

1989

Ard Fheis Annual Conference 1989: Clár

Workers' Party of Ireland

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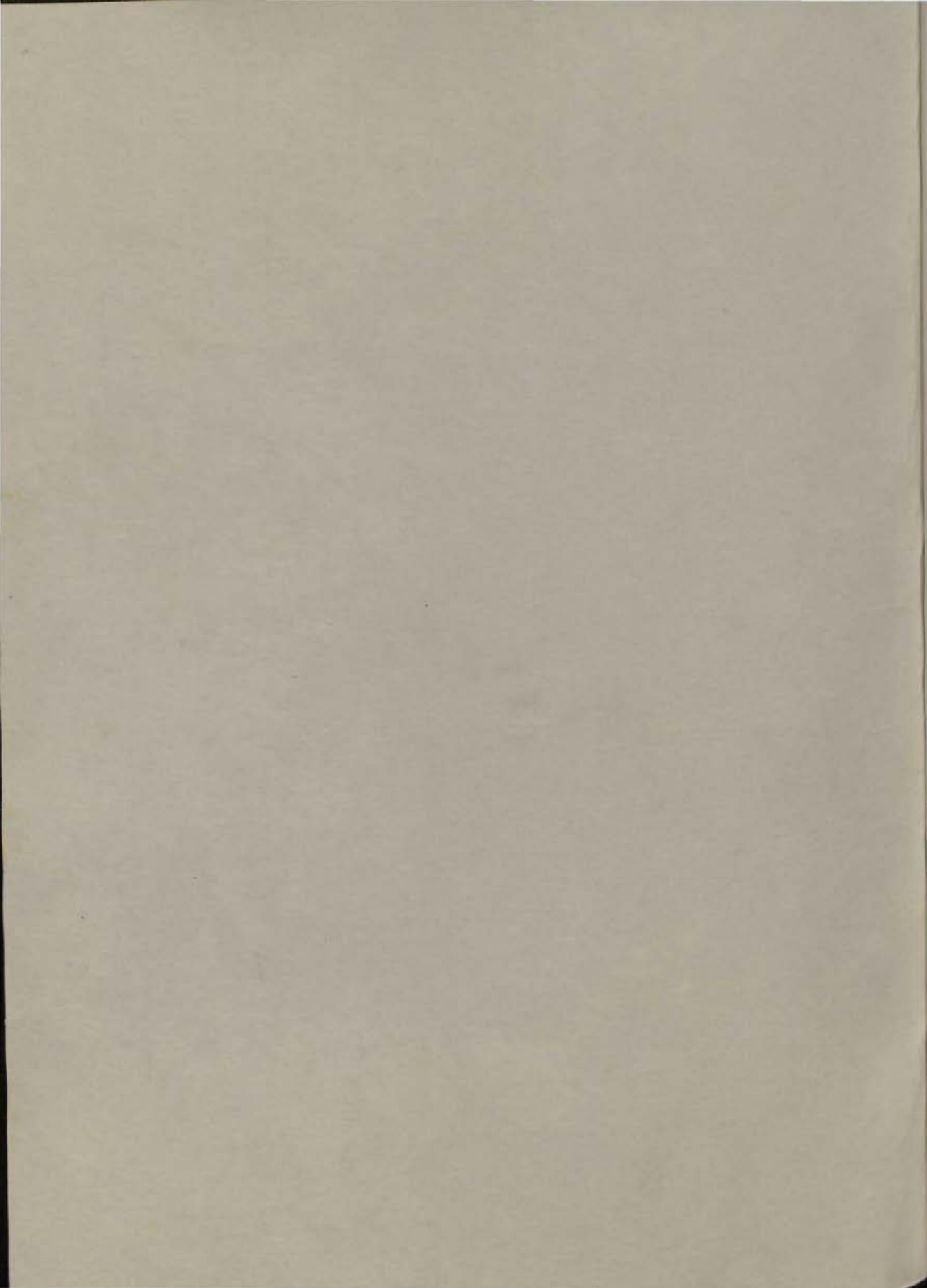


THE WORKERS PARTY

PEACE WORK DEMOCRACY
CLASS POLITICS

CLÁR

Ard Fheis
Annual Conference
1989



EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Steering Committee Recommendations.

1 to be the main Resolution.

2 addendum to 1 on Tax Harmonisation.

3 addendum to 1 on E.C. Parliament.

4 addendum to 1 on E.C. and Agriculture.

5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are addenda to 1 on E.C. Funding.

10 and 11 to be taken separately.

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1. In recent months the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party has given detailed consideration to the evaluation of the EEC. We have done this in recognition of the many changes now taking place within the EC and the speeding up of the process of economic integration inherent in the completion of the Internal Market by 1992. Our Party pointed out clearly in our booklet on the Single European Act the political, economic and social implications of that development and sought significant changes in the terms of that agreement. We are now faced with a new phase in that process of economic and increasingly 'political' integration of the member states of the European Community.

It is evident to us that the major initiative for the elimination of all existing trade barriers is coming from the major capitalist economic interests who have outgrown the limitations of the autonomous national economies and they now want a major speeding up of the integration process. They are particularly conscious of the intense competition from the U.S. and Japanese economies for dominance in the world markets and see the single integrated Western European Market as an essential prerequisite to their own increased profitability and growth. The member states of

the EC have accepted these objectives fully and are now taking the many political steps necessary to facilitate such a development. It is in this context that our Party must make its response.

Our objective is a United Socialist Europe, built on mutual respect and co-operation and incorporating all the states of Europe, East and West, North and South.

The evolution of the present EC can be an important element in developing the momentum necessary to bring about a more progressive process of European co-operation and peace. This is only possible if the socialist, communist and progressive elements in Europe take the lead in promoting such a concept. As a Workers Party with a European perspective, we believe that the many arguments for isolation or withdrawal from the EC have no longer any political or economic validity and do not provide a serious basis for defending the interests of Irish workers in the period ahead.

It is essential that our politics are developed within that context. The dominant conservative political parties in the EC have no commitment to advance the long term interests of workers and their families. References by these parties to an EC 'Social Dimension' are dishonest and misleading as no serious effort is being made by them to implement such a dimension.

We recognise then that we are now faced with a major political challenge if we are to advance the interests of the working class in the new and changing circumstances of an integrated Western European economy, moves for deregulation of the labour and financial markets, and moves towards European political union.

The Workers Party strategy with regard to the European Community will therefore include:

1. Increased contact and cooperation with political and trade union interests in all member states of the EC who have as their objective the advancement of working class interests, this to be developed through every possible avenue open to our Party.
2. The building of a powerful movement for peace and disarmament within Ireland and throughout Europe and extending the principles of peaceful cooperation from the Urals to the Aran Islands. That means opposing vigorously any attempt to confine the EC to an inward looking fortress Europe. The EC must seek to build a cooperation with the socialist countries. Decisions of the European Political Cooperation process must continue to be based on consensus of all members. One of the top priorities of the EC should be to contribute to removing the threat of war. We seek a progressively demilitarised Europe and peaceful co-existence of socialist and capitalist states. We reject the idea of Europe divided into mutually hostile military blocs and insist that the EC must respond positively to president Gorbachevs initiatives. In this context Irish neutrality is a precious and important statement of our determination to be actively involved in campaigning for a nuclear free, non aligned Europe.
3. We will campaign for the development of a balanced community with a comprehensive regional and social policy and a Common Jobs Policy to eliminate the scourge of unemployment. This means insisting on

greater democracy and social regulation of all economic and political institutions. In that connection we will insist on the simultaneous replacement with effective community safeguards any national safeguards lost under the move towards 'integration'. We will insist on increased structural funding to increase investment in the productive areas of the economy and the redirection of increased investment and suitable credit into the Irish economy.

4. We will support and initiate measures which facilitate greater democracy and accountability in the institutions of the EC. Such democracy will incorporate significant safeguards for the rich diversity of culture, for the protection of minority interests, for migrant workers, the unemployed, the economically deprived, the old and the young of all states.
5. We will seek to increase the influence of the European parliament by making all the institutions answerable to the members of parliament. It is essential however to retain the 'veto' in all existing areas.
6. We will insist on the adoption of a Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights to guarantee and expand social rights and economic and social equality in all member states. It is essential that this charter be implemented simultaneously and step by step with the implementation of the integrated market. This is needed because we do not accept that a 'liberalisation' of the market will automatically contribute to economic or social advances for all the people within the

Community and it requires more effective measures to protect and advance the interests of the people in the new circumstances. This charter will have to be adequately supported by legislation in all member states and carry with it the necessary resources for enforcement. This will require bringing competition policy into proper relationship with social policy and other policies for human development.

7. There must be adequate regional democratic structures to monitor progress in these various developments and to influence developments at EC level. This requires in Ireland an all party Oireachtas committee with specific terms of reference and sufficient resources to deal with the complex issues involved.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

EEC Tax Harmonisation

2. This Ard Fheis condemns the Government and Conservative opposition parties unqualified acceptance of harmonisation of VAT and Excise Duties which are a part of the present approach to the Single European Act. We point out that this will mean a permanent loss in income to the Exchequer, amounting to hundreds of millions of pounds annually.

It is obvious that the government and the parties of the political right intend to recoup these losses by putting VAT on essentials like food, clothing, footwear and school books.

The purpose of the proposed harmonisation of taxation is to remove 'distortions of trade

between countries and to remove the need for customs posts'. The Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland share a land frontier but both the UK and the Republic of Ireland profess to be opposed to VAT on food. If the will exists to resist the imposition of this hardship - which will hit most severely the poorest sections of our society - ways and means could be discovered to prevent it coming into being.

This Ard Fheis commits the Workers Party to work against the imposition of tax on essentials which would replace tax on luxuries.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

European Parliament

3. This Ard Fheis seeks greater democratisation of the institutions of the European Community and demands:

- (a) That the European Parliament have power of approval in the appointment of the European Commission.
- (b) That in areas where the Council of Ministers use either qualified majority, or simple majority voting, that the European Parliament will have power of co decision.
- (c) That national parliaments establish, when applicable along with other national institutional bodies i.e. the Oireachtas, a subcommittee on EC affairs to oversee and make accountable national governments policy and actions on EC matters.

That national parliaments have the power, by a two thirds majority, to approve use of the veto by national ministers in the Council of Ministers. That any parliament which supports by the same procedure, a motion to

use the veto will bind its government to comply with the use of that veto.

- (d) That the role of the Economic and Social Committee be strengthened and greater consultation take place with the European Trade Union Confederation.
- (e) That the role of the European Parliament be strengthened.
- (f) That the right of veto in areas of vital national interest be retained.
- (g) That no European Community institution be aligned, subsumed or integrated with any institution of a military alliance.
- (h) That consensus be the basis of decision making in European Political Cooperation and that majority voting, of any type, be rejected.

Dublin North Central Constituency

E.C and Agriculture

4. This Ard Fheis condemns the policies of various governments to hold power since our entry into the EEC. Governments policies encouraged the seasonal production of milk and beef. Other ways of producing these products and farm products in addition to these were neglected.

The result is:

- (a) A quota system restricting milk production which now means that farmers cannot, in the normal way, increase income by increased production.
- (b) Sales into intervention for seasonally produced beef are now being restricted.

This Ard Fheis calls for the funding and planning which will mean a departure from the seasonal

production of the two mainstays of our agriculture. We advocate a change to all year around production of these products. This policy will not only increase farm incomes but will also make more suppliers available to the food industry and increase employment in that industry.

This Ard Fheis calls for a policy to use more land for horticulture and sees this policy as the ideal way to increase employment in the sugar company.

Irish food products need to be of high quality, to be attractively packaged and aggressively marketed.

Mallow, Cork East

European Community Funding

5. This Ard Fheis condemns the totally undemocratic way in which regional submissions for E.C. Structural Funds were prepared and calls for the immediate establishment of democratically based regional monitoring committees to ensure the proper disbursement of E.C. Structural Funds.

Wexford Town, Wexford

6. This Ard Fheis condemns the deferral of the increased percentage funding share of EC structural funds under the Social Fund and Guidance Fund to 1990 and calls for immediate negotiation and reversal of the decision with its implementation from 1989 as originally proposed.

We further condemn the agreement on the structural Regional Fund to allocate funding to private sector projects in toll roads, toll bridges and yachting marinas.

That the demands for WORK, PEACE, DEMOCRACY,

EQUALITY and AN END TO POVERTY be the Workers Party main platform in the forthcoming European elections.

That the Workers Party promote and defend the class and regional interests of Irish workers in Europe. That we seek greater social and economic planning at Regional, National and Community levels to develop the productive potential of both central and peripheral economies to create jobs, and a decent standard of living for the people of Ireland and Europe.

That competitive state industries be part of such planning and that structural funds be made available to such state enterprise to engage in productive activity within the single market.

Dublin North Central C.C.

7. This Ard Fheis rejects Fianna Fáil's attempts to hijack EC Regional Funding with their version of a National Plan. Their plan exposes the inadequacies of the entire local government structure and highlights the advantages of industry and the farming communities, given their levels of representation on the consultative body.

Leixlip, Kildare

8. This Ard Fheis calls for E.C. funds to be made available to state companies under the same favourable terms as they are to private companies, to enable these state companies to seriously develop our economy and thus create the jobs necessary to eliminate unemployment, which the Irish private sector has shown itself incapable of.

Cork North West, Cork North Central

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Cork North West, Cork North Central

9. This Ard Fheis notes with concern the Irish Governments use of the European Regional Development Fund as a means of reducing exchequer spending. This Ard Fheis condemns the government for its failure to face up to the changes due to come about as a result of the total integration of EC markets by 1992. Of particular concern is the governments lack of planning to counteract these adverse effects.

This Ard Fheis also condemns the government for its failure to allow regions within Ireland to produce and develop their own regional plans. The absence of community inputs to regional plans will totally undermine the plans ability to assist communities to cope with the implications of 1992.

Limerick City, Limerick East

10. This Ard Fheis calls on all party members involved in the Trade Union Movement to press through their unions for closer links with the European Trade Unions Movement, with the view of increasing cooperation to improve all European workers conditions and present a front of coalition against all anti worker legislation.

Finnglas West, Dublin North West

11. This Ard Fheis calls on the incoming CEC to establish a European Affairs Committee. In broad terms the function of this committee would include:

1. The formulation of policy in relation to the European Community.
2. The development of awareness and understanding of the perspectives of the Western European Left.

That this Ard Fheis calls for democratic regional structures to be established to plan and administer new E.C. structural funding and to maximize popular participation in the democratic process.

Bray North East, Wicklow

POVERTY

Steering Committee Recommendations.

1 and 2 to be taken together as one substantive resolution on Poverty.

With 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 as addenda.

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Poverty & Social Welfare Reform

1. THIS ARD FHEIS RECOGNISING

- that there has been a dramatic and horrifying increase in poverty in Ireland, experienced by over a third of our people and now comprehensively described and analysed at national level by state sponsored bodies;

- that recent improvements in the public finances, and stabilisation of the national debt, have been secured mainly through sacrifices by the poorest and lowest paid sections of the population, in the form of forced emigration and redundancies, lay offs and early retirements, reduced health and social services, increased charges for such services and disproportionately heavy taxes;

- that although eventual payment of some taxes owed by the wealthy provided a welcome boost to last years public finances, their non payment in earlier years substantially increased the burden borne by the poorest and less wealthy in our society, then and since;

- that the benefits of any 'national recovery' must, therefore, now flow directly to those who have suffered and sacrificed the most; the long term unemployed; the homeless; the low paid workers in the poverty trap; the large and the one

parent families; 'the old, the ill and the handicapped'; and others living in poverty and deprivation;

THEREFORE DEMANDS:

- that the elimination of poverty, primarily through job creation and the reform of tax and social welfare, now be seen and treated as the top national priority;

- that a National Programme for the Elimination of Poverty be adopted during 1989 and completed before 1992;

- that the main points of this National Programme should include the following:

* a minimum social welfare payment of 50 pounds per week in 1989, rising by the end of 1991 to the updated equivalent of the amount seen as minimal by the Commission on Social Welfare (which was 50 pounds in 1986, is 60 in 1989, and will be 63 pounds in 1991, if inflation is 2.5% per annum, in each of the next of two years).

* for adults who are dependent on social welfare recipients: 70% of the relevant rate (i.e. a minimum of 35 pounds per week in 1989); this to be paid directly to the adult concerned unless he/she decides otherwise; and to apply, also, to 'prescribed relatives' who currently receive no payment in their own right (as a first step towards removing the outdated concept of 'adult dependency' and establishing an independent, minimum income for all adults).

* for dependent children: for those under 15, 40% of the adult social welfare rate, or of the minimum social welfare payment (i.e. 20 pounds per week in 1989); 55% for 15 - 18

year olds, (i.e. 27.50 per week in 1989); and 70% for over '18's living at home (these to replace all existing payments in respect of children).

