
Workers' Party of Ireland

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Freedom
Democracy
Equality

THE WORKERS' PARTY
ARD FHEIS/ANNUAL
DELEGATE CONFERENCE
1991

CLÁR
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Steering Committee Recommendations :- motions 1 - 26 to be taken in order of appearance. 1-2 to be taken together, 3 on its own, 4-6 together, 7 on its own, 8-10 together, 11-12 together, 13-16 separately, 17-20 taken together but debated separately, 17-21 taken together but debated separately, 22-27 taken together.

Northern Ireland

Democratic Convention
1. This Ard Fheis reaffirms our belief that political progress in Northern Ireland by the constitutional political parties is essential to the elimination of terrorism and the development of the democratic process.

The wish of the vast majority of the people of Northern Ireland is for such progress and no narrow sectional interests should be allowed to obstruct movement towards:

a) the development of substantial powers to a central democratic institution for Northern Ireland;

b) a Bill of Rights to underwrite such an institution;

c) the implementation of a comprehensive programme of economic and social reconstruction for Northern Ireland.

BELFAST REGIONAL EXECUTIVE

2. This Ard Fheis supports the work of the Northern Ireland Region of the Party in their campaign to establish a Democratic Convention in Northern Ireland.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL (Dublin North West)

Emigration
3. This Ard Fheis takes cognizance of the serious consequences that emigration is having on whole communities, particularly in rural areas, and demands that the government directs funds and resources to counteract this trend.

DERRY (East Derry)

Neutrality
4. This Ard Fheis requests the Political Committee to undertake an indepth study of the security and defence implication of European Union with a view to ensuring that Irish foreign policy is based on principle of collective security negotiated through the machinery of The United Nations and apart from any security or defence arrangement based upon the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

NORTH CITY CENTRE (Dublin Central)

5. This Ard Fheis instructs the C.E.C. to arrange for further discussion of Ireland's neutrality so as to encourage our members and supporters to gain a wider understanding of neutrality and its implications.

LUCAN (Dublin West)

6. That this Ard Fheis in view of the government's support for the unnecessary action in the Gulf, accepts the need for the continuation of Irish neutrality.

DONNYCARNEY (Dublin North Central)
An Ghaeilge

7. Go gcothofai usaid na Gaeilge imeasc Páirti no nOibrithe agus sa tir i gcoitinne, agus go mbunofai coiste faoi leith don Ghaeilge laistigh den Páirti.

MAIGHNUAD (CIII Dara)

Defence

8. This Ard Fheis congratulates and salutes the victory of the ordinary members of the Defence Forces in the statutory establishment of Representative Associations. We welcome the formation of PDFORRA and RACO. We look forward to working with them in their pursuit of democracy and fair work conditions within the Defence Forces.

KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)

9. This Ard Fheis calls for greater speed in settling discussions on terms of reference and duties of the Representative Associations in the Defence Forces so they can begin functioning fully in the service of their members and in pursuit of that mandate.

KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)

10. This Ard Fheis welcomes the publication of the comprehensive Gleeson Report on pay and other conditions in the Defence Forces and calls on the government to give full effect to all its proposals.

KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)

Democracy

11. This Ard Fheis calls for state funding to be provided for political parties.

WEXFORD

12. This Ard Fheis believes that advertisements announcing an intention to refuse service to members of Security Forces in Northern Ireland, which are being published in newspapers as a direct result of death threats to the business people concerned, should be refused publication. This should be effected by a firm policy agreement between all newspapers publishers and by legislation making the publication of such advertisements illegal.

DERRY (East Derry)

Shannon Airport

13. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to undertake an independent inquiry into the present stop-over requirements of transatlantic flights to land at Shannon. The Workers' Party is concerned at the potential loss of jobs and economic development in the mid-west region should this stop-over be abolished.

LIMERICK (Limerick East)

Border Roads

14. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Provisionals to stop their cross-border bombing campaign, which would then facilitate the re-opening of cross-border roads.

CAVAN/MONAGHAN CC
Easter 1916 Commemoration

15 This Ard Fheis states that as a political party with the aim of being a party of the future, the Workers' Party should no longer hold commemorative marches to mark the anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin, as these marches tend to detract from the party's avowed position of being non violent and non sectarian.

ANTRIM TOWN (South Antrim)

Class Struggle

16 This Ard Fheis while recognising the importance of cultural and ideological struggle reasserts the central importance of class struggle, the working class and the role of a revolutionary socialist party in the movement for political, economic and social change and the transformation of capitalist society.

CROMAC (South Belfast)

Youth

17 This Ard Fheis resolves that the youth of the country be involved in national policy making, specifically through granting a properly representative National Youth Council full negotiating rights as a social partner in future national programmes on economic and social development.

MAYNOOTH (Kildare)

18 This Ard Fheis applauds the work of the organisation, "Families Against Intimidation and Terror", in their heroic decision to expose the vicious attacks on young people by paramilitary gangs in Northern Ireland.

FINGLAS EAST (Dublin North West)

19 This Ard Fheis calls on the Departments of Health and Education to develop a comprehensive and fully resourced programme on alcohol and drug awareness and that such a programme be an integral part of the curriculum in all post-primary schools.

WEXFORD

20 This Ard Fheis wholeheartedly commends the "Wider Horizons" youth education and training initiative, involving young people from Wexford, Enniskillen and Belfast's Shankill Road.

WEXFORD

The Elderly

21 This Ard Fheis recalls and reaaffirms the comprehensive policy statement on the elderly adopted at the 1990 Ard Fheis.
Notes that very little has changed for the better for the elderly since then and that our society continues to treat older people as second-class rather than honoured citizens.
In particular we condemn the lack of adequate housing for the elderly and we call upon the Department of the Environment to provide the necessary capital funds for a comprehensive countrywide programme for the construction of senior citizen housing including clusters of houses and flats specially designed for older people and resident warders and day rooms for communal activities.
This Ard Fheis also regrets the restrictive nature of the rules of entitlement to the Carer's Allowance. We calls for these restrictions to be lifted to allow for greater entitlement levels.

NORTH CITY CENTRE (Dublin Central)
An Post

22. This Ard Fheis, recognising the important role which An Post plays in rural and urban life, and recognising the need to have an efficient and viable company to fulfil these needs, demands -
(a) a comprehensive review of all An Post operations be undertaken by an independent body.
(b) that the social dimension of An Post's services be costed.
(c) that funding be made available for providing these services, either through government or European Community funding.

SHANKILL/BALLYBRACK (Dun Laoghaire)

23. That this Ard Fheis recognises that An Post must be re-imbursed for social aspects to the service they provide and recognises that An Post has potential and should be allowed to expand and develop in other areas such as banking.

LEIXLIP (Kildare)

24. This Ard Fheis views with grave concern the implications contained in the viability plan published by An Post. It is imperative that the government clearly states its position on the future of the postal services prior to the 1991 local elections.

SOUTH CENTRAL (Cork South Central)

25. This Ard Fheis rejects the approach of An Post management in attempting to bring the company into profitability. As a first step we believe that a full costing of the social implications of the plan should be established and that the government should invest the monies earmarked in the 1983 Post and Telecommunications Act to modernise the company.

KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)

26. This Ard Fheis condemns outrightly the proposed closure and/or down-grading of the Post Offices in rural Ireland.

Cavan/Monaghan C.C.

27. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to intervene by subvending the activity of An Post preventing job losses and post office closure and calls for a programme for rural development.

MALLOW (Cork East)

28. Caineann an Ard Fheis so an moladh a bhi deanta ag an Rialtas an chuid is mo do'ligi Poist na Tire a dhunadh (an plean ata curtha i leathaobh anois no go mbeidh na togchaim altiuil thart) agus ta muid ag iarraidh aire raiteas a dheanamh a ro nach gcuirfear deire leis an tseirbhís seo agus an raiteas seo dheanamh roimh an 27adh Meithiceamh.

