

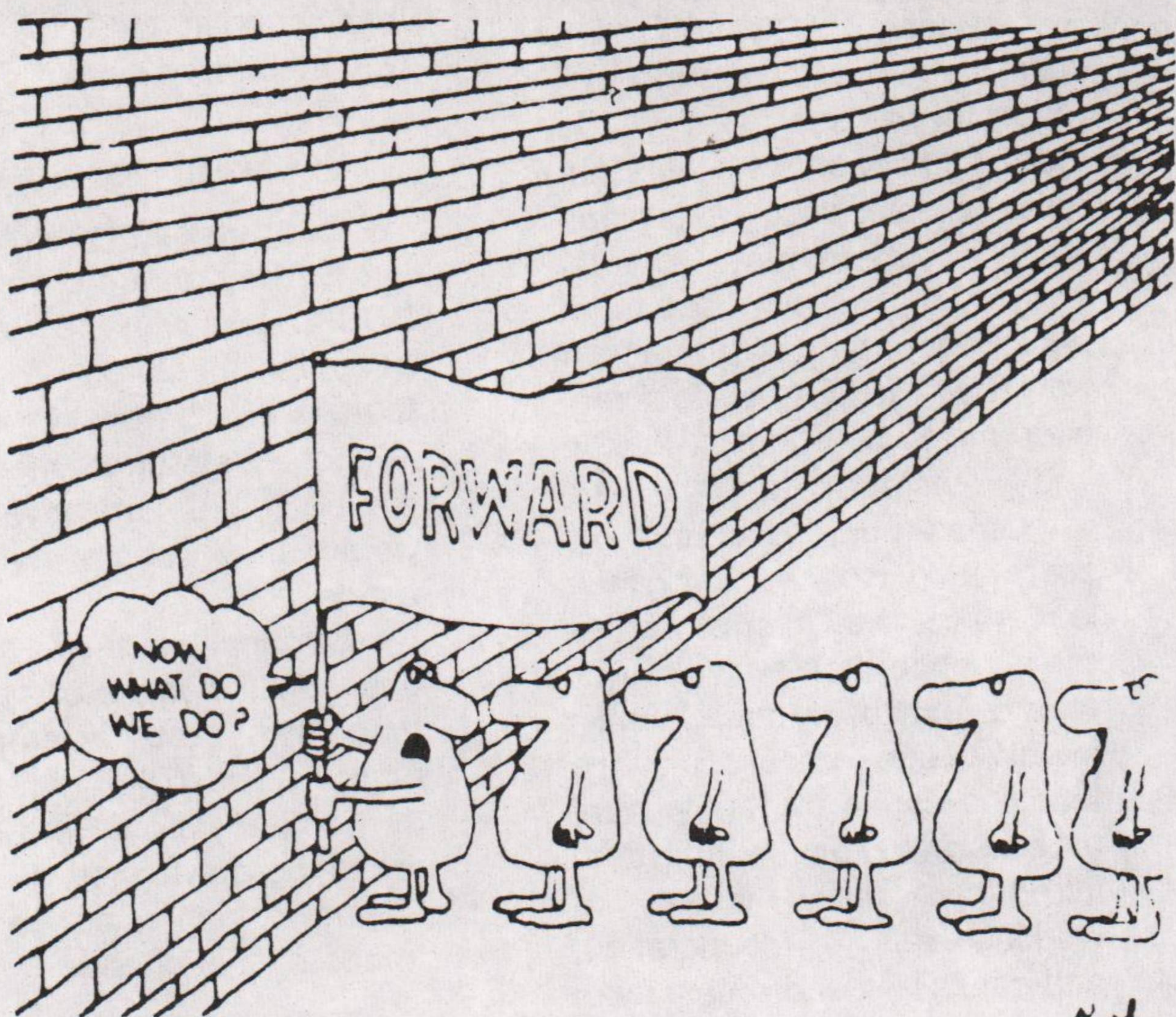
Resistance

No 2 Spring '95

Bulletin of the Irish Anarchist Communist Federation

CREATE PEACE ? UNITE IRELAND???

CREATE PEACE - SMASH THE STATE!



WHY exactly do we in the IACF oppose the statist solutions put forward by the Loyalists and the Republicans? After all Sinn Fein are supposed to be left wing....aren't they ?

This is where we disagree. The solutions to the Irish 'problem' cannot be found in the creed of the paramilitaries. As anarchists we oppose the creation of any new state whether it is republican, socialist or anything else. A state is a system that oppresses the individual. From the moment you are born the state has you on the computer. Your education, your prospects and your entire life is controlled and regulated. You are told what to do and what not to do. Violence is used against you if you don't comply. Your individuality is suppressed in an mish-mash of rubbish culture. The values you are taught are capitalist values: "getting on", being the winner, have more than anyone else etc. etc.

