

1987

Ard Fheis Annual Delegate Conference - 1987 : Clár

Workers' Party of Ireland

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THE WORKERS PARTY

**Ard Fheis
Annual Delegate
Conference 1987**

Clár



Health

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Health Services — Page 26 of 100

Contents

HEALTH	3
EDUCATION	7
SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES	18
WOMEN	22
THE ECONOMY	25
AGRICULTURE/FOOD DEVELOPMENT	34
PEACE & DEMOCRACY IN NORTHERN IRELAND	38
INTERNATIONAL	41
HOUSING	48
THE ENVIRONMENT	52
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	59
YOUTH	61
CIVIL LIBERTIES & JUSTICE	68
MEDIA, CULTURE & CONSUMER AFFAIRS	71
CONSTITUTION/ORGANISATION	74

MIDDELSTOWN

4. The Ardara... (text continues)

DONNYCASSNEY

Health

Health Services — Republic of Ireland

Steering Committee Recommendations

1 to 7 to be discussed together, 1 being the Main Resolution on Health Services, Republic of Ireland.

1 to 7 inclusive a substantive Resolution.

8 and 9 to be taken together as the substantive Resolution on Health Services, Northern Ireland.

10 to be taken separately.

11, 12 and 13 to be taken together under the heading AIDS.

14 to be taken on its own under sub heading Health Hazards.

1. That this Annual Conference of the Workers' Party pledges its opposition to the continued growth of the two tiered health service, an elite tax subsidised service for the rich and an inadequate, under financed and often undignified service for everyone else.

We demand that Public Health services be provided on the basis of need and not on the basis of ability to pay.

CEC

2. I lathair na huairé tá ar dhuine a dteastaíonn oideas doctúra uaidh dhul to dtí an siopa poitigeara is goire dhó. Is ionai áit sa nGaeltacht a bhfuil an poitigear 15 nó 20 míle ó na daoine. Is iomaí áit nach bhfuil coras taistil. Mar sin iarann an Ard Fheis seo ar Roinn Sláinte ath smaoiniú dheanamh ar an bplean seo.

CATHAR GAILLIMH THIAR

3. That this Conference condemns the needless suffering experienced by persons who are caused to wait unduly for treatment by specialists under the choice of doctor scheme, and highlights the very real danger to life being caused by extraordinary delays in changing specialists.

MITCHELSTOWN

4. This Ard Fheis notes that Beaumont Hospital, having been completed several years ago at a cost of over £50M to the taxpayer is still not open to the public. The Ard Fheis also notes that the failure to open the hospital is caused by the greed and intransigence of the Consultants and the inability of successive Ministers for Health to face down this powerful and elitist group. The Ard Fheis demands the immediate opening of Beaumont Hospital as a public hospital without resources paid for by the taxpayer being used for lucrative private practices by the consultants.

DONNEycARNEY

low level radiation and the effects of highly dangerous pesticides like 245-T that are freely available here. Legislation should be put before the Dáil on these health hazards.

CORK CITY, SOUTH EAST

WHITROCK BELFAST

1. The Whitrock Belfast plant is a major source of pollution in the city of Belfast. It is a large industrial complex which produces a wide range of products, including paper, cardboard, and other materials. The plant has a long history and is one of the largest employers in the city.

SOUTH BELFAST

2. The South Belfast area is a densely populated urban area. It is home to a large number of people and is one of the most diverse areas in the city. The area has a long history and is one of the oldest parts of the city.

3. The South Belfast area is also home to a large number of small businesses and shops. These businesses are an important part of the local economy and provide a wide range of goods and services for the community.

4. The South Belfast area is also home to a large number of schools and educational institutions. These institutions provide a high quality of education for the children of the area and are an important part of the community.

5. The South Belfast area is also home to a large number of parks and recreational areas. These areas provide a place for people to relax and enjoy the outdoors and are an important part of the community.

6. The South Belfast area is also home to a large number of cultural and leisure facilities. These facilities provide a wide range of activities for people to enjoy and are an important part of the community.

7. The South Belfast area is also home to a large number of religious and community centres. These centres provide a place for people to worship and to get together with their fellow citizens.

8. The South Belfast area is also home to a large number of social and welfare services. These services provide support and assistance to people who are in need and are an important part of the community.

INDUSTRIAL EAST

CORK SOUTH EAST

9. The Industrial East area is a major industrial hub in the city. It is home to a large number of large manufacturing plants and factories which produce a wide range of goods and services.

10. The Industrial East area is also home to a large number of small businesses and shops. These businesses are an important part of the local economy and provide a wide range of goods and services for the community.

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16. The Industrial East area is also home to a large number of health and social care services. These services provide support and assistance to people who are in need and are an important part of the community.

17. The Industrial East area is also home to a large number of housing and social services. These services provide support and assistance to people who are in need and are an important part of the community.

18. The Industrial East area is also home to a large number of transport and infrastructure services. These services provide support and assistance to people who are in need and are an important part of the community.

19. The Industrial East area is also home to a large number of environmental and conservation services. These services provide support and assistance to people who are in need and are an important part of the community.

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Education

No.1 (Ard Comhairle) to be main resolution. Resolutions 2 to 8 are covered by main resolution except 2 (c) (Shankill/Ballybrack) which is an amendment.

Pupil/Teacher Ratio

Resolutions 9 and 10 (to be taken together) are amendments to main resolution and cover 11, 12 and 13.

Adult Education

Resolution 14 is an amendment to main resolution. No.15 is covered by main resolution.

Life Skills

Resolutions 16, 17 and 18 are amendments to main resolution (cover 19 and 20).

Pre-School Education

21 is an amendment to main resolution.

Education in Northern Ireland

Resolutions 22 to 25 to be discussed together but voted on separately.

Integrated Education

26 to be taken separately, covers 27 and 28.

Others

29, 30, 31 to be taken separately.

32 is an amendment to main resolution.

1. The Workers' Party seeks a comprehensive system of education; this means that it would be State-funded, democratically controlled, relevant to society and socially progressive. Education should be free of religious or sexist bias, available to all regardless of income. People who wish to re-enter the education system must not be penalised. To make any of this possible requires proper State funding, the reversal of the recent series of cutbacks and the abolition of compulsory or "voluntary" fees on parents. A properly State funded system of education, resulting from an equitable tax system, is an investment in the future.

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

The development of pre-school education has been totally haphazard. Privately run pre-schools have, as a result of local need, grown up in many areas. These operate without any supervision as to staff training, educational provision or educational standards. They also operate solely for money, largely without any funding from central or local government. The Workers' Party calls for the establishment of a national network of creche and pre-school facilities (to be located, for instance, in housing estates,

shopping complexes, and places of large employment). They should be run by properly trained staff and accessible to all parents. This system could best be administered by the Department of Education in conjunction with local government and area health boards.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Primary education must be adequately funded by the State in order to bring about

- (a) educationally satisfactory pupil/teacher ratios;
- (b) adequate educational resources and proper classroom facilities;
- (c) the implementation of a child-centred curriculum in a satisfactory manner;
- (d) provide psychological and other necessary back-up services.

Free books and school clothing for all pupils, together with a school meals scheme should be part of a proper free education system.

The Workers' Party wants a restructuring of the management structure of primary schools. At the moment, despite almost total State funding, all management control is vested in private, usually religious bodies. This should end and local democratic control must replace it.

Despite the demand for multi-denominational education, as indicated by various surveys, the movement to provide this type of education has progressed slowly and with difficulty through the existing primary system. Contrary to the precedent established in the setting up of the earlier multi-denominational schools, the Department of Education is imposing discriminatory conditions on recent efforts to establish such schools. It has restricted the category of child to be initially enrolled in proposed Sligo, Kilkenny and Cork projects. We believe that the rules governing the opening of such schools should be in line with established rules which are in operation for the setting up of all-Irish schools.

SECOND LEVEL

Second level education should be available to all students who have completed the primary cycle. No barriers, for example fees, "voluntary" contributions, school bus charges, and especially examination fees should have to be paid by students or their parents at this level. The present system, which divides subject range and availability on the basis of sex lines, or a VEC/Church controlled level is discriminatory and educationally bad. The second level system is unduly geared to the points system and Leaving Cert exam grind, which is relevant only to that small minority of students going forward to third level education. It is largely useless to those who must leave formal education at or before Leaving Cert. The present system should be extended to include such topics as the present HEB project scheme on "life skills", sociology and the political process.

As with primary level, the Workers' Party calls for the ending of the situation whereby the State pays for the vast bulk of educational provision and yet surrenders control of these schools to religious authorities. The VECs must be extended and strengthened to assume control and management of all State-funded second level education.

THIRD LEVEL

Third level education has changed enormously over the last 10 years. New non-university third-level colleges are challenging the dominance of the universities in this sector. Student numbers have shot up but there has been low growth in the numbers of people who have always been denied access to third-level education. While many of the barriers to participation occur in the earlier stages of the education system, these are reinforced by the higher education system. Those excluded from the system are the very people who provide most of its funding through taxes.

Big improvements are needed in the various grants schemes which apply to higher education. The schemes should be rationalised to provide an adequate level of maintenance for all students. A particular scandal at present is the fact that mature students cannot avail of the normal higher education grant. It is our view that any person who is qualified to enter a third-level course should be eligible for a grant. Those who are better off should pay for third-level education, but this should be done through the taxation system. We oppose any form of loan scheme. This would be discriminatory and would not be cost effective.

The higher education system will continue to expand until the end of the century, according to official projections. This contrasts with other European countries.

The Workers' Party believes that third-level students should be treated as mature individuals and thus should be given voting rights on the management boards of their institutions.

ADULT EDUCATION

Although adult literacy work has been under way in Ireland for over 10 years, there has never been overall planning in this vital area. Adult literacy schemes are grossly underfunded and rely heavily on voluntary effort. Yet, where adult literacy schemes have been established it is clear that there is a huge demand for the service. Proper funding and planning is needed urgently. Centres of adult education should be provided throughout the country under the auspices of the VECs.

SECOND CHANCE EDUCATION

Education is a life-long process and access to further education should be available to all, not just those who can afford to pay. Adequate funding is

vital to make "second chance" education and retraining courses open to all. Although the Coalition Government agreed to implement the recommendations of the International Labour Organisation convention on release from work for the purposes of adult education, this has not happened in a satisfactory manner to date. Workers should get time off for education purposes. Social welfare should not be cut on people availing of further education.

TRAVELLING CHILDREN

Every child, regardless of background, has a constitutional right to attend their local national school. This party will not tolerate decisions by boards of management or others to prevent travelling children enrolling in their particular school. The Workers' Party says the special needs of travelling children must be met. The appointment of sufficient specialist teachers should take place now.

Education of the physically and mentally handicapped should be integrated as much as possible in the mainstream education structure.

Contradictory demands are being made on schools in regard to the Irish language. On the one hand, schools are being asked to be the springboard for the maintenance and revival of the language, while on the other hand they are being starved of any resources to do the job. The survival of the language depends on how much governments are willing to support it.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

2.

(a) The purpose of second level education should be to equip the student with the skills, confidence and knowledge needed for work, for citizenship, for domestic life, for further education and for leisure. The curriculum should, therefore, foster high standards in the academic and technical areas coupled with the overall personal and social development of the young adult.

(b) Second level education should be available, free of charge to all students who have completed the primary cycle. Travel, books, equipment and examination entry should all be free of charge.

Second level education should be totally funded by the Department of Education and funding should be adequate to cover all costs and, above all, to ensure a satisfactory pupil/teacher ratio. Building programmes for primary and second-level schools should be linked to achieve the best use of resources.

(c) Control must be democratic and must reflect a partnership between the State, which funds the system, the teachers and the parents. The Workers' Party proposes Boards of Management comprising, $\frac{1}{3}$ teachers, $\frac{1}{3}$ parents and $\frac{1}{3}$ public.

SHANKILL/BALLYBRACK

3. This Ard Fheis deplores the fact that per capita, spending on education in Ireland is the lowest in the EEC and calls for greater financial provision in education to cater for:-

- (a) The reduction in size of Ireland's comparatively large classes;
- (b) Curricular reform and in-service training for teachers to cope with new curricular units;
- (c) Initiation of formal provision for pre-schooling;
- (d) A new system of national school funding, which will have special regard to schools in greatest need;
- (e) Replacement of sub-standard school buildings;
- (f) The elimination of examination fees;
- (g) Provision of a free books scheme;
- (h) The expansion of third level education to cater for the greatly increased student numbers seeking places;
- (i) Making remedial teaching available to all school pupils;
- (j) An extension of adult education.

TALLAGHT EAST/GREENHILLS

4. Noting that the existing class bias in the education system is preserved and strengthened by lack of planning and lack of funding:

- that these problems are particularly evident in emerging communities like Tallaght, Ashbourne, Leixlip etc
 - that the lack of local facilities together with the lack of free transport places an impossible financial burden on workers and their families
 - that the cuts as proposed by the right wing parties will make this bad situation worse by postponing or cancelling necessary new facilities
- this Ard Fheis resolves to fight these cuts in education at every opportunity.

ASHBOURNE

5. This Ard Fheis condemns the erosion, by successive governments, of the Free Education System. Since the taxpayers are already paying for the service with their taxes, we call on the government to fully fund the education system at all levels, in order to eliminate the need for parents to pay for equipment and maintenance in Primary schools, voluntary contributions in second level schools, and the payment of crippling fees at third level.