CATHAR GAILLIMH THIAR
ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Steering Committee Recommendations: - motions 1 and 2 to be taken together, 3 -5 to be taken together, 6 and 7 separately, 8-10 taken together, 11-12 taken together, 15-17 taken together, 18-22 taken together, 23 taken separately, 24 -25 taken together, 26 - 31 taken together, 32 taken separately, 33 -36 taken together, 37 -40 taken together, 41 taken separately.

Planning Documentation
1. This Ard Fheis calls on Dail Eireann to enact the necessary planning legislation with a view to making all relevant documentation available for public inspection prior to planning decision. It should also be noted that where a contract report is submitted to a planning authority as a substitute for an Environmental Impact Study that copies of the said contract report be made available to all interested parties at a nominal cost.

SOUTH CENTRAL (Cork South Central)

2. The Ard Fheis, in view of the ongoing inequities in the planning process, demands that public confidence be restored through the proper determination and consistency in planning decisions and that the county and city development plans which are a statutory planning instrument be adhered to in the interest of both the proper planning and development process and local democracy.

SOUTH CENTRAL (Cork South Central)

Pollution
3. This Ard Fheis seeks more severe fines for those found guilty of environmental pollution offences.

SOUTH CENTRAL (Cork South Central)

Coal Ban
4. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for the Environment to recognise the hardship caused by the banning of bituminous coal and calls for measures to abolish VAT on smokeless fuels and to re-introduce conversion grants so as to allow a choice of heating methods.

LUCAN (Dublin West)

5. This Ard Fheis notes the many difficulties which have been caused for householders in Dublin by the enforced switch to smokeless fuels. Therefore we call for:
   * VAT to be abolished on low smoke fuels;
   * a maximum price order for these fuels;
   * reintroduction of conversion grants;
   * profits from An Bord Gais to be used to extend the gas grid in Dublin;
   * greater efforts by Bord Na Mona to make its products more readily available and cheaper.

NORTH CITY CENTRE (Dublin Central)

Fire Regulations
6. That this Ard Fheis calls upon the Minister for the Environment to implement all the recommendations regarding the fire services arising from the Report on the Stardust disaster ten years ago.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL (Dublin North West)
Save Santry Wood
7. This Ard Fheis:
a) Supports the campaign to save Santry Woods as a natural amenity against private developers;
b) supports the save Santry Woods group "Saor Coitche Sheantruibh";
c) supports the campaign to purchase Santry Woods by County Council compulsory purchase order and to maintain the present tree preservation order.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL (Dublin North West)

Service Charges
8. This Ard Fheis condemns the continued imposition of service charges and recognises that they are not the solution to the funding of Local Authorities.

KILDARE C.C.

9. This Ard Fheis re-affirms its total opposition to the introduction of local service charges, until such time as the PAYE worker achieves tax equity with other groups, and a fair system of rate support grant is introduced.

WATERFORD NO. 3 (Waterford)

10. This Ard Fheis reaffirms its total opposition to double taxation in the form of local service charges and notes with satisfaction the political leadership provided by our party on this issue.

WEXFORD

Ground Rents
11. This Ard Fheis records another year in which Fianna Fail in government has failed to honour its commitment to abolish ground rents, and as a "first and immediate step" those rents belonging to the State and local authorities.

Welcomes the publishing of the Workers' Party Bill to amend the constitution to abolish ground rents and calls on the government to hold a referendum on the matter with the local election poll on June 27th.

KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)

12. This Ard Fheis:-
a) condemns the harassment of householders by Ground Landlords;
b) demands the immediate abolition of Ground Rent;
c) calls on the government to introduce a Constitutional Amendment if necessary to facilitate this.

DUBLIN SOUTH

13. This Ard Fheis welcomes the efforts of its Environmental spokesperson in bringing before Dail Eireann the "Abolition of Ground Rents Bill" and asks its members elected to that body, to re-double their efforts in bringing about an end to this outdated form of extortion.

BLACKROCK (Dun Laoghaire)

14. This Ard Fheis reiterates the Party position of total abolition of Ground Rents and fully endorses the terms of the Workers' Party Private Members Bill in this regard.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL (Dublin North West)

Local Infrastructure
15. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for the Environment to recognise the special conditions prevailing in the North Kildare area by providing adequate funding for the repair of roads and footpaths and the provision of public lighting.

MAYNOOTH (Kildare)
16. This Ard Fheis recognises that the present funding of roads and footpaths tends to prioritise the maintenance of roads over footpaths and calls on the Minister to make separate allocation of funds for the maintenance of footpaths.

KILDARE C.C.

17. This Ard Fheis condemns the Fianna Fail/P.D. Coalition for the cutbacks in local authority funding which has resulted in the deterioration of roads and footpaths and puts road users lives at serious risk.

KILDARE C.C.

**Infrastructure and Amenity**

18. This Ard Fheis condemns the proposal contained in the current Draft Development Plan for County Dublin for large scale development of south County Dublin, especially for 'Carrickmines Valley', considering that it is designated a 'high amenity area,' and demands of the Minister for Environment that:

a) development of the Carrickmines Valley be properly planned and not developed to facilitate speculators,
b) that the local community be fully consulted and involved in discussion by County Council officials on all future development of the Valley;
c) community amenities be an integral part of any such development.

SHANKHILL/BALLYBRACK (Dun Laoghaire)

19. This Ard Fheis notes that although the Tallaght area in Co. Dublin now has a population in excess of 80,000, a number of key aspects of infrastructure have not yet been put in place.

In particular, the Ard Fheis deplores the way in which government has mishandled the following:

a) Transport: although the 1973 CIE plan for DART included a Tallaght line, this has now been abandoned by government.
b) Health: although building of a Regional Hospital was to begin this year, this has been deferred until "public finances permit."
c) Education: the Tallaght R.T.C., proposed more than ten years ago, became subject to 'stop - go' planning and the latest opening date is 1992.

TALLAGHT EAST/GREENHILLS (Dublin South West)

20. This Ard Fheis calls on all party activists in the Dublin Region to support in some way, the campaign of their party colleagues in Dublin South West, to have the Tallaght Hospital built, and to reverse the decision of this FF/PD government.

TALLAGHT WEST (Dublin South West)

21. This Ard Fheis asks our future party Councillors, elected to Dublin County Council, to initiate a policy for the incoming Council, which would seek to have the Tallaght Town Square completed by the inclusion of the original Civic and Public Buildings.

TALLAGHT WEST (Dublin South West)

22. This Ard Fheis notes the many arguments for and against the ports access route. Calls for real consultation with local interests which could best be achieved through an independent tribunal.

NORTH CITY CENTRE (Dublin Central)
Culture and the Citizen
23. That this Ard Fheis:
* notes with concern the exclusive and elitist nature of the state funding of the arts, especially during Dublin's year as European Cultural Capital;
and therefore
* demands that the state increase its subsidy of the arts, not merely at the point of production but also at the point of delivery;
* demands further that priority be given to culturally deprived urban and rural areas so that the present cultural and geographical bias is not perpetuated.

CABRA (Dublin Central)

Public Libraries
24. This Ard Fheis:
* believes that there should not be a charge for any public library service to the general public and that this should be enshrined in legislation;
* condemns the cutback in public library opening hours around the country as a result of Government embargo on recruitment in the public service;
* urges the Party and its members to fully utilise the facilities of the Public Library system to propagate the aims and objectives of the Party.

DRUMCONDRA/MARINO (Dublin Central)

25. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls for the proper funding and development of the public library service as a national cultural resource.

ARD COMHAIRLE (CEC)

Local Government Policy
26. That this Ard Fheis instructs the C.E.C. to publish a policy document on Local Democracy (in advance of the Local Elections) and that this document should emphasise:
a) maximum participation by local communities in Local Government;
b) efficient and courteous provision of services by Local Authorities;
c) the need to address issues such as housing, road safety, transport and the environment;
d) the need to reverse the abuses of planning procedures by some Councillors;
e) the inadequacy of the government's proposal for the re-organisation of Local Government.

