#### Mewspaper of Anarchists in Ireland

more good reason for getting rid of it. part and parcel of the system, and one ty is the natural cycle of capitalism. It is mismanagement, this cycle of insecuri-Far from being some sort of mistake or Sinn Fein, Labour and other reformers. are the long term economic plans of Indeed, this cycle shows how pointless

long outgrown national borders. and where most dig companies have where all countries import and export because we live in a world economy

back. But today they have very limited increase or reduce taxes, borrow or cutence, they can shift investment around, Governments can make a small differ-

capitalism ever since it first developed.

interest rates.

- with an inevitable growth in poverty. lower wages and higher unemployment talling production, increased closures, and the result is always the same one of

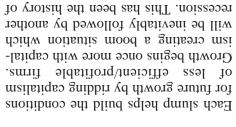
suppliers and so on. causing problems for their suppliers' ucts, who in turn are forced to cut back, less demand for their suppliers' prodback on investment and this leads to omy. The first over-producing firms cut downturn spreads throughout the econwhile. Spending decreases and the making further investment less worth-Products lie unsold and profits fall,

have over-produced have to cut back. unable to be sold, and the firms that products than buyers. Goods pile up, overproduction, where there are more ply to the expectation of profit. We get is not linked to people's needs, but sim-There is no rational planning. Growth

market they are producing for has no spare forces them to expand as if the to grow bigger and get more market competing firms. The competitive drive to produce are made by hundreds of Under capitalism, decisions about what

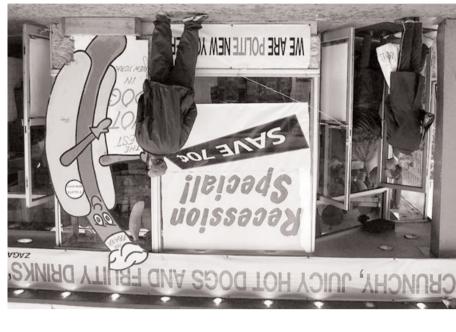
ers in the current 'partnership' pay talks. aggressive stance taken by the employdecline. An early sign of this is the tion as workers is weakened and wages ment. As a result, our bargaining posiduced and that means more unemploy-Recession means less is being pro-

it the capitalist economy itself? administering the economy, or is fault is it? Is it the politicians mortgage are growing. Whose and not being able to pay the ahead. Worries about losing jobs one agrees that worse times are third in the last year and every-Unemployment has risen by a



achieved by both wage cuts and falling be an increase in the rate of profit, production still exists. And there has to ly, as investment will not restart if overbought up cheaply or written off entire-Stocks of finished goods have to be less profitable firms go out of business. ductive capacity has to be wiped out, To get out of a slump unnecessary pro-

Recessions always follow this pattern



# Hecesion



## Undercover fraud where none exists

On 8/8/08, The Department of Social and Family Affairs (DSFA) issued a press release entitled "€238 million saved in first six months of this year through Welfare anti fraud crackdown." A closer look at the operations of the DSFA reveals a slightly different story however. According to the 2007 Social Welfare Appeals Office (SWAO) Annual Report, 46% of appeals to the SWAO were successful. The chief appeals officer, Brian Flynn, is critical of social welfare deciding officers "applying the 'fraud' applications of the legislation in all cases involving overpayments".



In other words, the DSFA is characterising many cases of overpayment as fraud when they are simply due to alleged changes in circumstances since the original decision was made. He also details inconsistencies in decisionmaking, non-application of relevant EU law and a number of administrative failures on the part of the DSFA, all of which would have resulted in incorrect decisions to stop payments.

For example, €37m was 'saved' on Illness claims. In many of these cases, the medical opinions of the claimants GP's and consultants, based on extensive knowledge of the claimants circumstances, will have been overruled by a short, frequently inaccurate, assessment by a DSFA medical assessor. These decisions are often subsequently overturned by the SWAO. So, while it is impossible to be precise, it will certainly be the case that many of the "fraudulent" claims discovered so far this year will be reinstated after appeal.

Notwithstanding the DSFA breaking its own rules and guidelines in many of the cases brought to appeal last year, the rules and guideline themselves are frequently unfair. In March 2006, the Minister for Social and Family Affairs launched a "Major Government Discussion Paper on Proposals for Supporting Lone Parents".