- * minimum wage legislation to end exploitation of women, young workers and other vulnerable groups and prevent use of minimum income as a subsidy to low wage employers; since low wages are now recognised as a major cause of poverty and job creation, of itself, will not eradicate poverty unless the jobs created are well paid, secure and sustainable.
- * harmonisation of tax and social welfare so as to eliminate the poverty trap and facilitate the taxation of all income in excess of the minimum amount;
- * broadening of the tax base to include all those with incomes, capital, property or other wealth and to ensure that a fair contribution to the public finances is made by all (e.g. through effective capital and property taxes, efficient collection of farmer taxes and conversion of tax reliefs into tax credits); this is crucial in order to effect the redistribution of wealth and resources which introduction of an acceptable minimum income involves;
- * rationalisation and reform of the means tests (pending their replacement, under a fully integrated and individualised tax and social welfare system, by taxation of all income which exceeds the agreed minimum) - including restoration of the deductability of rent and mortgage payments, an increase in the 45 pounds 'personal deduction' and an increase to at least 20 pounds per week in 'allowable means'.
- * removal of anomalous rules which disadvantage particular sections of insured workers (e.g. the 'averaging rule' which continues to

disqualify certain retired workers from pensions because of gaps in their insurance contributions, and the '7 year averaging rule' in relation to unemployment benefit, which acts to the detriment of many young workers, women and others who have not been continuously employed for seven years prior to becoming unemployed).

- * fair and comprehensive PRSI cover for all workers, including part timers and those on government training schemes (who should be covered at the full rate) and the self employed (who should pay 6.6% towards the cost of their pensions, as recommended by the National Pensions Board); with introduction of a provision whereby the social insurance portion of the employee's contribution should be paid by the employer if the persons income is below the proposed minimum (i.e. 50 pounds per week in 1989), or if deduction of the PRSI would bring it below this and the progressive lifting of the income ceiling for PRSI contributions, with a view to their abolition;
- * better information about social welfare entitlements; there have been some improvements in this area, but the take-up of certain payments (e.g. Family Income Supplement) is still scandalously low;
- * introduction of a housing benefit so as to direct the bulk of state support for housing to the homeless and the poor, rather than the wealthy who already own property. The recent alarming growth in homelessness has occurred alongside the property boom for the super rich and is encouraged by state incentives which require radical urgent restructuring;
- * better public health services and educational opportunities - since these, along with improved social welfare support, are

essential to eliminating poverty in the long run;

AND, believing that most or many of these demands are shared by other organisations and individuals, with whom we would welcome better cooperation in this area of fundamental, mutual concern, CALLS UPON INDIVIDUAL SOCIAL WELFARE RECIPIENTS, TRADE UNIONISTS, WOMEN, PENSIONERS, YOUNG PEOPLE, LOW PAID WORKERS AND OTHERS WHO ARE EITHER EXPERIENCING POVERTY AND DEPRIVATION THEMSELVES, OR ARE ACTING ON BEHALF OF THOSE WHO ARE, TO JOIN US IN AN ALLIANCE, OR COALITION TO PURSUE SUCH A PROGRAMME AND SECURE ITS URGENT IMPLEMENTATION.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

Poverty - Unemployment

2. This Ard Fheis asserts that the most serious cause of poverty is, by far, unemployment. We declare that the evil of poverty cannot be removed unless the present high level of unemployment is massively reduced.

The concern about poverty, now being expressed on an ever widening basis, is a welcome development but we in the Workers Party believe that simply to express concern about the problem will never bring it to an end.

Almost all people agree that poverty is an evil and those who blame the poor for being poor are very much in a minority. It is, therefore, necessary to examine in detail why the problem is growing.

To express concern at the 'plight of the poor' is to join an old established tradition. The Workers Party invite all who honestly deplore the

existence of the problem to join us to work for its removal and to examine the details we give to explain its continuing and growing existence.

Unemployment

Almost one fifth of the workforce are without jobs. A very large section of the unemployed workforce support families, when in employment, by earning a wage or salary. When the wage or salary does not come into the home anymore the family, or the individual concerned needs to live on Social Welfare. This means living in poverty.

Jobs and Low Pay

Jobs which pay only a little above Social Welfare Benefit rates also means living in poverty. In times of emigration and high unemployment - like the present time - employers seek to take advantage of the situation to force down pay and to impose bad working conditions.

This situation adds to the strains which Irish society imposes on the least well off - when employed in low paid jobs there is the constant battle and anxiety to keep just above the very lowest levels of poverty.

It is important to point out that many in the low paid jobs are women and young people.

The Workers Party must campaign against low pay as a cause of poverty.

Dependents

There are three main groups in our society who are naturally dependents - those under the age of 15-

16 years, and some of the elderly who are afflicted with poor health.

It is impossible to lift these groups out of severe poverty when a high level of unemployment takes the major part - in the form of inadequate Social Welfare Payment - of the surplus this society creates.

Bad Housing and Poverty

One of the most unacceptable features of poverty is that many are forced to live in bad housing conditions.

Poverty and The Human Spirit

The human spirit when faced with danger or some other severe challenge can often surmount incredible obstacles. Poverty breaks the human spirit because it demeans the individual and subjects the poor to continual anxiety about basic questions like insufficient food, clothing and shelter.

We must organise campaigns against all the above.

An End to Poverty

Because we in the Workers Party believe that full employment can be achieved, we believe that it is possible to put an end to poverty. We therefore propose that all who are opposed to the evil of poverty mobilise and work together to put an end to it.

The basis of the common struggle against this universally recognised evil can be set out under a number of headings:

- (1) We believe that full employment is possible and desirable and is the most important move in the direction of ending poverty.
- (2) An acceptance of this belief means the identification of schemes with a capacity to create jobs in thousands on the basis of an agreed level of investment, development and marketing.
- (3) We recognise that certain forces can mobilise the necessary degree of investment, planning, skill and marketing. That these forces - like government, the Banks, Investors and the various EEC Agencies and influences - should be continually lobbied and pressurised to take the action necessary to achieve results in the areas of development on which we are campaigning.

The Nature of the Struggle against Poverty

To the Workers Party the struggle against poverty is a political struggle and we will put the abolition of poverty in the forefront of our programmes and activities.

We recognise that many who are genuinely opposed to poverty will not see the struggle against the evil in political terms but will at the same time have an important contribution to make towards winning the battle against poverty.

In what way can politically aware people - like members of the Workers Party and the Workers Party as an organisation find common ground with people who are not politically aware or politically active in the struggle against poverty?

We can jointly agree that present high levels of unemployment are a result of economic policies that came into being as a result of mistaken

economic theories or as a result of the selfish self interest of groups with a vested interest in making money without creating jobs.

We can jointly identify the job creating potential of certain of our natural resources and jointly lobby for investment to be made in these areas.

We propose this outline of activity on poverty:

- (1) To be in the forefront of the battle against poverty.
- (2) Recognise and cooperate with those who see poverty as a removable evil and work with them to achieve this end.
- (3) Reject and expose those who profess to denounce poverty people like Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and the Progressive Democrats - and at the same time refuse to take effective measures to put an end to it.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

3. This Ard Fheis views with alarm, the continuing levels of poverty in some areas of our society; condemns the recent budget of failing utterly to deal with either the core of this problem, or the human suffering caused by this poverty, and pledges to continue the Partys campaign, along with all other like minded organisations to eradicate poverty from our society.

Cork North Central Ward, Cork North Central

4. This Ard Fheis regrets that our worst fears about Social Security legislation changes have been realised. The conference pledges the Party to work actively with all poverty campaigning groups in Northern Ireland to highlight these disastrous changes for claimants and build broad

support for demanding major changes in the new legislation.

The Belfast Region

5. This Ard Fheis believes that the present high level of poverty is not caused by the use of new technology, or by some unavoidable economic accident, but is the result of government economic policies. We regard the development of manufacturing industry as the most practical and effective means to combat poverty and calls upon this Ard Fheis to campaign for such development.

Drimnagh, Dublin South Central

6. This Ard Fheis believes that low pay is, in addition to unemployment, the chief cause of mass poverty. This Ard Fheis instructs the Ard Comhairle to campaign against low pay and to expose the sectors of the economy where this is practiced.

Drimnagh, Dublin South Central

7. This Ard Fheis condemns the failure of the Government to provide employment and alleviate poverty.

Mayfield Branch, Cork North Central

8. This Ard Fheis calls upon all Party members (both North and South) to become actively involved in all campaigns aimed at eradicating the serious levels of poverty being experienced by the elderly, the unemployed, young workers, students, single parent families and the low paid in Ireland today.

Antrim Road, North Belfast

9. This Ard fheis welcomes the initiative shown by the Workers Party in being the first party to highlight the extent of poverty in the country, and calls on the Party spokespersons to continue our efforts to highlight urban and rural poverty, forced emigration, exploitative levels of pay and mass unemployment. Our Party must examine means of breaching the right wing consensus in all branches of the mass media.

Mitchelstown, Cork East

EMIGRATION

Steering Committee Recommendations.

1 to be the main resolution on Emigration with 3 and 4 as addenda and 2 as an addendum.

-oOo-

1. This Ard Fheis recalls De Valera's pledge to the Dail in 1934 that "no longer shall our children, like our cattle, be brought up for export".

This Ard Fheis: notes that the current appalling levels of forced emigration are the highest in the history of the State.

- recognises that emigration has been perpetuated by the political hegemony that has governed this State since its inception and is the direct result of failed economic and industrial policies of successive Governments since then.

- reaffirms the right of Irish people to live and work in Ireland.

- asserts that the main solution to the emigration crisis is the provision of job opportunities for our people at home.

- believes that this can only be done through new industrial strategies based on the fullest exploitation and mobilisation of our indigenous resources.

- recognises that the extent of forced emigration is being exacerbated by the absence of any social welfare payment for 16 - 18 year olds.

- endorses the Party's demand for a higher minimum rate of social welfare (i.e. 50 pounds per week in 1989) and calls for the necessary changes in social welfare legislation to allow 16 - 18 year olds entitlement to 55% of the relevant adult social welfare entitlement if living at home, and

70% (supplemented by rent allowance where appropriate) if living independently.

- recognises that Host countries tolerate migrant labour only because of their contribution to the economy and we call on the Irish Government to take whatever steps are necessary, including at EC level, to ensure that the rights of Irish emigrants be promoted and upheld if necessary through legislation.

- further calls on the Irish Government to allocate sufficient resources for the provision of information, advice and counselling services both in Ireland for people considering emigration and in the countries to which the majority of Irish people emigrate.

- and also calls on the Government to give all Irish Imigrants a vote in all Irish elections.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

European dimension/emigration

2. This Ard Fheis demands that the right to vote in all future elections be extended to include all Irish citizens in other EEC countries.

Finglas West, Dublin North West

3. This Ard Fheis demands that all Irish citizens living abroad be given the right to a Postal vote in all Irish elections.

Glen, Cork North Central

4. This Ard Fheis recognising the appalling levels of emigration that exists in Northern Ireland particularly among the young, demands that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland makes known publicly the extent of this problem with a view to creating the proper economic infra-

structure within the region that will go a long way to stemming this mass exodus.

This can be done by:

- (a) Setting up an inter-Island economic emigration board which would look at meaningful ways of ending this problem.
- (b) That a joint approach be made on the subject of unemployment by both the IDB and IDA and the Department of Employment.
- (c) A Roundtable all Party economic task force be established which would include trade union participation at all levels, be set up as a matter of urgency by Industry Minister Peter Viggers.

Lower Glen, West Belfast

PEACE IN IRELAND —NORTHERN IRELAND

Steering Committee Recommendations.

1 to be taken as substantive motion on Peace Charter.

2 to be main motion on devolution. 3, 4, 5 and 6 are ammendments to 2.

7 to be taken separately.

8, 9 and 10 to be taken together.

11 to be taken separately.

12, 13 and 14 to be taken together.

15 to be taken separately.

-oOo-

Peace in Ireland

1. This Ard Fheis reasserts the determination of the Workers Party to campaign unrelentingly for an end to sectarian terrorism in this country. We reaffirm our commitment to the fundamental principles of the Peace Charter - Peace, Dialogue and Democracy - and undertake to build a mass movement for peace and political progress both in Northern Ireland and in the Republic.

When calling for peace we recognise that those who perpetuate sectarian murder are not amenable to our appeals and are consistently unmoved by the horrific consequences of their murderous actions. It is also evident to us that their distorted logic is not likely to be influenced by reason or political argument, nor will they readily acknowledge the futility of their terrorist campaign.

In these circumstances, an active peace campaign in Ireland must not only work for peace but seek to isolate the terrorists, to undermine their support among the community and expose their

dishonest manipulation of popular sentiment. That requires an active challenge to the supporters and justifiers of sectarian violence and a stripping away of the many popular disguises used to perpetuate their reactionary activity.

The Workers Party will lead the fight for an end to terrorism and in doing so will co-operate with all other democrats who support the fundamental principles of Peace, Dialogue and Political Democracy in Northern Ireland.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

Devolved Government

2. This Ard Fheis reaffirms the Partys commitment to its programme of securing democratic devolved government in Northern Ireland backed by a comprehensive Bill of Rights.

And endorses the proposals made by the Party in January this year to the Northern Ireland Secretary of State Mr. Tom King and the Republic's Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Brian Lenihan calling for:

- (1) the interim suspension of intergovernmental talks under the Anglo-Irish Agreement in order that discussions may take place between all Northern Ireland constitutional parties;
- (2) the removal of the Maryfield Secretariat to a non-contentious location and;
- (3) the introduction of a timetable designed to achieve a Democratic Devolved Government within six months.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

3. This Ard Fheis notes that in view of the fact that there is widespread support among the

political parties North and South, and among the vast majority of the people of this Island, for a devolved democratic administration in Northern Ireland, this Ard Fheis calls on the British and Irish governments to facilitate this groundswell of opinion by (a) initiating the process that will allow the possibility of progressive political dialogue among all the constitutional parties, and (b) the establishment of the mechanism that will remove the Maryfield Secretariat to a less contentious location and will allow the suspension of the Anglo Irish Agreement. This we believe will enhance the moves towards democracy and allow the people of Northern Ireland a say in the running of their own affairs.

Belfast Region

Anglo Irish Agreement

4. That this Ard Fheis again calls for the suspension of all contentious issues surrounding the Agreement, to allow all political representatives/democrats to sit down at a negotiating table to end the political deadlock and to move forward on the road to devolution. While recognising the political stalemate/vacuum existing in Northern Ireland politics, the terror gangs of Sinn Fein and their whorts continue to wreak havoc and mayhem on the community at large. Also, while accepting the democratic centralist nature of the Workers Party, we feel that such a major decision (i.e. the Workers Party initial response to the Agreement) and all others which follow, should be made/taken where possible at a full members/delegate conference.

Beechmount, West Belfast

5. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Irish and British Governments to suspend the Anglo Irish Agreement in order to allow democratic discussion to develop there.

Finglas West, Dublin North West

6. That this Ard Fheis sets up a commission to review our policy on Devolution for Northern Ireland. Recognising that our current position supporting normal democratic elections is unreal and extremely unlikely to occur anyway, this branch feels that the Party must seriously examine the prospect of some form of interim voluntary coalition as government for Northern Ireland. This branch believes that no solution will be successful which does not have majority support from both traditions. We therefore believe that a review of Devolution to specifically examine the pros and cons of an interim voluntary coalition is urgently required.

Turf Lodge

7. This Ard Fheis pledges the Workers Party to increase its efforts to build a public opinion in Ireland opposed to terrorism and which favours peace. We must at the same time work to preserve and further promote a policy of neutrality and non-alignment.

William Thompson, Dublin Central

International Fund

8. This Ard Fheis in view of the fact that the International Fund for Ireland has been used and abused by those people in charge of its distribution, urges the Trade Union Movement both

North and South to seek official status in the decision making process of its allocation.

Lower Glen, West Belfast

9. This Ard Fheis calls for an immediate enquiry into the allocation of funds under the International Fund for Ireland and requests our TDs to raise the matter in the Dail as a matter of urgency.

Omagh, Fermanagh/South Tyrone

10. This Ard Fheis condemns the misuse and abuse of the International Fund for Ireland by political parasites and gombeen men who have used the fund for their own personal enterprises at the expense of the Northern Ireland working class.

Belfast Region

Security and Policing

11. This Ard Fheis endorses the Partys security document as a progressive, constructive contribution to the elimination of terrorism and the promotion of proper policing.

Belfast Region

12. This Ard Fheis agrees that the Party in the incoming year, campaign vigorously for the demilitarisation of the situation in Northern Ireland with a view to encourage dialogue with progressive groups and parties seeking peace and democracy and to isolate the paramilitary gangs where ever they may come from, so that the community can look for a lasting peace and

reconciliation between the working class, who bear the brunt of the ongoing violence.

Lower Falls, West Belfast

Police Complaints Procedure

13. This Ard Fheis urges for the immediate setting up of a totally independent complaints procedure to enable the public at large to investigate the RUC without any fear of repercussions. Also, while recognising the difficult task the RUC have in the defeat of terrorism, we condemn the manner and fashion of the large scale searches currently being conducted in working class areas throughout the North and their counterproductive results in further alienating the community and swelling the ranks of the terror gangs.

Beechmount, West Belfast

Punishment Shootings

14. We call on this Ard Fheis to condemn the ongoing concept of punishment shootings. These shootings should be seen in the context of the provos answer to policing in socially deprived areas. They are also introduced at specifically chosen periods especially the run up to local elections.

Cromac, South Belfast

Democratisation of Statutory Agencies within Northern Ireland

15. This Ard Fheis calls for a major reorganisation of the Boards appointed to administer Health, Education and Housing in Northern Ireland on the following lines:

1. That 50% of all nominees shall be councillors.
2. That local councillors shall represent the considered views of their council on such boards.
3. That councils nominate members to these bodies pro rata to their Party strength in the council.
4. That council representation on such bodies shall reflect the size of the population in the area.

Belfast Region

Beechmount, West Belfast

Widely varied

Widely varied

Widely varied

Widely varied

Widely varied

EMPLOYMENT

Steering Committee Recommendations.