BALLYBRACK (Dun Laoghaire)

27. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Workers' Party to produce a pamphlet outlining proposals for Local Government reform before the Local Government Elections.

FINGLAS EAST (Dublin North West)

28. This Ard Fheis believes the concept of the involvement of non-governmental organisations in local government must be recognized, encouraged and legislated for and calls on the Environment and Local Government Committee to look at ways of achieving this aim.

LEIXLIP (Kildare)

29. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for the Environment to direct Local Authorities to take active steps to increase participation by community groups in the formulation of development plans.

WEXFORD

30. That this Ard Fheis recognises that Local Authorities are not secret societies and that availability of access to Local Authority meetings for members of the public and availability of minutes are basic requirements.

LEIXLIP (Kildare)
This Ard Fheis broadly welcomes the report of the expert committee on Local Government reform as an important step in the improvement of local democracy, but condemns the government for totally ignoring the most important aspects of the report, and condemns their proposals for their selectivity of parts of the report which are politically expedient to the government parties.

**TALLAGHT EAST/ GREENHILLS (Dublin South West)**

**Franchise**

This Ard Fheis calls for changes to be made in the laws governing elections and referenda to allow for voting on Sundays and outlawing canvassing at polling stations.

**SOUTH CENTRAL (Cork South Central)**

**Local Public Representatives**

This Ard Fheis views its local public representatives as initiators of radical democratisation. Therefore, this Ard Fheis instructs party Councillors and local representatives to implement the following measures where practical:

* Report Back Meetings: that each Councillor/Representative hold a general public meeting in their Ward, or each district of their Ward, on a quarterly/half yearly basis, with the intention of reporting briefly on work done and issues raised as well as answering questions from the public.
* That a regular information mailing detailing the activities of party Councillors be sent to all local community organisations (resident and tenant associations).
* Advice Centres: A standard advice leaflet giving basic information, essential phone numbers and addresses etc. should be available at all advice centres held by party Councillors and local representatives.
  
  One party member in each Ward should be appointed to 'trawl' advice cases so as to identify common themes around which campaigns can be initiated.

  The Councillor/local representative should attempt to provide resources as well as advice to community groups:- assistance in organising campaigns, drawing up leaflets etc.
* Campaigning: while this is a major part of overall party strategy, Councillors have a specific role. They should highlight and publicise campaigns initiated by local branches. In turn, branches should back up proposals/motions put by Councillors in the Council Chamber with campaigning activity.

**DUN LAOGHAIRE (Dun Laoghaire)**

This Ard Fheis resolves that immediately after Local elections each Region would convene a special meeting of members and the elected representatives to discuss tactics and a programme of work for the future term with yearly reviews.

**FINGLAS WEST (Dublin North West)**

That this Ard Fheis proposes the formation at local level, where practical, of a progress alliance of Councillors from the Workers' party, Labour Party, Green Party, and progressive independents. Based on a minimum reform programme, which would commit all involved to acting in concert on a number of major issues (estimate, voting for chair etc.). While a deal with any conservative party is out of the question, individual FF/FG/PD Councillors could be detached so as to support various elements of our minimum programme at different times.

Such a progressive alliance must be backed up at a grassroots level. It must not be a simple voting bloc of left Councillors. Consequently, a loose alliance of political parties, residents and tenants associations, local Trades Councils as well as prominent individuals, backing this minimum programme should be built. The 'democratic bloc' should be a local 'movement' rather than a political deal between the Workers' party and Labour.

This Ard Fheis instructs all branches/Councillors to act on this motion as soon as the local elections are over.

**DUN LAOGHAIRE (Dun Laoghaire)**
That this Ard Fheis calls on its local Councillors to support and promote policies at every level, whereby in planning the "Built Environment" particular attention is paid to the needs of women.

BLACKROCK (Dub Laoghaire)

Travelling Community

This Ard Fheis in view of local authorities' ongoing failure to respond to the accommodation needs of the Travelling community, calls for a national plan to be elaborated by a Commission set up for this purpose and for mandatory implementation by the local authorities.

This plan to be prepared in partnership with the national organisations representing Traveller issues, and implemented at local level with the active participation of the Travellers affected. The plan must provide for the Travelling community in a culturally appropriate manner, including a recognition and resourcing of their right to be nomadic.

CLONDALKIN (Dublin South West)

This Ard Fheis condemns the reticence of many local district councils in providing properly serviced sites for the travelling community and calls for specific statutory provision compelling district councils in Northern Ireland to provide such facilities.

CROMAC (South Belfast)

This Ard Fheis:-

a) Recognises that the Travelling community, comprising 0.5% of the Irish population and numbering 16,000, has a population profile resembling that of a developing country, reflecting high fertility rates and life expectancy for travellers being ten years less than for the settled community.

b) Acknowledges that access to and utilisation of better health care is only part of the solution. Local Authorities must make major improvements in living circumstances of Travellers, regardless of their wish to live in a house or not, so that immediate requirements such as food, shelter and warmth are met.

c) Instructs our representatives on Local Authorities, in consultation with representatives of the Travelling community, to pursue the extension and upgrading of accommodation on the basis of it being a basic human right, as a prerequisite to the provision of education and as part of a multifaceted approach to health needs.

T.C.D. BRANCH

This Ard Fheis condemns the insurance companies' racist exclusion of Travellers from motor insurance, and calls on them to remove Travellers from their list of "unacceptable risks".

CLONDALKIN (Dublin South West)

Dublin Corporation

This Ard Fheis calls for special training for Dublin Corporation officials, who deal with the public, e.g. Housing Department and Rents Section, to ensure a mutual understanding of difficulties facing both public and officials due to cutbacks which lead to inadequate service, thereby causing stress, confusion and upset.

NORTH CITY CENTRE (Dublin Central)
HOUSING

Steering Committee Recommendations: - motions 1 -8 to be taken together as one substantive motion on the Local Authority housing crisis and Government response, 9 and 10 to be taken together, 11 - 13 taken together, 14 - 16 to be taken separately.

Housing Crisis
1. This Ard Fheis: Expresses its serious concern at the present crisis in Local Authority housing. Feels that the response of the Minister for the Environment is insulting and derisory. Demands an urgent and appropriate programme to house those in need of accommodation and unable to provide it for themselves. In addition, we call for the reactivation of the Housing Action Committees to agitate for urgent action on the housing crisis.

SOUTH CENTRAL (Cork South Central)

2. This Ard Fheis rejects the Government's "Plan for Social Housing" as an inadequate response to the housing crisis, and calls on the Minister for the Environment:
   a) to approve immediately housing schemes which have been submitted to him by Local Authorities;
   b) to introduce a new tenant purchase scheme;
   c) to raise to a realistic level the qualification limits for the new schemes which he announced;
   d) to set a five year target for the renewal and refurbishment of substandard Local Authority houses.

CLONDALKIN (Dublin South West)

3. That this Ard Fheis instructs the Ard Comhairle/CEC to formulate a comprehensive housing plan nationally to combat the present housing crisis.

FINGLAS EAST (Dublin North West)

4. That this Ard Fheis condemns the underfunding of housing by the FF/PD Coalition.

LEIXLIP (Kildare)

5. This Ard Fheis abhors the present Local Authority housing crisis, especially in Dublin, reaffirms that government policy has been the main cause of this crisis, and demands that adequate central government funding be made available immediately to commence an emergency house building programme to effectively tackle the crisis.

SHANKHILL/BALLYBRACK (Dun Laoghaire)

6. That this Ard Fheis recognises the extreme hardship caused by the current housing crisis and calls for a campaign to press the Minister for the Environment for adequate funding for the building of local authority houses.

LUCAN (Dublin West)

7. That this Ard Fheis condemns the Minister for the Environment for his lack of commitment in providing funds for the elimination of the housing crisis that exists in Cork and for the critical repair situation in the present corporation housing stock.

