



Martyn Turner / The Irish Times

## ***Sinn Féin The Workers' Party***

### WHAT IS SINN FEIN THE WORKERS' PARTY?

Sinn Féin The Workers' Party (SFWP) is the largest socialist party in Ireland; It has branches in all of the 32 Counties of Ireland and in Northern Ireland -- for historical reasons -- it is known as Republican Clubs The Workers' Party.

### WHAT IS THE AIM OF SFWP?

The ultimate objective of SFWP is the establishment of a Democratic Socialist Republic. This secular State will be run by and for the working people of Ireland -- of all religions and none. It will seize the resources of Ireland and put them to work for the people of Ireland. It will feed, clothe, shelter and educate all its people without fear or favour, according to their need.

## HOW WILL SFWP ACHIEVE ITS AIM?

A party of the working class like SFWP can only achieve its aims if enough working people support it. To gain that vital support SFWP educates and organises on all the political, economic and social issues that effect -- or in the case of the North -- divide our people.

## BUT HOW ARE THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH TO BE UNITED?

It is understandable that people in Britain should be mainly concerned about Northern Ireland but remember that SFWP is active in Southern Ireland politics and that is an area where we have built - and continue to build - significant support.

That said, the answer to the question is to look at what divides the people in Northern Ireland and without doubt that is sectarianism. That sectarianism is at its most vicious in the actions of the catholic and protestant terrorists but it permeates into many other areas of daily life. SFWP's job is to campaign, and to co-operate with other organisations, in campaigning against sectarianism in all its guises, both formal and informal e.g. religious control of schools and discrimination in employment. It must be remembered that while many Northern protestants believe that sectarianism guarantees them 'privilege' they correctly point out that 'Home Rule' has meant 'Rome Rule' in the South and they fear the extension of that sectarian rule to the North.

## IS THERE A MILITARY SOLUTION TO THE NORTH?

If you mean is it possible to force one million protestants into a 'United' Ireland then the answer is no. Indeed, the longer the terrorist campaign continues the further working class unity, or for that matter, geographical unity is pushed back. SFWP is not interested in a spurious geographical unity which merely makes it easier for capitalism to exploit our people and whose 'integrity' as a State would probably have to be guaranteed by NATO at the expense of our neutrality. Capitalism is already united through the banks and big business. Our aim is the unity of the working class -- an aim which should be common to all socialists.

DO YOU AGREE WITH THOSE WHO ADVOCATE 'TROOPS OUT NOW'.

SFWP believes that troops should be withdrawn to barracks pending their ultimate withdrawal. But to call for immediate withdrawal is tantamount to calling for civil war. Can the people who so glibly call for troops out explain how the 7500 Ulster Defence Regiment members, the RUC and the RUC Reserve are going to be withdrawn..? Not to mention the protestant and catholic paramilitaries! The only way to get the troops out is to create the political conditions whereby they can be withdrawn as peacefully as possible.

WHAT, IN SFWP'S VIEW, WOULD BE THE BIGGEST STEP FORWARD NOW?

Without doubt, peace and democracy, are the most important demands we can make at this time. The significance of peace was underlined at an annual conference of SFWP by the Party President Tomas MacGiolla:

"Our repeated call has been for peace. It is the most revolutionary demand at this time...We do not want the false peace of total surrender. We do not want peace between the exploiter and the exploited. We want peace between the poor and the wretched. Peace that will lift, in the North, the daily burden of British, Loyalist and Provisional terror that has been loaded on top of the daily burden of wage robbery. Peace that will give Catholic working people a pause and a chance to identify the parasites that feed on them. Peace that will allow the Protestant working people a pause to identify the real causes of his present misery. Peace, not in the woolly hope that Protestant and Catholic will come together by supernatural dispensation. Peace, not in the sick fantasies of the ultra-left, where the Protestant is to be beaten by Nationalists on a Monday and told to behave like a socialist by the same people on a Tuesday. We want a peace that removes the British jackboot, the Hibernian gunman and the Orange bomber, so that all our people can join in the struggle for the re-conquest of Ireland from the Bankers, the Profiteers and the Exploiters -- the struggle of the working class and the doomed small farmer class for the ownership and control of

the wealth of Ireland.  
THAT IS THE NATIONAL STRUGGLE WHICH FACES US."

WHAT SHOULD PEOPLE IN BRITAIN DO TO SUPPORT THE STRUGGLE?

The most important thing is to reject any simplistic solutions like 'Troops Out'. All solutions should be judged according to whether they unite the working class in struggle for a better life or divide them by calling for sectarian solutions. As long as the British Government retains control over Northern Ireland then the Labour movement in Britain must call for changes which are progressive. We believe that the slogan must be PEACE, WORK AND CLASS POLITICS and that the demands must be for --

- \* A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT.
- \* AN ENTRENCHED BILL OF RIGHTS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND.
- \* A MASSIVE INJECTION OF STATE AID TO HALT THE COLLAPSE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND ECONOMY.
- \* THE REPEAL OF ALL REPRESSIVE LEGISLATION INCLUDING THE DIPLOCK COURTS, THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT AND THE PAYMENT OF DEBT ACT.
- \* A REVIEW OF ALL PRISON CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING CONDITIONS FOR ALL PRISONERS.

**PEACE,  
WORK  
& CLASS  
POLITICS**

**Clann na hEireann  
Irish Workers Organisation**

If you are interested in the work Clann does and want to know more then write to  
**Clann, 173 Lozells Road, Birmingham 19.**  
We can also supply speakers for meetings to outline the policies we fight for.

*(In London area contact Clann at  
30 Camden Road, London NW1.)*

Printed and published by Clann na hEireann-Irish Workers' Organisation, support group in Britain for Sinn Fein The Workers' Party.