- 1 to be the main resolution.
- 2 and 3 to be taken together.
- 4, 5 and 6 are addenda to 1.
- 7, 8 and 9 to be taken individually.

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Jobs

1. This Ard Fheis notes that by far the greater number of those unemployed are manual workers and unskilled manual workers. Many of the jobs that it is possible to create need a manual workforce and we must agitate for jobs in these areas. This campaign must approach the problem along two lines:

- (1) The creation of manual jobs.
- (2) The manual skills we want to see developed.

If we do not adopt this approach we will fail to work out a policy to deal with unemployment in the area where it has its highest concentration.

Redundancies in the Public Service

This Ard Fheis notes that the Public Service employs large numbers of workers and that these workers excite a special hatred in those of the political Right because:

- (1) Large numbers of workers feel that they have a common interest and identity as Public Service workers.
- (2) Workers in the Public Service are organised into trade unions.

The political Right has adopted the following strategy in relation to the Public Service:

- (1) To buy out Public Service jobs - as many as possible - under the heading "Redundancy".
- (2) To have the work which used be performed by the "redundant workers" sub-contracted to private enterprise.

This Ard Fheis pledges the Workers Party to expose and campaign against this economic and political strategy of the Right.

Uniting Technology, skill, semi-skilled and the unskilled.

This Ard Fheis accepts the clothing industry as an example used to illustrate the meaning of this resolution - which has a much broader application than the clothing industry. A fully developed clothing industry needs:

- (1) Top quality product design.
- (2) Raw materials.
- (3) Processing plants of various kinds.
- (4) Production units turning out the final product.
- (5) Marketing and advertising.

Top quality product design means the use, as a part of the industry, of people highly qualified in design. The raw materials needed for the clothing industry are wool, linen and leather - all from the first stage of production.

At the second stage of production textiles are needed. Out of the fabrics produced, high quality clothing can be manufactured. Marketing and advertising are also skilled areas and need semi-skilled support.

This Ard Fheis accepts this approach to job creation.

Public Enterprise

This Ard Fheis notes that many areas of the Public Enterprise make a profit and work efficiently. Public Enterprise must be in the forefront of the battle to create jobs along these lines:

- (1) Public Enterprise - when not providing a needed service - must be competitive.
- (2) Public Enterprise must be allowed to compete with private enterprise in all areas.
- (3) On the basis of realistic job creating proposals Public Enterprise should not be treated less favourably than private enterprise.

The Workers Party continues to emphasise that Public Enterprise should be the engine of growth in the economy.

New Technology

This Ard Fheis notes that each year we produce a crop of people from our universities with impressive qualifications in various areas of new technology. Private enterprise, it is obvious, cannot absorb these precious skills as quickly as they are produced.

We believe that the areas serviced by these skills is a growing market and that this important area of job creating possibilities should be developed by Public Enterprise.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

realistic production plan for the sector, and through which grants and incentives to farmers would be channelled so as to ensure the full realisation of that production plan.

Galway West Ward, Galway West

4. This Ard Fheis deplores the massive levels of unemployment in this country, and the forced emigration of most of the countries highly educated youth; condemns the failure of successive Governments, and the private sector to tackle this problem in any meaningful way; rejects the near total acceptance by many of the leading establishment institutions, that we are powerless to change this situation; and pledges to set about with renewed vigour and enthusiasm the task of convincing the Irish People that there is an alternative to this type of sick society, and that full employment is attainable under the policies of the Workers Party.

Cork North Central Ward

Right Wing Economic Policies

5. This Ard Fheis deplores the right wing economic policies which create mass unemployment and poverty and which force our young people to emigrate.

Kilbarack West, Dublin North East

Employment

6.

(a) This Ard Fheis pledges the Workers Party to campaign for full employment. This is both desirable and possible to achieve.

(b) To expose the propaganda which endeavours to convince those without jobs that their condition is inevitable.

Also that this Ard Fheis pledges the Workers Party to promote job creation based on our own resources - based especially on the land - which is our greatest single natural resource.

William Thompson, Dublin Central

7. This Ard Fheis, aware that the Northern Ireland's unemployment statistics are understated; that in West Belfast alone there are over 15,000 people without jobs, welcomes the location of a major new industrial manufacturing plan on the De Lorean site as the most positive serious jobs initiative in recent years.

Ballymurphy, West Belfast

Unemployed Centres

8. This Ard Fheis commends the work of the increased number of ICTU Centres for the Unemployed throughout the country. We call on the government to enable these Centres to function even more effectively by allocating funding for the recruitment of permanent staff instead of the present exclusive dependence on Social Employment Schemes.

Wexford Town, Wexford

Social Employment Schemes

9. This Ard Fheis considers that the wages paid to participants in Social Employment Schemes are totally inadequate and considers the budget increase of 5 pounds per week to single

participants, who are expected to work a forty hour week for 65 pounds, to be nothing more than an insult. We therefore call on the government to substantially increase S.E.S. wages.

Wexford town, Wexford

4. This and other areas that the North-South Ireland Employment Strategy are underlined; that in West Belfast alone there are over 12,000 people without jobs, whereas the location of a major new industrial manufacturing plant on the far shore side as the most profitable jobs available in recent years. Unemployed Centre

5. This and other areas that the work of the increased number of ICTU Centres for the Unemployed throughout the country. We call on the government to enable these Centres to function even more effectively by allocating funding for the recruitment of government staff instead of the present exclusive dependence on social employment schemes.

Wexford town, Wexford

6. This and other areas that the wages paid to participants in social employment schemes is totally inadequate and considers the budget increase of 2 pounds per week for single

ECONOMY

Steering Committee Recommendations.

- 1 and 2 to be taken together.
- 3, 4, 5 and 6 to be taken together.
- 7, 8, 9 and 10 to be taken together.
- 11, 12, 13 and 14 to be taken separately.
- 15, 16 and 17 to be taken together.
- 18 to be taken separately.

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Industrial Development

1. This Ard Fheis calls for special incentive schemes for industrial development in the three new towns in the West of Dublin and to include the construction of the Town Centres in Tallaght, Clondalkin and Blanchardstown.

Dublin West C.C.

2. This Ard Fheis reaffirms the commitment of the Workers Party to continued and intensified industrial development as the key element in economic progress. While acknowledging the growing importance of the services sector and the need to exploit the potential of high technology services to create employment we will oppose any attempts to by-pass industrialisation on the road to full employment.

Without the surplus generated by an efficient and highly productive industrial sector there can be no basis for secure jobs in the services sector. To talk of expanding services without the underpinning of a strong industrial sector is like trying to establish a growing chain of public houses in a world without breweries, distilleries or mineral water factories, building companies of

furniture manufacturers. For the 'post industrialists' the horse and cart are going backwards.

This Ard Fheis pledges the Workers Party to campaign for industrialisation through step by step development of chains of production from raw materials to finished products i.e. sheep, meat, leather, wool, clothing. Integrated systems of production are the only way to create secure industrial jobs.

Ned Stapleton, Dublin

Privatisation V State Owned Industry

3. This Ard Fheis commits the Workers Party to attack all efforts by government to privatise State or Local Authority Services:

- (1) by means of contrived redundancies;
- (2) embargoes on recruitment;
- (3) by reduction in services;

and to defend the Public Service by supporting and advocating a range of changes with the idea of promoting a well developed and efficient Public Service.

William Thompson, Dublin Central

4. That this Ard Fheis fully supports the Trade Union Campaign in defence of the jobs of workers in Harland and Wolff and Short Brothers and against the privatisation of these two public companies.

East Belfast, East Belfast

5. This Ard Fheis supports the workers of Shorts and Harland and Wolff who are opposing the

privatisation of these industries.

Lower Falls, West Belfast

6. That this Ard Fheis demands that Tara/Bula mines be nationalised.

Meath C.C.

Workers Rights

7. That this Ard Fheis demands legislation to bring about an end to attempts by employers to minimise labour costs by creating a major growth in the number of workers now engaged on a part time, temporary, casual, seasonal, freelance, stand by, call out, contract commission, portfolio basis, leading to a lack of full legal protection at work, protection resulting from coverage by labour legislation, full PRSI cover and union membership.

Meath C.C.

8. That this Ard Fheis calls on the relevant Party Committee to investigate the conditions and rights of part time workers and again the Party should have a vigorous campaign to highlight these conditions, which are being brought about by both conservative governments.

Lagan Valley C.C.

9. This Ard Fheis calls on the incoming Ard Comhairle to campaign for the enactment of a Minimum Wage Act and also for the qualifying threshold of all statutory acts relating to employment to be altered so as to cover everybody

in employment especially part time workers.

Donnycarney/Killester, Dublin North Central

10. This Ard Fheis notes that while both governments pay lip service to equal pay for women, the reality is that the employers don't implement this, and we call on both governments to ensure that all employers implement the law and that any employer found guilty of breaking it should be brought before the courts.

Lagan Valley C.C.

11. This Ard Fheis fully endorses the enactment of a European charter of rights for workers and consumers, as recently recommended by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

Finglas West, Dublin North West

12. This Ard Fheis calls for the extension of the ministerial order, which requires employers in certain sectors of the economy to notify the Department of Social Welfare of new staff, employed to cover private bus operators.

Cork North West Ward, Cork North Central

Protective Legislation

13. That the company in whose name a commercial vehicle is registered, should be solely liable for prosecutions arising from mechanical deficiency, tax, insurance or tachograph irregularities.

Dublin South

14. Iarann an Ard Fheis seo ar ar dteachtaí Dála bílle a chuir os comhair na Dála - a dheanfas

cinnte go mbeidh sa cothrom coir le fail ag gach duine dha bhfuil ag obair.

Galway City West, Galway West

Establishing National Peatland Development Authority

15. That a National Peatland Development Authority be established to draw up detailed development plans for the future use of Bord na Mona cutaway bogs and other areas of underdeveloped peatland.

This authority to contain representatives of Bord na Mona, Teagasc, Coilte Teoranta, The Peatland Conservancy Council, Bord Failte, the trade unions and farming organisations and other interested bodies, as well as independent technical experts.

Prosperous, Kildare

16. This Ard Fheis calls on Bord na Mona to enter into negotiations with the company group of unions to agree a development plan for the company based on the creation of secure employment in peatland areas.

Prosperous, Kildare

17. This Ard Fheis demands that Bord Na Mona peatlands continue to be developed directly by Bord na Mona employees.

Kildare C.C.

Social Audit for Enterprises

18. This Ard Fheis notes in circumstances of reduced central government regulation of individual enterprises, in 'free market'

conditions, workers, consumers and the population at large must find new ways of exercising social regulation of the economy. As a contribution to this 'social dimension' of economic activity, this conference calls on the Party to seek the establishment of social auditing in all public and private enterprise. This social audit should be as essential as the financial auditing of company accounts and should, together with the latter, be freely available to workers in the enterprise and to the general public.

Such a social audit should provide accurate accounting on such matters as grants from the state, job numbers, job creation and job losses, social benefits such as pensions, sick pay, health and safety provisions, and expenditure on education and training.

It should also detail contributions of the enterprise to charities, sports and political parties; and measures taken to dispose of waste materials, protect the environment and improve the quality of the product or service provided. A code for social auditing should be drawn up in conjunction with the trade unions, consumer groups and the professional accountancy bodies.

Blackrock/Stillorgan, Dun Laoghaire

SOCIAL WELFARE

Steering Committee Recommendations.

1 and 2 together make one substantive motion on Child Benefit.

3 and 4 are addenda with 5 as an ammendment.

6, 7 and 8 taken together under sub-head T.V. Licences.

9, 10, 11 and 12 to be taken separately.

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Child Benefit

1. This Ard Fheis, recognising

- that child benefit is an important source of income for most mothers and some fathers (and the only independent income for many);

- that the worst feature of the present benefit is its very low level; and the best features are its universality and the fact that it is generally paid to women;

- that the introduction of means testing in this area would not only destroy this universality and deprive some women of an independent income, but would also create new anomalies and pressures on women to leave or remain outside of the labour market;

- that the imposition of a 30,000 pounds p.a. income ceiling would bring such insignificant savings that its purpose can hardly be financial; nor can it be genuinely redistributive, since such savings, if applied to the remaining child benefit payments, would hardly raise that level at all;

- that serious attempts to remove 'surplus' income from the wealthy and redistribute it to those in need would involve such measures as raising tax exemption limits, introducing effective capital and property taxes, removing all tax loopholes, imposing tougher taxes on inheritance and raising

the top rate of income tax - yet the government has just lowered the top tax rate;

THEREFORE CONDEMNS the governments recent proposal to means test this payment and calls upon our Party's TDs and CEC to seize every opportunity to express and explain the Workers Partys' opposition to such a move.

Blackrock/Stillorgan, Dun Laoghaire

2. This Ard Fheis opposes any attempt to restrict or limit the child benefit scheme on the following grounds:

- (1) It represents the only guaranteed income that many women receive as mothers.
- (2) To introduce a cut off point for this scheme merely represents the thin edge of the wedge and within a few years we could see the scheme virtually abolished.
- (3) In a society where so much lip service is paid to the family it is hypocritical to curtail a scheme which to some degree acknowledges our children as our most important resource.
- (4) The removal of this scheme from families on a high income could seriously affect women who do not have access to the earners paypacket. Child Benefit has been allowed to decrease in real value by freezing it at its present level since 1986. It is unacceptable that this benefit should be allowed to diminish to the point where the amount becomes more of an insult than a benefit. The Government is clearly "Testing the Water" on this issue and they must be made aware that threats to curtail the scheme in any way will not be tolerated.

Tallaght East/Greenhills, Dublin South West

3. This Ard Fheis deplores the failure of Government to raise Child Benefit for the second successive year, recognising that this causes acute hardship to families. Further we deplore the introduction of "Loans" within the Social Security system and pledge ourselves to work for their replacement by grants.

Ballymurphy, West Belfast

4. That this Ard Fheis rejects the Government proposal to meantest Childrens' Allowance and welcomes the growing demand for a basic minimum income. We call on the Government to establish the principle in the Social Welfare code and through legislation for a basic minimum wage.

Bray North East, Wicklow

5. Children's Allowance to the wealthy is yet another way in which the poor subsidise the rich.

This Ard Fheis therefore supports in principle the proposal that Childrens Allowance be subject to an income ceiling. At the same time, it is imperative that wage earners and the dependents of wage earners not be penalised for being in employment. The ceiling should therefore not be unduly low; not more than 20% of current claimants should be excluded, the cut-off figure to be determined by the previous year's income.

The savings made must be rediverted - and seen to be rediverted - directly back to mothers and children on lower incomes: for example into providing mother/child drop in centres, creche facilities, and youth clubs in local authority housing areas.

Clondalkin, Dublin West

T.V. Licences

6. This Ard Fheis calls on the Government to extend free television Licences to the long term unemployed.

Cork South Central Ward, Cork South Central

7. That this Ard Fheis calls a waiver of payment of TV licences for those on low incomes.

Dublin West C.C.

8. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to extend the Free Television Licence Scheme to all recipients of long term Social Welfare payment.

Dublin North City Centre, Dublin Central

PRSI and Health Contributions

9. This Ard Fheis demands that employers P.R.S.I. contributions be brought up to the average level of EEC countries and that the extra revenue be used to fund PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES as is the case in other EEC countries.

Cork North Central Constituency Council

10. This Ard Fheis demands that the fuel and clothing needs of long term Social Welfare recipients be a statutory entitlement under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme.

James Larkin, Ballyfermot, Dublin West

11. This Ard Fheis calls for a standard level of social welfare payment and that this be set at the

existing highest social welfare payment level.

Cork North West Ward, Cork North Central

Community Welfare

12. In these times of unprecedented levels of poverty, that this Ard Fheis condemns the widespread practice in the community welfare sections of the Health Boards deliberately concealing from people the full range of entitlements.

Navan, Meath

HEALTH

Steering Committee Resolutions.

- 1 to be the main motion.
- 2, 3 and 4 to be taken together.
- 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 take together.
- 12 and 13 take together.
- 14 to be substantive motion on Northern Ireland Health Service.
- 15 and 16 are addenda.
- 17 and 18 take individually.
- 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 take all individually.
- 25 and 26 take together.
- 27 to be taken separately.

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1. This Ard Fheis:

REITERATES our Party's commitment to the development of a health care system which provides an equally good and prompt service to all citizens, based on need rather than wealth.

CONDEMNS the movement away from such a system in recent years and the consequent polarisation of health care into high quality services for the minority and longer waiting lists and deteriorating services for the majority; and

CALLS UPON THE GOVERNMENT to reverse this trend and end the scandal of inequality between public and private patients in access to general hospital and consultant care, by instituting the following reforms in relation to consultant's contracts, the role of the VHI and the rights of patients.

A. Consultants

1. That the consultants common contract for work in publicly funded hospitals be changed to include the following provisions:

- (a) That all consultants should see and treat all patients whether public or private, in the same way in the same rooms or outpatient's departments, under the same conditions and from the same waiting list; and that it would be a breach of contract to do otherwise.
- (b) That publicly appointed consultants would only be allowed to practice in the public hospitals to which they are attached.
- (c) That consultants choosing to practice in private hospitals would not be offered public appointments.
- (d) That consultants be paid a portion of their salary for public work on a merit or productivity basis.

2. That more consultant specialists be appointed, with a pro rata reduction in the numbers of non consultant hospital doctors, in order to:

- (a) provide a more prompt and effective service to public patients.
- (b) involve consultant specialists more directly in the day to day management of public patients.
- (c) provide a better career structure for non consultant hospital doctors.
- (d) make changes in the common contract more feasible.