NORTH WEST (Cork North Central)

8. This Ard Fheis calls for all system-built Local Authority houses to be refurbished as quickly as possible.

MAYFIELD (Cork North Central)
Waiting Lists
9. This Ard Fheis recognizes that the present FF/PD Government proposals to deal with the housing crisis is totally inadequate and will do little to reduce the massive Local Authority housing lists.

TALLAGHT EAST/GREENHILLS (Dublin South West)

10. This Ard Fheis calls for the immediate introduction of an emergency National Local Authority Housing Programme to eliminate waiting lists.

Homelessness
11. This Ard Fheis deplores the drastic decline in the Local Authority house building programme and calls for an expansion in the programme to alleviate the growing problem of homelessness.

WEXFORD

10. This Ard Fheis calls for the immediate introduction of an emergency National Local Authority Housing Programme to eliminate waiting lists.

DRUMCONDRA/MARINO (Dublin Central)

12. This Ard Fheis believes that youth homelessness is totally unacceptable and condemns the current government for allowing this scandal to continue.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL (Dublin North West)

13. That this Ard Fheis calls on all Workers' Party representatives to urge their Council colleagues to utilise all funds set aside to tackle homelessness in the future.

BALLYFERMOT (Dublin West)

Rent Subsidy
14. This Ard Fheis resolves that a rent subsidy scheme for all Local Authority tenants be introduced.

MAYFIELD (Cork North Central)

Private Housing
15. Given that the average cost of new private housing in Dublin in 1990 was £67,334 and that secondhand houses are £59,903 and this average cost is out of the reach of the majority of people requiring private housing, this Ard Fheis calls for the government to
a) control the cost of building land and the prices charged for new houses;
b) demands home improvement grant schemes for areas to be targeted where older private housing stocks are run down, i.e. pre 1940 houses as in Dublin’s Inner City;
c) demands the abolition of stamp duty on older housing stock i.e. pre 1940 in targeted areas.

CRUMLIN (Dublin South Central)

Housing Maintenance
16. This Ard Fheis states that the problem of lack of maintenance of local authority houses and flats has now reached crisis proportions especially in Dublin City. We demand an emergency programme of repairs and refurbishment.

The condition of much public sector housing is inexcusable - recent rent increases must be reflected in fundamental improvements in services.

With the increase in private ownership, housing maintenance has also become a growing problem for low-income owners. Local authorities must respond to these new needs by providing a cheap, non-profit housing maintenance service.

NORTH CITY CENTRE (Dublin Central)
HEALTH

Steering Committee Recommendations: motions 1-4 to be taken together, 5-7 to be taken separately, 8-10 to be taken together, 11-13 taken separately.

The Health Service

1. This Ard Fheis
   (a) condemns the shortfall of over £16 million in the budgets provided to the Health Boards. We believe that this undermines the government’s commitment to the health service and anticipates yet more cutbacks in jobs, services and in the quality of care provided.
   (b) recognises that inequality of access to health care is an unacceptable injustice in a civilised society. Therefore, future healthcare policy must maintain its opposition to a tiered health care system, and calls for the immediate installation of combined waiting lists for all patients.

   T.C.D. BRANCH

2. This Ard Fheis condemns the increase in the Hospital Attendance Fee, and calls for its abolition entirely, as a first step towards removal of payment at the point of delivery of all Health Care.

   WATERFORD NO. 1 (Waterford)

3. This Ard Fheis calls for a full paediatric service to be provided in Wexford General Hospital.

   WEXFORD (Wexford)

4. This Ard Fheis recognising the existence of huge waiting lists for speech therapy, calls on the Minister for Health to provide the necessary finances to enable each Health Board to double the number of speech therapists employed.

   WEXFORD (Wexford)

Community Health Service

5. This Ard Fheis welcomes the aspiration in the Programme for Economic & Social Progress concerning the development of community health services. However, we condemn as derisory and totally inadequate the monies allocated to achieve these aspirations and call on the Workers’ Party in the Dail and in the country to hold the government to its promises on the development of community health services.

   BRAY NORTH EAST (Wicklow)

Mental Health - Psychiatric Services

6. This Ard Fheis:
   (a) supports the move away from institutional care to community based psychiatric services.
   (b) condemns the reality whereby, both in the past and currently, “community care” has meant family care, with families having to carry the burden of care with little or no support from the Health Boards.
   (c) instructs the Party to fight any cutbacks in the areas of mental health care and push for improvements in provision of services for the psychiatrically ill and their families including: more hostel accommodation, day centres, respite care and workshop.

   T.C.D. BRANCH
Dental Services
7. This Ard Fheis recognises that the quality of the Dental Service in Dublin is totally inadequate and calls upon the government to:

a) Sanction the immediate building of the proposed new Dublin Dental Hospital and Training school.
b) To conclude the arrangement with the Irish Dental Association for the treatment of the spouses of insured workers.
c) That the Eastern Health Board’s underfunding by £6,000,000 be immediately corrected so that the Community care services for dental treatment at local level be developed to an acceptable service.

CRUMLIN (Dublin South Central)

Family Planning
8. This Ard Fheis, recognising the total inadequacy of existing Family Planning legislation calls on the government to provide a comprehensive Family Planning service as part of the overall Health Services.

DUBLIN SOUTH (Dublin South)

9. This Ard Fheis calls for the amending of legislation to allow the sale of all non-medical family planning devices at all outlets, without age restriction.

KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)

10. This Ard Fheis offers its full support to the Irish Family Planning Association in its fight to make condoms freely available.

LIMERICK (Limerick East)

AIDS
11. This Ard Fheis calls on the Party to introduce a comprehensive Health policy dealing with HIV/AIDS.

LIMERICK (Limerick East)

Drugs
12. This Ard Fheis in noting the increased use of drugs of one form or another is concerned about ignorance in society generally of the effects of drugs whether legal or illegal, and resolves to produce a report which will draw on the wide body of research and existing legislation as it pertains in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Such a report should also study current legislation on drugs as it exists in the USA, Canada and other European states.

This report should be compiled by a working group drawn from the branches, whose membership should reflect the views of all those interested in this particular field, with an interim report published before the 1992 conference.

NEWTOWNABBEY (East Antrim)

Social Welfare
13. This Ard Fheis calls for all unemployed adults living at home with parents to receive a minimum allowance of £15 per week, irrespective of parental income, and that those aged over 25 should receive the full social welfare entitlement.

That, in recognition of the significant financial costs of raising children, child benefit be increased to a minimum of £10 per week. The cost of this to be recouped by adjusting existing tax reliefs and allowances.

MAYNOOTH (Kildare)
The Gulf War

1. This Ard Fheis:
   (a) Unreservedly condemns the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq and the civil rights abuses of the Iraqi regime both in Kuwait and its own territory. We also condemn the response of the United States led military coalition as being inappropriate and out of proportion and furthermore call for an international conference to solve the problems of the Middle East through democracy and diplomacy.
   
   (b) Condemns the failure of the Irish government to use Ireland’s influence to bring about a peaceful settlement of the Gulf Crisis and deplores the decision to allow the United States permission to overfly Irish airspace and refuel aircraft carrying weapons of mass destruction at Shannon Airport. We furthermore condemn the hijacking of the United Nations to wage an unnecessary and destructive war and urge the Irish government to use its influence to ensure that never again can a handful of nations dictate to the majority.

   CORK SOUTH CENTRAL (Cork South Central)

2. This Ard Fheis welcomes the end of the war in the Gulf. While condemning Saddam Hussein’s invasion of Kuwait, the Workers’ party believes that this was an unnecessary imperialist war designed to strengthen U.S. control over oil resources and to reassert its strategic dominance in the region.

   CROMAC (South Belfast)

3. This Ard Fheis condemns the U.N. for abdicating its role as a peace promoting agency in the recent gulf conflict, and calls on the Party to draw up and promote proposals on U.N. reform.