DRUMCONDRA/GLASNEVIN

6. This Ard Fheis condemns the lack of funding at first level education and notes that the continuing impoverishment of our national schools is a deliberate policy to drive parents into the profit-making hands of private education. We in the Workers' Party will continue to fight for equality of

stereotyping in the Youth Training Programme and the recently announced Vocational Education Programme;

- (c) calls on the Department of Education, Northern Ireland and the Department of Economic Development to initiate a programme of positive action in education and training aimed at encouraging more women to participate in scientific, technological, and practically based careers.

BELFAST

18. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for Education to act immediately to ensure that a course in political awareness, including the ideologies of the various political parties, and a look at how the political system operates, be introduced into the education system.

LIBERTIES

19. This Ard Fheis directs the Party to press the Department of Education to introduce Political Education into schools as a means of encouraging young people to become involved in the political process.

BELFAST

20. This Ard Fheis welcomes the introduction of health education as part of the curriculum in Northern Ireland schools. Health education will go some way towards preparing young people for adulthood. Therefore, we call on D.E.N.I. to provide more resources for health education, to allow for its broader and more widespread development in schools.

BELFAST

PRE-SCHOOL PROVISION

21 Conference is concerned that the provision of education, care and development for children under five throughout Ireland is so inadequate. Nursery education on a large scale remains an unfulfilled promise in stark contrast to provision in other member states of the European Community.

Conference calls on governments north and south to:

- (a) provide a major expansion of nursery education places to ensure that all those wishing to make use of them can do so;
- (b) ensure that pre-school facilities have flexible hours to meet the needs of working parents;
- (c) base the extension of pre-school provision on the development of nursery centres which would combine care, education, health and welfare facilities for children under 5.

DUNMURRY, BELFAST.

EDUCATION NORTHERN IRELAND

22. During this past year the Conservative Government has intensified its

unrelenting assault on State education. In line with its own extreme philosophy of uncaring capitalism (Monetarism), the Tory regime at Westminster has targeted a wide range of areas within the education structure for detrimental reorganisation and closure. It is in with this in mind that the Workers' Party in Northern Ireland sees the need for positive action on the broadest possible front in raising opposition to the cuts in educational expenditure.

To this end we would propose the following:

That the resources available at present be redeployed to create an egalitarian system of education which would reorganize education on the following lines:

- (a) nursery school provision available for every child whose parents wish to avail of it;
- (b) access to integrated and co-educational schools from the beginning of primary level;
- (c) a comprehensive, integrated system of second level education for all secondary pupils up to the age of 18;
- (d) a guaranteed and realistic grant (not less than the already inadequate YTP grant) for all those wishing to remain in education after 16;
- (e) that education be specifically structured, not just to have a broad curriculum related to the 'quality of life', but also to harness the talents and energies of the population to the 21st century.

And therefore this ADC instructs the membership in Northern Ireland specifically to undertake an incisive campaign to mobilise public opinion in political support of a State system of secular, integrated education.

BELFAST

23. Recognising the attacks on third level education by the Thatcher administration, Workers' Party propose a five point plan for the rescue and revitalisation of this sector:

1. direct increases in education expenditure, paid for by an allocation of resources from wasteful military expenditure;
2. that no University departments be closed;
3. complete opposition to the introduction of student loans and a demand for a basic grant for everyone who wants to enter third level sector;
4. greater access to choice in relation to the nature of degree courses, with a view to a better balance between examinations and continual assessment;
5. the deepening of democratic representation at all levels, including the organization of courses and the setting of curriculum.

BELFAST

24. (a) That this Ard Fheis views with concern the attempts to undermine access to third level education as a basic right, as represented by the re-introduction of the concept of the loans system scheme for students and the reduction of student grants in real terms. This is a further example of the government's philosophy of denying working class access to higher education.

(b) That this Party would further welcome access to the Open University to be made available to all citizens of the Irish Republic.

BELFAST

25. The Tory Minister of Education Kenneth Baker's proposals are again a serious attack on basic trade union rights to negotiate on behalf of their members.

Specifically we call on this ADC to demand the immediate re-introduction of negotiating machinery at national level to allow for a democratic input from all sides in relation to teachers' pay and conditions.

BELFAST

INTEGRATED EDUCATION

26. That this Ard Fheis reaffirms Party policy on education and calls on the Northern Ireland Regional Executive to intensify its efforts to achieve full integrated and comprehensive education in Northern Ireland.

LOWER FALLS

27. This Ard Fheis directs the Party to undertake a major campaign for integrated education.

BELFAST

28. This Ard Fheis calls on the Party to foster and support the growth of integrated education in the Northern jurisdiction as a practical first step towards the full development of State controlled education at all levels.

NEWCASTLE, CO DOWN

29. As a positive and meaningful conclusion to this Education debate the Ard Fheis instructs the incoming National Education Committee to produce a major policy document stating the Workers' Party's specific philosophical position on Education, outlining necessary developments in this area over the immediate future.

BELFAST

30. This Ard Fheis calls for the full implementation of the Teachers' Pay Award.

WHITEHALL/SANTRY

31. This Ard Fheis calls on the TUI and the ASTI to:

- (i) Give full membership to those part-time teachers who rely on teaching hours as the main source of their income.
- (ii) Continue their campaign for "pro-rata" treatment for part-time teachers.

This Ard Fheis condemns the practice by the Department of Education in its use and abuse of part-time teachers as a means of cutting back on teaching staff.

LIMERICK CITY

32. This Ard Fheis believes that the state, through the Department of Education, should publish primary and post-primary textbooks so as to ensure that schoolbooks are available to students at a reasonable cost.

WEXFORD TOWN

Social Welfare Services

Steering Committee Recommendations

1 to 3 to be discussed under the submission on social welfare and taken as one substantive.

4 and 5 to be taken separately.

6, 7, 8 and 9 to be taken as one substantive Resolution.

10, 11 and 12 to be discussed together and voted on separately.

13 and 14 to be taken separately.

15 and 16 to be taken separately.

17 and 18 to be taken together as one substantive motion

COMMISSION ON SOCIAL WELFARE

1.

- (a) That this Ard Fheis welcomes and endorses the main thrust of the Report of the Commission on Social Welfare on care for the elderly and calls for early implementation of its major recommendations.
- (b) That this Ard Fheis deplores the negative responses of the right wing political parties and establishment economists to the Report of the Commission on Social Welfare and calls on the Government to immediately:-
 - (i) endorse the main underlying principles of the Report, especially its recognition of the necessity to dramatically improve the basic levels of social welfare payments;
 - (ii) publicise the findings of the Report and stimulate further debate on its numerous recommendations and suggestions;
 - (iii) specify a timetable for implementation of the Commission's four 'priority' recommendations, by 1990 at the latest;
 - (iv) start implementing a number of important reforms which have no major cost increasing implications, such as reform of the social welfare appeals system;
 - (v) clarify its attitude to the remaining 60 or so recommendations; and
 - (vi) establish a Social Welfare Planning Board to plan for the short term changes and the longer term future developments of the social welfare system.

CEC

2. That this Conference re-affirms the broad acceptance by the Party of the Report of the Commission on Social Welfare, in particular its recommendations for a minimum level of benefit for all categories of social welfare claimants.

GALWAY CITY, NORTH EAST

3. The Workers' Party welcome the findings of the Commission on Social Welfare, especially in the areas of appeals and discretionary payments. The Workers' Party believe that the present appeals system is both unjust and discriminatory. The System judges people guilty until proven innocent. We call for the abolition of the practice of cutting off a person's social welfare entitlement when accused of a breach of the rules. The Workers' Party calls for a total review of discretionary payments available under supplementary welfare allowance. Clear guidelines for discretionary payments should be implemented to rid the system of local and regional irregularities. The supplementary welfare allowance scheme should be administered by the Department of Social Welfare.

LIMERICK CITY

4. Mas mian leat dhul ar an Malartan Oibre, tá ort taisteal 40-50 míle. Tá an rud ceanna fíor más mian leat cain a chuir ar do ghluaisteán. Iarann an Ard Fheis seo ar na Comhairtí Condae agus eagraisí mar na Molartain Oibre seirbhís a chuir ar fáil ag Iar ionaid a bheadh i ngar do na daoine ó am go ham.

CATHAR GAILLIMH THÍAR

5. The Party condemns the present handling of appeals by the D.H.S.S. in relation to single payment grants for essential needs. When people apply for various items they can be turned down by the adjudication offices. The person applying can appeal within 28 days, but their appeal may take up to 12 weeks before it is heard. This takes away the importance of this vital necessity within the D.H.S.S. and defeats the purpose of why claimants apply for immediate payment for special items.

CROMAC, BELFAST

WELFARE ELIGIBILITY AND RATES

6. This Ard Fheis demands that until such time as there is a basic minimum income for all adults, that students who are dependent on their parents for financial support should be considered as dependents, for the purposes of assessing their parent's social welfare entitlements.

BRAY, NORTH EAST

7. This Ard Fheis calls for legislation to be passed that attendance at recognised day time courses will not disqualify unemployed people from social welfare benefits.

TALLAGHT EAST, GREENHILLS

8. That unemployed men and women who embark on second chance

education should not lose there unemployment benefit.

FINGLAS WEST

9. That no unemployed person eligible for unemployment assistance should be in receipt of less than the single rate.

FINGLAS WEST

PRSI AND PENSION

10. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Government to introduce a national pay-related social insurance scheme in line with the recommendation from the Commission on Social Welfare and thus eliminate the real social welfare scandal where approximately £300M of taxpayers money was spent last year on non-contributory pensions and the non-contributory widows and orphans scheme. The vast majority of which was paid to farmers and self-employed, who not only fail to pay their fair share of tax, but also fail to provide for their old age and thus end up as a burden on the PAYE sector.

DUN LAOGHAIRE

11. That a National Pension Scheme for all workers be part of Workers' Party policy, and that workers who desire so should be able to retire without loss of any normal benefits at the age of sixty.

MITCHELSTOWN

12. This ADC reiterates its demand for all old age pensioners to be given a weekly additional grant for heating costs from November to March of not less than £5 per week.

BELFAST

MEDICAL CARDS AND DENTAL BENEFIT

13. That the Workers' Party favours the extension of full dental and optical benefits to the spouses of all workers.

MITCHELSTOWN

14. That the basis for assessment for medical card entitlement be the net income figure.

MITCHELSTOWN

15. Despite nominal claims of full equality within the social welfare system, there are still serious and gross inequalities suffered by many women when making claims for benefit. Noting this, the Conference resolves to highlight these inequalities and to campaign for their removal.

GALWAY, NORTH EAST

16. This Ard Fheis believes that discrimination exists within the social welfare system against deserted husbands in that they are not entitled to a deserted persons' allowance. Although the EEC directive on equality within the social welfare system is there in principle, the Government has refused to rectify the position of deserted husbands. This Ard Fheis calls for a deserted allowance to be paid to all deserted parents.

LIMERICK CITY

CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

17. This Ard Fheis/Annual Conference condemns the ongoing reductions in funding for services to the elderly. This Conference finds it particularly abhorrent that at a time when community care services such as home helps are being cut back, and when statutory agencies are unable to adequately staff their facilities, huge amounts of money are being poured into private homes for the elderly. The Workers' Party demands an end to policy of privatisation and an immediate increase in resources allocated to the monitoring of the frequently sub-standard level of care provided by private homes.

NEWRY

18. This Ard Fheis calls on Governments, North and South, to introduce a system of care for the elderly, comparable to that in EEC countries i.e. monies for heat in winter and a rise in pensions to bring them above the poverty line.

LAGAN VALLEY

Women

Equality

Steering Committee Recommendations.

1 to be taken as main resolution under sub head "Equality" and is amended by 2 & 3.

4 to 10 inclusive to be taken together as one substantive.

11 and 14 inclusive to be taken together as one substantive.

1. This conference notes with concern that four years after international women's year women in Ireland are still denied full equality, particularly in the workplace, and that despite pledged by previous governments to tackle the problem, little if any significance has in fact occurred. In recognition of that blatant failure, this Conference re-affirms the Party's commitment to the achievement of full equality for women in all areas of society and to vigorously campaign towards that end.

GALWAY CITY, NORTH EAST

2. In spite of ten years of equality legislation, poverty, low pay and unemployment are the realities for tens of thousands of Irish women. This Ard Fheis calls for:

(a) the introduction of a statutory minimum wage for all;

(b) the Government to introduce legislation to protect the rights of part-time workers;

(c) recognition of the failure of successive Governments to make the right to work a reality by providing comprehensive childcare facilities.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL

3. The Workers' Party pledges itself to oppose and fight against the conservative anti-woman climate which has been engineered by well financed right wing groups within this country. In opposition to this we call for Irish society to work towards caring attitudes which would develop awareness among men and women and would be the basis of any programme for true equality.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL

PREGNANCY COUNSELLING SERVICE

4. This Ard Fheis expresses serious concern at the recent Hamilton ruling which has forced the closure of two pregnancy counselling services in Dublin. While the full implications of the ruling are not yet clear, there is no doubt that its ramifications will be far-reaching e.g. in the areas of access to

information, doctor/patient relationship, certain forms of contraception and treatment for rape victims to name but a few.

What is clear is that the ruling will do absolutely nothing to reduce the numbers of women seeking abortions in Britain. Instead it will deprive such women of adequate and supportive counselling at the time they need it most, with emotional and physical health.

The blame for the ruling must be laid squarely where it belongs — on the cowardly politicians who complied so readily to the sectarian, intolerant initiations of the 1983 referendum.

CEC

5. This Ard Fheis/Annual Conference re-affirms its call for a more comprehensive Family Planning Service and greater access to same for all women.

KILBARRACK WEST

6. That this Ard Fheis expresses concern at the restriction on Family Planning Counselling imposed by the recent high court decision and calls for the provision of comprehensive family planning in Ireland.