B. The V.H.I.

That the VHI as a semi state body, be developed as an instrument of greater social equity through radical reform of its approach and organisation and greater integration into the overall health care system, through measures such as the

following:

1. Giving the VHI a supervisory role in ensuring equal access and choice, and a high quality of care, for all patients both public and private; with a mandate to alter economic relationships between consultants and patients, as necessary in order to achieve this objective (e.g. by channelling through the VHI a portion of the salary paid by the state to consultants for their work with public patients).
2. Ensuring greater public accountability by the VHI.
3. Instituting full participation in the VHI policy formation and decision making by representatives of the main interest groups in the healthcare area (e.g. through restructuring of its Board).
4. Ending VHI cover for all schemes outside the publicly funded institutions.
5. Maintaining tax relief on VHI premia only to the extent necessary to cover provision in public health facilities.
6. Continuing to withhold tax relief from private health insurance cover other than that provided by the VHI - even after 1992 - since preservation of the VHI's monopoly is in the public interest, particularly if its role and structure is reformed as above.

C. Patients Rights

That a charter of Patients Rights be introduced in order to give force to the following:

1. The right to equal treatment on the basis of need
2. The right to equality of access and care when in hospital.

3. The right to information and access to personal medical records.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

Community Care

2. This Ard Fheis notes the huge contribution to community care made by those looking after elderly, ill and dependent relatives in their home environment. It further notes that these 'unpaid carers' get virtually no support from State services even though they save the State millions of pounds each year in institutional care costs, and that they carry out their task often at great personal cost - financial, physical and emotional.

This Ard Fheis calls for a Charter of Rights for carers which would include:

- recognition of their vital role.
- financial support to carry out their task.
- services support such as relief care, home help, laundry services, transportation etc.
- information and counselling services for carers.
- a carers support unit in each Health Board area.

Dublin North Central Constituency

3. This Ard Fheis welcomes the recent studies undertaken by the National Council of the Aged which have drawn attention to the plight of thousands of 'unpaid carers' in the community. It calls on the relevant State bodies to formally recognise the work undertaken by such carers and to provide the financial and practical support needed to ensure a decent quality of life for carers and for those they look after.

Donnycarney/Killester, Dublin North Central

4. This Ard Fheis notes that two years into the Strategic Plan to switch resources to community care in Northern Ireland our worst fears are being realised:

1. That community care is increasingly evident as the unpaid care by women relatives;
2. That regulations governing payment of Attendance Allowance, Invalid Care Allowance and Social Fund Grants make a nonsense of providing carers with a minimum of financial assistance in their task;
3. That the Home Help Service continues to be systematically starved of resources and is reducing rather than expanding;
4. That voluntary organisations are being asked to take on work which quite properly belongs to direct Social Service provision.

This Ard Fheis therefore instructs its members and constituent organisations to campaign vigorously to highlight these matters and build up support for Government to put money where its mouth is in this area.

Belfast Region

Health Services

5. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to plan the health services based on the principle that services should be provided on the basis of need and not on ability to pay.

Bray North East, Wicklow

6. That this Ard Fheis condemns the development of a multi-tier health service, where access is

determined by wealth rather than by medical need.

Navan, Meath

7. This Ard Fheis condemns both the Government and the well rewarded end of the medical profession for instituting a class structure in health care. This means that many in our society are denied the best health care, but the best possible health care is available to those with wealth. This Ard Fheis instructs the Workers Party to expose this evil.

Ned Stapleton, Dublin

8. This Ard Fheis condemns the cutbacks in the public hospital system and abhors the pressure being put on people to take out private health insurance in order to get access to services.

Bray North East, Wicklow

9. This Ard Fheis recognising the total exploitation of both workers and patients alike which can, and is, presently taking place in areas where health care of the elderly has been privatised, condemns this privatisation and calls for greater investment in Public Sector Healthcare provision where the motive is not one of profit but rather one of genuine care for those in need.

Omagh, Mid Ulster

10. This Ard Fheis condemns the privatisation of the care of the elderly and calls upon the Government to take the necessary steps to reverse this trend.

Cork North Central Constituency Council

11. This Ard Fheis demands that people, whose spouses or children have to travel long distances e.g. outside their health board area for diagnosis and/or treatment, have access to free travel where it applies to the patient and wherever else it causes hardship.

Cork North Central Constituency Council

Hospital Closures/Government Cutbacks

12. This Ard Fheis instructs the relevant Party committee to formulate the most effective policy possible to deal with hospital closures, cutbacks of services and job losses around the country.

Cashel, South Tipperary

13. This Ard Fheis welcomes the success of the campaign to keep Temple St. Hospital open despite the obvious wish of the Fianna Fail Government to have it closed.

We salute the staff of the hospital both medical and non medical who work so hard with poor facilities.

However, we reaffirm that the present service offered by the hospital is, due to Government cutbacks, totally inadequate and not acceptable given the huge numbers of children who depend on the hospital. In particular we note and condemn the huge waiting periods for essential operations for children.

The Ard Fheis pledges the Party to continue to campaign for the expansion and development of this hospital in the interest of the community which it serves.

North City Centre, Dublin Central

Health and Social Services in Northern Ireland

14. This Ard Fheis views the White Paper on the N.H.S. as the gravest threat to the continuation of the N.H.S. since its inception. A review which was supposed to lead to a better service for patients has become a weapon to attack the very fabric of the N.H.S., free at the point of entry to all those in need.

This Ard Fheis therefore pledges that the Workers Party will work alongside trade unions, community groups and all democratic progressive political forces in Northern Ireland to resist the imposition of changes which have not been discussed with the people of Northern Ireland; which take no cognisance of the already significantly differing structure of Health and Personal Social Service delivery in Northern Ireland and offer nothing but more management and bureaucracy with fewer beds for patients; fewer nurses for caring; and inadequate resources to meet need.

Belfast Region

15. This Ard Fheis condemns the new national health review as nothing more than a Tory weapon to dismantle the health service created by socialists with vision and compassion and replace it with their own dogma 'that the wealthy can be healthy and the poor can go to the wall', and calls upon the Northern Region to orchestrate a campaign similar to the successful 'save our hospitals' campaign to make the public aware of the implications of this review.

Antrim Road, Belfast North

16. Propose day of action against Margaret Thatchers' new health propsoals which are leading us back to victorian times.

Dunmurry, Lagan Valley

17. This Ard Fheis condemns the complementary study drawn up by the Eastern Health and Social Services Board which seriously damages the delivery of service at the Mater, Royal and City Hospitals in Belfast and condemns those board members who allowed the document to be passed without discussion. We further call on the Party to initiate and actively participate in the campaign to stop these decisions being carried out.

Antrim Road, North Belfast

18. This Ard Fheis to condemns Tory policy on their 100% grant scheme to GP's for expansion and renovation to local surgery halls, as we see complete wards and casualty wards closing down. Surgery Halls run by GP's are now being changed into mini hospitals, thus leading us to see the complete erosion of hospital outpatients system, with loss of jobs throughout Northern Ireland in clerical and transport staff, all at the expense of these 'get rich quick' GP's.

Whiterock, West Belfast

Rape Crisis Centres

19. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to provide adequate funding for rape crisis centres and other agencies that provide care (including medical care) and counselling for adult and child victims of rape and other forms of sexual abuse,

and to provide such services where they do not exist.

Crumlin, Dublin South Central

Child Abuse

20. This Ard Fheis welcomes the establishment by the RUC of a Custom Built Centre for dealing with the victims of Child Abuse and Rape and call for an extension of such services throughout the North.

Belfast Region

Refuges

21. This Ard Fheis calls on the Department of Health to provide sufficient funding to Health Boards to enable the establishment of a network throughout the country of properly staffed and equipped refuges for victims of family violence.

Wexford Town, Wexford

Home Birth

22. The demand for home birth is greatly on the rise, due both to the decrease in hospital services and to the medicalisation of the birthing process with the hospitals. In theory, domiciliary confinement is the constitutional and legal right of all mothers. In practice, domiciliary midwives, to whom the health boards pay a mere forty pounds per case, are obliged to charge the mothers in their care for their services. Lower income mothers are thus excluded from this option. This Ard Fheis therefore supports the demand of

domiciliary midwives for a realistic wage to be paid in full by the Health Boards.

Clondalkin, Dublin South West

23. This Ard Fheis notes that the long delay in dentists appointments for children is appalling. Considering the amount spent on training dentists, the lack of public dental care is totally unacceptable and urges that local campaigns should be started in each area to highlight this situation.

Finglas East, Dublin North West

Family Planning

24. This Ard Fheis recognises that many couples cannot afford family planning services and/or contraceptives and that for some the position is worse than before the Family Planning Act.

This Ard Fheis believes that the state must guarantee the right of couples to plan their families and calls on the government:

- to remove contraceptives from the 'luxury' class for VAT purposes;
- to ensure that all health boards provide for those who cannot afford to pay for contraceptive services.

In particular, this Ard Fheis calls on the Eastern Health Board to provide for contraceptives and services for those who cannot afford to pay.

Dublin South

Health and Food

25. This Ard Fheis notes that unlabelled, irradiated food continues to enter this country even though the Irish government has the power to ban imports of irradiated foods under existing consumer protection laws.

The irradiation of food involves subjecting food stuffs to large doses of gamma radiation to kill bacteria, prevent sprouting and lengthen storage life. It is being strongly promoted by the nuclear energy lobby which see it as a convenient way of disposing of the nuclear waste products, cobalt-60 and cassium-137 which are used in the process. Tests have shown that irradiation destroys vitamins and can create radrolytic products, some of which may cause cancer. Irradiation reduces the natural spoilage organisms which produce the tell tale smell indicating that food is off. Although it might appear fresh and wholesome it could still contain the spores of Clostridium Bolulinum or Behilism and would therefore be lethal to eat. The problem is exacerated by the lack of a suitable detection technique for determining whether foods have been irradiated or not.

This Ard Fheis instructs the Partys TD's to call on the government of the Republic of Ireland to:

1. Introduce an immediate ban on irradiated imports under our existing Food Hygiene Regulations and the Sale of Food & Drugs Act.
2. Vote with the other European countries opposed to food irradiation against the EEC draft directive allowing the sale of irradiated food throughout the EEC.

Downpatrick, South Down

26. This Ard Fheis urgently resolves to challenge the concept of 'deep chill food' in hospitals which is being implemented around the South Eastern Health Board area. This policy is regarded by medical experts as having dangerous implications for the health of patients.

Cashel, South Tipperary

27. This Ard Fheis calls for a workplace health scheme whereby workers in high risk industries such as chemical, electronic, pharmaceutical, bio-medical research and engineering can have free access to a minimum of one complete medical examination per year.

Santry/Whitehall, Dublin North West

JUSTICE AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Steering Committee Recommendations.

1 and 2 to be taken together as one substantive on Criminal Law (Rape) Amendment Bill 1988.

3, 4 and 5 to be taken together.

6 and 7 take together.

8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 to be taken separately.

13 and 14 to be taken together.

-oOo-

Criminal Law (Rape) (Amendment) Bill, 1988.

1. This Ard Fheis notes that legislation with regard to the seriousness of the crime of rape has long been neglected by successive governments. The draft Criminal Law (Rape) (Amendment) Bill, 1988, is a positive step in an area which has long been overdue reform.

And considers however the following measures to be both important and urgent for inclusion in the proposed legislation since further review of the law in the foreseeable future is unlikely.

These are:

1. The broadening of the definition of rape to include other horrific forms of sexual assault generally regarded as rape.
2. That in a trial any application to cross examine a witness in relation to any previous sexual experience be made, at the beginning of the trial, in the absence of the jury.
3. The Bill should include wording to guarantee the anonymity of the victim and it should not be possible, under an circumstance, for any matter likely to lead to the identification

- of a person as a complainant to be published or broadcast.
4. The Central Criminal Court should have exclusive jurisdiction in sentencing even when a plea of guilty is entered in the District Court.
 5. Independent legal assistance at trial stage and consultation with the D.P.P.'s office should be available to complainants under the Bill.
 6. Custodial sentences without a rehabilitation programme do not adequately deal with the offences under the Bill in relation to society in general. A comprehensive psychological treatment infrastructure must be developed. Treatment and rehabilitation of offenders should be addressed in the Bill.
 7. The following administrative changes should apply:
 - (a) The complainant be given a copy of his/her statement to the Gardai.
 - (b) The complainant be advised of developments in the case by the Gardai and be given access to the prosecuting counsel.
 - (c) That a standard booklet be available to victims of sexual offences broadly explaining the law, investigation, and prosecution of such cases.
 - (d) A positive attempt be made to ensure that some court officials and attendants at rape and sexual offences trials are women.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

2. This Ard Fheis welcomes the proposals for reform of the legislation on rape contained in the Bill currently going through the Oireachtas as a

signifiicant advance on the present legal situation. We regret, however, that the Bill does not propose to broaden the definition of Rape as recommended in the revised Report of the Law Reform Commission and urge the Minister for Justice to accept such an amendment to the proposed legislation.

Donnycarney/Killester, Dublin North Central

Democratic Institutions

3. This Ard Fheis condemns as clumsy and counterproductive, recent efforts by the British Government to deal with complicated problems posed by terrorist abuse of democratic institutions, press freedoms, and legal protection; in particular their imposition, without consultation and against the advice of their own consultative bodies, of such measures as

- the directive banning the Provos from Radio and T.V. interviews.
- the declaration to be made by local councillors.
- the new practices in court and police stations governing the right of accused persons to remain silent.
- and the decision to derogate from the European convention on Human Rights.

..... point out the necessity for a firmly established, legally defined, framework of basic citizens rights as proposed by the Workers Party for many years in its demand for a Bill of Rights.

This should encompass, or be accompanied with, firm, effective, legislation making it illegal for any person to promote or support or incite hatred, violence, or any terrorist activity, and breach of

this law should be a criminal offence, and should be prosecuted by the state.

Co Derry, East Derry

4. This Ard Fheis recognising the abuse of the democratic process by reactionary forces in Northern Ireland, in particular at local government level calls on the British Government to make a greater use of incitement to hatred legislation and expand it to cover areas not represented in the legislation.

Belfast Region

Identity Card

5. This Ard Fheis notes with anxiety the call from certain politicians to have the citizens of Northern Ireland issued with identity cards and being aware of the many freedoms already lost under the Thatcher Government call on all democrats to oppose any such move.

Lagan Valley C.C.

Northern Ireland Civil Rights Associations

6. This Ard Fheis condemns the upsurge of '68 committees. members of which have been responsible for driving the Civil Rights Movement off the streets. The campaign for equal rights for everyone was the standard, not nationalist rights. This Ard Fheis instructs the relevant department to issue a booklet on the Workers Party analysis of the Civil Rights era.

Beechmount, West Belfast

7. This Ard Fheis declares in this the twentieth year of the civil rights movement, to stand clearly and unequivocally on the side of those people who are opposed to the sectarian campaign of bigotry being waged by the Provos, and we feel that what needs highlighted most of all is the fact that it is the sectarian murder gangs of the provisional I.R.A. who are denying the most fundamental right of all to people - the right to life. Without this right all other rights are meaningless.

Lower Falls, West Belfast

Adoption Rights

8. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for Health to introduce the necessary legislation to extend the adoption rights currently available to married couples, to separated, deserted and single people.

Dublin West C.C.

Civil Legal Aid

9.

- (i) This Ard Fheis demands that this Government provide an adequate Civil Legal Aid service to replace the inadequate one we have at present and that it be put on a statutory basis.
- (ii) In view of the fact that funding for Coolock Community Law Centre from the Combat Poverty Agency runs out at the end of the present year, and in view of the excellent service provided by Coolock Law Centre over the years, notwithstanding the shortage of staff and an increasing workload, that this Government provide adequate funding for the

future and this funding to include the addition of a second Solicitor and backup.

Kilbarrack/Donaghmede, Dublin North East

Judicial Reform

10. This Ard Fheis notes that the number of people going into prison for fine default now exceeds the number given prison sentences for their offences. There is evidence that almost all fine defaulters in prison had been unemployed for long periods at the time they were fined. We urge the governments of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland to make it impossible for people who rely on state benefits to be fined and to encourage the development of a range of non custodial penalties appropriate to the minor offences which typically lead to fines.

Andersonstown, West Belfast

Drug Abuse/Pushers

11. This Ard Fheis fully supports calls for the seizing of assets of convicted Drug Pushers and calls on the Government to implement legislation to ensure that those who engage in this destruction of fellow human beings bear the full brunt of the law.

Tallaght East/Greenhills, Dublin South West

New Legislation

12. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for Justice to introduce legislation and guidelines for martial arts clubs.

Donneycarney/Killester, Dublin North Central

Gay Community

13. This Ard Fheis views with concern the increasing attacks both literal and metaphorical on members of the Gay Community and condemns in particular Clause 28 of the Social Government Bill and the continued criminilisation of Gay people in the Republic of Ireland.

South Belfast

14. This Ard Fheis recognises and condemns the discrimination that exists against the gay and lesbian community in Ireland. This Ard Fheis calls on the party mmebers to support the gay/lesbian community in its struggle to overcome this discrimination.

Limerick City, Limerick East

2. This Ard Fheis favours the granting of negotiation rights for pay and conditions through a defence forces representatives body.