   SANTRY/WHITEHALL (Dublin North West)

4. This Ard Fheis, in view of the almost total loss of credibility in the United Nations, following the hijacking of the Security Council by the U.S., to give it the stamp of legitimacy for the prosecution of its imperialist war in the Middle East, calls on the Irish government and the European Parliament to demand that the following steps be taken to restore credibility in and prevent the possible break up of the U.N.
   (a) That permanent membership of the Security Council and the right of veto be ended.
   (b) All members of the U.N. General Assembly sit on the Security Council on a rotating basis.
   (c) Only a vote by the U.N. General Assembly have the right to initiate action against any country, whether this be military action or the imposition of sanctions.
   (d) The U.N. headquarters be moved from New York and relocated in a neutral country.

   NORTH WEST (Cork North Central)

5. The hijacking of the United Nations by the United States led Coalition during the recent Gulf crisis be condemned.

   MAYFIELD (Cork North Central)

6. This Ard Fheis commends our public representatives for their objective and principled stance on the Gulf War.

   WEXFORD
Palestine
7 This Ard Fheis in view of the decision of the U.N. to impose sanctions against Iraq, for the occupation of Kuwait, calls on the Irish Government to invite the U.N. to exercise similar determination in the implementation of U.N. resolutions on Palestine and further calls for the immediate establishment of an international conference on Palestine with full membership for the P.L.O.

CROMAC (South Belfast)

Third World Aid
8. This Ard Fheis:-
a) Condemns Ireland's contribution to Official Development Aid (O.D.A.), which has borne a disproportionate share of government cutbacks in recent years, and is now the lowest contribution of any country in the O.E.C.D.'s development assistance committee.
b) Recognises that this year's budget for O.D.A. of £43.2 million or 0.18% G.N.P. includes a once-off payment of £7 million to countries affected by the Gulf crisis. Therefore, the real figure amounts to a mere 0.15% of G.N.P.
c) Calls on our public representatives to maintain pressure on the government with respect to achieving the U.N. target for bilateral aid to developing countries of 0.7% G.N.P.
d) Condemns linking aid, and withholding aid, to political and economic development along lines dictated by donor countries as hypocritical, inconsistent and an indefensible undermining of national sovereignty.
e) Instructs the Party to promote Third World debt remission, at national and European level, in recognition that the debt crisis has now become a death crisis.

T.C.D. BRANCH

Baltic States
9. This Ard Fheis supports the rights of nations to self-determination and so supports the demands of the peoples of the Baltic States - of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - to independence.

BRAY NORTH EAST (Wicklow)

10. This Ard Fheis support the right of the Baltic States annexed by the Soviet Union during the Second World War to secede.

DONNYCARNEY (Dublin North Central)

Tibet
11 This Ard Fheis call on the Party to pursue a campaign to highlight the need for action by the Irish government through the U.N. to remove the Chinese from their occupation of Tibet.

WEXFORD (Wexford)

International Relations
12 This Ard Fheis instructs its International Affairs Committee to hold an annual delegate conference, to review and discuss the nature of all our relationships with foreign governments and parties, and that such a conference should have decision making power within the rules of the Party.

BLACKROCK (Dun Laoghaire)
European Community

Steering Committee Recommendations: motions 1 on its own, 2 and 3 to be taken together, 4, 5, and 6 taken together, 7 on its own.

European Fascism

1. That this Ard Fheis

* Notes with the gravest concern the emergence of neo-Fascist groupings and tendencies in Central and Eastern Europe in the wake of the recent upheavals;
* Notes further the recent increase in anti-Semitic and anti-immigrant attacks especially in Germany and France;
* Notes also the increase of nationalism in the countries of Eastern and Central Europe, and in particular, the ambiguity of Germany's renunciation of her territorial claims on parts of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Romania;

and therefore

Requires the Workers' Party to commit itself, in close cooperation with other European progressive forces, to ensuring that the recent territorial and political realignments do not lead to a de-stabilisation and de-democratisation of Europe.

CABRA (Dublin Central)

Democracy and the European Community

2. This Ard Fheis, based on its commitment to the expression of popular sovereignty within the institutions of the European Community,

Deplores the delay in the setting up of an Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs.

Considers that the Irish Government, by virtue of its seat in the Council and the decisions it takes within that body on behalf of the Irish electorate, remains accountable to the Dail, and should encourage proper debating time to be allocated in the House on Political, Economic and Monetary Union, as well as the involvement of security matters in the shaping of a common European Foreign policy.

Is concerned at the manner in which legislative decisions are taken by the Council of Ministers with little democratic control or accountability,

Calls for closer links to be forged with national parliaments including:

Regular convening of "Assizes" including parliamentarians from all political parties with elected representatives in the respective Member States,

The introduction of procedures allowing delegations from national parliaments - including all parties with representation in the European Parliament regardless of their overall quota in the Member State - to meet with the Commission and the Council prior to major decisions,

That this Ard Fheis calls for the strengthening of the European Parliament as a joint legislator in Community decision-making.

DUN LAOGHAIRE (Dun Laoighaire)

3. This Ard Fheis, noting E.C. policy, should be made with the maximum level of regional consultation concerning the disbursement of structural funds, calls on the government to establish democratic regional structures involving public representatives and representatives of the 'social partners'.

WEXFORD (Wexford)
Political Groupings in Europe

4. This Ard Fheis

* noting the current debate in the party on developing socialist policies geared to the '80s and beyond.
* recognises that there is a need for the Workers’ party to establish more formal links with the broad socialist forces in Europe and worldwide, with a view to promoting greater unity and co-operation,
* believes that an essential part of such a policy will involve development of closer relations with the Socialist International and its constituent parties and the left of the Green movements as well as other democratic socialist parties,
* mandates the Ard Comhairle to actively pursue such a policy in the coming year.

SHANKILL/BALLYBRACK (Dun Laoghaire)

5. This Ard Fheis asks the EPC to produce a short document on the various and varying policies and parties of the three left groupings in the European Parliament, i.e. Socialist Group, Unitarian Group and Left-Unity Group.

DRUMCONDRA/MARINO (Dublin Central)

6. This Ard Fheis:-

* Notes that the recent events in Eastern and Central Europe have produced territorial and political realignments through the continent;
* Recognises that these events have serious implications for Irish neutrality in particular and for progressive politics in general;

and therefore

* Calls for a structured debate within The Workers’ Party, in the form of an open conference, to discuss the following:

(a) This party's relationship with former communist parties in Eastern Europe
(b) our relationship with social democratic parties in Central and Northern Europe;
(c) our relationship with new and emerging European forces such as the Green and Alternative groupings;
(d) our relationship with groupings in the European Parliament, and in particular our position within the Left Unity grouping;
(e) Our position vis-a-vis European unity and its possible implications for Irish neutrality in the context of European political union and the existence of the WEU.

CABRA (Dublin Central)

7. This Ard Fheis believe that the time is now opportune for the Party President to stand down from his position as an M.E.P. and for the post to be taken over by one of the designated substitutes. We believe that this would be in the party's long term interest because

(i) The Party President would be able to spend more time building the party profile in the Dail and in the country generally.
(ii) The new M.E.P. would gain valuable experience and have enough time to build a profile for future elections.
(iii) Our opponent's ability to attack us on the "double jobbing" issue would be removed.

DRUMCONDRA/MARINO (Dublin Central)
WOMEN - Year of the Woman

Steering Committee Recommendations: motions 1, 2, 3 and 4 to be debated together, 5, 6, 7 and 8 to be taken separately. While motion 4 will be debated with 1, 2 and 3 we propose it then be deferred for vote until new rules and regulations are being dealt with.

Equality and Involvement
1. This Ard Fheis commits the Workers' Party to working for equality for women both inside the Party and in society; to this end the eradication of all forms of sexist exploitation and oppression will be an integral part of Workers' Party policies and the Party will examine affirmative action programmes to develop women's participation in the Party as members, as officers, and as public representatives.

ARD COMHAIRLE (CEC)

2. This Ard Fheis, being aware of the active involvement of women in a wide range of community organisations (which is not reflected in political organisations) resolves that all sections of the Party shall take the necessary steps to ensure that more women are recruited into party membership.