KILDARE CC.

7. That this Ard Fheis views with extreme concern the recent Hamilton decision in relation to the Womens' Clinics.

We condemn totally the actions of anti-women groups like SPUC whose efforts have resulted in the loss of a basic human right — the right to information.

We support the concept of non-directioned counselling where pregnant women can have access to information of all the alternatives open to them.

EAST WAIL/MARINO

8. This Annual Delegate Conference expresses its concern at the implications of the recent ruling of Justice Hamilton on the eighth amendment to the Constitution.

GALWAY WEST CC.

9. That this Conference deplores and condemns the recent decision by the High Court to declare illegal the activities of the Well Woman centre in Dublin.

GALWAY, NORTH EAST

10. That this Conference reaffirms its condemnation of the lack of a comprehensive cervical cancer screening service in the Republic and calls upon the Minister for Health to take immediate steps towards introducing

same and to also make the service available in the workplace.

GALWAY, NORTH EAST

LAW IN RELATION TO RAPE

11. That this Ard Fheis welcomes the campaign by the Rape Crisis Centre for wide-ranging reform in the law as it relates to the crime of rape, in order to make the law more effective in dealing with such crime and to reduce the enormous stress placed on rape victims by current legal procedures in rape cases, which often discourage victims from testifying in court.

CEC

12. This Ard Fheis resolves to support the Rape Crisis centre in the very valuable work that it undertakes — work which in a civilized society would be carried out by a properly stated-funded agency. The Ard Fheis further resolves to help defend the Rape Crisis Centre from the increasingly hysterical attacks from a highly atavistic and obscurantist element in society.

The Ard Fheis also demands that the law in relation to rape be radically changed in light of the report and recommendations of the Rape Crisis Centre.

DONNEycARNEY

13. This Ard Fheis supports the campaign for changes in the present rape law to include:-

- (a) include in the definition of rape, sexual assaults other than forced sexual intercourse;
- (b) to protect the victim from being asked questions in Court about her private life;
- (c) to criminalise rape within marriage; and
- (d) to provide rape victims with their own lawyers.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL

14. That this Ard Fheis supports the campaign of the Rape Crisis Centre for changes in the law relating to rape.

BALLYMUN

The Economy

UNEMPLOYMENT — JOB CREATION REPUBLIC OF IRELAND.

Resolution 1 to be taken as the substantive resolution on this section and as the composite re-write of resolutions from William Thompson Branch, Dublin; Galway City North East; Cork North Central CC; Kilbarrack East; Ashbourne; Finglas East; Wexford Town; Bray West; Navan.

Resolution 2 to be taken as the substantive resolution on Unemployment — Job Creation Northern Ireland, and as the re-written composite of resolutions from Belfast (2); Ballymurphy; Turf Lodge (3); Ard Comhairle (2).

No.3 to be taken as the substantive resolution on Privatisation and as the re-written composite of resolutions from Ard Comhairle/CEC; Galway City West; Ballymun; Cork North Central CC; Ned Stapleton Branch, Dublin; Kildare CC.

Nos. 4 and 5 together to be the substantive resolution on this section with 6, 7 and 8 as addenda.

No.9 main resolution with 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 as addenda.

No.16 to be taken as the main resolution with 17 and 18 as addenda.

No.19 to be taken on its own.

Nos. 20 and 21 to be taken together as one substantive on this section.

Nos. 22 to 29 inclusive to be taken separately.

UNEMPLOYMENT — JOB CREATION, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

1. This Ard Fheis notes the continual propaganda being published to discredit the concept of full employment and the future prospects of establishing a healthy manufacturing industry in this country.

This Ard Fheis also notes that officially 255,000 are unemployed, a number of unemployed are not officially registered as such and at least 30,000 a year are now emigrating.

This Ard Fheis, therefore, resolves to combat propaganda which endeavours to discredit or cast doubt on the concept of full employment, propaganda designed to make mass unemployment acceptable, and reiterates the Workers' Party commitment to agitate and organise for full employment and

1. condemns and rejects the new visa system for entry to the USA as a valid means of alleviating unemployment;
2. calls for the diversion of state grants to state enterprise in need of capitalisation;
3. that pension fund money be used for productive investment in the economy;
4. that modern technology be invested in job creation programmes;
5. that job creation be declared as the priority issue and only means of

- tackling poverty and emigration;
6. welcomes the establishment of centres for the unemployed and calls for government funding of such centres;
 7. that the state investment of £9.54 million in Bula Mines be used to pressurise this company into operation to create jobs.

A composite re-write of resolutions from William Thompson Branch, Dublin; Galway City North East; Cork North Central CC; Kilbarrack East; Ashbourne; Finglas East; Wexford Town; Bray West Ward; Navan.

UNEMPLOYMENT — JOB CREATION, NORTHERN IRELAND

2. This Ard Fheis notes and condemns the Tory government mismanagement of the Northern Ireland economy, the fact that emigration figures for Northern Ireland are not published, the enforced liquidation of the NI gas industries, the contempt shown for those out of work by both constitutional Unionist and Nationalist parties; the use of unemployment as a political weapon and as a means of promoting a low wage economy; the rezoning of industrial land in Belfast for purposes other than industry; welcomes the call by NICTU for a publicly owned development bank and calls for

1. the publication by our Economic Affairs Committee of a document outlining our economic policies for Northern Ireland by the next Ard Fheis.
2. A single development agency for NI encompassing LEDU and IDB.
3. The Secretary of State to publish emigration figures for Northern Ireland.
4. The Secretary of State to ensure that detailed export-import figures for Northern Ireland are made available, in particular for trade between NI and Britain.
5. The Party, when engaging in jobs campaigns, to stress the political causes of unemployment, outline job creation strategies for all constituencies, to declare economic disaster zones, demand proper targeting by the IDB of new industrial development for areas of greatest need and to mobilize the unemployed behind our campaigns.
6. A commitment to expose Tory policy and to create favourable public opinion to direct investment in Northern Ireland.

A re-written composite of resolutions from Belfast region (6), Ballymurphy, Turf Lodge (3), Ard Comhairle (2).

PRIVATISATION

3. This Ard Fheis notes (a) that many State companies are managed by persons who don't have a commitment to the concept of public enterprise, (b) because of the public service nature of some State companies they cannot operate at a profit.

Condemns the policies of Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and PDs to privatise State companies and calls for:

- (i) Bord na Móna to be retained in full State ownership, develop its own cutaway bogs and be given responsibility for the future development of the forestry and timber processing industry;
- (ii) the development and expansion of efficient State industry;
- (iii) the leading role in the development of our economy to be played by the State sector;
- (iv) a campaign by our Party to defend the public sector from takeover by private enterprise;
- (v) the redirection of State funds to the expansion and development of State industry.

A re-written composite on privatisation of resolutions from the Ard Comhairle (CEC); Galway City West; Ballymun; Cork North Central CC; Ned Stapleton branch, Dublin; Kildare Constituency Council.

TAXATION

4. That this Ard Fhels reaffirms the Party's policy on tax equity, and in particular the transfer of 10% of the PAYE/PRSI tax bill onto employers, farmers and self-employed, as a realistic and practical objective.

WATERFORD

5. The Workers' Party must campaign and publish material to expose the gross injustice suffered by PAYE taxpayers. Those on PAYE — 524,000 are in the category who may be stopped tax by this means of paying — pay 90.3% of income tax. People who pay income tax by other means number 228,300 and pay only 9.7% of the income tax bill. The Workers' Party must make every effort to end this abuse.

ARD COMHAIRLE (CEC)

6. Recognising that the PAYE sector now pays 90% of tax collected, we ask the incoming CEC to investigate how PAYE was imposed in the 1960s. By following the year by year increase in PAYE/PRSI/Levies it can be shown how the 1987 PAYE exploitation has come about.

A pamphlet should be produced with this in mind and should also show how a just tax system would benefit the PAYE worker.

CORK CITY SOUTH EAST

7. That tax relief be granted to the PAYE sector on such expenses as medical bills, house and vehicle maintenance, private and public home rental and other professional services on production of appropriate receipts, thus fulfilling the dual function of providing a pool of verifiable information on the actual income of the self-employed and helping the PAYE sector to maintain

a reasonable standard of living.

CORK CITY SOUTH WEST

8. That this Ard Fheis/ADC encourages the imposition of high taxation on privately owned derelict sites in Ireland.

KILBARRACK EAST

WORKERS' RIGHTS

9. Noting that the trade union movement is now the target of hostile employers intent upon seriously reducing the bargaining power of organised workers within key industrial and manufacturing sectors of the Irish economy, and recognising that the future as well as immediate interests of all workers depend significantly upon the presence of highly disciplined and organised unions at all levels of employment, this conference re-affirms the commitment of the Party towards the democratic rights of the unions and pledges support for all workers defending the hard won rights of centuries.

GALWAY CITY NORTH EAST

10. This Ard Fheis condemns the action taken by companies to erode the basic trade union rights of employees, and urges the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to insist on the protection of these rights without compromise.

LEIXLIP

11. This Ard Fheis notes the recent attempt by private employers to deny organised workers the right to withdraw their labour, reiterates the support of the Workers' Party for the right to strike as an essential weapon in the struggle of the working class under capitalism for fair wages and conditions.

JOE O'CONNOR BRANCH, DUBLIN

12. Considering the growth of the electronic industry, especially in the mid-west region, and the fact that the industry is predominantly in the hands of American monopoly capital, this Ard Fheis condemns the industry's "open door" management policy as being anti-trade unions and a subtle and dangerous form of controlling workers.

LIMERICK CITY

13. That the Party calls for trade union rights for all government and training schemes.

FINGLAS WEST

14. This Ard Fheis notes that in present conditions of mass unemployment the practice of forcing employees to sign "contracts of employment" is spreading. We believe that pay and working conditions for all paid occupations should be negotiated between employers concerned and trade unions concerned and a working rule agreement for various industries worked out.

This Ard Fheis therefore resolves that the right of all workers to belong to a trade union should be guaranteed in the Constitution. The right to negotiate pay and conditions should also be so guaranteed. Employers who then failed to observe the rules would be open to action by the courts.

The present practice of forcing one-sided contracts on employees or prospective employees serves only to needlessly sour industrial relations, and concern about good industrial relations by the establishment in present circumstances have a false ring about them. The IDA should refuse grants to firms who fail to honour traditional labour relations.

WILLIAM THOMPSON BRANCH, DUBLIN

15. Recognising that all sections of our society agree that work is necessary for the material and psychological well-being of the person, this Ard Fheis/ADC calls on the government to enshrine the "Right to Work" in the Constitution of the Republic of Ireland.

KILBARRACK WEST

LOW PAY

16. That this Ard Fheis, recognising that capitalism is using unemployment to push down wage levels, instructs the CEC to organise a Party campaign to highlight low pay and demand a national minimum wage. Furthermore, that we also campaign for the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on Social Welfare.

BALLYMUN

17. This Ard Fheis, noting the increased exploitation of low paid workers, especially women, calls on the Party to launch a campaign:

- (a) to expose these rogue employers and
- (b) to demand the implementation of a legal minimum wage.

NED STAPLETON BRANCH, DUBLIN

18. This Ard Fheis/ADC deplores the attacks on the trade union movement by Mrs Thatcher's government in the public and private sector by planned legislation and also by firms and management in the private sector, exploiting the present high rate of unemployment.

These co-ordinated attacks undermine the rights of workers leading to low pay and the loss of protection under negotiated agreements, and this Ard Fheis/ADC pledges the active support of the Workers' Party for trade unions in their fight to restore these rights and raise the levels of pay.

CRAIGAVON

TERMS FOR IDA GRANTS

19. This Ard Fheis notes that many firms — both overseas and native — who have received large grants of our taxpayers' money have defaulted on commitments. The defaulting was, in many cases, due more to mismanagement than to sharp practice.

This Ard Fheis, therefore, resolves to advocate combating these practices by:

1. Requiring all firms receiving IDA grants to submit to the IDA monthly trading figures and to give details of numbers employed, payments of PRSI, tax deductions and payments, and the payment of VAT.
2. The IDA should select a number of these returns at random for detailed investigation.
3. Failure to supply information or supplying false information should mean severe penalties.

WILLIAM THOMPSON BRANCH, DUBLIN

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

20. Recognising the essentially undemocratic nature of major financial institutions, the banking sector in particular, this Conference re-affirms the Party's commitment to the democratisation of those same institutions to ensure full public accountability and control.

GALWAY CITY NORTH EAST

21. This Ard Fheis notes that the insurance industry forms a powerful part of the Irish money market. People seeking insurance cover of one sort or another must go as individuals to agree terms with these powerful interests. People seeking insurance are mostly obliged by law or contract to carry insurance.

At present insurance financial interests need to observe few laws which protect the consumer from overcharging, loss of bonus or failure to give full

cover.

This Ard Fheis calls for efforts to be made to give the consumer much better protection in this area.

WILLIAM THOMPSON BRANCH, DUBLIN

THE NATIONAL DEBT

22. This Ard Fheis notes that the burden of national debt is increasing and now amounts to a much higher percentage of our Gross Domestic Product than is the case in other EEC countries. Debt servicing now amounts to 25% of government spending. Forty per cent of the National Debt is borrowed abroad from countries who together account for over two-thirds of our external trade. The cost of servicing the National Debt together with increases in Social Welfare payments — now 20% of government spending and due almost entirely to increasing unemployment — has meant less government spending on the Public Capital Programme. Spending on the Public Capital Programme is one road to increased job creation and cuts in this area mean less jobs.