Newbrdige, Kildare

3. This Ard Fheis:

- given that Defence Forces Personnel are tragic victims of Bureaucracy, consequently feelings of anger and frustration are widespread within the Services. Total disregard for the welfare of members has been blatantly obvious by successive Ministers of Defence.

- adopts in principle the necessity for the immediate establishment of a two-tier (one for Officers NCO's and men) representative body within the Defence Forces, with full negotiating rights on non security matters to protect its members Socio-Economic Development and to erradict the bureaucratic exploitation of Service Personnel.

Dundalk, Louth

WOMEN

Steering Committee Recommendations.

1, 2, 3 and 4 to be taken individually.

-oOo-

Women and Social Welfare

1. This Ard Fheis recognises the discriminatory nature of social welfare payments which denies certain categories of women an individual entitlement. Women are given entitlements on the basis of their relationship to men e.g. deserted wives, widows, unmarried mothers, single women etc.

This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister to (1) introduce the necessary legislation to guarantee every citizen their individual right to social welfare at a rate of payment that enables people to obtain a decent standard of living and (2) enact legislation giving the adult dependents portion of payment directly to the dependent unless otherwise stated.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

Women and Peace in Northern Ireland

2. The Workers Party have worked consistently at promoting peace in Northern Ireland through our policies, campaigns and party publications etc. We have pointed out the need for class unity to fight for change on issues such as poverty, unemployment, health etc. We continue to press for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and recognise that women have a particular interest in the issue of peace.

Women have suffered individually as targets of paramilitaries and carry the additional burden of trying to maintain family life in the increasing cycle of violence. The 1988 activities of the provisionals are more pointedly indiscriminate and women and children are more likely to be victims.

This Ard Fheis therefore condemns the cynical use by the Provisionals of womens issues and issues of civil liberties to gain support amongst women and the use of these issues as a masquerade for their murderous activities.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

Childcare

3. This Ard Fheis is appalled at the continuing unwillingness of the government/state to address the issue of childcare and their failure to take a central role in planning and developing this area.

We therefore call on the government to provide comprehensive childcare facilities to include:

- (1) Registration of all child minders through the appropriate bodies (e.g. Health boards, local authorities). This registration should ensure good quality care for the children involved and a guarantee of good standard practice.
- (2) Provide training and support services for childminders.
- (3) Register and supervise all creches, daycare centres, nurseries etc. to a uniform acceptable standard which would be available to all children.
- (4) Provide pre-school education for all children.
- (5) Provide after school care and holiday care for children up to secondary school age.

- (6) Local Authorities should ensure that day care facilities be part of the list of essential services when making site reservations.
- (7) Income tax relief should be given to working parents as a legitimate employment related expense - e.g. payment of childminder.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

Part-time Women Workers

4. This Ard Fheis notes the continued growth in the area of part time women workers; that these women workers are poorly paid, are denied employment rights, suffer poor employment conditions and under the new Social Security legislation are deprived of supplementing earnings through the benefit system.

This Ard Fheis therefore reiterates its demands for:

The introduction of a statutory minimum wage.

The amendment of employment legislation to afford equal rights at work to part timers.

The amendment of equality legislation to make it more effective as a means of achieving equal opportunities for women workers.

Promotion of, particularly in the public service measures such as programmes of positive action and contract compliance aimed at ending discrimination against women workers.

An increase expenditure on, and end privatistion of, public services.

The provision of proper child care facilities so that women can have real choices about working full time or part time.

And the inclusion of paternity leave.

Belfast Region

YOUTH

Steering Committee Recommendations.

1 to be main motion.

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 to be taken individually.

-oOo-

1. This Ard Fheis believes that every young person has a right to work; they have a right to take informed decisions when reaching school leaving age on their immediate options for either remaining in education fulltime; seeking placement in industrial training or entering employment as an apprentice.

Such decision making should be principally informed by considerations of personal well being and development; of utilising skills acquired to date and further exploring areas of interest and concern. Any such decision is not irreversible and Training Schemes must afford young people the opportunity for interchange at any time, at the behest of the young person.

Today the principal consideration and motivation in this early decision making is solely financial. The dire circumstances of family poverty force young people out of education and onto a now compulsory Youth Training Programme that affords neither skills training, educational opportunity nor the remotest prospect of a job. It is unacceptable that a young person who wishes to remain in education is provided with financial support (via Child Benefit paid to their parent) of 7.25 pounds weekly when registration on YTP dead-end scheme affords them 37.00 pounds into their pocket.

The Workers Party believes that no young person should suffer financial loss by choosing to remain in education and therefore calls for the introduction of a YOUNG PERSONS ALLOWANCE, payable directly to all young people at 16 years of age whether in full time education, on a training scheme or in employment.

The Workers Party believes in Youth Training, but we believe in YTP that afford trainees the opportunity to learn skills and then apply those skills in the labour market; we reject the current YTP as nothing more than a source of cheap unskilled labour for unscrupulous employers and distorting the reality of unemployment for Government statistical purposes.

We therefore demand the EEC criteria for determining the effectiveness of YTP be strictly applied to all schemes:

1. The total lack of any evaluation of the schemes to date is scandalous.
2. Such evaluation to ensure that funding is only provided to schemes which engage in industrial skills training and is only available to employers who can show that trainees have the prospects of job placement at the end of the training period.
3. That consideration be given to extending YTP schemes into the service and public sectors.
4. That "Work Experience" YTP's be ended forthwith.
5. That trainees be permitted to complete courses of specific skills training when they so desire.
6. That all YTP schemes be subject to rigorous supervision and evaluation.
7. That Health and Safety regulations be strictly enforced on all YTP schemes.

8. That all YTP schemes be comprehensive in character and afford equality of opportunity to all trainees taking part.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

Youth Training

2. This Ard Fheis deplores the conscripted nature of the Youth Training Programme in Northern Ireland; regards many of these schemes as nothing more than a shabby effort to hide the scale of unemployment; calls for all Youth Training Schemes to offer proper jobs skills training; locate the trainees in proper paid employment on termination of their course; force employers using the scheme to place trainees in their workforce; and urges that District councils become actively involved in the management of these schemes to provide greater coordination and reduce the blatant abuses that currently exist.

Ballymurphy, West Belfast

Education

3. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister of Labour to seriously review the current state of apprenticeship training with representatives of trade unions, employers and V.E.C.'s with a view to expanding numbers of apprentices and harmonising of their education process.

Finlagas West, Dublin North West

4. This Ard Fheis condemns the cutbacks in all areas of our education system, and in particular, the cutbacks in the area of Career Guidance, and calls on the Minister for Education to ensure that sufficient funding is made available to give

students proper guidance on the type of career they can pursue, at an early age of their schooling.

Cork North Central, Cork North Central

Political Education

5. This Ard Fheis in view of the complete lack of political education in the Irish school system and given that this has obvious negative consequences regarding the functioning of a healthy democratic society, calls on the Government to immediately implement the process by which a political education course shall be introduced in all secondary schools either as a separate subject or as a part of a broader social studies course.

This course should include the following elements:

1. The mechanics of democracy.
 - (a) Elections (PR etc.)
 - (b) Oireachtas and Government.
 - (c) Local Government.
2. Ideology.
 - (a) General - various competing ideologies.
 - (b) Political Parties of Ireland - History, Ideology and Politics.
3. International Issues.
 - (a) Peace Studies.
 - (b) Development.
 - (c) Zones of conflict.
 - (d) The United Nations.
 - (e) Liberation Movements.
 - (f) Northern Ireland.

This course should involve the students and representatives of various political parties.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

Health and Education

6. This Ard Fheis demands that a coherent and comprehensive AIDS policy be initiated by the Government to include health, education and youth affairs. This must include:

- (a) The greater availability and accessibility of condoms to help to prevent the spread of AIDS.
- (b) The initiation of a free needle exchange programme for registered drug addicts, incorporating voluntary drug rehabilitation.
- (c) Counselling for AIDS patients and their families. Support services for carriers of HIV and Aids related complexes.
- (d) Training for professionals, youth, community and social workers.

AIDS is a global public health issue and only by informing and educating people can the government hope to limit the spread of AIDS.

Dublin Youth

7. This Ard Fheis calls for an international enquiry into the implementation of the 'National Youth Policy' and the use of funds for the development of that policy.

Blanchardstown, Dublin West

Substance Abuse

8. This Ard Fheis recognising the fact that, in the last year alone, there were nine recorded deaths as a direct result of Solvent Abuse, that these deaths were not all from any specific part of the country but were spread across urban working class areas, calls on the Government to take the following steps:

- (i) Implement an immediate education and information campaign for all Primary and Post Primary schools on the dangers of Solvent Abuse.
- (ii) Initiate a specialised training course for social workers to enable them to counsel solvent abusers and their families.
- (iii) Direct all shopkeepers to place solvents which are likely to be abused behind the counter or in a locked cabinet.
- (iv) Give the Ghardai the power to confiscate harmful substances from young people if they suspect that they intend abusing them.
- (v) Direct all shopkeepers to refuse to sell solvent based products to young people under the age of 18.
- (vi) Advertise in the media on the dangers of solvent abuse.

Dublin Youth

9. This Ard Fheis is concerned at the dangers faced by young paper sellers in urban traffic. We condemn the exploitation and lack of protection for these young people from their point of view as young workers or their safety and health.

This Ard Fheis calls on Workers Party Youth to investigate the situation and take whatever appropriate steps to bring about greater protection for these young people.

Dublin South

10. This Ard Fheis asks Workers Party Youth to facilitate the involvement of all its members in exchange visits with international youth organisations.

Cromac, South Belfast

EDUCATION

Steering Committee Recommendations.

1 to be the main motion.

2 and 3 to be taken together as an addendum to 1.

4 and 5 as addenda to 1.

6 and 7 taken together as an addendum to 1.

8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 to be taken individually.

-oOo-

1. This Ard Fheis notes the persistence of inequality at all levels of our education system. That inequality which starts at the junior levels is clearly manifest in the low level of participation by the working class in third level education. This is confirmed by the Clancy Report (1988).

The Workers Party rededicates itself to campaigning for the improvement of the education service, which has never been developed to European standards and which has been a particular victim of monetarist policies, and for the tackling of educational inequality which must include a range of measures to support families with children, to counter the inequalities which precede entry to school.

- (a) The Workers Party will campaign for an Education Bill, guaranteeing equal access to all citizens and instructs the incoming CEC to undertake the task of implementing this;
- (b) A commitment to a state preschool system and in the immediate future the commencement of such a service in areas which are disadvantaged as recommended by the Combat Poverty Agency.

- (c) National schools funded in a manner which does not make them dependent on local fundraising, the introduction of an adequate free books scheme, the deployment of extra remedial teachers and the provision of a psychological service. The provision of extra staffing based on a improve pupil/teacher ratio.
- (d) The ending of selective entry to all second level schools, the abolition of examination fees and restrictive uniform purchase rules, the operation of a free book borrowing scheme and a guarantee of access to courses such a V.P.T.P. to early school leavers.
- (e) The immediate construction of all planned R.T.C.'s as part of a wider plan to tackle regional inequalities in educational participation.
- (f) The phasing out of third level fees and the introduction of a comprehensive grants scheme to cover full maintenance cost for students.
- (g) An adult education programme which enshrines the concept of education as a right, as outlined in the report of the commission on Adult Education, "Lifelong Learning".

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

Exam Fees

2. This Ard Fheis deplores the many hidden charges in our so called 'free education system', and calls on the Minister for Education to ensure, that pending the elimination of these charges, no student will be prevented from sitting any school examination because of their inability to meet the exam fee.

Cork North Central Ward, Cork North Central

3. This Ard Fheis calls for the complete abolition of fees payable for certificate examinations.

And directs the State Education Committee, in consultation with Party members, to prepare a comprehensive draft party policy document on pre-school, primary, post-primary and third level education. The draft policy document to be presented to the 1990 Ard Fheis for ratification.

Wexford Town, Wexford

Higher Education

4. This Ard Fheis notes with concern the continuing sharp class and regional inequalities in the higher education system, confirmed in recent survey reports. It notes particularly the uniquely disadvantaged position of Dublin children in relation to access to third level colleges, despite the fact that overall participation rates have increased.

This Ard Fheis calls for an immediate start to be made on the building of the long promised regional colleges for the Dublin area and for a major overhaul of the various student grant schemes to ensure that no child will be prevented from attending a third level institution solely because of inadequate means.

Dublin North Central C.C.

5. That Educational Opportunity Schemes be extended to cover all areas of social and educational disadvantage.

Dublin West C.C.

Student Loans

6. This Ard Fheis condemns and will continue to oppose moves by the Government to replace student grants by a system of private loans.

Belfast Region

7. This Ard Fheis opposes any move towards replacing student grants with student loans.

Donnycarney/Killester, Dublin North Central

Education Services

8. This Ard Fheis calls for an urgent plan for the improvement of the Education Service as an essential part of the States infrastructure in the run up to 1992, as the system at present is grossly under-financed and under-resourced by EC standards.

Tallaght East/Greenhills, Dublin South West

Equal Opportunities

9. This Ard Fheis calls for real equality of opportunities for all students in all schools.

Santry/Whitehall, Dublin North West

Primary Education

10. This Ard Fheis, taking into consideration the fact that hundreds of Batchelor of Education Graduates (national school teachers) are without jobs, strongly condemns the latest ministerial directive on the employment of teachers in Primary Schools as from September 1988. Its implementation has resulted in a worsening of the

pupil/teacher ratio e.g. a number of classes which were previously under 39 pupils are now in the range of 41 plus.

And calls on the Party members to work through the trade unions, parent teacher bodies and elected campaigns to affect a proper pupil teacher/ratio in schools.

Donneycarney/Killester, Dublin North Central

11. This Ard Fheis demands that the pupil/teacher ratio in all schools be reduced.

Cork North Central C.C.

12. This Ard Fheis calls on the Government to introduce a comprehensive educational psychology service for first year/primary school children.

Mayfield, Cork North Central

Adult Education

13. This Ard Fheis demands that increased resources be allocated to Adult Education and that there be non penalisation of those availing of adult education on the grounds of not being available for work.

Dublin West

Grinds

14. This Ard Fheis deplores the proliferation of 'grinding' establishments and demands that they be subjected to some form of regulation.

Santry/Whitehall, Dublin North West

INTERNATIONAL

Steering Committee Recommendations.

1 Main Resolution on Peace and Disarmament.

2 is an addendum to 1.

3, 4, 5 to be taken together.

6 taken on its own.

7 and 8 to be taken together.

9 and 10 to be taken separately.

11, 12, 13 and 14 take together.

15 on its own.

16 and 17 take together.

18 and 19 take together.

20 and 21 take individually.

-oOo-

Peace/Disarmament

1. This Ard Fheis notes with particular satisfaction the positive moves in the past year to ease international tensions and de-escalate the arms race and reduce the threat of nuclear war. In particular the agreement between the USA and the USSR on destruction of certain nuclear weapons has reversed a consistent trend of exhalation in production of these weapons of mass destruction.

The peace process has been further assisted by the unilateral decision of the Soviet Union and many socialist states in Europe to reduce the size of their armed forces and dismantle certain conventional armaments.

The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea, and Cuban troops from Angola marks a further major contribution towards easing international tension.

It is to be regretted, however, that these moves have not been reciprocated by NATO forces. Indeed the warm welcome from people in all countries in the West has been matched by attempts to rekindle the cold war in certain recent NATO countries statements, most notably by the proposal to introduce new short range NATO missiles to Europe.

'Similarly the US government continues to maintain large numbers of troops and advisors in Honduras targeted against Nicaragua, continues to arm the most reactionary forces in attempts to undermine the Afghan peace process, continues to back the genocidal Pol Pot/Khmer Rouge elements at the United Nations and continues to maintain a huge army in South Korea equipped with nuclear weapons directed against the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea.

This Ard Fheis therefore emphasises the need for a matching response from NATO on military reductions in Europe and mandates the incoming CEC to press for increased action by the Irish Government at all international fora to highlight the need for such moves.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

2. This Ard Fheis welcomes the signing of the IMF Treaty in December 1988 as a major step towards World Peace and ultimately nuclear disarmament. We further welcome the subsequent initiatives from the Soviet Union designed to speed up this process and pledge our continued support for all international peace-keeping initiatives.

Ballymurphy, West Belfast

Afghanistan

3. This Ard Fheis calls on the United States and Pakistan governments to stop all aid to the Afghan rebels and support peace initiatives in the region.

Dublin West C.C.

4. This Ard Fheis notes with serious concern recent events in Afghanistan and in particular the rejection of the Government Peace proposals by reactionary elements. The Afghan Revolution led by the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan has achieved major progress in the areas of health and social services, education and womens rights, which will be reversed by the monarchists and medieval theocrats of the Western backed reactionaries. At this time when the full solidarity of all progressive forces is required this Ard Fheis expresses its support for the P.O.P.A. and the Revolutionary Government of Afghanistan.

South Belfast

5. This Ard Fheis expresses sympathy to the democratic government of Afghanistan for the present crisis in their country and condemns outside governments for creating that crisis and asks the Irish Government to use its good offices to persuade these countries to seek an end to hostilities.

Lagan Valley C.C.

6. That this Ard Fheis calls on branches to express their active solidarity with Nicaragua by

organising fund raising events for the Workers Party Nicaragua School Appeal.

Finglas East, Dublin North West

Southern Africa

7. This Ard Fheis welcomes the significant developments in the struggle against apartheid policies in Southern Africa in the past year - in particular:

- * the success in forcing the South African army to reach agreement on ending its attack against Angola as a result of heavy military defeats during its invasion of part of Angola;

- * the escalating pressure within South Africa itself for the creation of a democratic society.