Amongst other things, it proposed to "end the cohabitation rule by making it neutral in terms of influencing people's basic choices regarding their living arrangements." Over 2 years later, new minister, Mary Hanafin, is still promising to implement the proposals (Irish Times 11/8/08), yet nothing has happened.

The largest amount (€80m) 'saved' by fraud controls relates to lone parent claims, many disqualified on the basis of cohabitation. So,

despite 2 successive government ministers lamenting the anti-family nature of their own department's rules (Sunday Independent 27/27/08), the DSFA continues to trumpet the resultant benefits in fraud control. Mary Hanafin has also been very vocal on the need to train and up-skill young unemployed peo-

However, if an individual declares at an interview with a social welfare inspector that they intend to commence a course in the near future, having paid heed to the good Minister's advice, there is a strong likelihood that their unemployment payment will be cut as they are not "genuinely seeking work". This can destroy that individual's chances of pursuing further education but will again be lauded by the DSFA as clamping down on 'fraud'.

Given the level of doublespeak involved, when Minister Hanafin declared in the Irish Times (9/8/08) that there were no plans to cut welfare rates, it can only mean one thing. Surely enough, two days later Carl O'Brien, social affairs correspondent of the Irish Times gives the game away, outlining how "the new changes could also help to save the State significant amounts of money."

Also, despite the heroic efforts of the DSFA to uncover fraud where none exists, they are still behind their yearly target of savings of €525m. Even if welfare rates themselves are not cut, it is likely that new and more ingenious ways will soon be discovered to disqualify individual claims, achieving the DSFA's aims by stealth. It looks like many welfare recipients will be the victims of Celtic Tiger

Vincent O'Mally

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Libertarian Networks Indymedia Ireland The place to find Irish campaign

Radical bookshop and social space 61 Barrack Street, Cork City

www.indymedia.ie

Seomra Spraoi Dublin social centre, reopening shortly at 113 Cork Street.

www.seomraspraoi.blogspot.com

centraladminzone@gmail.com

Revolt Video Radical video collective

http://revoltvideo.blogspot.com

**Campaigning Groups** Campaign to move Shell's gas

pipeline offshore from Co. Mayo

www.shelltosea.com

www.hopoi.org

Hands Off the People of Iran Anti-imperialist network for solidarity with Iranian trade unions and the womenis rights movement.

Choice Ireland Abortion rights action group choiceireland@gmail.com

Residents Against Racism Opposing racism & deportations 24-hour helpline: 087-666 2060

Anti-War Ireland Democratic anti-war organisation www.antwarireland.org

Anarchist Black Cross (Belfast) Assists class war prisoners

www.myspace.com/belfastabc

#### Informacje i artykuly w jezku polskim dostepne na stronie www.wsm.ie/polska

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Chinese workers treated like

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The WTO claims that free

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Lucy Parsons

we're supporting the poor. 'Fairtrade' label to feel that to pay a hefty price for a won't need to give donations or world that anarchists want, we line to his investors. In the demonstrate a good bottompossible so that their boss can and worn out as efficiently as cheap 'resource' to be used up will no longer be treated as a the developing world in turn at will in the shops. Workers in as consumers to be ripped off exploited either as workers or Irish workers will no longer be

mutual respect. other on a basis of equality and themselves and trade with each poor countries will organize and farmers in both rich and society, factory floor workers democracy. In an anarchist This is what we mean by real ers themselves, for themselves. if it is conducted by the work-

population for profit. more and more of the world's easier for their financial and the sole purpose of making it richer countries. They use it for rather is run by the elites of the not a democratic institution but The reason is that the WTO is world who are affected even do the poor of the developing how the WTO is run. Neither ple themselves have no say in benefited some in developing issues such as how much we reason is that globalisation has lives, including the most vital beaten when they object? The

State. WTO policies have an able development in poorer WTO, as is every other EU Irish people support sustain-Ireland is a member of the

153 countries involved in industrial markets to exploit that is dwarfed by the current in that round of talks, a figure three countries were involved and Trade (GATT). Twenty-General Agreement on Tariffs WTO's predecessor, the 1947, under the guise of the more severely by WTO policy. of negotiations took place in ber states. The very first round rounds of talks between memthis over the decades through around the world. It has done pay for our food. Yet Irish peobarriers to global free trade Frade Organization is to reduce The purpose of the World impact on every aspect of our

relevant to our everyday lives here in Ireland? reduce theirs. But what is the WTO, and how is it while insisting that the poor countries should refuse to reduce subsidies to their own farmers, est talks failed in large part because rich countries WTO back in the news around the world. The lat-World Trade Organisation (WTO) talks has put the The recent bitter collapse of the Doha round of