Cuts in Social Spending will not solve the debt crisis but will impose great hardship on the section of our population least able to bear additional burdens.

Government borrowing at home — on their own admission — pushes up interest rates. This means that banks of all kinds, insurance companies and building societies make a lot of risk-free profit at great economic and social cost to the working class.

In order to solve the National Debt crisis three basic measures are needed:

1. Public control and ownership of financial institutions.
2. Greatly increase the size of the Gross Domestic Product.
3. Collection of taxes and raising of tax from those who now pay less than their fair share or not at all.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

COMPANY LAW

23. This Ard Fheis notes the present deplorable situation whereby directors of limited liability companies can liquidate these companies without any responsibility to employees or customers and yet walk away with their personal assets intact. These people can with impunity, and indeed do, open up in the same line of business in the same premises but with a clean financial bill of health.

The Ard Fheis further notes that this situation is supposed to have been under review by the Department of Industry and Commerce from as far back as 1983. Indeed as long ago as 1984 the then Minister Mr Cluskey TD stated

that amending legislation had been drafted and was merely awaiting Cabinet approval. Since then nothing happened until a last-gasp Bill from the outgoing Coalition in their dying days.

At this Ard Fheis the Workers' Party calls for a review of company law to ensure:

1. That company directors cannot necessarily hide behind the veil of limited liability on the liquidation of a company.
2. That the deliberate liquidation of a company to avoid responsibility to employees, customers or creditors be made a criminal offence.
3. That the rights of customers, creditors and employees be guaranteed under any new legislation.
4. That the Revenue Commissioners and other relevant bodies be given the resources to properly implement and police all new legislation.

DONNYCARNEY

GENERAL

24. This Ard Fheis condemns the Irish Management Institute for their invitations to Eddie Shah and Ian McGregor to attend their conference given the role that both of these men have played in attempting to smash the trade union movement in Britain.

LIBERTIES

25. That this Ard Fheis regrets the Irish Congress of Trade Unions' decision to discontinue support for the Limerick Worker Education and Training Centre, the withdrawal of support which has forced the WE&TC to close at the end of a successful three year pilot scheme.

LIMERICK CITY

26. That this Ard Fheis call on the Minister for Labour to declare International Labour Day (May 1st) a public holiday.

BALLYMUN

27. This Ard Fheis believes that the organised working class should have a voice in deciding policy on taxation, investment, planning and Pay. The establishment believes that the organised working class should be confined to discussing only the pay question.

We believe that the interests of the organised working class are very much

linked to the broader issues already mentioned and pledge ourselves to propagate this concept.

WILLIAM THOMPSON BRANCH, DUBLIN

28. That this Ard Fheis/ADC, recognising the increasingly important role of new technology in all aspects of economic activity, calls on Bord Telecom Eireann to expand its activities into the area of creating and marketing of computer based information systems, the market for which is growing rapidly worldwide.

GALWAY CITY WEST

29. We call on the Party's economic research department to initiate an investigation, using all the current scientific knowledge available, into the development of alternative energy sources such as wave power. This could become part of a policy under the banner Alternative Energy the Socialist response, bringing our energy policy for this country into the 21st century.

CROMAC, BELFAST

Agriculture/Mariculture and Food Development

Resolutions 1 to 7 inclusive to be discussed together and voted on separately.

Resolution 8 to be taken separately.

Nos. 9 and 10 to be taken separately.

No. 11 to be taken as main resolution with 12 and 13 as addenda.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

1. Recognising the urgent necessity for the development of a modern and efficient agriculture and food sector in the Irish economy, the Workers' Party calls for the immediate establishment of a new Development Agency to undertake this vital task. This Agency would be a State authority charged with responsibility of modernising agricultural production, developing food processing and related industries, improving marketing, research and development. Another major task of the Agency would be one of improving the education and training of those involved in the sector and ensuring that all available resources are utilised fully and efficiently.

This Agency would take control of all State grants for the sector, undertake the task of co-ordinating agencies and amalgamating, rationalising or streamlining these as required. The Agency should draw upon the existing agencies for its personnel and be fully representative of the sector both industrial and agricultural. It would also take over the role of the IDA in the food sector and develop the new opportunities in forestry, industrial crops, aqua culture and fish processaing.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

2. That this Ard Fheis welcomes the Party policy document on the Agricultural Industry.

DONEGAL SOUTH WEST

3. That the Workers' Party calls for an end to State aid to foreign multinationals and calls for the channelling of said aid into the development of indigenous industry such as agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

YOUGHAL

4. This Ard Fheis/ADC emphasises the need for a Farming and Food Development Authority to set up an Agency to take on the role of regulation, control and development of horticultural production in Northern Ireland, with particular attention to quality control and marketing. That this Agency should undertake research into problems associated with horticulture and in particular into reducing production costs through provision of cheaper energy and through reorganizing the scale of production units, and into improving and co-ordinating the marketing of produce.

BELFAST

5. (a) This Ard Fheis/ADC supports the call for a Farming and Food Development Authority in Northern Ireland; and we believe that this should involve the co-ordination of those functions currently carried out by the Department of Agriculture (Advisory Service, Research, Development Grants) — with the operations of such marketing bodies as are already in existence, and others to be formed where necessary; and that this Farming and Food Development Authority should undertake centralised planning for the effective and efficient use of Northern Ireland agricultural land so as to realise its full potential for job creation as well as production of food and raw materials.

(b) This Ard Fheis/ADC emphasizes the need for such a Farming and Food Development Authority to set up an Agency to take on the role of regulation, control and development of horticultural production in Northern Ireland, with particular attention to quality control and marketing; that this Agency should undertake research into problems associated with horticulture and in particular into reducing production costs through provision of cheaper energy and through reorganising the scale of production units, and into improving and co-ordinating the marketing of the produce.

COUNTY DERRY

6. That this Ard Fheis, recognising the wealth creating potential of a developed Irish fishing industry, calls for:

1. Realistic investment in the development of a competitive fishing fleet and
2. the establishment of an effective system of control and management of stocks and
3. greater investment in fishery protection.

YOUGHAL

7. Where appropriate and where smaller holdings are made available to government for longer term use (such as afforestation and involving the postponement of current income), that an annuity be paid to these smallholders, less tax, on the basis of income derivable from such produce at current market prices, over the time period the produce is realised; where the annuity does not exceed the tax due by an amount equal to it, that the tax be adjusted accordingly.

CORK CITY SOUTH EAST

LAND TAX

8. That, notwithstanding the low incomes derivable from substantial numbers of farms and in view of the large numbers of part time farmers, and irrespective of the size of holdings and variations in soil quality, a tax per acre levied on the annual income per acre nationally be introduced to ensure the effective use of all agricultural land and to arrest the progressive marginalisation of farms as currently obtains.

CORK CITY SOUTH EAST

EEC FUNDING AND REGULATIONS

9. That this Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the chaotic state of EEC regulations on movement of livestock which permits vast sums of money to be made by unscrupulous speculators, and condemns those who have exploited this situation so as to acquire huge amounts of public money for themselves at a time of recession, cut-backs and hardship for ordinary working class people.

We demand that this system be altered so as to prevent this scandal and that the authorities both North and South of the border should act effectively and firmly against those who are lining their pockets at the public expense.

COUNTY DERRY

10. That future EEC regional and structural funding to Ireland should not only be increased, but also be directed mainly into direct productive investment, particularly in food processing and technological industry. This as opposed to present spending mainly on infrastructural (roads, sewers, etc.) development.

KILMORE/ARTANE

CAP and FREE FOOD SCHEME

11. This Ard Fheis/ADC, in reiterating its demands for a fundamental change in the EEC's CAP, reflect the widespread public anger and contempt at the "Free Food" scheme which has just taken place and notes that charity in 1987 is just as degrading and humiliating as it was 100 years ago.

Furthermore this ADC demands that the criminal waste in paying farmers to produce goods which are in over supply (and over-priced) within the community to be ended forthwith and that the resources so released be redirected into a serious and determined programme for secure job creation projects within the agricultural industry so that consumers can enjoy good food produced at reasonable prices while secure incomes and jobs are generated for thousands of our citizens.

BELFAST

12. That this Ard Fheis condemns the nature and reason whereby the EEC have made a charity out of reducing the food mountains and calls for a review of the Common Agricultural Policy which allows these food mountains to develop and grow, especially in times when millions of people are dying of starvation.

BALLYMURPHY, BELFAST

13. That this Ard Fheis views with concern the precedent which has been set by the government in requesting charitable organisations to arrange for the distribution of EEC meat and butter to the needy.

While we congratulate the individual charities for the efforts they have made and for their good work, generally we note that there are some very serious defects to such a distribution method.

Firstly, it further underlines the denial of dignity to the needy when they are requested essentially to 'beg' for a 'charity' rather than being allowed to claim assistance as a right.

Secondly, the availability of this food distribution depends totally on whether one is lucky enough to live in an area where there is an active and efficient branch of the relevant charity. Thus some families in real need get no assistance while others get more than one supply.

EAST WALL/MARINO

Peace & Democracy in Northern Ireland

Anglo-Irish Agreement

1 to 7 inclusive to be discussed together, with 1 being the main resolution and all others treated as addenda.

8, 9 and 10 to be taken as one substantive on sectarianism

ANGLO—IRISH AGREEMENT

1. This Ard Fheis/Annual Delegate Conference, welcomes the growing support coming from diverse sources for the Party's campaign for the establishment of Democratic Devolved Government, and endorses the Party's call for the placing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement in cold storage and the relocation of the Maryfield Secretariat to a non-contentious location in order to enable all Party talks to begin.

Furthermore, the Ard Fheis/Annual Delegate Conference calls for the tabling of a Bill of Rights as accepted by all parties, as a vital step leading up to such talks.

The Ard Fheis/Annual Delegate Conference also notes and endorses the Party's ongoing commitment to the strengthening of democratic principles, the development of class consciousness, and the building of working class unity throughout Northern Ireland, and gives its wholehearted support to the Party's intention to contest every Northern Ireland constituency in the British General Election.

CEC

2. Recognising that the creation of Democratic Devolved Government in NI is the only way of securing agreed political structures.

Recognising the abysmal failure to table a Bill of Rights for discussion as part of an enabling process or as the basis for a new constitution for NI; Recognising the inability of the Anglo-Irish Agreement to deal with anything other than symbolism,

this Ard Fheis

1. Welcomes the growing support for the Party's policy of Devolution and a Bill of Rights and calls on the British and Irish Governments to assist in this demand by placing a voluntary moratorium on meetings of the Conference;
2. Calls on the British Government to convene a meeting of all democratic political parties in NI to discuss the possibilities for devolution;
3. Calls on the Irish Government to state publicly its support for devolution as the preferred system of government for NI and urge the SDLP to enter into devolution talks without pre-condition;
4. Commits this Party to continue its campaign against sectarianism in NI

so that working class people can correctly identify the true nature of the failed philosophies of Unionism and Nationalism and build a vigorous anti-sectarian, Socialist political organisation capable of securing the allegiance of all those who seek a better future for themselves and their children.

BALLYMURPHY

3. Noting that the Anglo-Irish Agreement has failed to be of any value to any section of the community in Northern Ireland, this Ard Fheis instructs the Party TD's that in the interests of peace and democracy, they pressure the Irish Government to call for the suspension of the Act, to enable all Party talks on Devolved Government.

LAGAN VALLEY CC.

4. That this Ard Fheis/ADC calls for clarification of the Party's policy on the Anglo-Irish Agreement particularly to:

- (a) clarify and give the Party's political reasons for giving the agreement its guarded welcome;
- (b) to give an update on Party's attitude towards the agreement at present and, fully exposing the SDLP and the total failure of the agreement.

WHITEROCK BELFAST

5. This ADC, concerned with failure of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, calls for the Party to bring about a new Devolved Government in Northern Ireland, the Agreement to be placed in cold storage and the Maryfield Secretariat to be located elsewhere in order to enable all party talks to get off the ground before the political situation deteriorates further.

BELFAST

6. That this Ard Fheis, while recognising the failure of the Secretary of State to implement Devolved Government in Northern Ireland, calls on the Thatcher Government to suspend the Anglo-Irish Agreement for a period in order to enable all party talks on a devolved administration to take place in Northern Ireland.

EAST BELFAST

7. This Ard Fheis/Annual Conference expresses its grave concern at the situation in Northern Ireland and (1) reaffirms its commitment to the Party programme of peace, work democracy and class politics; (2) calls for the immediate suspension of the Anglo-Irish Agreement in order to facilitate all Party talks taking place.

ANTI—SECTARIANISM

8. This Ard Fheis/Annual Delegate Conference warmly endorses the Northern Ireland anti-sectarian campaign being conducted by the Workers' Party Youth and urges an expansion of the campaign as important political activity promoting democratic principles, combating terrorism, and winning peace.

The Ard Fheis also, recognising the major reforms which have taken place within the RUC, urges their continuation and calls for the police service to exercise its role and authority throughout the entire community to bring about the rule of law and the elimination of terrorism.

However, the Ard Fheis/Annual Delegate Conference regrets the failure of Government to respond to the overwhelming public demand for a totally independent police complaints procedure.

At the same time the Ard Fheis/Annual Delegate Conference calls for the rapid demilitarisation of the urban ghetto areas both as a major contribution to peace and as a vital measure in ending the myth of the "war of liberation".

The Ard Fheis/Annual Delegate Conference also urges the Party and the Youth section to explore ways of advancing the anti-sectarian struggle together and in co-operation with other anti-sectarian groups.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

9. This ADC conscious of the deepening sectarian division in Northern Ireland calls on the Northern Ireland Committee of the Party to explore every possible avenue to develop a sustained and comprehensive anti-sectarian campaign.