The police and army are there with guns and batons to make sure you comply. If you step out of line you are imprisoned and blacklisted for life. you are given the stigma of being 'anti-social' or a 'troublemaker'.

While all this is going on you have to work for your boss. He makes money off the labour you perform. The work you do is 'rewarded' by a pittance (sometimes called 'a wage').

It is this system that we seek to destroy. Only by doing this can we destroy imperialism in all its forms: political, cultural and economic.

The Republican movement claims that it is fighting imperialism. Fair enough, but what is it going to replace it with ? Easy answer to that: the same system just described above that now exists in the 26 counties. We will have the 'joy' of being united with a State that has an appalling record of bigotry and racism (e.g. the treatment meted out to Travelers, the X case etc. etc.)Of course the Loyalists are totally different...well maybe not. Their system has been running for years. The bosses in the North operate in exactly the same way as the bosses in the republic. They pay their workers the minimum wages possible, they get rich off our work and they have state apparatus on their side. Even so called 'progressive' Loyalists have this agenda in mind despite their moderate or even 'socialist' rhetoric.

We in the Irish Anarchist Communist Federation take a

radically different view of what is meant by "change". We don't want to see a Green Ireland of Irish bosses and cops and we don't see a reformed Northern state of 'equal' citizens. We envisage a society where no-one is the leader. No-one can exploit anyone else. There is no army, no police, no government telling us how to run our lives.

Instead we envisage a system of locally, regionally and nationally coordinated councils which are run by the people and for the people. There is enough food for all and a roof over everyone's head as people work together voluntarily without the state.

All it takes is one push and the whole rotting structure will come crashing down. The government relies on our work to keep it going. Without us they are helpless. Once the working class fights together for revolution then the state will be confined to the dustbin of history and we can live our lives in social justice and freedom.

This is the kind of Ireland we want. Not the kind proposed by the Loyalists or Republicans but the kind that is truly free : An Anarchist Ireland.

ANIMAL RIOTS

DURING February several protests were held outside Belfast International Airport campaigning against live animal exports.

Monika Kaye of the Northern Groups against Live Animal Exports challenged the authorities with this statement: "We wrote to the airport on Monday requesting a meeting. This letter and several phone calls have been ignored. Now it's time for direct action."

The IACF welcomes the actions of the demonstrators; however single issues are but a part of the overall fight - the fight against capitalism (of which the live export trade is only a small part!).

THINKING OF THOSE MORE FORTUNATE

FEBRUARY saw pay rises for the State cretins in the Northern Ireland ruling-elite.

Sir Brian Hutton (NI Lord Chief Justice) has had his pay increased to £144,879. David Fell (head of NI Civil Service) whose present salary is £87,435. John Chilcot (permanent secretary at the Northern Ireland office) now earns more than his usual salary of £95,051. Most top civil servants can expect a %25 pay rise while public service workers (like nurses and midwives) can expect %1.5 to %3.2. Basically the gap between rich and poor is getting wider. It's not to get better on its own. The only way to end this inequality is through revolution!

Peace, What Peace ?

SINCE the paramilitary cease-fires people are still looking forward to some sense of normality over here: the *normal* poverty, the *normal* unemployment etc. We still have the *normal* antics of the security forces. For example - since the cease-fire there have been numerous clashes between the security forces and civilians:

- 23rd October '94: Several people are hurt when the RUC open up with plastic bullets in Cookstown.
- 2 November '94: Crossmaglen man kidnapped and flown at gun point to Gough barracks where is offered money to become an informer.
- 5 November '94: Local people clash with British foot patrol in Newry. Several people were clubbed with rifles and batons. Five arrests.
- 16 November '94: One man is hospitalized after being attacked and abused by Paras in Belfast.

Peace?...WHAT PEACE?

Just Send 5 first class stamps to receive the next five issues of RESISTANCE.

WORKING CLASS LOYALISM ?



THE emergence onto the political centre stage of new loyalist parties in late 1994 left many people wondering what if this new "working-class" loyalism was going to dethrone the dinosaurs of the OUP and Paisley's DUP.

When the loyalist ceasefire was declared parties like the Progressive Union Party and the Ulster Democratic Party seemed to have created an alternative for loyalist workers who were sick of the middle-class nature of traditional Unionism.

These parties went for broke with TV exposure, newspaper coverage and trips to the US etc. etc. We even had the experience of Gusto Spence (founder of the modern UVF) calling himself a "unionist socialist"!!

What exactly is this new loyalism? Gary McMichael of the UDP seems to think that there "is a lot of progressive thinking within loyalism and it is very positive". Hmmm

Anarchist-Communists doubt this very much. Loyalism of any left wing slant is doomed to failure. Even these "new" loyalists cling to the rotten edifice of the Orange state which *cannot* be reformed in the interest of the working class (exactly the same as any other state).

