged with the Sallins mail train robbery in 1976. The only evidence against the men were signed statements, made under violent and brutal pressure from the cops. The men suffered severe physical injury from the notorious "heavy gang" of detectives which existed within the gardai. They were then tried in the jury-less Special Criminal Court and 3

men including Nicky were convicted. Suffering severe mental strain, Nicky Kelly left the country while on bail. In his absence, he was sentenced to 12 years penal servitude. In the meantime Provisional IRA claimed the robbery and said the 3 convicted were completely innocent. In June 1980, the 2 men were acquitted on appeal and Nicky Kelly returned to clear his name. Instead his appeal was rejected & he was sent to Portlaoise prison. Despite public outcry and appeals from Amnesty International to release him, the Minister for Justice has refused to use his power to give Nicky his freedom. At the whim of such authority, an innocent man remains inside. It is an indictment of Irish "justice" that Nicky Kelly is forced to go on hunger strike to prove his innocence.

His action urgently needs public support. Nobody wants Nicky to go on hunger-strike — he has suffered enough. We urge you to give whatever help and support you can. **The Campaign to Release Nicky Kelly holds a meeting every Wed. 8 pm at 29 Mountjoy Square. They badly need help postering, leafletting, selling badges and so on. The Committee are organizing a picket on Portlaoise jail on Sat. 30th April. A bus leaves Parnell Sq. at 11am and tickets are available from the Committee. Moving Hearts and Limerick band The Outfit play a concert for Nicky Kelly in the Francis Xavier Hall, Sherrard St (Tue. 3 May 8pm). Speakers at this concert include Bernadette McAlliskey and Ivor Browne. There is a special rate for unwaged and tickets can be bought in Golden Discs or from the Campaign. We hope this night will be a welcome home party for Nicky and with your support it could be!**



## MAY DAY!

Did you know that the origins of May Day are Anarchist. It all began way back in May 1886 when massive strikes were taking place all over the US in favour of the eight hour day. The situation was especially tense in Chicago. There had been repeated clashes between strikers and blacklegs at McCormicks Harvester Works. There was an active group of Anarchists mainly of German origin active in the strikes in Chicago.

Although May Day itself passed off quickly, two days later the police fired shots during a clash at the McCormick works and six workers were killed. Immediately a protest meeting was called at the Haymarket. This meeting passed off peacefully enough until the police decided to break it up. As they did, a bomb was thrown killing one cop outright and injuring several others — the cops immediately opened fire and in the confusion that followed, more cops and demonstrators were either killed or wound-

ed. Evidence later came to light that the bomb had been thrown by a police agent.

The bosses decided to use this incident to criticise leading activists. And to attempt to smash the eight hour movement. Nine prominent anarchist agitators and journalists were arrested. After a farcical trial four were sentenced to hang.

In 1888 the American Federation of Labour continued the eight hour day movement with May 1st as a day of action.

Since then, May Day has been celebrated world over. Usually though this involves boring old marches which won't go far in inspiring militancy. On this May Day we remember the militancy of the Haymarket Martyrs and others who have fought and died since. We hope in whatever way we can to carry this militancy with present day struggles for better living conditions and ultimately into the struggle for ANARCHISM.

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