WEXFORD (Wexford)

3. That this Ard Fheis recognises that for political progress it is essential to have increased participation of women at all levels in the Workers' Party. Therefore, active encouragement be given to all branches and constituencies to promote the advancement of women and, above all, to welcome women as Party members.

LUCAN (Dublin West)

4. This Ard Fheis instructs the C.E.C. to bring about the situation this year, 1991, whereby the structure of the C.E.C. has within itself a quota of no less than 35% of places for women.

BLACKROCK (Dun Laoghaire)

National Women's Committee
5. That this Ard Fheis instructs the National Women's Committee to hold an annual conference with the specific purpose of examining the role of women within the Party.

BLACKROCK (Dun Laoghaire)

Health and Social Welfare
6. That this Ard Fheis:
   * Notes the continuing marginalisation by the public health services of women's health issues and therefore
   * Demands that specialised women's clinics be established within the context of existing local health centres;
   and that
   * These clinics should be accessible, free of charge, to all women, having regard to the present position of those women who do not satisfy the means test for a medical card but cannot afford private health cover, and are thus presently unable to avail of treatment.

CABRA (North Central)
7. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to introduce a "Charter for Women" and to have included within this charter
   (i) Freely available information of rights to family planning;
   (ii) Mammogram and smear tests be available free of charge;
   (iii) Social welfare entitlements in their own right;
   (iv) Positive means of addressing problems of interviews for especially managerial positions and media presentation.

TALLAGHT EAST/GREENHILLS (Dublin South West)

Sex Discrimination
8. This Ard Fheis condemns the failure of the State to provide a comprehensive system of child care facilities or to provide positive statutory protection for pregnant working women and calls for the extension and strengthening of the powers of the Equal Opportunities Commission to tackle sex discrimination.

SOUTH BELFAST
The Economy

Steering Committee Recommendations: motions 1-16 to be taken separately, 17 and 18 to be taken together, 19 and 20 to be taken together.

Economic Policy
1. This Ard Fheis/ADC acknowledges the contribution made by the draft discussion document, "Framework for Industrial Development", and proposes that the policy issues raised in this document be endorsed by this Ard Fheis.

   CLONDALKIN (Dublin South West)

2. In view of the continual failure of the private sector in Ireland to engage in productive industry that the state involve itself directly in the provision of capital necessary to industrialise the country.

   CORK SOUTH EAST BRANCH

Unemployment Levels in Dublin
3. This Ard Fheis, recognising that unemployment levels in Dublin are the highest in the Republic (33% in 1990) calls for a special programme of job creation in the Dublin region with special emphasis on manufacturing employment.

   CRUMLIN (Dublin South Central)

Economic Neglect
4. That this Ard Fheis condemns the government for the total neglect of the north side of Cork City which has resulted in the area becoming one of the worst blackspots in Europe for unemployment and social deprivation.

   NORTH WEST (Cork North Central)

Job Creation in Dublin North East
5. This Ard Fheis notes that unemployment runs as high as 60% of the local workforce in parts of Dublin North East, condemns the failure of government to attract sufficient investment to the area to generate jobs or develop rich resources in the constituency and calls on government to establish a jobs creating programme for the area as a priority.

   KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)

Economy/Tourism
6. This Ard Fheis, while recognising the enormous job creation potential of tourism, calls for legislation to protect the rights of workers in the tourist industry in relation to pay and working conditions.

   WEXFORD

State Exploitation of Labour
7. That this Ard Fheis:-
   * notes with concern the derisory wages paid to workers on FAS-sponsored Social Employment and Teamwork Schemes;
   * notes further that these schemes fall far short of their stated objective of providing training and work-experience (since qualifications are often demanded before a person is accepted on a scheme);
   * that these schemes place the state de facto in the forefront of labour exploitation, ensnaring workers in a poverty trap from which it is almost impossible to escape; and therefore
   * demands an immediate review of all FAS-sponsored schemes in which the paramount aim must be improving the present and future position of the workers concerned.

   CABRA (Dublin Central)
Energy
8. This Ard Fheis calls for the extension of the national gas grid to Wexford and other urban areas, so as to provide a relatively inexpensive form of energy to both domestic and industrial users.

WEXFORD

Taxation
9. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to introduce tax relief on creche/child minder fees to help more women to resume their careers after pregnancy.

DRUMCONDRA/MARINO (Dublin Central)

Film Industry
10. This Ard Fheis/ADC supports Irish Film-makers in their attempt to secure State funds for a distinctive Irish film industry.

CRUMLIN (Dublin South Central)

Minimum Wage
11. This Ard Fheis commits the Workers’ Party to campaign for the establishment of a statutory minimum wage.

TALLAGHT EAST/GREENHILLS (Dublin South West)

Ballybay Meats
12. This Ard Fheis instructs the incoming C.E.C. to request our public representatives to campaign in Dail Eireann for the holding of a public inquiry to establish the facts relating to the ongoing saga in Ballybay Meats Ltd.

CAVAN/MONAGHAN CC

Angel Dust
13. This Ard Fheis condemns the use of Clenbuterol, the drug known as Angel Dust.

CROMAC (South Belfast)

Credit Unions
14. This Ard Fheis calls on all branches of The Workers’ Party to support Credit Unions, by availing of their facilities, wherever practicable, in preference to using banks with immoral and uncontrolled customer charges.

WATERFORD NO. 3 (Waterford)

Prices Board
15. This Ard Fheis calls for the setting up of an Irish Prices Board to implement a mandatory system of value-added pricing of all goods and services sold in Ireland with justified profit levels, and the outlawing of the practice of charging "what the market will bear".

WATERFORD NO. 2 (Waterford)

Trade Licensing
16. This Ard Fheis calls for the strict licensing of all Auctioneers and Estate Agents operating in Ireland, with the replacement of percentage fee by a realistic flat-rate fee, thus removing the incentive for Auctioneers to push up property prices.

WATERFORD NO. 1 (Waterford)

Trade Unions
17. That this Ard Fheis while accepting the need for competitive wages condemns the practices of extravagant perks and wages by some unions which is disquieting to members and undermines the faith of all workers in trade unionism.

LUCAN (Dublin West)
18. This Ard Fheis believes that it is not in the best interests of the Trade Union Movement that certain leaders should be on exorbitant pay levels which are kept secret from the rank and file membership.

We would urge all trade unions to adopt an open and moderate policy in relation to the pay of senior officials.

DUBLIN NORTH CITY CENTRE (Dublin Central)

Industrial Relations Act
19. This Ard Fheis calls on all members within the trade union movement to immediately familiarise themselves with the new 1990 Industrial Relations Act (Party regions could organise education sessions where necessary), and to bring to attention of workers the inherent dangerous legal implications the Act may have on workers' rights.

FINGLAS WEST BRANCH (Dublin North West)

20. This Ard Fheis/A.D.C. calls on the Government to immediately repeal the 1990 Industrial Relations Act.

This piece of legislation, the first major reform of Irish trade disputes law since the introduction of the 1906 Trades Disputes Act, amounts to nothing less than an assault on the rights of workers to strike effectively. Its enactment by the Fianna Fail/Progressive Democrats coalition, bowing as they did to pressure from employers' organisations, was designed to tilt the disputes legislation in favour of those organisations, particularly the F.I.E. and the C.I.I. At a time when what is needed in the area is more democratisation, the Government has effectively handed to the employers a stick with which to beat workers and their organisations.

CLONDALKIN (Dublin South West)
JUSTICE AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Steering Committee Recommendations: motions 1, 2 and 3 to be taken together, 4 and 5 taken together, remaining motions to be taken separately.

Policing

1. This Ard Fheis, noting the failure of the DPP to initiate prosecutions against members of the security forces in Northern Ireland calls for the establishment of an independent inquiry procedure into such incidents; to be invoked only after "due process of law" fails to inform the public of the circumstances surrounding such grave incidents.