BELFAST

10. That this Ard Fheis looks forward to and welcomes any Anti-Sectarian proposal from within the ranks of the unionist working class. We further call upon the working class to unite and reject the sectarian nature of the present Loyalist and Nationalist leadership.

BALLYMURPHY

International

Steering Committee recommendations

1, 2 and 3 to be taken together as one substantive on Peace, Neutrality and Non-alignment.

4 to be taken on its own.

5, 6, 7 and 8 to be taken as one substantive under Nuclear Arms Proliferation.

9 to 14 inclusive to be taken as one substantive under Nicaragua.

15 to 19 inclusive to be taken as one substantive under Southern Africa.

20 to be taken on its own.

21 and 22 to be taken together. 23 and 24 to be taken together.

25 and 26 to be taken separately.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE, NEUTRALITY & NON-ALIGNMENT

1. This Ard Fheis calls on the Irish Government to undertake a more vigorous campaign in pursuit of World Peace and International Co-operation to end the Arms Race.

Following the decision of the Dáil to endorse the Single European Act there is now even greater need for our Government to establish its commitment to neutrality, to peaceful co-existence and to support the non-aligned movement in the UN.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

2. Recognising that the best means of defending our neutrality is by making it positive in nature and through development of relations with other neutral and non-aligned countries, and given the uncertainty regarding the future of Ireland's neutral status created as a result of the support given by both the previous and current government parties to the Single European Act as presently constituted, this Ard Fheis calls for:

- ★ development of close ties between Ireland and the Non-Aligned Movement with a view to our becoming a full member;
- ★ adoption of a clearly independent and non-aligned position by the Irish Government in matters pertaining to EEC foreign Policy and at United Nations level;
- ★ Constitutional guarantees to ensure that Ireland remains outside all military alliances.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

3. That as a step towards strengthening Irish Neutrality Ireland should apply for membership of the Non-Aligned Movement.

HELSINKI FINAL ACT OF 1975

4. This Ard Fheis notes with concern the continuation of a 'cold war' mentality being promoted in the world today. This mentality is an obstacle to the improvement of international relations and particularly is an active hindrance in achieving a breakthrough in the crucial area of arms negotiations.

This Ard Fheis reaffirms its support for the aims of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 on European Security and Co-operation, as an important document providing the basis for a greater understanding between societies of differing social systems and as the basis for an improvement in the international situation. In this respect we welcome the positive conclusions of the recent Stockholm Conference as representing measures which will lead to greater co-operation and confidence building, and as realistic measures which will reduce the possibilities of a military conflict.

We also note the re-convening of the Conference on European Security and Co-operation in Vienna at the end of last year.

Therefore we call on the Irish and British Governments, as signatories to the Helsinki Final Act, to play an active role in this area by:

1. publicising amongst the general public the aims of the Helsinki Final Act;
2. actively promoting these aims in the international arena.

BELFAST

NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROLIFERATION

5. This Ard Fheis, noting the greatly increased threat of nuclear confrontation posed by the installation of new NATO nuclear weapons in Europe and the proposed militarisation of outer space by the United States but welcoming the recent moves towards serious talks on nuclear arms de-escalation between the USA and USSR, and the recent unilateral 18 month moratorium on nuclear weapons tests by the USSR and their proposals for nuclear demilitarisation in Europe, welcoming in particular the recent proposals to seek elimination of intermediate nuclear weapons from Europe, calls for stepping up of talks to seek elimination of all nuclear weapons from the European continent. This should be a first stage towards dissolution of military alliances, including both NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

6. This Ard Fheis notes that the greatest threat to humanity today is the threat of a nuclear conflagration.

Notes the widespread support throughout the world for an end to the arms race and the total elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Notes the efforts of the Soviet Union to promote peace and its

constructive proposals in this regard, including:

1. a unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing for eighteen months;
2. the proposals for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by the year 2000;
3. proposals for a ban on chemical weapons and significant reductions in conventional weapons;
4. the latest initiative of the Soviet Union for the elimination of Medium Range Missiles in Europe.

This Ard Fheis also recognises the failure to achieve agreement on arms control and particularly regrets the 'lost opportunity' of the Reykjavik summit.

Therefore welcomes the latest initiative for an elimination of Medium Range Missiles in Europe as an opportunity to:

1. break the deadlock in arms negotiations, and
2. as an important impetus which could lead to the conclusion of more far-reaching treaties on arms control.

BELFAST

7. This Ard Fheis reaffirms its support for progressive peace loving peoples in the world and calls on the American administration to accept the hand of friendship of the USSR. We also condemn the USA global policy of supporting international terrorism, and its continued policy of undermining progressive socialist government by financial groups opposed to socialism.

CROMAC, BELFAST

8. This Ard Fheis welcomes the numerous initiatives by the USSR for peace and nuclear disarmament and calls for a serious response from the USA government such as a moratorium on nuclear weapons tests and a halt to star wars.

FINGLAS EAST

NICARAGUA

9. This Ard Fheis welcomes the recent launch of the Workers' Party 'Nicaragua Must Survive' campaign and calls on all branches to continue to support this campaign for:

- ★ Diplomatic recognition of Nicaragua by the Irish Government.
- ★ Material assistance in the reconstruction of their society.
- ★ An immediate end to US support of the Contra terrorist groups.

FINGLAS EAST

10. This Ard Fheis calls on the Government to open diplomatic relations with the Government of Nicaragua, and to develop the aid programme to that country which is currently being funded by voluntary organisations.

LIBERTIES, DUBLIN

11. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the continued US campaign of aggression against Nicaragua and expresses its solidarity with the people of Nicaragua and its government.

SOUTH BELFAST

12. That this Ard Fheis condemns President Reagan's foreign policy which allows the profits of secret arms deals with Iran to be used to finance the overthrow of the Democratic Government in Nicaragua.

BALLYMURPHY

13. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the actions of the United States government and its involvement in the Irangate scandal, where profits from the sale of arms to Iran by the US went to the financing and supplying of the anti-revolutionary Contras in their murder campaign against the people of Nicaragua and its democratically elected government.

TURF LODGE

14. That this Ard Fheis/ADC utterly condemns the passing of blood money to United States backed terrorists in Nicaragua. This money was supplied by Col. North and his right wing cohorts. This money was salted off the Irangate scandal to pay for the slaughter of the civilian population of an independent country.

WHITEROCK

SOUTHERN AFRICA

15. This Ard Fheis

★ notes with extreme concern the increasingly repressive imposition of apartheid in South Africa and Namibia, and the South African backed military and terrorist attacks on Mozambique and Angola;

★ recognises, however, that the struggle to bring an end to apartheid and create democratic societies in South Africa and Namibia is entering a crucial phase as a result of the increasing strength of the African National Congress and the United Democratic Front;

- ★ calls therefore on the Irish Government to take every possible step to assist the speedy ending of apartheid through
 - backing international sanctions against the South African Government and strengthening legislation forbidding importation of South African goods here
 - recognition of the ANC and SWAPO as the legitimate representatives of the South African and Namibian people
 - backing moves at the UN and elsewhere to bring about democracy in South Africa.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

16. This Ard Fheis condemns the attempts to de-stabilise the progressive governments of Angola and Mozambique by terrorist groups controlled and sponsored by South Africa, and calls on the Irish Government to back international pressure to force an end to these attacks.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

17. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the arming and financing by Israel and South Africa of the anti-revolutionary UNITA forces now waging a terrorist campaign against the people of Angola.

TURF LODGE, BELFAST

18. That this Ard Fheis/ADC calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela. And re-affirms its call on the Irish Government to recognise the ANC as the legitimate representative of the majority of the South African people.

KILBARRACK WEST

19. This Ard Fheis reiterates its support for the African National Congress in its struggle to overthrow apartheid and extends its solidarity to progressive youth movements throughout the world.

BELFAST

THE USSR

20. That this Ard Fheis congratulates the present leadership of the Soviet Union on its policy of openness and 'glasnost'.

While we recognise that the Soviet Union as the world's first Socialist

state has always been the victim of propagand and distortion in order to discredit its example, nevertheless as Socialists we warmly welcome the maturity of the leadership in recognising that some mistakes have been made and in moving to correct these without deviation from the socialist road.

We also welcome (on a local basis) the decision by one Irish newspaper to appoint a full time correspondent in Moscow (*The Irish Times*) and we hope that this will lead to more informative and balanced reporting of events in that country rather than the negative and repetitive propagand which has characterised most coverage by news agencies in the West of events in the Socialist countries.

EAST WALL/MARINO

THE EEC

21. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the relative inactivity of our three Northern Ireland Members of the European Parliament vis-a-vis the Integrated Operations Plan for Belfast and calls upon the EEC Commission to fully implement its stated objectives.

We call upon the EEC Commission to commission an Integrated Operations Plan for Northern Ireland.

BELFAST

22. This Ard Fheis calls on the Party to build broader co-operation with European Communist, Socialist and workers' parties, especially within the EEC. This with a view to establishing a number of agreed points of policy on key issues like terrorism, disarmament, economic integration, etc. By doing so this gives our Party renewed credibility as being an integrated part of the European left, especially to building ultimately a common strategy across Europe and combat the disunity among progressive forces that has plagued socialism on our continent, in sharp contrast to the unity of purpose seen in the Euro Capitalist camp.

CROMAC, BELFAST

SUPPORT GROUPS

23. In view of the re-emergence of mass youth emigration, that the Party look for ways of strengthening our support groups abroad.

FINGLAS EAST

24. That the Workers' Party put pressure on the Irish Government to establish legal status for Irish illegal immigrants in the US and that the Party support groups campaign for the legal status of these illegal immigrants.

FINGLAS WEST

SOVIET STUDIES

25. In the interests of both promoting peaceful understanding and developing economic trade with newly opened markets, this Ard Fheis calls for increased resources in the education sector for the introduction into school curricula of Chinese and Soviet studies.

CROMAC, BELFAST

THIRD WORLD AID

26. This Ard Fheis notes that the Irish government has reduced its aid to the underdeveloped world. We also note that aid sent out from all Irish sources amounted to 2% of our Gross National Produce in 1986. We also note the sharp increase in unemployment and emigration from our own country.

We therefore resolve to popularise the idea that aid from Ireland to the underdeveloped world should be given in processed food rather than in cash. Processed food could be supplied at cost. This policy would have the good result of helping our own unemployed as well as giving practical aid to the underdeveloped world.

WILLIAM THOMPSON BRANCH, DUBLIN

Housing

Steering Committee Recommendations

1 to be taken as the main Resolution covering similar on restoration of NATO's Negotiating Rights from Kilbarrack West, Liberties, Ballyfermot, and Finglas West.

4 to 10 inclusive are addenda to main Resolution.

11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 to be discussed together and voted on separately.

HOUSING – REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

1. That this Ard Fheis believes that there continues to be a major housing crisis, and that this crisis is mainly characterised by:

- (a) The sub-standard and deteriorating condition of many dwellings, especially those occupied by the elderly.
- (b) Problems of overcrowding and homelessness resulting from the narrow definitions of need by local authorities in their allocation policies.
- (c) The massive increases in rent suffered by many local authority tenants in the past year, together with a diminished standard of house maintenance.
- (d) The absence of 'latent defects' guarantees for tenant purchasers.
- (e) The high cost and poor quality of houses in the 'private purchase' sector, the increases in mortgage rates, and the absence of house quality guarantees for house-buyers and the failure of developers to properly complete estates.
- (f) High rents, low standards and the absence of protection for tenants in the private rented sector.

CEC

2. The Ard Fheis recognises that the Housing crisis has been caused by:-

- (a) The failure of successive governments to adopt any kind of planned housing policy (the last government white paper was in 1960!).
- (b) The Victorian attitude of 'housing the needy' which underpins the Local Authority allocations.
- (c) The fact that housing construction has been determined by profit rather than need.
- (d) The fact that various factors and incentives have favoured the better off rather than those most in need.

This Ard Fheis therefore calls for:-

- (1) The government to recognise UN Year of the Homeless by immediately tackling the problem of homelessness.
- (2) The publication of the last National Survey of Housing conditions and the carrying out of a survey on a regular basis.

- (3) An Urban Renewal Programme to include the replacement, repair and refurbishment of older housing stock — recognising that this is a labour intensive method of generating construction employment.
- (4) A new expanded role for Local Authorities in the provision and allocation of dwellings to include Local Authority construction for rent, sale, part rent/part sale, lease back etc. The income limits for Local Authority allocation to be lifted to enable Local Authorities to compete in the private housing and rental market.
- (5) Statutory control of the price of building land.
- (6) New legislation to protect home buyers with regard to the standard of houses they buy and the proper completion of housing estates.
- (7) The Building Societies to be brought under public ownership.
- (8) Legislation to provide for fair rents, good standards and security of tenancy for tenants in the private rented sector.
- (9) The rent increases introduced last year to be revoked and the government to renew negotiations with NATO.
- (10) Increased resources and improved efficiency In Local Authority housing maintenance.

CEC

3. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for the Environment to restore negotiating rights on behalf of tenants to NATO immediately.

KILBARRACK WEST

4. This Ard Fheis recognising the backward and anomalous state of present legislation regarding homeless people, welcomes the publication recently of the Homeless Peoples' Bill by the outgoing government. We instruct our TD's to attempt to amend this legislation so as to bring it more into line with our own policy and the policy of professional bodies engaged in this area e.g. the Simon Community.

DONNEycARNEY

5. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for the Environment to provide the necessary funding to remedy structural defects in low cost housing.