We further offer our continued full support to the ANC and SWAPO as the legitimate representatives of the people of South Africa and Namibia in leading the battle against apartheid, but at the same time emphasise the need for comprehensive and mandatory economic sanctions at international level to force a speedy end to apartheid.

In this context we call on the Irish government to introduce a total ban on trade with South Africa, noting the major growth in exports of technology equipment which is used to service the South African army.

We further congratulate the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement which this year celebrated its 20th anniversary on its consistent and valuable work in highlighting the evils of apartheid.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

8. That the Workers Party marks June 16th, ANC Solidarity Day, with a special event.

Donneycarney/Killester, Dublin North Central

Iran

9. That this Ard Fheis condemns the massacre of political prisoners by the reactionary, clerical regime in Iran. Furthermore we wish to express our solidarity with progressive organisations struggling for democracy and social progress in that country, in particular the Peoples Mojahedin of Iran, the Peoples Fedayeen of Iran and the Tudeh (communist) Party of Iran.

Dun Laoghaire, Dun Laoghaire

10. This Ard Fheis condemns the hysterical reaction of the Iranian Government to the publication of Salman Rushdie's book and calls on the Irish Government to cease all trade with Iran until such time as this government lifts its death sentence and cease exporting terrorism in pursuit of its political objectives.

Cabra, Dublin Central

Palestine

11. This Ard Fheis in noting the recent peace initiatives by the Palestinian National Council aimed at creating the conditions for a peaceful resolution of the Palestinian problem, and the continued mass protests in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza, reaffirms its full support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the representative of the Palestinian people;

calls on the Israeli government to withdraw from

the Occupied Territories and to enter into talks with the PLO on the formation of the new Palestinian state;
and further calls on the Irish government to recognise the Palestinian State and to press internationally for the holding of an International Peace Conference, with the PLO as full participants, to facilitate a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

12. This Ard Fheis welcomes the condemnation from both the P.L.O. and the A.N.C. on Provisional Terrorism in Northern Ireland;

and welcomes as a significant step the declaration of an independent state of Palestine by the Palestine National Council.

Belfast Region

13. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to recognise the recently declared state of Palestine.

Limerick City, Limerick East

14. We wish to congratulate Yassar Arafat on his peace initiative and we hope that peace will come in the near future.

Lagan Valley C.C.

Libya

15. This Ard Fheis informs Colonel Ghadafi of the damage caused to working class unity in Ireland by his actions in supplying arms to various terrorist groups thereby serving to promote and sustain

sectarian strife in our country and demand that that these supplies should cease permanently.

Lagan Valley C.C.

South East Asia - Vietnam

16. This Ard Fheis congratulates the people and government of the Republic of Vietnam in their continuing efforts to re-build their country and establish socialism after generations of colonial and imperialist aggression.

This Ard Fheis condemns the vindictive and unjustified economic and diplomatic isolation of Vietnam and, in particular, the denial of humanitarian aid and relief. This policy contrasts with the continuing support and recognition accorded to the Khmer Rouge and the barbaric Pol Pot.

This Ard Fheis calls on the Party to expand solidarity activity with Vietnam and to take steps to bring about an end to the U.S. inspired policy of isolation.

Finally, the Ard Fheis calls on the Irish government to establish diplomatic relations with Vietnam.

Dublin South

Kampuchea

17. This Ard Fheis calls upon the Irish government to grant immediate and full recognition to the real government of Kampuchea based in Pnom Penh.

We declare that any support, tacit or otherwise, either direct or by implication (e.g. by

abstention in U.N. votes) given to the Pol Pot 'regime' is immoral and is tantamount to collusion in genocide.

Dublin North City Centre, Dublin Central

U.S.S.R.

18. In recognition of the USSR achievements in reducing tension around the world, we call on Workers Party TD's to propose in the Dail that the Irish parliament invites the President of the USSR, Mr Gorbachev to Ireland in the near future.

Cromac, South Belfast

19. This Ard Fheis welcomes the advent of Glasnot and Perestroika in the USSR and offers its absolute support in the coming years for the continuing development of this policy.

Turf Lodge, West Belfast

Third World Aid

20. This Ard Fheis notes that the British Government spends only half the amount recommended by the United Nations (.7% of G.N.P.) on overseas aid. The hungry need more help to grow their own food. Trade and debt problems are crushing poor countries. Wars and conflicts in developing countries cost and threaten the lives of millions. We support peace with justice in the Third World and urge the British and Irish Governments and the countries of the E.E.C. to:

- increase and improve overseas aid;
- help the hungry to grow more food;
- trade fairly with poor countries;

- lift the burden of Third World debt and promote efforts to end conflicts.

Andersonstown, West Belfast

21. This Ard Fheis urges the government to increase the aid made available to the underdeveloped world by giving in place of financial commitments we cannot afford, technical help, food at cost of production and help with education.

William Thompson, Dublin

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Steering Committee Recommendations.

1, 2 and 3 to be taken together.

4 take on its own.

5 and 6 take together.

7 taken on its own.

8 and 9 take separately.

10 and 11 take together, 12 and 13 take together.

15 take on its own.

16, 17 and 18 take together as a substantive motion on Service Charges.

19 take on its own.

20 and 21 to be taken together.

22 take on its own.

23, 24, 25 and 26 to be taken together.

27, 28 and 29 take together.

30 and 31 take together, 32 and 33 take together,

34 and 35 take together, 36 and 37 take together.

38 take on its own.

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Local Authority Housing

1. This Ard Fheis condemns the Fianna Fail Government for halting the house building programmes of Local Authorities, which has resulted in a housing crisis as evidenced by growing waiting lists;

and calls on the Government to immediately approve and fund the house building schemes which have been substituted by Local Authorities.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

2. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to make it a statutory obligation on Housing Authorities to house homeless people and that additional

monies be allocated to Local Authorities in this regard; and that the yearly budget be increased overall to provide for more housing units to be built by Local Authorities to cope with the ever increasing housing lists.

Kilbarrack/Donaghmede, Dublin North East

3. This Ard Fheis calls on Central Government to fund Local Authorities to enable them to build living accommodation in the inner city where people want to live and not where it suits private developers.

Kilbarrack West, Dublin North East

4. This Ard Fheis deplores the policy adopted by Dublin Corporation of phasing out resident wardens in flat complexes for the elderly and calls for the immediate restoration of the warden system.

Donneycarney/Killester, Dublin North Central

5. This Ard Fheis condemns the actions of Local Authorities in raising rents above the ability of tenants to pay and calls for a return to a central negotiating arrangement between the Minister for the Environment and N.A.T.O.

Mayfield, Cork North Central

6. That continuing increases in Local Authority rents be condemned.

The Glen, Cork North Central

7. This Ard Fheis is alarmed at the lack of implementation of proper safety regulations within Dublin corporation residential accommodation and

calls for immediate action to bring safety standards to an adequate level.

Finglas East, Dublin North West

Local Government/Northern Ireland

8. This Ard Fheis views with concern the threat posed to the future of Northern Ireland's only democratically elected forum, the District Councils, by the publication and implications of the government White Paper;

pledges that Party to resist all efforts to further remove the powers and functions of Local Government;

believes that the existing powers and functions of Local Government would be considerably enhanced by extending, for example, existing powers in the areas of environment, pollution and control; public health matters; community and leisure provision as well as undertaking major initiatives in securing permanent jobs by adopting many existing ACE schemes;

calls, as part of such a programme of extending functions of Local Government, for the transfer of the Youth and Library Services from the Education Boards to District Councils;

and recognises the genuine fears of citizens that narrow, bigoted factions may seek to abuse Local Government powers and therefore endorses proposals to prevent such abuse from occurring.

Belfast Region

9. This Ard Fheis condemns the sale of public housing stock by Northern Housing Executive to

private entrepreneurs. The N.I.H.E. is a public body with a responsibility to provide good quality housing for the people of Northern Ireland. It has evaded this responsibility by not taking positive action to maintain certain estates, and by not ensuring that other statutory agencies eg. Councils and Department of the Environment meet their responsibilities. A significant proportion of housing stock has been allowed to deteriorate and this has become a major factor in the avalanche of boarded up houses in many estates at a time when the N.I.H.E. is facing massive financial cutbacks, this situation cannot be allowed to continue. The N.I.H.E. and the people of Northern Ireland cannot afford to have these boarded up houses demolished or sold off in bulk, to private landlords who will 'develop' them and charge exorbitant rents.

Downpatrick, South Down

10. This Ard Fheis deplores the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's attempt to introduce a new tenancy agreement without proper consultation with their tenants. In particular we oppose the intrusion into tenant's privacy proposed by allowing access to homes at any time of the day or night. We also oppose the reduction in standard of repairs and removal of time limits in which repairs are to be carried out.

Omagh, Mid Ulster

11. This Ard Fheis reaffirms its commitment to a policy of publicly provided housing and repairs and strongly opposes the new forced agreement between the Housing Executive and its tenants due to be implemented in April 1989, in Northern Ireland.

Lower Falls, West Belfast

12. This Ard Fheis deplores the latest government attack on local government democracy by forcing councils to accept compulsory tendering of their amenities. Privatisation of leisure centres, community services, refuse collection and other amenities will undoubtedly lead to a lowering of standards, job losses and eventual dissolution of local government. This conference calls on the Northern Executive to implement a programme of action to educate the community at large as to the dangers of privatisation and calls upon all councillors to join in the campaign.

Antrim Road, North Belfast

13. This Ard Fheis is opposed to the privatisation of all services carried out by the Belfast City Council employees, as proposed by the government's White Paper.

Whiterock, West Belfast

14. This Ard Fheis supports the campaign by tenant's organisations to resist the proposed changes in Housing Executive tenancy agreements.

Whiterock, West Belfast

Local Authority Finance

15. This Ard Fheis condemns the 95 million pounds cutback in the 1989 Environment estimate, which will result in worse local services and which will exacerbate the crisis in local government finance;

believes that the PAYE sector has already paid for local government, through their taxes and therefore we continue to oppose local 'service charges';

rejects also the proposed property tax which will merely impose an additional burden on all households irrespective of ability to pay or of tax already being paid;

favours a property tax which would apply to lands, derelict and speculative sites, multiple house ownership, investment properties etc;

will favour an effective capital gains tax on the disposal of property;

repeats its call on the government to restore the full value of rate support grants, and to provide sufficient finance to enable local authorities to maintain and improve their services.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

Local Service Charges

16. Local charges such as water and refuse charges, are taxes under another name. Few of the charges are directly related to the services availed of.

Local charges, like their predecessor household rates, do not take account of real ability to pay. Waiver schemes apply in some Local Authority areas and, even where they exist, they apply to very few people. Local charges are double taxation especially for the PAYE taxpayer. These charges must be abolished. A proper system of financing of local authorities must be implemented as a matter of urgency. Workers Party policy is that a specific proportion of National taxation must be allocated as of right as a block grant, to local authorities. The amount allocated would be based on a number of criteria such as population size and age structure, infrastructural needs, etc.

This would not be open to variation by Ministerial Order.

It would appear to be government policy - and that of the conservative parties generally - to increase the number and amount of the charges to 'soften up' householders for the reintroduction of rates in the guise of a House Tax. The Workers Party is opposed to this.

It is clear that the absence of any real form of wealth tax (the present residential property tax is a joke) has led to a boom in houses valued at 150,000 pounds and over. This boom also proves that there is no shortage of capital for investment in this State. This must be directed into job creation and not into property.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

17. That this Ard Fheis confirms its opposition to local charges and condemns the measures being used by Local Authorities to collect this form of double taxation, which is in marked contrast to the lack of effort being made to collect taxes from other sectors of the economy.

Leixlip, Kildare

18. This Ard Fheis re-affirms its opposition to water tax, and instructs the Workers Party Dail deputies to publicly call on Fianna Fail to honour its pre-election promise to abolish this form of double taxation.

Dungarvan, Waterford

19. This Ard Fheis condemns the continuing cuts in the government subvention to the local authorities;

calls on the government to reverse this policy and grant an immediate subvention to first maintain services at their present level and then sufficient finance in order to increase and improve services;

seeks and end to redundancy and employment embargos with an increase in employment in areas needing greater services. We condemn the treatment of local authority workers as the soft option in the government/right wing opposition consensus on fiscal rectitude;

seeks the right and the encouragement of the establishment of services divisions in the local authorities to provide a service, at a competitive price, to domestic, industrial and general customers in the private area. A special low rate applying to former tenants of local authority housing now buying out their homes.

demands that industrial democracy be extended to the local authorities. That where feasible a Board of Management be established which would cooperate with the elected Council in overseeing the duties of the City/Council Manager. That such a Board would have to take full account of decisions reached by the Elected Council. A number of Workers Directors could be elected to this Board.

Dublin North Central C.C.

Home Buyers

20. This Ard Fheis calls on the Government to introduce legislation to protect home buyers, especially in the following respects:

- to compel developers to complete housing estates

on time and in accordance with planning conditions.

- to make builders responsible for defects which become apparent after the house is purchased.
- to ensure that all houses are covered by a compulsory, comprehensive house guarantee scheme funded by the builders.
- to require local authorities to improve the safeguards for tenant purchasers against latent defects.
- to introduce building regulations which meet the highest international standards.
- to reduce conveyancing costs and to simplify the procedure.
- to abolish stamp duty on the purchase of all houses under 1300 square feet, where the house is being purchased as the owners own domestic dwelling - and to introduce higher levels of stamp duty on houses over this size.
- to democratise the building societies.
- to provide for the widest possible range of mortgage/house finance options.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

21. This Ard Fheis notes that all of the indicators show that the price of property and houses rose steeply again in the last few months especially in the major urban centres.

This "Property Boom" has generally speaking been given an uncritical welcome by the Government and the media as a healthy development. This is not surprising when one considers who the main beneficiaries of such a "boom" will be i.e. Property Speculators, Institutional Investors, Auctioneers and owners of disposable property.

This Ard Fheis believes that the unplanned explosion of house prices could be disastrous for

the common good. The negative effects include:

- (a) Making it extremely difficult for those on low or average incomes to own their own homes.
- (b) Making it more expensive and difficult for local authorities to acquire land for public housing.
- (c) "Gentrification" of certain areas especially in inner cities, forcing out the local people.

and notes that the Workers Party has always stood for social control of building land and house prices, and in view of the latest development and learning from the experiences of communities in London during the property boom there, re-affirms that policy and declares that house and property prices should be set according to the needs of people and not to serve the profit takers and speculators who will be the only winners on the so called "free market" approach so beloved of Margaret Thatcher and her star pupils in Fianna Fail.

North City Centre, Dublin Central

Gaming Machines

22. That this Ard Fheis congratulates the Party's Councillors in Dublin, on their success in having gaming machines banned in the city.

Liberties, Dublin South Central

The Travelling Community

23. That a National Plan be drawn up dealing with the problems of the Travelling People and that the Travelling People be involved in the drawing up of

this plan and that all aspects of their lives - Health, Social, Cultural, Educational - be taken into account, in order to arrive at a realistic and comprehensive plan to deal with the problems of the Travellers.

Kilbarrack West, Dublin North East

24. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to ensure that the rights of travelling people are protected and that such rights include the provision of proper facilities such as serviced halting sites as well as equal rights with the settled community.

Bray West Ward, Wicklow

25. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to provide urgently a comprehensive network of properly serviced halting sites for travellers, in consultation with the travelling community and the local settled community.

Leixlip, Kildare

26. This Ard Fheis calls for the right of travellers to collect their Social Welfare benefits and entitlements in their local offices.

Dublin West

Public Libraries

27.

- (1) 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.
- (2) Condemns the cutbacks in public library opening hours around the country as a result

of Government embargo on recruitment in the public service.

- (3) 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.

Kilbarrack/Donaghmede, Dublin North East

28. This Ard Fheis condemns the cutbacks in education and in particular the reduction in Library services and other essential services including staff cuts.

Liberties, Dublin South Central

29. This Ard Fheis calls on the Taoiseach to increase staffing and security in the National Library.

Dublin West C.C.

Transport

30. This Ard Fheis instruct the incoming CEC to develop a comprehensive policy on transport with particular attention being given to the need for an effective efficient and affordable system of public transport to serve the needs of the people of the country, both rural and urban.

Derry

31. This Ard Fheis, noting that the Channel Tunnel is due for completion in 1993, one year after the final phase of the Single European market has been brought into effect, recognises the need for complete reappraisal of the Transport requirements of Irish industry and agriculture and calls for

the development of significant air freight and cargo handling facilities at Irish airports.

Galway City West, Galway West

Rescue Services

32. Le Blianta fada ta Rialtaisí na Tíre seo ag caint agus ag gleo sa Rialtas no sa bhFreasura faoi sheirbhíse eigeandála d'oileáin na tíre seo - cur i gceill. Iaran an Ard Fheis seo ar an rialtais ionad Heilicopter a chuir i nGaillimh agus i nDun na Gall le freastal ar chasanna prainncacha.

Galway City West, Galway West

33. This Ard Fheis calls for an inshore rescue service in major ports and a state funded sub-aqua diving service for the rescue and recovery of bodies.

Cork South Central Ward, Cork South Central

Tolls

34. That all toll road, toll bridge developments be structured to give the area Local Authority the majority financial interest so as to ensure that control and revenues are secured for the benefit of the community.