### keeping the world 'badly divided' The World Trade Organistion,

Get involved, check out www.wsm.ie

## lavy Called in as Corrib Protest Escalates The Irish navy gunboat, the LE Orla has

been mobilized in the latest escalation of the standoff between Shell, the Irish state and Shell to Sea campaigners in County Mayo. The standoff comes after a relatively quiet period in the campaign and centers on attempts by campaigners to halt Shell's pipelaving work in Broadhaven Bay and on Glengad beach, where Shell intend to bring their high-pressure gas pipeline ashore. The Irish navy gunboat has been called in after a request by Gardai and will support Garda facilitation of the Shell's works in the bay.

For campaigners on the ground the presence of the LE Orla, an ex British gunship, in Broadhaven Bay is yet another example of the Irish state's commitment to protecting Shell's discredited Corrib project at their expense. Spokesperson for local opponents of the Corrib project Pobal Cill Chomáin, John Monaghan

said "The navy coming in shows what the State intends to do. They literally want to crush any opposition to their botched plans for the Corrib

The current standoff began at the end of July when 13 local people were arrested for demanding that Shell produce proof of permission for work at Glengad, at what is a public beach and special area of conservation, and for interrupting Shell's work when they could not produce the proof of permission. Numerous campaigners have since been arrested in the recent series of protests with opponents of the project blocking dredging activity in the bay with inflatable dinghies and occupying Shell's compound near the beach at Glengad. Local Fishermen have been keeping watch on their lobster pots which Shell had attempted to remove earlier without permission. Pickets and blockades of Shell's compound at Glengad have been met with the

familiar Garda heavy-handedness witnessed at the gates of the refinery site at Bellanaboy over the last two years.

Shell's arrogant disregard to the rights of local community and the Irish state's support for Shell in the form of Garda and navy backing continues. An overall awareness that this is not a localized issue but an attack on the right of people to the collective ownership of the natural resources is necessary. Profit hungry large corporations such as Shell has nothing to offer to local communities as they make billions from these energy sources as ordinary workers struggle to pay their gas bills.

Updates on the struggle against Shell in Mayo can be found at www.indymedia.ie or www.shelltosea.com

### Why can't socialists get together?

The Irish Network is talking to a half dozen other groups about unity. The Socialist Workers Party, always in a hurry, simply wants everyone else to join their People Before Profit creation. Every few years we see the same game played, 'why won't the Judean Peoples Front join the Judean Popular Front?"

Across the sea the Scottish Socialist Party and George Galloway's RESPECT coalition were the latest examples of 'socialist unity'. Both ripped themselves asunder as massive egos fought to be leaders of

Interestingly, after these disasters, there is no discussion

small parties.

**Socialist** about what sort of 'socialism' all this effort is in aid of. Nobody is asking the most important question - what do we mean by 'socialism'?

> Should the country be ruled by a parliament, by workers' councils or even by a one party dictatorship? Should it be old-style left Labour or libertarian socialism? Should it be sympathetic to the regime in Cuba, or even to the totalitarian Stalinist dynasty in North Korea? Where would freedom fit into things?

Anarchists have a good record of working alongside others to win whatever victories are presently possible and of using methods that encourage working class self-confidence rather

than reliance on personalities or leaders.

However when it comes to the proposals for 'left unity' we need to look at what is on the table - most immediately it's an alliance for the 26 county local elections next summer.

The failure of the left in the last century was, to a very large extent, that it adopted the political organisation of capitalism in promoting a system of choosing some person or party to govern the working class.

This emphasis on leaders and parties is also a legacy of the failure of 20th century 'socialism'. Let us not forget that practically all of this left takes its inspiration from the Bolshevik party and its state capitalist dictatorship in the old Soviet Union. What we need today is not some sort of united front of existing minor parties, but rather a break with that whole methodology.

Most importantly, real socialism is inseparable from freedom and direct democracy. Freedom to speak, to discuss, to travel, to organise, to take control of our own lives. All those effected by a decision should have the opportunity of taking part in making that decision. We reject as contrary to our political project any vision of socialism that does not explicitly oppose the division of people into rulers and ruled.

Joe King