LEIXLIP

6. This Ard Fheis condemns the failure of successive Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael/Labour governments to provide basic bathroom and toilet facilities to over 1,000 Council dwellings in the Borough of Dun Laoghaire and accuses the Conservative dominated Council of callous neglect and indifference to the plight of tenants living in sub-standard housing conditions much of which has existed since before the foundation of the State. The Workers' Party calls for an emergency programme to provide these basic amenities with a priority given to the many elderly and disabled people living alone in these deplorable conditions.

DUN LAOGHAIRE

7. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for the Environment to provide sufficient capital to Cork Corporation in order to carry out the upgrading of both NBA estates in the City and to complete the re-roofing of all houses in Knocknaheeny as a matter of urgency.

CORK

8. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for the Environment to:-

- (1) ensure that the current 5 year Housing Conditions Survey is undertaken and that the outgoing government's proposal to do away with it is not pursued;
- (2) publish a White Paper on Housing, which has not been done by any government since 1960 and to include in this a review of the entire basis of the current role of Local Authorities under the 1966 Housing Act which, among other things, is now effectively concentrating the unemployed in public sector housing estates.

BALLYFERMOT

9. This Ard Fheis calls for the extension of Local Authority powers so that they can control and approve of all accommodation rented in their area.

LIMERICK CITY

10. This Ard Fheis calls on the Department of Finance through the Revenue Commissioners to collect taxes due on incomes earned from privately rented accommodation. In particular, this Ard Fheis notes with concern the subsidy paid by the Department of the Environment to landlords of decontrolled rented premises. We believe that decontrolled rents should be assessed by the Rents Tribunal not on a commercial basis, but on the length of occupancy by the tenant, the condition of the premises at present and in the past and on the disposable income available to the tenant.

LIMERICK CITY

HOUSING – NORTHERN IRELAND

11. This Ard Fheis re-affirms its policy to pursue better housing standards for all the people, bearing in mind gains made from the Civil Rights Campaign which resulted in fairer housing policy and to campaign for sufficient housing to meet the needs of the people denied it by massive cuts by the Tories.

LOWER FALLS

12. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls for a Party campaign to vigorously lobby for a five year budget rather than the present yearly system thus complimenting the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Five Year Building Programme. We see this as the first positive step towards creating a direct labour organisation within the Housing Executive's control.

WHITEROCK

13. This Ard Fheis deplores the rise in the number of homeless persons and families in Northern Ireland. This increase is caused by the reduction in funding to the NIHE at a time when massive amounts of public monies are being diverted into the hands of private landlords through payment by the DHSS in respect of homeless families in receipt of benefits. This Conference condemns the exploitation of the misery of homelessness and demands:-

- (1) an end to the privatisation of provision;
- (2) the implementation of a system of registration of a monitoring of board and lodging establishments in receipt of social security payments for accommodation.

NEWRY

14. With the ever increasing demand for accommodation for single people, the Party calls on the NIHE as the body responsible for public housing, to view areas of immediate accommodation, like the refurbishment of small storey flats, for homeless singles, as a stepping stone to proper housing. We also call for the end to selling prime buildings to the private sector for flat and house building, as private landlords charge large fees, making their accommodation unattainable to ordinary working people.

CROMAC

15. This Ard Fheis condemns the recent rent increases by the NIHE in view of the continuous cutbacks in repairs in recent years. This increase is particularly hypocritical while present housing stock deteriorates and new building programmes have been slashed by the Tory government.

TURF LODGE

The Environment

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Resolutions 1 to 11 to be taken as one substantive on Urban Renewal and Transport. 2 to 11 inclusive are addenda to 1.

12 to be taken on its own under heading Air Pollution.

13 to 16 inclusive to be one substantive under Electoral Reform. 14, 15 and 16 are addenda to 12.

17 to be taken separately under Seanad Eireann.

18 and 19 to be taken as one substantive under Travelling People.

20, 21, 22 and 23 to be taken as one substantive under Nuclear Pollution.

24 Ground Rents, take separately.

THE ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL

1. That this Ard Fheis, noting that this is European Environmental Heritage Year

considering that successive governments have allowed many areas of our capital city and other cities and towns to become neglected, unsightly and derelict;

considering the sub-standard nature of much of the older housing stocks, especially in urban areas

welcomes the holding of two successive 'Dublin in Crisis' Conference and calls for:-

- (1) A major urban renewal programme to replace, repair and refurbish older housing stock.
- (2) An efficient public transport system to reduce the present emphasis on city road construction, and to reduce pollution.
- (3) Government action to protect and conserve the country's architectural heritage.
- (4) Start to improve the living environment such as, landscaping, good physical planning and decent living facilities.

CEC

2. In view of recent proposals supposedly aimed at renovating and regenerating the physical structures and the communities of the inner and central parts of Dublin City, The Workers' Party:-

- (1) Expresses its concern that the democratically elected authority of Central Dublin (Dublin Corporation) has been effectively pushed aside by the new Metropolitan Streets' Commission.
- (2) Insists that any development of the Custom House Site must contain realistic answers to the social and economic needs of the people of the North Wall and surrounding areas and should have a proper mix of local

authority and private housing with employment and leisure provision carefully integrated into any such plan. Any such project should have substantial public financing and accountability with the proposals and plans available to the people of Dublin and in particular, the people of the locality, the plans to be submitted to and debated by Dublin Corporation.

- (3) Reaffirms the need for a 'development incentive' tax on derelict sites and derelict housing.
- (4) Calls for wider use of Compulsory Purchase Orders on derelict housing which is deliberately unattended by its owners and the development of home renovation schemes whereby low income families and individuals can renovate run down and inadequate housing in areas where the housing stock is particularly old.

NORTH CITY CENTRE, DUBLIN

3. That this Ard Fheis/ADC calls on the incoming Ard Comhairle/CEC to further develop The Workers' Party policies on urban renewal and development in the light of the continued rapid decay of Ireland's inner citys.

CRUMLIN

4. The Workers' Party calls on local authorities to

- (1) provide an immediate examination of all derelict sites in urban areas and to assess their safety.
- (2) A tax to be levied on all derelict sites.

LIMERICK CITY

5. This Ard Fheis condemns the abject failure of successive governments to cater for the needs of Ballymun Estate. They have failed to stop the Estate from continuing as a transit camp; failed to create jobs for its 62% unemployed; dismally failed to give an air of confidence or pride, as to the future of the Estate's flat dwellers; general maintenance is almost non-existent. This Ard Fheis now demands that the government treat Ballymun Estate with a serious degree of urgency by providing the jobs and cash necessary to enable the Estate to become a vibrant and stable community.

BALLYMUN

TALLAGHT TOWN CENTRE

6. That this Ard Fheis pursues the implementation of the original plans for a Tallaght Town Centre and to strongly oppose the alterations and scaling down now being proposed. This Town Centre is long overdue and we therefore cannot allow a scaling down of the original plans, which were issued for tender, to be implemented.

TALLAGHT WEST

TRANSPORT

7. This Ard Fheis condemns the action of the previous Environment Minister in sanctioning the proposed route of the Newbridge motorway bypass because of the long term environmental hazards it will pose to the town of Newbridge and its surrounding environment.

We also call on our TD's to make representation to the present Environment Minister for the purpose of instituting a public enquiry to determine the logic of introducing such a route.

NEWBRIDGE

8. That this Ard fheis again calls for the full implementation of the CIE plan for the Dublin Area Rapid Transit system by extending it to Tallaght, Clondalkin and Blanchardstown and constructing the underground connection to all systems, but calls for transfer of the location of the Central Station from the Temple Bar area to the City Quay site beside Tara Street station. This transit system should take precedence over all new road systems.

BALLYFERMOT

9. This Ard Fheis calls for the development of the DART system for the whole Dublin area. With over a million inhabitants, $\frac{1}{3}$ of the entire population, Dublin is the only major Capital city in Europe with no suburban rail system. The Howth to Bray line is used extensively by the public and shows the need for the facilities in all areas.

DRUMCONDRA/GLASNEVIN

10. Tá caint i bfad i ngearr ar bhóithre Chonamara — tá daoine thar eis a bheith i bpriosun. Anuraidh chuaih Co Cho na Gaillimhe i mbun oibre. Anois tá boithre nios measa. Molann an Ard Fheis seo do Co Cho na Gaillimhe an obair a thosnú laithreach agus gan stopadh nó go mbeadh an obair críochnaithe i gceart.

CATHAR GAILLIMH THIAR

11. Is i an bád tarthala an taon tseirbhis eigeandala atá ag trí oileann Arainn. Is maith an i ach sa lá atá inniu ann nuair atá cinnire phairti Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael agus PD's i ndan dhul timpeall i helicopters, cén fath nach bhfeadfai seirbhis nios fearr a chuir ar fáil do no hOileain. Mar sin molann an Ard Fheis seo go ndeanfai sin. Molann an Ard Fheis seo freisin to gcuirfi seirbhis roll on, roll off ar fáil do no hOileanaigh agus ndeanfadh CIE an obair seo.

CATHAR GAILLIMH THIAR

AIR POLLUTION

12. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for the Environment to immediately introduce legislation to create a smoke-free zone in the Dublin area by subsidising alternative, smokeless fuels.

BALLYFERMOT

ELECTORAL REFORM

13. That this Ard Fheis, noting with concern

- (1) that more than 25% of the electorate failed to vote at the recent general election;
- (2) the huge amounts of money now being spent by the conservative political parties in an attempt to influence voters, calls for the Party to mount a campaign for reform of the electoral laws to secure the following:
 - (a) the holding of elections on a Sunday, to facilitate a greater turnout of voters;
 - (b) the prohibition of canvassing and electioneering in the vicinity of polling booths on election day, as this often acts as a deterrent to those going to vote;
 - (c) a limit on the amount of posters that any party or candidates can put up and the provision of public hoardings for election posters;
 - (d) a limit on the amount of money that any candidate or party can spend during an election campaign.

DUBLIN SOUTH

14. That The Workers' Party seek a change in the Electoral Act(s) to provide:

- (a) Polling to be held on a Sunday.
- (b) On polling day, candidates or their agents or their supporters be prohibited from congregating in, at, or within the immediate vicinity of a polling stations for the purpose of seeking support for or canvassing on behalf of a candidate, a political party, or constitutional change.
- (c) That public opinion polls be prohibited for ten days immediately preceding and including polling day.

KILBARRACK WEST

15. This Ard Fheis calls for the banning of opinion polls during national and local election campaigns.

LIBERTIES

16. That this Ard Fheis opposes the recent practice of bookmakers involving themselves and their betting shops in taking bets on the outcome of the Irish elections. Therefore, in order to stop this trend of bookmakers influencing, however slightly, the course and outcome of elections, this Ard Fheis instructs the incoming CEC to promote legislation which will make it illegal to take bets on all future Irish elections.

TALLAGHT WEST

17. That the Irish Senate be abolished.

KILMORE/ARTANE

TRAVELLING PEOPLE

18. That this Ard Fheis/ADC adopts Articles 1-12 of the Charter of Travellers' Rights drawn up by the Irish Centre for the Study of Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University College Galway. Specifically, The Workers' Party endorses the following principles:-

- (i) Travellers, as individuals and as a group have a right to realisation of their own cultural identity, indispensable for their dignity and free development as persons;
- (ii) The State has ultimate responsibility to provide for the accommodation needs of travellers, whether settled or travelling. Where local authorities discharge this duty on behalf of the State they must do so without discriminating against travellers.
- (iii) The State is obliged to create the conditions which will enable travellers to continue their travelling way of life without danger to health, loss of dignity, exposure to repeated prosecution or interference with their rights.
- (iv) Travellers have the right to a standard of living adequate for their health and well being, including food, clothing, accommodation, medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond their control.
- (v) Every traveller has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. The State shall ensure, in co-operation with travellers, that physical, social and environmental conditions are created which will make it possible for travellers to attain a significant improvement in their health and in the quality of their lives.
- (vi) The traveller family has the right to appropriate social, legal and economic protection to ensure its full development. Travellers have the right to equality of educational opportunity and to equal protection of the law. They shall have the right and the opportunity to take part in the

conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives and to share with all others the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

(vii) Travellers have the right to respect for their private and family life and their homes.

(viii) Travellers are entitled to the full exercise of their rights and should not suffer any distinction, exclusion or restriction, based on the fact that they are travellers, which would have the effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, employment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.

NEWRY

19. This Ard Fheis proposes that in this the Year of the Homeless, that we commit ourselves to the attainment of full, decent living conditions, basic human rights, North and South, for the travelling community.

SOUTH DOWN

NUCLEAR POLLUTION

20. In light of recent circumstances both in relation to Sellafield pollution and also the hazards caused by the presence of US nuclear powered submarines, this Ard Fheis calls on the Party to initiate a campaign, North and South, in the Dáil and at local level, to have the whole of the Irish Sea declared a Nuclear Free Zone. Across the globe we have seen courageous steps taken by progressive governments to refuse their territorial waters to be used as hunting grounds for military alliances. Furthermore the pursuit of a Nuclear Free Irish Sea is a positive act of Irish neutrality.

CROMAC, BELFAST

21. That this Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the incursion by nuclear submarines into Irish territorial waters and calls on the government to extend the territorial limit to twelve miles.

CRUMLIN

22. This Ard Fheis calls on the Department of Foreign Affairs to take up the task of protecting our national coastline, our seas and our land from all forms of pollution and damage originating from other countries. This includes a demand for the immediate closure of Sellafield, and the enforcement of

adequate safety standards for all modes of transport travelling through Irish territory.