Dublin North Central

35. This Ard Fheis opposes the introduction of tolls on any public roads in the state.

Kildare Constituency Council

Funeral Services

36. This Ard Fheis calls on our Councillors on Dublin Corporation and Dublin County Council to ask the officials of both local authorities to conduct a feasibility study on the possibility of supplying a basic undertaking service, in view of the exorbitant prices charged by the private cartel at present, as a matter of urgency.

Liberties, Dublin South Central

37. This Ard Fheis instructs the Dublin City and County councillors to seek a feasibility report into the possibility of the local authority providing funeral services.

Ballymun, Dublin North West

Dublin Development Plan

38. This Ard Fheis calls on Dublin Corporation to adhere to the Dublin Development plan and not to allow sites in the inner city and particularly the Liberties, to be sold off to private speculators.

Liberties, Dublin South Central

ENVIRONMENT

Steering Committee Recommendations.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 to be taken separately.

7 to be taken separately.

8 and 9 to be taken together. 10 taken separately.

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Water Pollution

1. This Ard Fheis notes with growing concern the deteriorating state of the sea around Dublin and other parts of the country. It calls on the Workers Party to launch a vigorous campaign to clean up our swimming areas which have long been places of enjoyment and recreation for our people and which are now out of bounds to most swimmers because of the pumping of sludge and raw sewage directly into the sea.

This Ard Fheis demands:

1. The building of modern sewage treatment plants.
2. Improvement in the sewer network.
3. Condemns the rezoning of land for building which is not properly serviced to take additional sewage.

Drimnagh, Dublin South Central

Air Pollution

2. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for the Environment to extend the Smoke Control Order, currently limited to one section of Ballyfermot, to cover the whole of the Ballyfermot and Cherry Orchard areas.

James Larkin, Dublin West

Industry and the Environment

3. This Ard Fheis calls on the Government of the Republic of Ireland to set up a properly qualified vetting authority on the question of the environmental suitability of industry and new industry.

This body should be given three main tasks.

1. The exclusion of industry dangerous to the environment.
2. To give speedy clearance to the location of industry which does not pose a threat to the environment.
3. To investigate and monitor industry in order to protect the environment.

This body should be the sole advising agency to an Bord Planala on matters relating to the environment and the location of industry.

Ned Stapleton, Dublin

4. That this Ard Fheis calls for the establishment of a national centre for the disposal of toxic and other wastes that constitute a biohazard.

Santry/Whitehall, Dublin North West

5. This Ard Fheis notes that in 1978 the DOE granted an application for the quarrying of 1 million tonnes of basalt rock per year for 75 years from the Black Mountain, which was to be undertaken under certain conditions designed to minimise the visual prominence of the exercise from Belfast and surrounding areas. The quarry owners were to 'provide a satisfactory appearance for the development' and take steps to 'reduce the

danger of slope movement above the Upper Springfield road'.

The conditions attached to the granting of the application have not been met and quarrying has resulted in serious health hazards to people living in the area. There has also been the destruction of unique and irreplaceable plant life and far from providing a 'satisfactory appearance', a gaping hole visible for many miles has been left in the mountain.

This Ard Fheis demands a halt to all quarrying in the Black Mountain and the development of a nature reserve and an extension of the Colin Glen Project.

Andersonstown, West Belfast

6. This Ard Fheis calls on the incoming C.E.C. to initiate a policy discussion document concentrating on the vital issues of the environment, world wide pollution, damage to the ozone layer and conservation in general.

Cromac, South Belfast

Wild Life Protection Act.

7. This Ard Fheis condemns any attempt by the government to remove the protection afforded to badgers under The Wild Life Protection Act.

And further condemns the cynical attempt to lay blame for the failure of the Bovine T.B. eradication scheme on badgers, rather than on farmers and vets where the blame properly lies.

Donneycarney/Killester, Dublin North Central

Franchise

8. This Ard Fheis asks the Ard Comhairle to investigate with other left wing parties and individuals the possibility of nominating an agreed left wing candidate to contest the forthcoming Presidential election.

Mitchelstown, Cork East

9. This Ard Fheis recognising that the present restrictive constitutional procedure for nominating a candidate as President of Ireland effectively restrict nominations to the larger political parties;

and noting that there has been no contest for the Presidency since 1973, calls on the Party to campaign for more democratic procedures for nominating candidates e.g. by a certain number of citizens.

Dublin South

Microwave T.V.

10. This Ard Fheis calls on the Environment Committee to carry out a critique on Multipoint Microwave Distribution Systems (M.M.D.S.) regarding health and environment implications in relation to the fact that there are no microwave standards in this country. The Party should press for the I.I.R.S. or some relevant government body to set safety standards and present these to the Minister of the Environment.

Cork South Central Ward, Cork South Central

ARTS/CULTURE/MEDIA/SPORT

Steering Committee Recommendations.

1 to be the main resolution on Arts.

2 and 3 to be taken together.

4 and 5 to be taken together.

6 and 7 to be taken separately.

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Arts/Culture

1. This Ard Fheis recognising that access to all areas of cultural activity and enjoyment is a democratic right, calls on the Government to make available adequate funds for the arts.

Most types of artistic endeavour are not, and have never been, economically self sustaining. They have always required, and always will require, subsidy from either private patrons or the state. We reject the ideology which demands the privatisation of the arts, which would make individual artists once again dependent on the whim of wealthy individuals or corporations, and exclude the public from full access to the artist's work.

The Arts Council is the body which, in response to the needs of artists and communities, should have the full responsibility for the development of the arts in Ireland. Over the past decade, the Council's policies have borne fruit in a considerable increase in the quality and quantity of artistic work. In collaboration with local authorities, they have also greatly increased public access to the arts, in particular through the development of arts centres.

Yet this progress is now endangered because of the

chronic underfunding of the arts by the state. Artists and arts administrators are grossly underpaid. The level of training is, in many areas, derisory. Many of the structures which support the arts in Ireland, both economically and organisationally, are in real danger of collapse.

Arts funding started out from such a low base that, even in the current economic crisis, there is a strong case for significantly increasing the arts budget, so that it may at least operate on a par with other sectors.

We therefore endorse the Arts Council's analysis that its current funding of 7 million pounds needs to be doubled, in order to provide the minimum service necessary even to sustain existing structures. We have deplored the use of National Lottery funds by the Department of the Taoiseach as a source of political patronage for the arts, and we welcome Mr Haughey's statement that in future all Lottery funds earmarked for the arts will be channelled through the Arts Council.

However, we remain concerned at the way in which Lottery funds are being used as a substitute rather than a supplement to the Council's basic exchequer grant. The Lottery functions in practice as an additional tax on the most deprived sectors of society. At the very least, therefore, the Lottery funds should be redirected to the communities which contributed them, and not be used to make savings on essential state services.

We therefore call on the government to finance an upgraded Arts Council grant directly from the exchequer, and to channel additional funds from the Lottery, through the Council, to arts projects

ARTS/CULTURE/MEDIA/SPORT

directly relevant to those communities most affected by high unemployment and low wages.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

Media

2. This Ard Fheis notes with concern the failure of the media in Ireland to critically examine the real performance of this Fianna Fail Government in relation to the issues regarded as the most important in present day Irish society, viz vis unemployment, emigration and poverty.

Galway City West, Galway West

3. This Ard Fheis calls on the national media, television and radio in particular, to allocate more time and programmes to reporting, discussion and analysis of issues which directly effect the lives of working people North and South, e.g. peace, workers rights, unions, housing etc.

Bray West, Wicklow

Sport

4. This Ard Fheis recognising the importance of sport for so many in our society, instructs the incoming Ard Comhairle to prepare a comprehensive policy document on Sport. This document should be circulated prior to next years Ard Fheis so as to allow for the fullest debate on its contents.

Galway City West, Galway West

5. This Ard Fheis condemns the policy of spending state money, raised through the National Lottery on luxury golf clubs and hotel tennis courts while

many areas are still denied the most basic leisure and recreational facilities.

Galway City West, Galway West

6. This Ard Fheis reaffirms its opposition to Hare Coursing, and condemns all other 'blood sports' as senseless, inhumane treatment and cruelty to animals. That these 'blood sports' oppose every concept of what we believe sport to be.

Downpatrick, South Down

Rod Licences

7. That this Ard Fheis recognising the damaging effect the Rod Licencing dispute is having on the tourist industry and that only 3% of trout anglers purchased a trout licence in 1988;

calls on the Minister for the Marine to introduce amending legislation and enter into consultation with the regional fishery boards and the angling clubs.

Mallow, Cork East

TAXATION

Steering Committee Recommendations.

1 to be main resolution.

2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 to be taken individually.

-000-

1. This Ard Fheis asserts that while changes have been made in the tax system over the last ten years the PAYE Sector still pays the vast bulk of tax.

It is, therefore, obvious that tax change is not tax reform. Real tax reform means shifting the main burden of taxation from the PAYE Sector to the Business Sector. It also means that the income tax structure itself must be drastically altered to give greater benefits to those on lower incomes.

The above statement covers the general outline of how the system of taxation must be changed.

Self Assessment

The Workers Party welcomes in principle the introduction of self assessment and PRSI for the Self Employed. It also welcomes the power of attachment granted to the Revenue Commissioners. But unless these provisions are and are seen to be implemented fully with all the rigour of the law they will prove costly failures. The Workers Party will continually question how these provisions are being operated.

Tax and Employment

Irish business has the best tax environment in Europe - four out of five companies pay no tax at

all. The Self Employed have generous tax concessions and pay little tax.

Employers PRSI is the third lowest in Europe but this has not reduced the volume of the campaign for less tax on business. Any tax concessions made to business must be linked to job creation and not simply to investment. The Workers Party must keep these facts to the fore in its activity on this question.

The Cost of Unemployment to the Exchequer

The cost of unemployment to the Exchequer - between Social Welfare Payments and Tax and PRSI losses alone exceeds 1,600 million pounds. It is, therefore, obvious that the largest savings that it is possible to make can be made by massive and successful job creation programmes. In this way a growth in the number at work makes possible more ambitious tax reforms.

Broadening the Tax Base

This Ard Fheis proposes that the tax base must be broadened in order to introduce real tax reform. The reverse has happened in recent years - the tax concessions for the Business Sector have expanded. The increase registered is from 205 million pounds in 1979/80 to 1,400 million pounds in 1987/88. These tax concessions have not in any way been related to increases in employment.

Only one in seven companies pay any corporation tax. The average self employed taxpayer pays only two thirds of the average PAYE taxpayers bill. Companies and the self employed must be made to pay more tax.

We must campaign on all the above issues.

Farmers

In theory all farmers are now in the tax net. In real terms the tax yield from farmers is one third of the 1980 yield from this source.

The VAT refunds to unregistered farmers has increased from 7 million pounds in 1979 to over 80 million pounds in 1987. This means that farmers - as a group in society - pay no tax. The income tax yield from farmers was only 42 million pounds last year. More tax must be raised in this area of the economy.

Income Tax Structures

This Ard Fheis proposes that the following taxation abuses be remedied:

- (1) Some incomes continue to be taxed on a proceeding year basis. This is obviously unjust. All incomes should be taxed in the year in which they arise.
- (2) Tax Credits should be introduced so that the wealthier sections of our society do not continue to benefit from the present system of tax allowances.
- (3) Some tax relief can only be availed of by the wealthy, the rich are in this way helped to remain rich.
- (4) The width of the tax bands (not the rates of tax) mean that taxpayers on modest incomes reach the higher rates.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

2. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to ensure that commercial farmers pay income tax in proportion to that paid by P.A.Y.E. workers.

Kildare C.C.

3. This Ard Fheis instructs the Workers Party campaign for the main burden of taxation to be moved from the PAYE sector to those with wealth, land or wealth creating property.

Ned Stapleton, Dublin

4. This Ard Fheis calls for an end to the exemption of the large agricultural co-ops from paying corporation tax.

And condemns the failure of the present government to take effective action to prevent tax avoidance schemes, particularly in the aftermath of the decision of the supreme court in the 'Mc Grath case.'

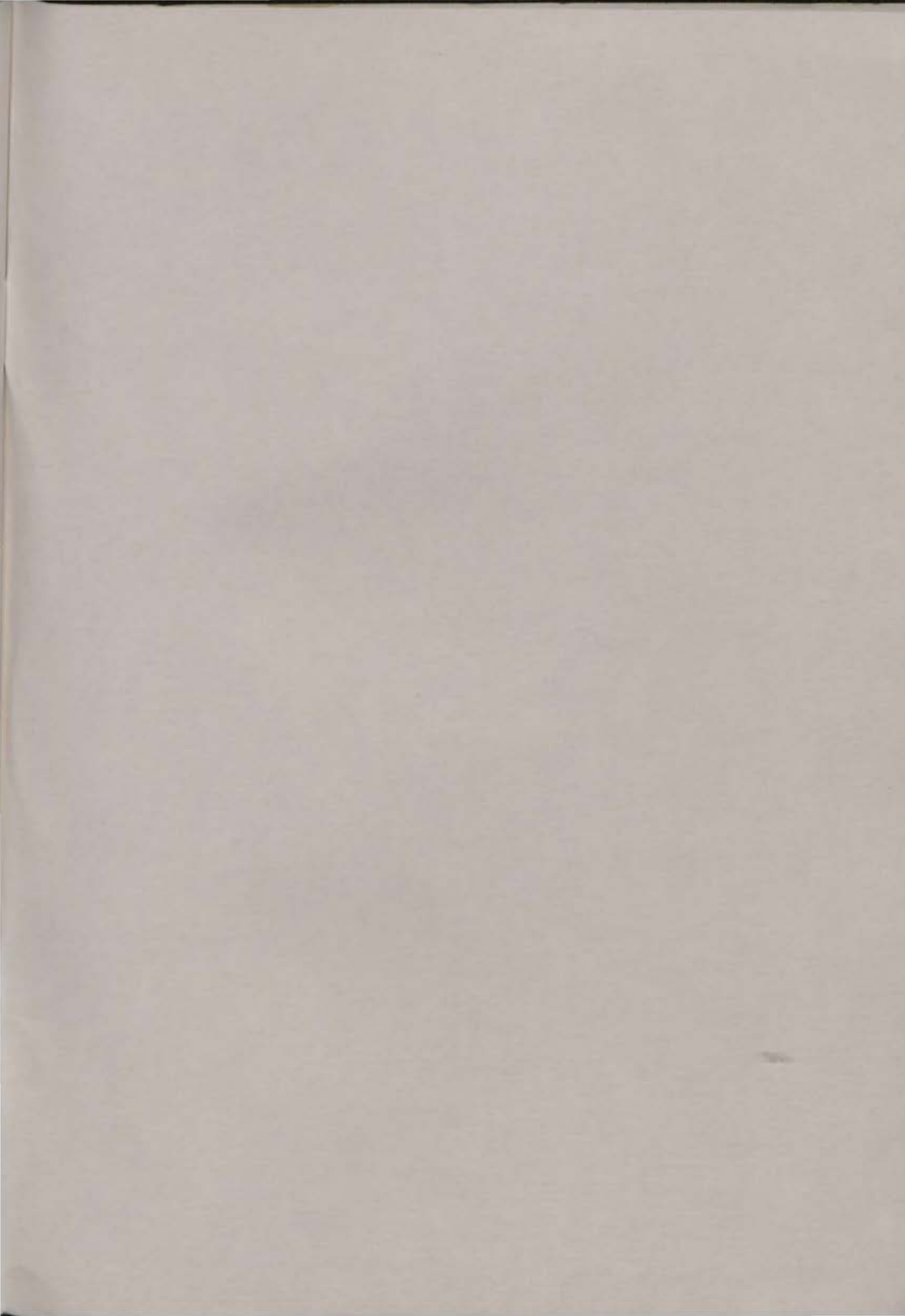
Blanchardstown, Dublin West

5. This Ard Fheis instructs the incoming CEC to begin a campaign to highlight the fact that under new rules introduced in the budget, certain companies will only have to make returns to the exchequer of taxes (PAYE & PRSI) already deducted from their workers pay packets on an annual basis, therefore gaining bank interest on taxpayers money and depriving government of funds badly needed for essential services to our citizens.

Finglas West, Dublin North West

6. This Ard Fheis opposes VAT on food, childrens clothing, books and other essentials and recoup the loss by taxes on luxuries enjoyed by the rich. By additional EEC funding to recoup losses caused by the harmonisation of indirect taxes;

favours a system of direct tax on income as it is more progressive than indirect tax which does not take into account ability to pay;



CONSTITUTION & ORGANISATION

Steering Committee Recommendations.
1 and 2 to be taken separately.

-oOo-

1. This Ard Fheis proposes that the President of the Workers Party should be elected for a renewable two year term, in line with the practice for CEC members.

This motion proposes to alter the last twenty two words of Section D (1) of the Party constitution which reads: "When the Ard Fheis is not in session the supreme governing body of the Party shall be the Ard Comhairle (C.E.C.) subject to any instructions given by the Ard Fheis. The number of members of the Ard Comhairle/C.E.C. elected at the Ard Fheis shall be twenty six (one half of this number being elected each year for a two year term) excluding the President. The President shall also be elected at the Annual Ard Fheis by delegate vote using the straight vote system."

Dublin South

Workers Party Youth Constitution

2. That the position of Womens Officer be added to Section 7F of the Workers Party Youth Constitution which reads: "The National Executive at its first meeting shall elect the following officers: Chairperson, Treasurer/Finance officer, International officer, Public Relations officer, Student officer, Education officer, Recreational/Cultural officer."