Attempts have been made before at creating "socialist loyalism". These attempts at community centres and alternative political parties, by the UDA and UVF respectively have failed miserably in an atmosphere of bigotry and sectarianism.

Of course it is possible to inject a tiny element of socialist policy into the loyalist groups but this will never amount to

genuine socialism. Genuine Socialism means freedom from the State, freedom from capitalism and freedom from Imperialism. It would be impossible for right-wing, reactionary loyalists to adopt these aims.

The fact is that despite the rhetoric of the UDP and the PUP they are loyalists first and foremost; not necessarily loyal to the British government but loyal to "Ulster". This means propping up the Northern Ireland state and making cross-community working-class unity impossible.

This is all in theory because (as a recent by-election in Newtonabbey showed) despite the media hype, the ideas of these "new" parties have been electorally rejected in favour of traditional middle-class Unionism.

The persistence adherence of Protestant workers to Unionism has a lot to do with the myth of Protestant privilege. There has been a large increase in working-class poverty and city areas like the Shankill Road suffer from chronic unemployment.

However the Loyalist ideology of "One Faith, One Crown" always sabotages class-unity.

In the past Catholic and Protestant workers have come together and fought against all the bosses. The 1932 Outdoor Relief Riots the 1982 health workers dispute and countless other smaller incidents of class unity have shown time and time again that Protestant workers can be split from the reactionary ideas of loyalism *but only in a working-class perspective*. As soon as the "national question" is raised by the bosses the loyalists are

waiting with open arms to welcome back "disloyal" Protestant workers.

Anarchists in the North have to move beyond this ideology and form a *real* alternative to these groups. It is not going to be long before the government does a conclusive deal with the Republicans. Dissatisfaction with the Loyalist groups will reach fever-pitch and it will be then that anarchists will be able to introduce libertarian ideas to Protestant workers. They will be confused and angry and perhaps anarchism will be seen as a real alternative by both Catholic and Protestant.

Grass-roots Republicans are getting isolated from their leadership, the Unionist parties are no longer held with any real regard (except by the Unionist middle-class) and soon the tensions cause by the "peace" process will allow anarchists to introduce their ideas of working-class cooperation, anti-capitalism and anti-statism to the workers of the North and move forward on the only truly revolutionary road - the road of Anarchist-Communism.

SAYING WHAT YOU THINK

ONE resentful worker in a Town Hall in Wakefield West Yorkshire, England, was so fed up with the antics of her town council that she posted a three page document to them saying (among other things) that one councilor was a "Senile, diooling, pathetic old pervert"!!

A sentiment we would all agree with...

STATE TERRORISM ACT

A report on the highly controversial Prevention of Terrorism Act has been published by a London civil rights group. One of the reports authors said "The PTA and other emergency laws which apply to Northern Ireland have failed in their original purpose and over time have become part of the problem rather than the solution".

The PTA is coming up for review early in March and we hope that it will disappear from the Statute Books. Anarchists totally condemn this piece of legislation which was designed to consolidate state power in order to safeguard their financial interests. The PTA was introduced by a Labour

government and has resulted in the imprisonment of thousands of innocent Irish people.

Ironically the British Labour party welcomed the criticism of the Act and the shadow secretary for Northern Ireland call for a wholesale review of the Act! The British government were quite content to let the violence remain in the North. It was only when the Provos targeted the "mainland" that they introduced this draconian legislation. It has been used to harass innocent Irish working class people so we call for its repeal.

PAISLEY TOO SOFT

WE had the surprise of hearing Ian Paisley announcing on the BBC that he was too soft! The Big Man declared: "I think there was a time when if I had advocate stronger measures, maybe the British government would have sat up and taken notice"

Stronger measures! The only conclusion we can draw is that the tired, increasingly marginalised DUP is feeling the other Loyalist parties breathing down their neck and are now trying to appear more "modern". Fat chance!

ZAPATISTAS

ON Wednesday 1st of March our comrades from the Workers Solidarity Movement held a picket outside Chase bank and Mexican Embassy in Dublin. All this is because of a leaked document to the Mexican Government from the Chase bank calling for the elimination of Zapatista rebels "to demonstrate their effective control of national territory".

The Zapatista are a Mexican revolutionary army who call for people to "destroy this state, this State system. Lets open up this space and confront them with ideas, not weapons".

We hope that the WSM picket highlighted their cause.

LIES, DAMN LIES AND TRUTH

SOME "interesting" statistics:

- Bosses pay increases from 1990-1994: 82%
- Workers pay increases from 1990-1994: 15%

Need we say more?

Interested in finding out more?

Contact IACF at

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