DRUMCONDRA/GLASNEVIN

23. That this Ard Fheis calls for the disbandment of the Nuclear Energy Board and its replacement by a voluntary body organised separately from Civil Defence and open to all peace, CND groups, and concerned individuals.

CORK CITY SOUTH EAST

GROUND RENTS

24. This Ard Fheis welcomes the stand the Workers' Party has made on the ground rents issue.

LEIXLIP

Local Government

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Resolution 1 to be taken as main resolution. 2 and 3 are addenda to 1. 4 and 5 to be taken separately under the heading Public Representatives. 6, 7 and 8 to be taken as one substantive on Service Charges.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY

1. That this Ard Fheis being committed to the principle of Local Democracy, calls on the government to immediately re-organise local government to provide a wider network of Councils

- to extend the power and responsibilities of elected councils,
- to ensure that Local Authorities are adequately funded to provide the services needed by the people.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

2. That this Ard Fheis urges the Department of the Environment to strengthen local democracy by establishing Town Commission status in towns where the population requirements are met.

LEIXLIP

3. This Ard Fheis calls on our TDs and Councillors to campaign more vigorously for more democracy at local government level, especially curbing the power of city and town hall officials.

LIBERTIES, DUBLIN

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

4. This Ard Fheis urges that legislation be passed that in the event of election to City Councils, County Councils etc, employees of both private and public sector must be given time off with pay to enable them to carry out their roles as public representatives. Pending the achievement of this, that a greater proportion of Council business be held outside normal working hours.

This Ard Fheis also demands that unemployed persons will not be disqualified from social welfare benefits while acting as public representatives.

TALLAGHT EAST/GREENHILLS

5. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Party's local representatives to insist that

local authorities ensure that the Department of the Environment regulations pertaining to contractors and sub-contractors are strictly adhered to in all local authority building projects.

WEXFORD TOWN

SERVICE CHARGES

6. That this Ard Fheis instructs the Party's TDs to introduce immediately a private member's bill to abolish service charges.

MITCHELSTOWN

7. That the Workers' Party, particularly our TDs, continue to press for:

1. Abolition of service charges;
2. Return of NATO's negotiation licence;
3. An amnesty on charges due for anti-charges protestors, once abolition has been achieved.

YOUGHAL

8. That this Ard Fheis/ADC calls on the government to implement its pre-election promise to abolish the Local Government Financial Provisions Acts (Nos. 1 and 2) to pave the way for removing the inequitable local charges. It also calls on the government and local authorities to spell out the ramifications of the Supreme Court judgment in December (Ashley and Another v Dublin Corporation) to define if the local charges are legal and collectable for all years since 1983.

KILDARE CONSTITUENCY COUNCIL

Youth

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Resolution No.1 to be main resolution.

2, 3, 4 and 5 covered by main resolution.

6 and 7 to be taken together as one resolution.

8 is an amendment to this.

9 and 10 to be taken separately.

11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 to be taken together as one resolution (covers 16 and 17).

18 (covers 19) is an amendment to this.

20, 21, 22 and 23 to be taken separately.

1. The majority of young people are clearly apathetic about our political system. Their idea of politics is drawn from conservative political parties, which thrive on empty promises, cynicism and dishonesty. Young people know that the political establishment has failed to provide a decent future. They are also exposed daily to the inadequacy of our education system and recognise its glaring limitations. Unemployment, low pay or exploitation stare them in the face.

The Workers' Party is committed to building a society within which all the talent, energy and creativity of young people will be channelled into productive activity. Our education and training institutions must become centres of democratic participation for young people, within which they are prepared for active involvement in society. The world of learning and the world of work must be linked more closely. All young people must be secure in the knowledge that they are assured of the right to live and work in their own country if they desire to exercise that right. That right can only be guaranteed fully in a planned economy where full employment is the national priority and where the labour potential of young people is considered an essential and invaluable resource, not a commodity which can be ignored or discarded. At present young people are seen largely as a problem.

SOCIAL GUARANTEE FOR YOUTH

Our Party will fight vigorously for the introduction of a "social guarantee" for all young people which will assure them of a guaranteed right to productive involvement in education, training, leisure and work. To fulfil that guarantee, we will reorganise all the agencies concerned with young people to ensure that access to the facilities necessary for comprehensive education and training development in accordance with their own individual potential. We will not allow the economic circumstances of any family to keep young people from educational development. We will not allow young people to suffer discrimination because of their class background. The emphasis will

be placed on equipping all young citizens for life and ensuring that the school system has the resources to cater properly for the whole youth population, up to eighteen years of age.

As part of our programme for full employment for all workers, we must ensure that greater emphasis is placed on science, technology and creativity in the education and training institutions. We will also seek the redirection of training resources from the various Social Employment Schemes, or Start Your Own Business schemes, to training for long-term sustainable employment in the public or private sectors.

We will campaign in the immediate future for the following measures to be taken in the interest of young people:

- ★ Full-time education, training or apprenticeships for all young people up to 18 years of age.
- ★ A 'social guarantee' of full-time paid employment for all school-leavers, at pay and conditions covered by collective agreements and minimum pay laws.
- ★ Control of all youth employment through an improved Protection of Young Persons Employment Act. This will protect young workers against low pay, long hours of work or poor working conditions.
- ★ Trade union rights for all young people in enterprises, social employment, training and work experience schemes. Employers would not get state supports if they abused young workers.
- ★ Funds from the Youth Employment Levy must go to genuine job creation schemes by public enterprises, co-operatives or community organisations, and for job-related training schemes. In the longer term we would hope to eliminate the need to differentiate between Youth Employment Schemes and a full programme of productive employment generated by the State.
- ★ Leisure and sports centres must be provided in all communities, particularly in the deprived working class communities. These centres should be built by the local authorities and be jointly run by local community representatives and the local authority. These centres should cater for sporting, cultural or educational activities. They should include facilities for music, theatre, art and leisure. Such centres, when properly managed and developed, can contribute both to providing worthwhile services and jobs.
- ★ By including all young people at work or training in the pay-related social insurance scheme, (PRSI), we will stop all discrimination against young people in the social welfare and health systems. Such an expansion of the health and welfare cover will bring increased recognition of the importance of young people in our society, increase the dignity of their work and training activities.
- ★ We will abolish all discrimination against part-time workers. This form of

discrimination is now being used extensively against young workers, male and female, in a whole range of enterprises.

- ★ The government will be pressed to provide a fully developed system of local youth service boards to co-ordinate youth services.
- ★ All second-level schools and third-level institutions will be asked to provide a programme of sex education and family planning advice. Young people must be able to protect their own health and physical welfare. Education on drug abuse should be included, to prepare young people to withstand the pressures to abuse alcohol and other drugs.
- ★ All health boards will be told to solve the problem of homelessness among young people. They will be statutorily obliged to ensure that there is adequate provision of shelter and accommodation for all homeless young people in their health board area.
- ★ Young offenders must be given the option of participating in community service as an alternative to prison sentences. In most cases such activity is clearly beneficial for long-term rehabilitation.
- ★ Existing schemes for youth exchange in education and training will be expanded to facilitate greater participation by young workers. This should involve North—South exchanges in this country and increased youth exchanges internationally. This would enable young people to expand their horizons through work experience, voluntary development aid and practical co-operation with under-developed and developing countries.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

YOUTH TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

2. This Ard Fheis, while recognising the excellent work of AnCO in its work on apprenticeship schemes, totally condemns the use of short-term AnCO, National Manpower and YEA schemes as a means to artificially lower the number signing the unemployment register while at the same time providing cheap — almost slave — labour for unscrupulous employers. The Ard Fheis further condemns the fact that the cynical use and nature of these schemes adds to the disenchantment of young people with society as a whole.

DONNYCARNEY

3. This Ard Fheis once again calls on the government to end the misery which thousands of young people have to endure as a result of unemployment. Successive governments' main efforts concentrated on disguising the figures by implementing training schemes which took young people off the register for a few months. Unfortunately the schemes were of little benefit to the trainee but in the case of the so-called Work Experience Programme, very beneficial to employers who can hire 'n fire as long as he or she pleases.

This Ard Fheis reasserts the Workers' Party position as the only party

committed to achieving full employment.

TALLAGHT EAST/GREENHILLS

4. That in recognition of the severe setbacks which have been sustained by young people in their terms of employment, that the Workers' Party reiterates its demand for a minimum income for all, and that local Workers' Party Youth groups, branches and public representatives highlight the exploited position of young workers.

MITCHELSTOWN

5. This Ard Fheis calls for the establishment of a State-sponsored National Youth Service, run by full-time paid workers, backed by full facilities and resources.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL

YOUTH NORTHERN IRELAND

6. Recognising the limitations of the present Youth Training Schemes, the Ard Fheis directs the Party to press the Department of Economic Development and the relevant government ministers to implement real training, for real jobs at a reasonable rate of weekly allowance. Young people within training schemes must be given adequate insurance cover, the right to trade union membership and organisation and participation in the decision making process of the schemes.

BELFAST

7. That this Ard Fheis/ADC calls for the unionisation of the Youth Training Programme Schemes throughout the six counties with a view to creating better wages and working conditions within this scheme.

LOWER FALLS, BELFAST

8. That we reaffirm our policy opposing the cosmetic exercise of Youth Training Programmes, especially the newly formed re-start programme. We see this as another scheme by the Tories for doctoring the unemployment statistics.

WHITEROCK, BELFAST

9. This Ard Fheis condemns the high levels of youth unemployment and

the Tory Government's failure to deal with it and calls on the Party to inaugurate a concerted campaign for jobs in the coming year.

BELFAST

10. This Ard Fheis/ADC deplores the failure of the government in Northern Ireland to radically restructure the system of juvenile justice and in particular condemns as wasteful, punitive and abdication of responsibility, its failure to close training schools and release the resources so tied up in these institutions into community based schemes for the treatment of offenders which have proven value.

Furthermore, acutely aware of the dislocation of people's lives caused by juvenile offenders and recognising the right of people to live in peace and security and free from attacks on their person or personal belongings, this Ard Fheis/ADC calls for the extensive development of school based care teams involving parents, young people, teachers and social/probation workers to develop community based strategies to prevent the incidence of crime and deal humanely with both victims and offenders.

BELFAST

Youth Organisation

11. This Ard Fheis now instructs all Constituencies to establish, as a matter of urgency, branches of Workers' Party Youth. The need for such branches to extend the influence of our Party among the young population must now be obvious and can no longer be ignored by a serious Socialist party.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

12. That this Ard Fheis/ADC commends the Workers' Party Youth on their continuing campaign to organise youth with the intention of winning them away from sectarianism and from the hate-mongering and violence of the paramilitaries on both sides of the divide, and instructs all Party branches to assist them in this difficult task.

LOWER FALLS, BELFAST

13. This Ard Fheis endorses the Youth Against Sectarianism and calls on the Youth Department to continue its efforts through 'Rock Against Sectarianism' to draw more young people away from Nationalism and Unionism.

BELFAST

14. This Ard Fheis directs Workers' Party Youth to undertake a recruitment campaign among young people as a means of building support and membership.

BELFAST

15. That this Ard Fheis, recognising the importance of a youth organisation to the growth of the Party, instructs branches and constituency councils to (a) appoint youth officers; (b) ensure 'Socialist Youth' is distributed in their area, and (c) ensure that young people from their area attend the Workers' Party youth summer camp in August of this year.

BALLYMUN

16. This Ard Fheis, recognising the vital role of a strong active Workers' Party Youth movement, calls on all Party branches and members to ensure that all assistance be rendered to its youth movement in this task.

FINGLAS EAST

17. That this Ard Fheis reaffirms the importance of building a youth movement for the future development of the Party and instructs all branches to elect a Youth Officer, especially identifying people who will commit themselves to this job.

LOWER FALLS, BELFAST

18. Noting the pre Ard Fheis discussion on the question of youth organisation, this Ard Fheis endorses the following principles as necessary prerequisites to any development of a youth section of the party.

1. That youth be free of 'Party' work so as to engage in their own tasks.
2. That youth develop activities that reflect needs and interests of youth.
3. That the WPY establish their own youth identity.

LAGAN VALLEY

19. This Ard Fheis calls on the Party to release Youth Officers from the majority of other Party work to enable them to concentrate on building Workers' Party Youth.

BELFAST

20. This Ard Fheis directs the National Youth Committee to ensure that all

resolutions passed in relation to Youth are rapidly implemented.

BELFAST

JUNIOR WPY

21. Recognising that youth are our future, and the future of this Party will depend on them for disciplined membership and support, we deplore the lack of any Party structures for young people under 14 years. We call on the Party to set up a Junior Workers' Party Youth movement to cater for the leisure needs of these young people, as well as basic socialist education, in order to ensure that this Party will have a constant flow of young socialists into our Party when they are 14 years and over. We further call on the Party to organise an annual summer camp for this Junior Youth section.

KILBARRACK EAST

22. This Ard Fheis proposes the setting up of regional centres for young cultural workers throughout the country. These centres should offer young workers in the cultural field access to publishing/recording/exhibitions without the overriding profit motive which at present is the guiding light of the private operators in this field.

DONNYCARNEY

23. That this Ard Fheis/ADC recognises that many local authorities pay only lip service to the development of leisure facilities for youth and that in many cases by demanding exorbitant rents for pitches they are in fact hindering such development.

That this Ard Fheis calls on all branches and elected Councillors to highlight this practice in their respective areas and strive to stop it.

ASHBOURNE

Civil Liberties & Justice

Resolutions 1 and 2 to be taken together as one substantive under Civil Divorce.