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

ORGANISATION

Steering Committee Recommendations.

1 and 2 to be taken together.

3 take on its own.

4 and 5 taken together. 6 and 7 taken together.

8 on its own.

9, 10, 11 and 12 taken together.

13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 taken together.

18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 all to be taken individually.

-oOo-

Local Elections

1. Noting that local elections are due in the Republic in 1990, this Ard Fheis urges all branches to emphasise local issues in "The Irish People", related to problems raised in Citizen Advice Bureaux and photostories on activities of community organisations and further calls on members to expand sales of "The Irish People" particularly door to door.

Finglas East, Dublin North West

Advice Centres

2. The incoming CEC should carry out a review of the operation of Workers Party advice centres to see what are the most common issues which arise and how these centres can be used to develop campaigns and promote Workers Party Policy.

Ballymun, Dublin North West

Organising Youth

3. This Ard Fheis instructs all constituency organisations of the Workers Party to appoint a youth officer where one does not already exist and requests that the youth officer, with the full cooperation of the constituency, sets about building Workers Party Youth in every area of the country.

Ard Comhairle/C.E.C.

Trade Unions

4. That the Workers Party initiate a campaign on low pay.

In order to increase contact with the trade union movement the CEC are instructed to set up a trade union group.

Ballymun, Dublin North West

5. That the C.E.C. should examine and report to Party branches and members on a method whereby trade unions could affiliate to the Workers Party.

Tallaght West, Dublin South West

Political Co-operation

6. Having regard to the effective cooperation of the right wing political parties and the consensus of establishment economists, this ADC applauds the initiative by the Party President to construct an alternative movement in Irish society to challenge this closing of ranks by the Irish ruling class.

While recognising the key role of the Workers Party in building socialism in Ireland, this ADC recognises the necessity of building tactical

alliances with those elements in Irish society prepared to join an alliance to fight the right wing policies of recent governments and their consequences for working people, the unemployed and their families.

Dublin South

7. This Ard Fheis endorses the initiative of the Workers Party in calling for the establishment of a 'Rainbow Coalition' of groups opposed to the preset right wing consensus and urges the incoming CEC to continue with this work.

Ballymun, Dublin North West

Party Communications

8. This Ard Fheis recognising that the mass media are overwhelmingly supportive of the current right wing consensus and hostile towards our socialist analysis, and recognising the rapidly changing nature of the mass media, with legalised local radio and TV and increasing numbers of local newspapers, we call upon the CEC to immediately set about establishing a network of regional communications officers whose task will be, with adequate support from the centre, to raise and enhance public awareness of the Party and of our policies.

Mitchelstown, Cork East

9. That the incoming C.E.C. ensure the regular publication of "Womens View".

Finglas East, Dublin North West

10. This Ard Fheis proposes that Party Periodicals i.e. "Note and Comments" and "Wealth of the

Nation" be sold to branches as required, to promote their use for informational and educational purposes at branch level.

Cork North West, Cork North Central

11. Given that The Workers Party is the only socialist party in Ireland, not only preach about the ideals of the United Irishmen, but put them into practice. We feel it right and fitting after 140 years of the United Irishman as a regular journal in Ireland that we publish an annual United Irishman Magazine.

Whiterock, West Belfast

12. That this Ard Fheis sanction a system whereby any party member be allowed to build up an amount of credit/savings out of which he/she can purchase books in the "Left Bank Books" bookshop.

Tallaght West, Dublin South West

Recruitment

13. This Ard Fheis instruct the incoming CEC to set up a National Steering Committee for the recruitment of new members.

North Belfast, North Belfast

14. This Ard Fheis believes that if the Party is to continue to expand membership, we must instruct the incoming CEC to set up a National Recruiting Committee. This Committee would meet no less than eight times per year and report back to CEC on a three monthly basis. The N.C.R. would be responsible for:

1. Producing a number of target leaflets

directed at different sections of working people.

2. Directing Regions on new methods of recruitment.
3. Producing an introductory pack for people seeking information on the Party.
4. Producing a new members handbook.

Belfast Region

15. This Ard Fheis instructs the Ard Comhairle/C.E.C. to convene a special Party Conference (all members) to discuss strategy, tactics and future expansion of the Party.

Finglas West, Dublin North West

16. This Ard Fheis instruct the incoming CEC to produce (a) an introductory pack for people who are interested in joining the Party and (b) a new members handbook.

North Belfast, North Belfast

17. This Ard Fheis instructs the CEC to appoint an organiser for women groups and to encourage the greater participation and recruitment of women in the Party.

Ballymun, Dublin North West

Party Education

18. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Education Committee to pay special attention to the need to increase awareness among all Party members of:

- (a) the special problems encountered by women in being politically active.

- (b) the content and implications of the Party's policies in relation to women.

Crumlin, Dublin South Central

Ard Fheis

19. This Ard Fheis requests the CEC to carry out a review of the ADC with a view to increasing the participation and general level discussion at the conference.

Ballymun, Dublin North West

Collections

20. This Ard Fheis proposes that the Easter Lily emblem should be replaced with a Badge of Peace to coincide with the present policy on Northern Ireland and the Party's Peace Charter.

Kilbarrack West, Dublin North East

21. This Ard Fheis proposes to discontinue use of the Easter Lily and it to be replaced by either the Party badge or Connolly badge.

Tallaght West, Dublin South West

Irish Language

22. Treoraíonn an Ard Fheis seo do an Ard Chomhairle Nua Coiste speisialta gaeilge agus gaeltachta a bhunú chun polasai forleathan a fhorbairt i leith na habhair seo.

(That this Ard Fheis instructs the incoming Ard Comhairle to set up a Specialist Committee, Irish Language and Gaeltacht areas, with the view of

developing a comprehensive policy on these subjects).

Dun Laoghaire, Dun Laoghaire

Councillors

23. That all elected Party Councillors cease wearing ceremonial robes.

The Glen, Cork North Central

10. The Party's policy on ceremonial robes should be decided with the present policy on the Party's Peace Charter.

Ellipton West, Dublin North East

21. The Party should consider the proposal to have the Party badge or Connolly badge.

Tallant West, Dublin South West

22. The Party should consider the proposal to have the Party badge or Connolly badge.



THE WORKERS PARTY

**TIMETABLE FOR THE WORKERS ARD PHEIS/ANNUAL
CONFERENCE 7TH TO 9TH APRIL 1989
RDS CONCERT HALL, BALLSBRIDGE, DUBLIN**

Information:

TRANSPORT: Dart Stations - Lansdowne Rd, Sandymount or Sydney Parade all are in close proximity. (Feeder bus service from Heuston Station to DART)

Buses 6, 6A, 7, 7A, and 8 Eden Quay and Trinity College. 45 Burgh Quay. 18 Sandymount or Palmerstown/Ballyfermot, Crumlin, Harolds Cross, Rathmines and Ranelagh.

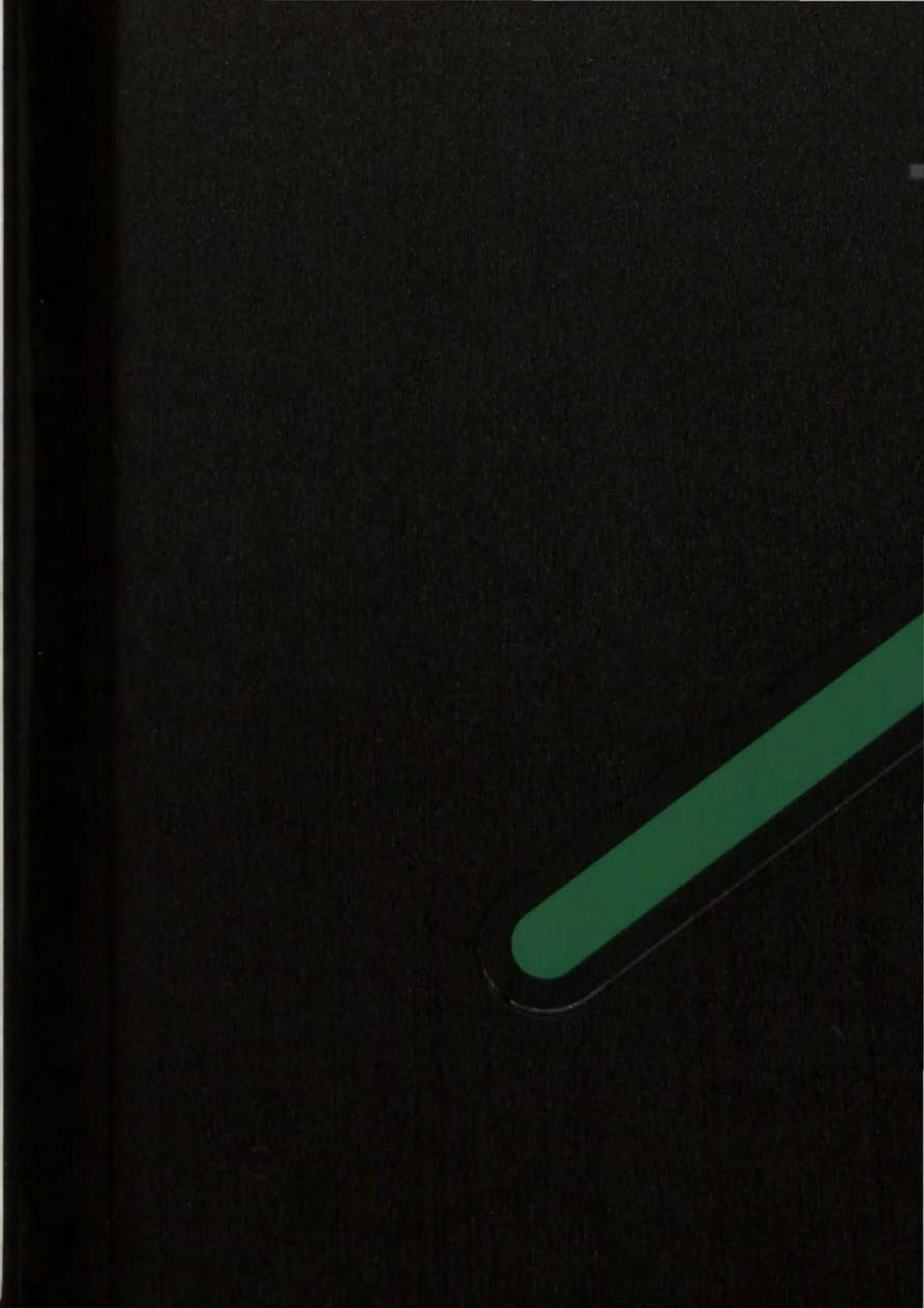
Restaurant and Bar Facilities are available at the RDS.

CRECHE: In Private Pavilion at Anglesea Road entrance.

PARKING: At Merrion Road entrance only.

BOOKSHOP: at RDS.

SOCIALS: Friday night 10.00am to 1.00am RDS. Saturday night 8.30 to 1.00am. (Tickets from local branch or at Conference). Cloakroom facilities at both events.



FRIDAY APRIL 7TH

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Friday Evening

- 6.00pm Checking in of delegates via Anglesea Road entrance.
- 7.00pm Election of Chairpersons, Tellers, Adoption of Steering Committee Recommendations.
- 7.30pm Opening Address by General Secretary Sean Garland.
- 8.15pm **ECONOMY**
- * Industrial Development - Page 43 Motions 1-18
 - * Taxation - Page 122 Motions 1-6
- 9.15 to 10.00pm **PEOPLE**
- * Youth - Page 80 Motions 1-10
- 10.00pm Ard Fheis adjourns until 9.00am Saturday
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SATURDAY APRIL 8TH

-oOo-

9.00am Delegates check in via Anglesea Road entrance.

9.30 - 11.30 **POVERTY & WORK**
* Employment - P. 35 Motions 1-9
* Social Welfare -
P. 49 Motions 1-12
* Emigration - P. 25 Motions 1-4
* Poverty - P. 14 Motions 1-9

11.30 to 3.00pm **ENVIRONMENT**
* Health - P. 54 Motions 1-27
* Environment - P. 114 Mot. 1-10
* Local Government -
P. 100 Motions 1-38
* Arts, Media, Sport -
P. 118 Motions 1-7

3.00 to 5.00 **PEACE & DEMOCRACY**
* Justice and Civil Liberties -
P. 67 Motions 1-14
* Peace and Northern Ireland -
P. 28 Motions 1-15
* Defence - P. 74 Motions 1-3

5.00 to 7.00pm **BREAK**

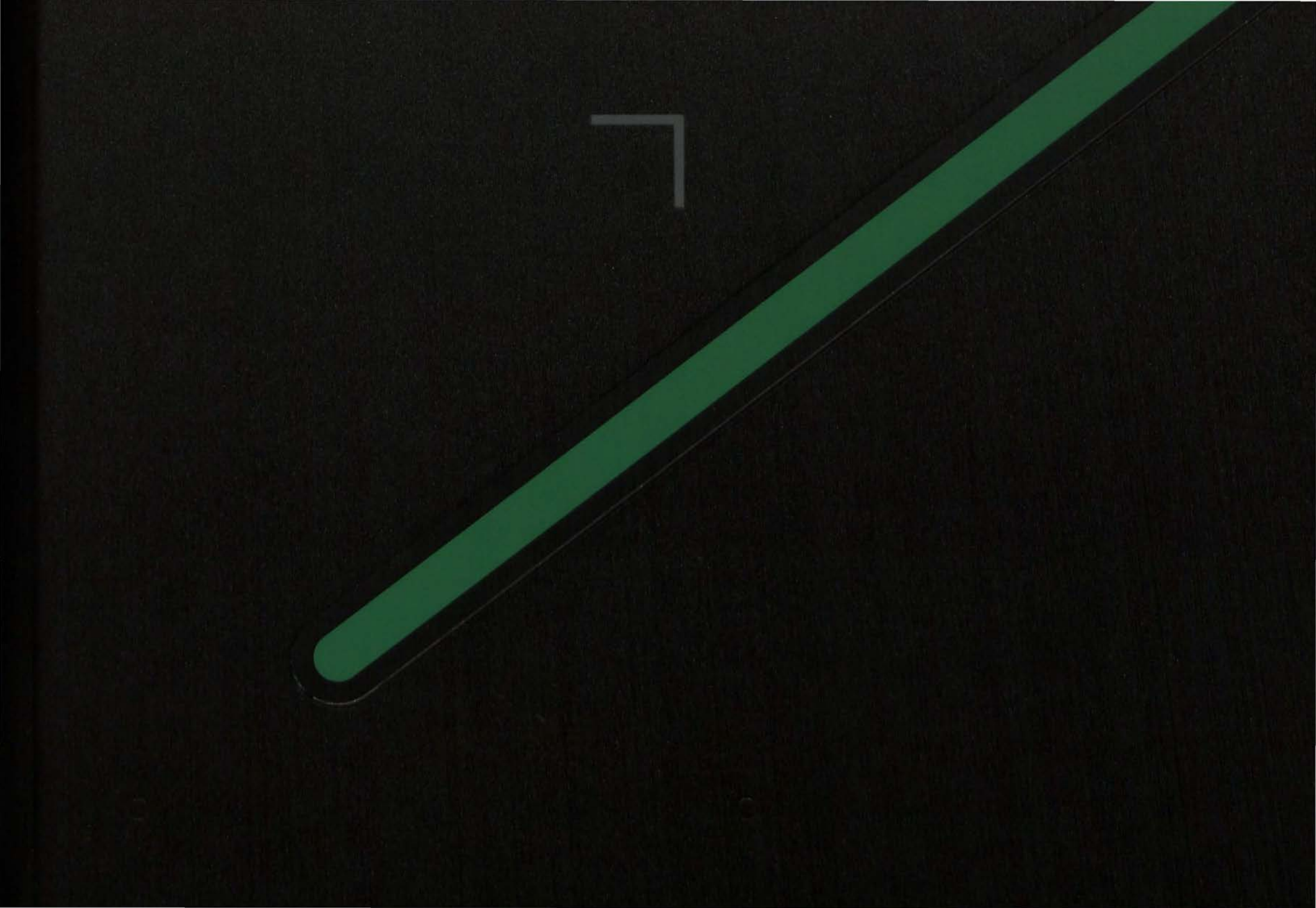
7.00pm **Presidential Address: by Deputy Proinsias De Rossa T.D. President The Workers Party.**

Presentations to comrades who have served and continue to serve the Party in a special way will precede the Presidential Address.

8.30pm Ard Fheis adjourns until 9.30am Sunday.

8.30 - 1.00am Social in R.D.S. (Bar Extension).





SUNDAY APRIL 9TH

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9.30am Delegates check in.
**ARD COMHAIRLE/C.E.C. ELECTIONS
WILL TAKE PLACE (9.30am to
1.15pm)**

10.00 to 11.00am **PEOPLE**
* Education -
Page 86 Motions 1-14
* Women -
Page 77 Motions 1-4

11.00 to 1.00pm **THE PARTY**
* International Affairs -
Page 91 Motions 1-21
* Party Constitution
* Party Organisation
* General Secretaries Report

1.00 to 2.00pm **LUNCH BREAK**

2.00 to 4.00pm **EUROPE & THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**
Page 3 Motions 1-11

4.00pm Ard Fheis closing address by
Sean Garland, General Secretary.

Footnote: Motions will be dealt with according to
Steering Committee Recommendations. Sections,
motions will be reached in the order listed above
and motions will be voted on individually when
required.