   BALLYMURPHY (West Belfast)

2. This Ard Fheis condemns the killing of Fergal Carragher at Cullyhanna and calls for full independent investigation into the facts of his death.

   CROMAC (South Belfast)

3. This Ard Fheis calls for the setting up of a full independent complaints procedure to investigate complaints against the police and the British Army.

And, further calls for a new law which allows charges to be brought in cases where there has been the misuse of lethal force, but where charges of murder would be inappropriate.

   LOWER FALLS (West Belfast)

4. This Ard Fheis

   * Noting with concern the increasing threats to personal security in public spaces, especially after dark,
   * recognising that this problem affects women in particular, whether travelling for work or recreation, and can range from 'handbag snatching' to sexual assault,
   * recognising further that as a result many women are in fear of using bus stops and DART stations, walking to shops or other facilities,
   * believes that the problem is greatly exacerbated by lack of adequate public lighting and fencing, and the inability of the Garda and the law, with present facilities, to deal with offences in this area,
   * calls for emergency action by the Department of Environment and Justice to provide:

   (i) Upgrading of public lighting facilities, particularly around housing estates, public transport facilities and other areas where personal security has become a problem,
   (ii) new measures to deal with young offenders, which must include adequate funding for rehabilitation programmes and, where necessary, detention in appropriate facilities.

   SHANKILL/BALLYBRACK (Dun Laoghaire)

5. This Ard Fheis notes with concern the increase in burglaries and motor car thefts on the fringe areas of the North Dublin City and calls for:

   (a) the establishment of a new police station at Donaghmede.
   (b) the establishment of a district office at Sutton Cross, and
   (c) an increase in police numbers in the Santry/Cooolock/Raheny and Howth stations.

   KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)

Offences Against The State Act

6. This Ard Fheis calls for the repeal of the outdated Offences Against the State Act, 1939, and calls for more modern and useful legislation to deal with subversion by violent or terrorist means.

   KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)
Human Rights
7. This Ard Fheis calls on the C.E.C. to introduce a Private Members Bill in Dail Eireann to decriminalise male homosexuality.  
MAYNOOTH (Kildare)

Legal Aid
8. This Ard Fheis applauds the decision of the Chairman of the Bar Council and the President of the Law Society to resign in protest at the poor response of the Minister for Justice to their plea for proper funding and development of Legal Aid Centres. This conference calls on the Minister to introduce the legal aid scheme on a statutory footing and serving the entire 26 counties in a comprehensive way. The conference also calls for proper staffing and work conditions for those employed in the Centres.  
KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)

Coolock Community Law Centre
9. This Ard Fheis notes and regrets the failure of Minister, Michael Woods, T.D., to respond fully to the CCLC’s request for permanent funding and the appointment of an additional solicitor and staff assistant.

In view of the invaluable support of CCLC to the North East region of the city we demand that it get proper assistance and recognition for the work being done.  
KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)

Birmingham Six
10. This Ard Fheis salutes the resilience of the Birmingham Six, Guilford Four and the Maguire Family in seeking justice and a finding of innocence in their cases. Demands a full review of the three cases as a first step to ensure those appalling mistakes can never be repeated.  
KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)

Gallagher Case
11. This Ard Fheis deplores the decision of the DPP not to initiate prosecution against Patrick Gallagher the property developer, within the State and demands that a full public enquiry be established to investigate his financial activities here, with a view, amongst others, to establishing deficiencies in our anti-fraud laws and the amendments needed to modernise those laws.  
KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)

Anti-Discrimination Legislation
12. This Ard Fheis calls upon the CEC to urgently press for the ratification by the Irish Government of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, and to maintain pressure on the Government to pass the anti-discrimination legislation necessary for the ratification of this Convention. This anti-discrimination legislation to specifically include a recognition of Traveller ethnicity, in line with the Council of Europe Resolution of 22nd May 1989.  
CLONDALKIN (Dublin South West)

Children’s Bills
13. This Ard Fheis condemns the farcical situation whereby a Children’s Bill is passed by the Dail without a corresponding provision of resources to implement it.  
BLANCHARDSTOWN (Dublin West)
Blood Sports
14. This Ard Fheis condemns hare coursing and calls for a government ban on all blood sports.

CROMAC (South Belfast)

Fair Trade Commission
15. This Ard Fheis welcomes the publication of the Fair Trade Commission Report on the future of legal services in Ireland. In response the government should now work towards a unified single legal profession here by:

(a) the establishment of a common statutory basis for both arms of the profession;
(b) the establishment of a unified school of legal education under the direction of the Department of Education;
(c) the establishment of an open democratic selection of all judicial appointments;
(d) the deregulation of legal fees and legal partnerships, and
(e) the establishment of an office of Legal Ombudsman for the entire profession.

KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)

Prisons
16. This Ard Fheis records another year of unprecedented deaths by suicide and misadventure in our prisons. Recognising that they are directly linked to poor screening on admission and appalling inadequate facilities of care inside, calls for an urgent review of prison conditions and facilities to ensure an end to this sad situation.

KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)

Juvenile Detention
17. This Ard Fheis noting the terms of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Children, condemns the practice of Courts in sentencing children of 15 years to imprisonment in adult jails. Notes the failure of government to provide adequate care facilities for young children at risk and calls on the Party to make this a campaigning issue in the coming year.

KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)
EDUCATION

Steering Committee Recommendations: motions 1, 2 and 3 take together under access to education, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 12 take separately, 10 and 11 take together.

Access to Education
1. This Ard Fheis recognizes that the education system is used as a means of transferring and perpetuating class privilege and believes that the virtual exclusion of working-class children from third-level education is the most obvious symptom of a trend which begins much earlier in the system.

The Workers' Party will campaign for an open and democratic education system which should include the availability of third-level education for all who complete second-level as well as well as for mature students who may not have; management of schools/colleges should be democratic, institutions should not be permitted to "screen" students to entry, and curricula should be broad, encourage critical thinking and include social/political studies. An Education Act should include these provisions.

TALLAGHT EAST/GREENHILLS (Dublin South West)

2. That this Ard Fheis calls for a policy of broader access to third level education through the implementation of the following:
   a) early payment of adequate grants at the beginning of the academic year;
   b) more comprehensive creche facilities for students, especially after-school facilities for school-going children of mature students;
   c) adequate accommodation at reasonable cost;
   d) adequate public transport access to third level institutions for commuting students;
   e) adequate facilities and access for disabled students;
   f) adequate additional facilities to cater for rapid growth in student numbers attending college.

MAYNOOTH (Kildare)

3. This Ard Fheis:
   a) Affirms that education is a right for all - not a luxury for the few.
   b) Welcomes the campaign document "For Better College Facilities", prepared by the National Students Committee and instructs our public representatives to pursue the implementation of its recommendations.
   c) Instructs our representatives to fight for the broadening of the grants system for all third-level students, in particular we object to the manner in which this system discriminates against mature students by insisting:
      (i) applicants must have completed their Leaving Certificate within two years of the application, and
      (ii) that applications are assessed according to their parents means - not their own.
   This, in effect, excludes many working-class and social welfare dependent individuals from third level education.
   d) Supports positive discrimination with regard to funding of Primary schools in low-income areas, where parents cannot subsidise the capitation grants received from the State. This would ensure that the "Free Education" system means equal education for all.

T.C.D. BRANCH

Class Sizes
4. This Ard Fheis demands that primary school class sizes should be reduced so as to reach the E.C. average.

TALLAGHT EAST/GREENHILLS
Book Loan System
5. This Ard Fheis calls on all schools, in conjunction with parents and syllabus setters, to implement a book-loan system as follows:
   - First year students buy books in the normal manner. These books are returned to the school at the end of the years for use by the subsequent first year students. Payment from these subsequent first year students is used to purchase books for the second year student. This system continues throughout each of the 5 or 6 years of the cycle.
   - Such a system means that students pay only one fifth or one sixth of current costs overall, and offers the possibility of deferred payments, and further benefits due to bulk buying.

Education Cuts
6. That this Ard Fheis condemns any proposal to close Education departments in third level institutions as being short sighted, and calls for the formulation of a comprehensive long term policy for the involvement of these department in national educational development.

Education Syllabus
7. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for Education to take the necessary steps to ensure that new Leaving Certificate syllabi are introduced, so that there is a logical progression in the education of students after they sit the new Junior Certificate Exams in 1992.

Civics
8. That this Ard Fheis
   * Recognising the essential role political participation plays in the shaping of any dynamic and progressive society,
   * wishing to encourage among young people an educated sense of citizenry based on the knowledge of their fundamental rights and responsibilities,

   Deplores the lack of consistence with which Civics is taught in post-primary schools and calls for a clear, detailed and comprehensive syllabus to assist teachers.

   This should foster a genuine desire to take part, as future voters, in the decision-making process, based on an educated awareness of the powers and limitations of the institutions governing society.

Non-Denominational Education
9. This Ard Fheis supports the concept of secular, non-denominational education and calls on the government to increase grant-aiding of non-denominational primary schools.

Students
10. This Ard Fheis calls on the C.E.C. to produce a regular student newsletter to be distributed among third level institutions.

11. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Workers’ Party and its parliamentary representatives to take a more active interest in education and student matters and to establish a specialist committee to deal with national education matters.

12. This Ard Fheis reaffirms its support for and commitment to a state controlled secular integrated education system. We congratulate the integrated education movement in Northern Ireland on its successes to date and look forward to greater development which will eventually help to break down the sectarian barriers that hinder peace and progress in Northern Ireland.
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Steering Committee Recommendations: motions 1-6 to be taken together, 7 and 8 taken together, 9, 10, 11 and 12 to be taken separately.

Transport
1. This Ard Fheis deplores the disastrous decisions taken in relation to all modes of transport by Transport Ministers over the last 2 years and declare that we have no confidence whatsoever in either the Minister or Government policy in regard to transport.

We call therefore for the resignation or dismissal of the Minister of Transport.

NORTH WEST (Cork North Central)

Transport in Dublin
2. This Ard Fheis, noting the deteriorating traffic and pollution problems in Dublin calls on the government:
(a) to re-establish the Dublin Transport Authority,
(b) to promote public transport in general and
(c) specifically to provide a comprehensive Light Rail System for Dublin.

DUBLIN SOUTH

3. This Ard Fheis recognises the total failure of both Government and Local Authorities to achieve a balanced transport policy for Dublin and further condemns the decision to continue to pursue an exclusive roads base solution to the problem thereby neglecting both Traffic Management Plans and Public Transport and alternative options.

We therefore call for a reversal of Government policy away from a road based solution, agree to a transfer of road building funds to establishing a comprehensive Public Transport System including the use of light rapid transport.

CRUMLIN (Dublin South Central)

4. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to provide funds for opening of train stations in Drumcondra/Phibsboro/Glasnevin areas as part of an upgrading of local rail services in the context of widespread investment in modernisation and improvement of all public transport services.

DRUMCONDRA/MARINO (Dublin Central)

5. This Ard Fheis, noting the deteriorating traffic and pollution problems in Dublin, calls on the government:
a) to re-establish the Dublin Transport Authority;
b) to promote public transport in general;
c) specifically to provide a comprehensive Light Rail System for Dublin.

DUBLIN SOUTH
6. This Ard Fheis calls for priority consideration for West Dublin in its transport needs. This area has had the most growth but the development of an efficient transport policy lags well behind other more established and affluent parts of Dublin.

LUCAN (Dublin West)

Broadcasting Bill
7. This Ard Fhies re-affirms the Workers’ Party's opposition in principle and practice to the Broadcasting Bill 1990, and commits itself to continue to lead the campaign for its repeal.

KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)

8. This Ard Fheis condemns the 1990 Broadcasting Act for its crude attempt to destroy public service broadcasting by forcing RTE into a no win situation through unfair competition and restrictions.

SOUTH CENTRAL (Cork South Central)

Microwave TV
9. This Ard Fheis views with concern the practice of the Department of Communications in issuing exclusive licences for the operation of MMDS (microwave) television systems resulting in a monopoly of the airwaves contrary to the democratic wishes of the community in rural Ireland.

SOUTH CENTRAL (Cork South Central)

Teilifis Na Gaeltachta
10. Iarrann an Ard Fheis seo go mbunofai Teilifis na Gaeltachta, gan nios mo gealluntal an Rialtas agus gur sa nGaeltacht a bheadh se bunaithe.

CATHAIR GAILLIMH THIAR (Gaillimh Theas)

Community Radio
11. This Ard Fheis condemns the Independent Radio & Television Commission and the Minister for their failure to issue any licences to the independent community stations in Dublin and elsewhere.

KILBARRACK/COOLOCK (Dublin North East)

Section 31 Broadcasting Act
12. The Workers’ Party opposes “Section 31” in principle.

DONNYCARNEY (Dublin North Central)
PARTY ORGANISATION

Steering Committee Recommendations: all motions 1-9 inclusive will be dealt with separately.

Commission
1. This Ard Fheis recognises and fully appreciates the tremendous amount of work undertaken, and given to The Party, by the Commission set up to prepare the draft programme for this year's Ard Fheis.

TALLAGHT WEST (Dublin South West)

Finance
2. This Ard Fheis calls on the constituencies and branches to give a more committed effort to selling Workers' Party Development Fund Draws.

WHITEROCK (West Belfast)

Publicity
3. This Ard Fheis calls on the Workers Party to launch a substantial publicity campaign through the press, media and other channels in an attempt to attract new members, supporters and voters, at the same time promoting the interests of the party.

ANTRIM

4. This Ard Fheis calls for all existing Workers' Party policies to be reviewed for their gender implications and, where appropriate, revised, and, in future, the significance of gender should be addressed in the formulation of all Party policies.

LIBERTIES (Dublin South Central)

Party Elections
5. This Ard Fheis calls for canvassing to be allowed in all party elections.

DONNYCARNEY (Dublin North Central)

Party Organisation
5. That this Ard Fheis recognising that democracy cannot be achieved without participation, and that participation cannot be achieved unless it is facilitated, resolves to actively seek out means of maximising grassroots involvement in all aspects of Party business: education classes, seminars, and particularly decision-making/voting bodies. A questionnaire will be sent to all members in order to ascertain what factors currently exist to block participation; timing, venue, transport, childminding etc. The number of Party members on shiftwork or other irregular work schedules should also be ascertained. The information obtained from this questionnaire will be incorporated into planning at constituency, regional and national levels, with a view to suit the greatest possible number of potential participants, including the provision of creche facilities where this is a prerequisite for participation.

CLONDALKIN (Dublin South West)

6. This Ard Fheis, recognising that certain issues of local or particularly complex nature are not appropriately dealt with by a quick vote for or against, hereby adopts the third option of an abstention vote, to be counted alongside the yea's and nay's. In cases where the abstention vote is highest, the motion will be referred to the CEC for decision after appropriate investigation, with a deadline for notification of decision reached.

CLONDALKIN (Dublin South West)
7. That this Ard Fheis resolves that delegates to future Ard Fheiseanna who did not register within 15 minutes of a session commencing will have their delegate cards withdrawn by the stewards and held by the Standing Order Committee for the duration of that session.

CLONDALKIN (Dublin South West)

8. That this Ard Fheis resolves that any motion being resubmitted for consideration, having been dropped for lack of time in the previous year, be moved to the front of the queue in its category, to ensure that it is covered.

CLONDALKIN (Dublin South West)

9. That this Ard Fheis, as supreme decision making body of the Workers' Party, is obliged to cover as many as possible of the motions before it. With a view to using our limited collective time more efficiently and democratically, this Ard Fheis hereby declares that henceforward, speakers on any unopposed motion shall be limited to two. Where a motion is opposed, parity shall be given to speakers for and against, with the last word given by proposers. Strict time limitations shall be observed, and shall be identical for all speakers.

CLONDALKIN (Dublin South West)