3 and 4 to be taken together under Marital Breakdown.

5 and 6 to be taken together under Victim Support.

7 and 8 to be taken under Drug Offences. 8 is an addendum to 7.

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

CIVIL DIVORCE

1. That this Ard Fheis reaffirms its commitment to the removal of the constitutional ban on divorce as part of the process of building a democratic, pluralist society in the Republic.

We deplore the way in which Fianna Fáil allied itself with fundamentalist religious forces in order to defeat the 1986 referendum, ignoring all considerations of civil liberty, tolerance and compassion.

We call for the establishment, as a matter of urgency, of the family support services promised in the course of the referendum campaign and particularly of a proper family law tribunal, with full social and psychological back-up services, to deal in a sensitive and enlightened way with family law matters.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

2. That this Ard Fheis/ADC reaffirms the commitment of the Workers' Party to campaign for the introduction of Civil Divorce in Ireland.

GALWAY CITY WEST

MARITAL BREAKDOWN

3. That this Ard Fheis/ADC notes with regret the defeat of the constitutional amendment on divorce and, in the interests of civil liberty and human justice, resolves to continue to seek constitutional change with regard to marital breakdown.

GALWAY CITY NORTH EAST

4. With the failure of governments to grasp and deal with the reality of marital breakdown and in the aftermath of the Divorce Referendum, this Ard Fheis calls for a Family Court Scheme whereby marital breakdown can be dealt with in a practical and humane manner and that such a scheme should

be free to all.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL

VICTIM SUPPORT

5. The plight of the victims of crime has long been disregarded by the State and the community alike. The trauma experienced by these victims can be severe and goes unrecognised. The State, quite correctly, provides considerable support for offenders but little or nothing for their victims. The consequences of such neglect could well become very severe for our society in the future. If victims come to regard their treatment as too stressful, demeaning, unfair, distorting of reality and too little concerned with their rights and feelings, it is possible that this 'secondary victimization' by the system may lead to disenchantment, disinterest and future non-co-operation, not only by the victim but also by friends and relatives.

This Ard Fheis now calls for the following to provide recognition for and improve the lot of the crime victim.

1. That the 'pain and suffering' elements of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme be reintroduced immediately and that the scheme be placed on a statutory footing.
2. That the Irish Association for Victim Support be fully supported by the Government and that it be provided with adequate funding to enable it to carry out its very necessary work of providing help and support to victims of crime. Such funding should be provided on a formal basis and should be linked to inflation.
3. That the IAVS should have an input into training for the gardaí, court officials and all involved in the legal profession. This with a view to raising awareness among the professionals of the position of the victim and to creating an accepted role for victims within the Criminal Justice System.

EAST WALL/MARINO

6. This Ard Fheis welcomes the work being done by the Irish Association for Victim Support in providing practical assistance to victims of crime and in highlighting areas of legislative reform required to give greater protection to the rights of victims of crime.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

DRUG OFFENCES

7. That this Ard Fheis/ADC views with deep concern the disparities in sentencing policy by Irish courts, particularly in relation to drug offences.

GALWAY NORTH EAST

8. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls for new tougher legislation to deal with people who traffic in drugs, regardless of class or nationality.

DRUMCONDRA/GLASNEVIN

COOLOCK LAW CENTRE

9. As 1987 is the tenth anniversary of the Pringle Report we call on this Government to ensure that Coolock Community Law Centre funding be put on a firm basis; this is the only Law Centre in the twenty-six counties run on the lines recommended in the Pringle Report.

COOLOCK/KINSEALY

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION

10. This Ard Fheis mandates our Dáil Representatives to oppose all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation.

NORTH BELFAST

IMMIGRATION CONTROLS

11. That this Ard Fheis/ADC rejects the right of any foreign power to operate immigration controls on sovereign Irish territory.

GALWAY NORTH EAST

EQUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

12. This Ard Fheis/ADC is opposed to any move by the Government in Northern Ireland to bring together under one umbrella the Fair Employment Agency (FEA) and the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) as outlined in the Government's document "Equality of Employment in Northern Ireland – Future Strategy Options".

BELFAST

Media, Culture, Consumer Affairs

Steering Committee Recommendations

1, 2 and 3 to be discussed together.

2 is an amendment to 1.

3 to be voted on separately.

4 to be taken as a substantive resolution on Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act and is deemed to cover a similar resolution from Bray West.

5 and 6 to be taken together under sub-head 'Culture' and to be voted on separately.

7 to be taken under sub-head Culture and be deemed to cover similar from Kildare CC.

8, 9, 10 and 11 to be taken separately under stated sub-headings.

MEDIA AND BROADCASTING

1. This Conference views with concern the concerned drive towards the privatisation of radio broadcasting and urges the re-affirmation of our opposition to any such developments.

GALWAY, NORTH EAST

2. That this Ard Fheis supports the application by community radio station for licensing when legislation comes before the Dáil.

MALLOW

3. Given that the media of television, radio, newspaper and cinema play significant roles in informing private and public opinion, this Conference views with concern developments in all these areas which have seriously and significantly sacrificed objectivity for spurious political and ideological ends. Recognising the anti-democratic nature of these developments, this Conference urges the CEC to initiate, as a matter of urgency, a full analysis of the situation in the Republic with a view to publishing a critical appraisal of current trends and developments.

GALWAY, NORTH EAST

4. That this Ard Fhies reaffirms its support for freedom of speech and calls for the removal of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act. Mindful also of the need for fair and responsible use of information by the public and privately owned media, this Ard Fheis calls for the establishment of a Press Council with statutory powers and for the introduction of legal sanctions against incitement to all forms of violence and to religious, racial or sectarian hatred.

BLACKROCK/STILLORGAN

CULTURE

5. That this Party ensures that the principle of democratic access is applied to all aspects of cultural activity, in particular in a restructuring of the Arts Council.

recognises the employment creation potential of the Arts in Ireland.
jobs to be created in a wide range of cultural areas from the development of a national film industry at one end of the spectrum to the growth of community arts at the other.

fight for decent pay and conditions for cultural workers who traditionally have experienced uncertainty of employment and low incomes.

CEC

6. This Ard Fheis actively promotes class culture which should include art, drama, popular music, Irish dance, language etc., through any venues that our Party has influence over, in order to educate the Irish people in class politics.

TURF LODGE, BELFAST

7. This ADC condemns the two Arts Councils, North and South, as bourgeois institutions and calls for a democratisation of both bodies. Arts Councils funding by and large goes to middle class cultural activities, while allocating only small amounts to what they call 'community arts'. The Workers' Party rejects the term 'community arts' as pigeon holing the great cultural interests of the Irish working class.

TURF LODGE

BLOOD SPORTS

8. This Ard Fheis condemns the barbarous practice of enclosed live hare coursing as still widely carried out in this country. The Ard Fheis instructs our TD's to initiate and/or support legislative moves to outlaw totally, live hare coursing.

DONNEYCARNEY

ADVERTISING

9. This Ard Fheis calls on the Government to immediately establish a state run Advertising Standards' Board with responsibility for monitoring and controlling all aspects of advertising. This Ard Fheis also notes the covert control advertisers have over the media, in particular the provincial press. The Ard Fheis condemns the use of subliminal suggestion, peer group pressure and overt sexism as a means of

promoting and selling goods. The Ard Fheis also condemns the utter waste of money used in the promotion of identical products in competition among manufacturers when the cost of this competition is passed on directly to the consumer.

LIMERICK CITY

10. This Ard Fheis calls for an end to the blatant one sided advertising on Belfast Citybus by the anti-abortion lobbyists Life.

CROMAC, BELFAST

11. That this Ard Fheis opposes attempts to prohibit below cost selling unless this legislation is accompanied by stringent price control mechanisms.

CLONDALKIN

Constitution and Organisation

26
46
The Six
Co-optation

Steering committee recommendations

- 1 to be taken separately and requires $\frac{2}{3}$ majority to be passed.
- 2 to be taken separately and requires $\frac{2}{3}$ majority to be passed
- 3 to be taken separately and requires $\frac{2}{3}$ majority to be passed
- 4, 5 to be discussed together and voted on separately
- 6 to 12 inclusive to be discussed together and voted on separately
- 13 to be taken separately
- 14 to 17 inclusive to be discussed together and voted on separately
- 17 to 21 inclusive to be discussed together and voted on separately
- 22 to be taken separately
- 24 and 25 to be discussed together 25 being an ammendment to 24
- 26 to be taken on its own.

1. That rule 14, section "A", of the party constitution be amended to allow members of one year in membership of the party hold an officership of a party branch. *For*

CORK NORTH CENTRAL

2. In relation to Section H — Constituency Councils (9) where there are up to five Branches in a Constituency the Constituency Council shall not consist of more than 10 Delegates and in such cases there should be no need to co-opt unless as stated in the Constitution 'to specialist positions'. *against.*

COOLOCK/KINSEALY

3. That only those members of the CEC elected by the Ard Fheis should be accredited delegate status at the following Ard Fheis. *For.*

LIBERITES

ORGANISATION

4. That this Ard Fheis decides that in future all party levies (other than membership and registration fees) shall be levied on Constituency Councils rather than on Branches.

SHANKILL/BALLYBRACK

5. That a review of membership contributions be undertaken in view of difficulty of collecting same on a regular basis in rural areas.

DONEGAL SOUTH WEST C.C.

RECRUITMENT/ORGANISING

6. This Ard Fheis/ADC instructs the Ard Comhairle/CEC to examine current methods of recruitment with a view to their improvement in order to achieve a substantial increase in party membership in the coming years.

CRUMLIN

7. That this Ard Fheis calls on the incoming CEC to make every practical effort to extend the party into areas where no WP organisation exists.

DUNGARVAN

8. This Ard Fheis calls upon the Political Committee to investigate and recommend ways and means to recruit more women to full membership within the party and to involve them fully at every level of the party.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL

9. That this Ard Fheis calls for bigger effort to be made in the extension of activities of women's groups throughout the country and for the formation of groups in areas that at present have none. Also that we should place more importance on International Women's Day.

FINGALS EAST

10. This Ard Fheis calls upon the National Women's Committee to instigate, by the most appropriate and effective way, a full scale national recruitment drive to persuade more women to join this Party.

TALLAGHT EAST/GREENHILLS

11. Conference welcomes the increasing number of women who are joining the party. Conference demands that the CEC ensures that attitudes of Party members fall in line with Party policy on women's rights and that women members play a full part in ensuring equality at all levels within the Party.

12. That a full-time organiser be appointed for Connaught/Ulster.

DONEGAL SOUTH WEST CC

PARTY PROGRAMME

13. This Ard Fheis instructs the Political Committee to draft, within six months, a general statement bringing together the main points of the Workers' Party political programme on the basis of the main resolutions of recent Ard Fheiseanna, and including references to the major Party documents. This statement of the Party programme should be for general circulation and its contents could form the basis of a future political preamble to the Party's Constitution, to be formally adopted at the next Ard Fheis.

SHANKILL/BALLYBRACK

PUBLICATIONS

14. Given that democracy is one of the cornerstones of Party policy and that increased public awareness of precisely what it represents is essential to our future development and success, this Ard Fheis/ADC urges greater use and explanation of the concept in local and national publications and statements.

GALWAY CITY NORTH EAST

15. That this Ard Fheis, recognising that a four page paper cannot adequately serve the needs of the Party as it grows, instructs the CEC to expand the *Irish People* to eight pages, with the necessary price increase.

BALLYMUN

16. Noting the inconsistent coverage of Workers' Party affairs and working class issues in the national media, this Ard Fheis calls on all branches to expand and develop sales of the *Irish People* and *Northern People* by all means, particularly through door-ro-door sales.

FINGLAS EAST

17. That *Notes & Comments* be brought out on a more regular basis.

CORK CITY SOUTH EAST

EDUCATION (INTERNAL)

18. This Ard Fheis calls upon the incoming Ard Comhairle to tackle as a matter of urgency and fundamental importance the question of Party political education for all members.

FINGLAS EAST

19. That this Ard Fheis instructs the CEC to have the Education Committee:

- (a) plan out a programme of political education for the coming year to be implemented uniformly by all branches, and
- (b) provide detailed documents and training for officers such as treasurers, secretaries, chairpersons, etc.

20. This Ard Fheis/ADC demands that increased attention is paid to the special needs of new women and youth members joining the Party. In particular Conference calls for:

- (a) more educational provision at all levels for new Party members which should be student centred and using active learning methods;
- (b) more attention to be given to the timing of meetings;
- (c) meetings to be conducted in a jargon-free manner;
- (d) strengthening and development of the education system within the Party.

DUNMURRY, BELFAST

21. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls on the National Education Committee, in conjunction with Regional Education Departments, to draw up a programme of education aimed at:

1. increasing awareness among all Party members of the importance of the participation of women within the Party,
2. ensuring that the Party's policies in relation to women are clearly understood and acted upon by all Party members.

BELFAST

22. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls for the establishment of a proper Culture Department consisting of those members within the Party who are genuinely interested in the promotion of culture as we see it, not as a facade of entertainment for the capitalist orientated society we live in, but as an expression of people's understanding of the way we live and enjoy ourselves.

23. That this Ard Fheis/ADC calls for the appointment of a specialist committee to investigate and report on the development and effects of new technology in the workplace.

CLONDALKIN

24. That the Political Committee investigate the advantages and disadvantages to the Workers' Party of the sale of Easter Lilies.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL

25. That the Workers' Party cease to engage in the sale of Easter Lilies.

KILDARE CONSTITUENCY COUNCIL

26. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls for the adoption of the Internationale as the anthem of the Workers' Party.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL