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The Worker's Party : Ard Fheis, 1988, Clár

The Workers Party of Ireland

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THE WORKERS PARTY

Ard Fheis Annual Delegate Conference 1988

Clár
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1 Main Resolution; 2, 3, & 4 are addenda to 1.
5 is an amendment to the main resolution.
Under sub-heading Incitement to Hatred Legislation: 6 & 7 to be taken together. 8 to be taken separately. 9 also to be taken separately under National Defence.

BUILDING DEMOCRACY

1. The Democratic Principle
This Ard Fheis asserts that:
(a) For socialists, democracy is one of the most fundamental of principles and one which reaches into all spheres of life.
(b) Democracy does not stop at elections for national or even local representative bodies. Nor is it confined to the purely political sphere, divorced from economic and social life, or indeed from personal life (e.g. as the women's movement has helped to show, the extent to which women can participate in the public sphere is influenced strongly by the division of labour in the home).
(c) Democracy involves participation as well as representation. It means not only using existing structures to pursue the interests of the majority but also transforming those structures when they block rather than facilitate a genuinely democratic decision making through manipulation by powerful vested interests.
(d) Real democracy, by its very nature, is at fundamental loggerheads with an economic system based on exploitation of the many for the private gain of the few. But the power of democracy to challenge capitalist values has been severely curbed by confining the democratic principle to the formal electoral sphere and in particular by stripping it of meaningful influence over economic activity. Indeed, a major cause of the crisis of confidence in the political system among large sectors of the population is the recognition that it exerts no real economic control and is thus virtually powerless to improve the conditions of life.
(e) If democracy is to be strengthened and extended then the number of arenas for democratic activity and the opportunities for participation therein must be increased. In particular democratic power must be exerted over the economic system which shapes the lives of our citizens.
(f) It is against this background that proposals for institutional reform must be judged.

2. Threats to democracy
This Ard Fheis notes that:
(a) In the current political climate the threats to existing democracy are numerous and very real.
(b) The over-riding threat to democracy is terrorism. There can be no equivocation among democrats as to the central importance of defeating terrorism and eliminating the conditions which permit it to flourish. This cannot be dealt with in security terms alone. It necessitates the building in Northern Ireland of democratic devolved political structures based on a Bill of Rights through which all democrats can be mobilised against terrorism. South as well as North it requires the rooting out of the attitudes which sustain terrorist violence and legitimise sectarian divisions.
(c) Democracy is also undermined by the lack of participation in politics which derives from disillusionment with the political process as it currently operates, a disillusion only too well earned by decades of gombeen politics.
(d) Unfortunately, many of the proposals for reform being put forward at the moment imply the curtailment rather than the expansion of democratic activity — reducing representation in the Dáil, abolishing the Senate, stripping local government of its powers, curbing trade union rights, etc.

3. Programme of Democratic Reform
This Ard Fheis states that:
(a) The Workers' Party is committed to reform of many institutions, but for the purpose of strengthening democracy, not reducing it.
(b) We therefore call for a programme of democratic reform which will extend the democratic principle throughout Irish society. Such a programme must have as its key elements:
(i) CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM
The Constitution is the basic legal document of the State and thus a key element in the democratic structure. Such a fundamental document should be based on principles to which all citizens can subscribe.

The 1937 Constitution cannot command that kind of consent in the 1980s, based as it is on narrow nationalist concepts, sectarian social teachings and an over-riding commitment to the sanctity of private property.

A new Constitution capable of dealing with the realities of our time must be firmly based on secular, pluralist and democratic concepts.

We call on the incoming CEC to prepare a draft Constitution based on these principles.
(ii) OIREACHTAS REFORM
Reform and modernisation of Oireachtas procedures are badly needed, but proposals to reduce representation are not acceptable. Indeed we see the extension of the influence of parliament — particularly into the economic sphere — as fundamental to real democracy.

While we see serious flaws in the Senate system, nonetheless we hold the view that in a state where the political space is already very narrow, the abolition of a national political forum such as the Senate cannot be regarded as a progressive move.

We are committed to increasing the participation of ordinary people in the political life of the State and to ensuring representation of groups who for a variety of reasons are seriously under-represented at present.

(iii) DEMOCRATISING THE STATE
One of the key tests for any democracy is the extent to which democratic principles pervade the state apparatus, taken in the broadest sense, to include the army and police services, the judicial system, the civil service, the educational system and so on.

Irish democracy has enormous deficiencies in these areas. A democratic programme must address these issues as a matter of urgency and must include the extension of trade union rights to army and police, the development of a genuine community policing service capable of holding the support of the entire community, the modernising of our archaic and class-biased judicial system and the opening up of the public service to those it is intended to serve. A properly funded, democratically controlled, fully integrated and free education system from pre-school to third level is an absolute necessity for the development of democratic values.

(iv) LOCAL DEMOCRACY
Democracy at local level is under immediate and severe threat. Inadequate funding, dismantling of local bodies (e.g. VECs, local health committees etc.) and increasing centralisation of local government powers are all combining to erode an already inadequate system of local democracy and decrease the opportunities for democratic activity available to local communities.

The Workers’ Party is committed not just to defending existing local government structures but expanding them to provide genuine local democratic power over a wide range of issues and increasing opportunities for involvement in local government by democratic people’s organisations. Fundamental to this is adequate funding for local government bodies from central government.

(v) ELECTORAL REFORM
The effectiveness of democracy, whether at local or national level, is undermined by low levels of participation in the electoral process and
the huge disparity in the financial conditions under which different parties compete.

Electoral reform must ensure maximum participation in the electoral system as well as maximum representativeness in the outcome of elections. It must also initiate control over the amount of money any candidate or party can spend in the course of a campaign. In addition a minimum level of public funding should be available for electoral purposes to all democratic parties.

(vi) DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S ORGANISATIONS

Representative institutions are crucial, but not the only components of a healthy democracy. A wide range of democratic organisations—tenants' and residents' associations, trade unions, consumer protection groups, environmental lobbies, women's organisations, youth groups etc—afford important opportunities for direct participation in democratic processes and ways of deepening popular understanding of how politics operates, and where real power lies.

Needless to say, not all pressure groups are progressive in their objectives, and some are far more powerful than others. Nonetheless the existence of such organisations is an important aspect of our society and they are a crucial area of democratic activity.

(vii) ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY

One of the most fundamental defects in the democratic system as we know it is its inability—or refusal—to penetrate the economic sphere and exert control over key economic interests. Even where commercial State Companies do exist their terms of reference are dictated primarily by the priorities of private enterprise. It is one of the most sacred principles of the conservative parties that economic interests should be exempt from democratic controls. The role of the State in their view is to ensure the profitability of private enterprise. For socialists—and indeed for any democrat—a key question arises: Who governs—Parliament or private capital? It is essential for meaningful democracy that the major financial institutions are brought under public control, so that the resources of this State can be mobilised in the common interest.

We also support the concept of centralised bargaining on issues not only of pay and conditions, but of wider economic and social concern as an important mechanism by which the organised working class can influence national policies.

The extension of industrial democracy is an important aspect of economic democracy. Worker participation, access to management information etc, limited though they are in Irish employments, are all ways of increasing the participation and control of workers over the
economic environment.
(viii) THE MEDIA
The concentration of the print media in a small number of private hands and increasing privatisation of broadcasting must be of concern to all democrats who value the twin principles of press freedom and accountability.

We reiterate our call for democratic public control of the airwaves and for the establishment of a strong media council.

ARD CHOMAIRLE/CEC

2 Democracy, as we understand it, is not only the principle of majority rule, it is, or should be, the spirit permeating all our major social institutions from the economy to education. It is in that sense that we can justifiably claim to be the only political party truly and unswervingly committed to the democratic process.

However, it would be sheer complacency if we were to regard this understanding as simply being a question of party ideology, and not make every effort to make it the commonsense of our people, in the market place and elsewhere, so to speak.

1989 is an historic year of outstanding importance. It must also become a year in which the party seizes every opportunity to raise the political questions as to the declining democratic nature of our society, and seeks to reverse this anti-political process.

The Workers' Party traces its roots to the principles of the French Revolution (1789) — Liberty Equality and Fraternity were brought to Ireland by Tone and the men and women of the United Irishmen: today we understand those terms better as democracy, socialism and freedom. They represent the highest, most noble aspirations of any people. Yet we have seen some of them perverted by the reactionary forces of imperialism (democracy and freedom), and socialism under attack from the ideologues of the corrupt, vicious, greedy, inhuman system of capitalism.

The Reaganites and Thatcherites, through their unceasing manipulation of the mass media, convey that it is only under capitalism that democracy and freedom are meaningful. But by democracy they mean rule through the modern oligarchies of big business, media barons, and generals. They encourage apathy, ignorance, a sense of despair and hopelessness, that enables them to maintain that rule despite all the evidence that they exist as anti-democrats, preserving the rule of the few over the many.

Their freedom is the freedom to exploit, to amass vast fortunes, while millions live in poverty, in poor housing, socially and spiritually deprived, in fact, enslaved by those who tell them that they are the guarantors of their 'freedom'.
Such is the manner in which language has been turned inside out and noble principles perverted to serve the most base human instincts. Socialism, the philosophy which insists on collective responsibility for the creation of a truly human society, is under greater attack than ever before.

The doctrine of individual greed has been placed on the highest possible pedestal, and the idea of the human being’s responsibility for one’s fellow human being, derided at best as a pipe-dream, at worst as ‘totalitarianism’.

The Workers’ Party must take up this ideological battle, particularly during the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution.

This Ard Fheis/CEC therefore calls on all party branches and regions to establish the broadest possible democratic organisations to celebrate the principles of the French Revolution and begin the process of a genuine democratization of our society, both in Northern Ireland and the Republic.

BELFAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

3. That this Ard Fheis/ADC instructs the party to organise nationwide commemorations of the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution in 1989, recognising the significance of that Revolution for the entire Irish people both then and now.

WHITEROCK (West Belfast)

4. That this Ard Fheis/ADC resolves that the Party will oppose all efforts to abolish, or to limit the effectiveness of, the system of Proportional Representation in elections.

CRUMLIN (Dublin S/C)

5. That this Ard Fheis noting
1. that the Constitution of the state was drafted more than 50 years ago and reflects the social, economic and political attitudes of the 1930s,
2. the failure of successive governments to tackle the question of constitutional reform, calls on the party to campaign for a new Constitution which would be designed to serve the needs of Ireland as a modern industrialising society as we approach the 21st century, and believes that any new Constitution should:
   (a) be a genuinely pluralist document, with no privileges given to any particular Church or religious group,
   (b) contain no prohibition on the dissolution of marriage,
   (c) guarantee that the interests of society in general will take precedence over the interests of private property,
   (d) contain no territorial claim to Northern Ireland, but should recognise
the democratic rights of the people of Northern Ireland, and the right to aspire towards a unitary state on this island.

DUBLIN SOUTH

INCITEMENT TO HATRED LEGISLATION
6. This Ard Fheis recognises that the provision of free speech for terrorists cannot be regarded simply as a matter of civil liberties and that among those campaigning for the lifting of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act are some who are spokespersons for and supporters of terrorist organisations. It believes that it is entirely hypocritical to call for ‘free speech’ on the one hand while denying it, and life itself, to those opposed to the politics and the actions of the Provos. It recognises that the fundamental consideration motivating the Provos to become involved in democratic politics is to win support for their terrorist campaign and that their motives are clearly stated in the slogan “an armalite in the one hand and a ballot box in the other”.

This Ard Fheis in repudiating the Provisionals and all other paramilitary and terror gangs, calls for a detailed study of legislation, existing and planned, in other countries with a view to:

★ replacing the existing Section 31 legislation with new legislation which does not proscribe organisations or people because of ministerial edict but because of an organisation or individual’s support for terror and incitement to hatred;
★ allowing for strict penalties for those who promote sectarian differences and the use of armed force to bring about a ‘solution’ to the Northern crisis;
★ denying access to public meeting facilities for use by supporters of terrorist organisations;
★ making it an offence to publish or distribute statements and publications supporting terrorism or promoting or condoning religious, racial or any other form of social hatred based on prejudice and intolerance.

DUBLIN NORTH CITY CENTRE (Dublin Central)

7. That this Ard Fheis recognises the development of racist/fascist groups in Ireland and calls on all members to monitor these groups and oppose their activities. We also reiterate our call for a race relations bill to counter the printing/publishing, distribution and sale of racist/fascist literature.

CORK SOUTH EAST (Cork S/C)
8. This Ard Fheis condemns the recent remarks by Paddy Cooney (Fine Gael TD) proposing the introduction of internment as dangerous for democracy.

FINGLAS WEST (Dublin N/W)

NATIONAL DEFENCE POLICY

9. This Ard Fheis notes the decision of the Minister for Defence to institute a review of the defence policy of this state without prior reference to Dáil Eireann and calls for a realistic assessment of our defence forces and defence policy based on:

- our status as a neutral country,
- the need to effectively combat armed terrorism within the state and in conjunction with neighbouring states,
- the need to adequately police our national airspace and territorial waters,
- denial of strategic facilities to outside aggressors,
- manufacture of basic armaments within the state.

The Ard Fheis also calls for the development of the civil defence forces in order to meet the possibility of dealing with nuclear accidents in neighbouring countries and to complement the overall defence policy of the state.

DUBLIN NORTH CITY CENTRE (Dublin Central)
The Economy

Steering Committee Recommendations
1 Substantive Resolution.
Under sub-heading Job Creation: 2 to 7 inclusive to be taken as addenda to 1.
Under sub-heading The Programme of the Republic of Ireland’s Government for Recovery: 8, 9, 10 & 11 to be taken together as an addendum to 1. 12 is an amendment to 1.
Under sub-heading Industrial Policy: 13 & 14 are addenda to 1.
Under sub-heading New Technology: 15 to be taken as an addendum.
Under sub-heading State Enterprise: 16, 17, 18, 19 taken as addenda to 1.
Under sub-heading Insurance Industry: 20 & 21 are addenda to 1.
Under sub-heading Women in Industry & Minimum Wage: 22, 23, 24, 25 & 26 are addenda to 1.
Under sub-heading An t-Imirce/Emigration: 27 to be taken as an addendum to 1.
Under sub-heading Transport: 28 is an addendum to 1.
Under sub-heading Industrial Democracy/Labour Law: 29, 30 & 31 are addenda to 1.
Under sub-heading Taxation: 32 & 33 are addenda to 1.
Under sub-heading Regional Investment: 34 is an addendum to 1.
In this section all motions are related to the Main Resolution.

INDUSTRIALISATION

1. Noting that the Irish economy in both Northern Ireland and the Republic is in deep depression, the Workers’ Party demands major Government programmes of "Industrialisation" in both States, as the most important step on the road to recovery.

Aware of the current confusion that exists in respect of industrial development policy, it is necessary for us to spell out what we mean by Industrialisation. For the Workers’ Party industrialisation means the development of industries rather than the building of isolated factories or simply the building of ‘industrial estates’ comprised of collections of small factories producing unrelated products. For us, industrial development means the planned linking of all forms of production so that the output of one factory becomes the raw material for the next link in the production chain. ‘Industry’ as distinct from a factory means a related chain of production adding value from raw material to the final consumer product.

Mindful of efforts to popularise confused notions about ‘post industrial society’, the Workers’ Party reiterates its commitment to planned industrial
expansion as the firm foundation on which other social and economic developments can be built. As a socialist party we also emphasise the leading role of the organised industrial workers in the fight for socialism.

Private enterprise in Ireland despite enormous financial and ideological backing, has failed miserably to create new and viable employment in the sectors where growth is possible and necessary.

Public enterprise has suffered, from the start, from being confined to areas of economic activity which the private sector found unprofitable or unpalatable; and, more recently, from stagnation and demoralisation following the withdrawal of much of its former financial and political support.

Given the disastrous track record of private enterprise, its failure to industrialise and its persistent refusal to invest in job creating activities — despite generous state handouts — this Ard Fheis demands a central role for efficient public enterprise as the engine of our future economic growth. We demand the revitalisation of existing public enterprise with more vigorous initiatives to achieve efficiency in all sectors, and the expansion of public enterprise into profit making and job creating activities.

In order to achieve the required level of industrialisation, major reforms are needed in both public and private enterprise to render them fully accountable and more directional, more enterprising and more successful in delivering the goods and services demanded by modern Irish society and a sophisticated international market. Any company or organisation, whether public or private, which frustrates the legitimate economic and social aspirations of Irish society, or fails to play a positive role in advancing these objectives, must be targeted for reform.

Further, this Ard Fheis condemns the wasteful ‘investment’ policies pursued by various private enterprise governments of ‘throwing money’ at the private sector and hoping — in vain — that jobs would be created.

The result of this is over a quarter of a million jobless and massive emigration, with governments deliberately falsifying statistics to understate the levels of unemployment and emigration.

The current preoccupation with ‘creating the right environment’ for private enterprise is equally doomed to failure as the record of private profiteering in Ireland has clearly demonstrated.

Only a highly selective investment policy operating as part of a disciplined government plan for industrial development and using state companies and state institutions as effective instruments of economic planning will ensure that more taxpayers’ money is not squandered on another crop of entrepreneurs who accumulate profits at the expense of jobs.

Given the availability of valuable natural resources — the potential for production of extensive raw materials, especially in food, fishing, forestry
and mineral wealth — the Workers’ Party insists that new industrial development should be based primarily on our own raw materials.

We will campaign vigorously for the implementation of our detailed plans for the food industry which lay down specific targets for increases in the production of food from our land and for the processing of food for the home and export market.

We call for the immediate establishment of a ‘Jobs Forum’ comprising public representatives and representatives of employers and workers, which will monitor our overall progress on job creation, formulate plans for further action, commission relevant research and recommend appropriate strategies for future development. This is required if job creation is to be taken seriously as our national priority.

The foundation for a national body of this kind, which can formulate serious long term development plans, has been laid in a number of important reports and the considerable consensus which has already been reached on such issues as the need for stronger linkages, larger indigenous firms, the maximisation of value added, and the investment of wealth in productive enterprise, should act as a good basis for future planning.

We see the results of the government’s economic policies of ‘freeing the market’ and ‘rolling back the state’ as an erosion of workers’ rights, an attack on secure full-time employment through de-manning, casualisation, temporary and contract working, the unplanned application of new technology, the worsening of pay and conditions in non-union, anti-union, and fringe employment.

This Ard Fheis opposes these policies which are aimed at undermining the achievements of workers and their unions over decades of struggle. The cutting back on the ‘welfare state’ and the value of the ‘social wage’ and thereby weakening the position of public servants, low paid workers and social welfare recipients will also be resisted by our Party. Despite the fact that the response to this of trade unionists and socialists has sometimes been defensive, shortsighted and unco-ordinated, the worst excesses of ‘Thatcherism’ have been resisted by the organised working class, and our Party will continue to provide political leadership for such resistance.

Finally, this Ard Fheis reiterates the position of the Workers’ Party:

That full employment can and must be achieved; that conservative policies will not and cannot achieve it; and that only a massive programme of state-led industrial development can put us on the road to full employment before the end of the 20th century.

The Workers’ Party therefore will consistently campaign for the implementation of an effective industrialisation policy with accompanying changes in tax, company and labour law, as the vital prerequisite for generating more wealth and employment in Irish society, for ending poverty and unnecessary
dependancy and bringing major social change and progress.

And also noting that in Northern Ireland many jobs have been lost in traditional industry — in textiles, clothing, in engineering and especially in shipbuilding: we will support a planned programme of industrial revitalisation for Northern Ireland.

One important factor which has contributed significantly to the present high levels of unemployment is the all-round disadvantage suffered as a result of high oil prices and increased energy costs.

The popularity of man-made fibres and fabrics after the war caused the traditional natural fibres, textile and clothing industries to be replaced by man-made fibres industry. When this oil-based industry — which uses oil as a raw material — faced serious increased costs it closed down.

The rundown of the Belfast Shipyard has also resulted in the loss of many jobs, outside the yard as well as in the Yard. The Belfast Shipyard rundown is the direct result of a British Shipowners’ decision to transfer a considerable part of British Merchant tonnage to Flags of Convenience. To an increasing extent the new merchant fleet — British in fact but not in name — came to be built in Yards of Convenience. The jobs in the British Shipbuilding Industry were effectively transferred to the Far East.

The Workers’ Party will campaign for the rebuilding and revitalisation of industry there on the basis of:

1. An extensive development of the Clothing/Textile industry based on the use of natural fibres like linen and wool.
2. The planned expansion of agriculture and the food processing industry.
3. The development of the micro-electronics and other new technology industries.

The Workers’ Party, as a part of its campaign for the increased industrialisation of Northern Ireland, will campaign for the maintenance of the Belfast Shipyard, for its expansion and further development. We will make constant endeavours to expose the cynical anti-worker policy of the private enterprise shipowners and their allies in the present British Government.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

JOB CREATION

2. The West Belfast Constituency Council of the Workers’ Party in recognising that this area is one of the worst areas for unemployment in Northern Ireland, calls on the Government to establish a jobs creation strategy board comprised of constitutional political parties and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to promote and establish permanent jobs in Northern Ireland.

Such a body would be responsible for constructing a strategy for job
creation for the West of the city involving such schemes as construction, the utilisation of vacant factory space, the development of a food processing industry and the training and development of people in the industries of the future, i.e. micro-electronics, computers and computer processing and telecommunications.

The West Belfast Constituency Council believe it is essential that such a wide based job creation strategy board be established and that within a matter of a year jobs could be created in West Belfast.

The promotion of micro-electronics and new technology industries in this employment ‘black spot’ would be the spearhead of such a move.

The Job Creation Board will create employment by:
(i) attracting foreign companies to locate in the area and
(ii) the direct promotion of industry in West Belfast by the Board itself.

The creation of such a board leading to the development of the area and the attraction of ‘leaders’ in this field will mean badly needed jobs in West Belfast.

BELFAST WEST C.C.

3. That this Ard Fheis/ADC realising the economic emergency in Northern Ireland calls once more on the Government to immediately make plans for the establishment of a jobs conference.

And recognising the close links between the Northern Ireland economy, the rest of the UK and the Irish Republic, that such a conference should also involve tripartite representation from Northern Ireland, the UK and the Republic of Ireland with a view to setting up some sort of joint planning board.

LOWER GLEN (West Belfast)

4. This Ard Fheis/ADC recognises the need for youth training schemes to be based on trainees acquiring technical skills in new industries.

That we therefore support initiatives to develop information technology training centres in areas of massive unemployment such as West Belfast, as a necessary component of any serious job creation strategy.

That we recognise such schemes, although attracting fewer trainees than the present community workshops, will offer positive training and job prospects.

Calls on the DED/IDB to develop and publish a coherent strategy for such initiatives, and its relationship to existing industrial infrastructure and likely new industrial developments.

BALLYMURPHY (Belfast West)
5. This Ard Fheis/ADC recognises the significant role that the Belfast Shipyard plays in the Northern Ireland economy, and calls on the British Government to give all possible assistance to ensuring that its future is secure, enabling it to compete in the world market of shipbuilding.

EAST BELFAST

6. As the crisis in unemployment deepens, it becomes all the more necessary for the Workers' Party to develop credible and workable policies to combat it. In the light of this, this Ard Fheis instructs the Ard Comhairle/CEC to examine how local government structures might be used as one mechanism to create jobs. It further instructs the Committee to report on their considerations in advance of the May 1989 local government elections in Northern Ireland.

NORTH BELFAST

7. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns recent propaganda campaigns to present various versions of the Leisure Society as an alternative to full employment. Talk about Education for Leisure, a future without work, post industrial society and so on, is a means of dodging the issue of job creation and the need to confront the vested interests who benefit from mass unemployment. This Ard Fheis reiterates the policy of the Workers' Party:
1. the right to work is a basic human right,
2. that jobs would be provided for all who want to work if the correct policies were implemented,
3. that full employment can be achieved by providing a comprehensive range of goods and services for the home and export markets.

NED STAPLETON BRANCH (Dublin)

THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME FOR NATIONAL RECOVERY

8. This Ard Fheis calls for a vigorous campaign aimed at pressurising the Fianna Fáil government to implement their commitments to the ICTU to create 60,000 industrial jobs under the Programme for National Recovery.

NED STAPLETON BRANCH (Dublin)

9. That this Ard Fheis/ADC decides that the Workers' Party will conduct an aggressive public campaign to highlight the continuing failure of the government to deliver on many of the promises made in the Programme for National Recovery.

Given the consistent attacks by both government and employers on the
hard-won rights of workers, it is essential that we lead the fight against the reactionary consensus in Irish society.

BLACKROCK/STILLORGAN (Dublin D/L)

10. The 1987 Programme for National Recovery contains detailed descriptions of the possibilities for employment growth in many areas but to date little if any of this potential has been realised and the public remains generally unaware of any progress in the sectors thus earmarked for development.

This Ard Fheis/ADC calls for greater accountability and better monitoring arrangements of all aspects of job creation. This requires the involvement of public representatives and the public generally to assist towards the objectives which have been agreed. The ‘Review and Monitoring Committee’ set up under the 1987 programme should be required to issue quarterly reports and be fully accountable both to public representatives and to representatives of the parties to the agreement.

BLACKROCK/STILLORGAN (Dublin Dun Laoghaire)

11. That this Ard Fheis/Annual Delegate Conference condemns the government for their total failure to deal with the unemployment crisis and reaffirms the Party’s call for full employment through the proper, planned development of our natural resource such as land, fisheries, gas, minerals, forestry etc.

MAYFIELD (Cork N/C)

12. In the light of the recent restrictions for employment in the private and public sector within the Programme for National Recovery, that this Ard Fheis condemns the programme.

KILDARE C.C.

INDUSTRIAL POLICY

13. That this Ard Fheis/ADC calls on all members to strive in their workplaces and through their unions to impress upon the management of factories to use Irish materials, equipment and products to help create and maintain Irish jobs.

MITCHELSTOWN (Cork East)

14. That commercial and industrial designation of areas to be made on the basis of need and not at the whim of a Minister.

BRAY NORTH EAST WARD (Wicklow)
NEW TECHNOLOGY
15. This Ard Fheis recognises the dramatic changes that are taking place in the composition and structure of the workforce and the nature of work itself as a result of the application of new technology.

This Ard Fheis recognises the potential of new technology to become a weapon of the left, rather than a strategy of the right.

Accordingly, this Ard Fheis:
1) Calls for the development of a state led technology research and production sector and rejects the current strategy of grant-aiding multinational assembly plants masquerading as an electronics industry.
2) Calls for a national policy to encourage labour intensive industry in the services sector to compensate for the declining number of manufacturing jobs which has resulted from new technology and rejects the current policy of rewarding capital intensive industries with little employment potential.
3) Welcomes the potential of new technology to create job flexibility and shorter working hours and rejects the use of new technology to create structural unemployment and job displacement.
4) Welcomes the potential of new technology to eliminate repetitive tasks and rejects the use of new technology to further systematise and synchronise human behaviour.
5) Calls for central planning by the Department of Industry and Commerce with a view to forecasting and planning for the effects of technology on the workforce, thereby providing a democratic forum for discussion on the implications of technology for future employment in the economy.

CLONDALKIN (Dublin S/W)

STATE ENTERPRISE
16. This Ard Fheis reiterates the support of the Workers’ Party for the expansion of commercial state companies into profit making and job creating areas. Efficient modernised state enterprise involved in the production of high value added goods and services is necessary in order to achieve economic growth and development. We call for the direction of state grants and subsidies to state companies to allow them to play a leading part in the industrial development of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Workers’ Party is totally opposed to the privatisation of public enterprise and pledges its support to trade unions and workers in opposing plans to hand over profitable assets to private interests.

NED STAPLETON (Dublin)

17. In view of the very high level of unemployment in and emigration
from the Cork area, caused by the collapse of the private manufacturing sector, this Ard Fheis/ADC calls for direct state intervention, using existing state companies to reindustrialise the area.

CORK NORTH CENTRAL C.C.

18. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls on the CEC to continue its policy of defending public enterprises from unwarranted attacks and hostile propaganda, along with the policy of demanding an extension of efficient public enterprise as a way of creating jobs and opposing all attempts to privatisate existing areas of public enterprise.

JOE O’CONNOR BRANCH (Dublin)

19. This Ard Fheis/ADC deplores the present Fianna Fáil Government’s U-turn on privatisation and calls on it now to drop any plans it has to partially or totally privatisate the Irish Life Insurance Company.

We reiterate the Party’s total opposition to privatisation of state companies as this is nothing more than the hand over of state assets, owned by all the people, to speculators at ‘knock-down’ prices.

We also demand that managers of state companies who advocate privatisations be dismissed from their positions.

CORK NORTH CENTRAL C.C.

THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY

20. The Ard Fheis calls for the Workers’ Party to investigate the Insurance Industry in Ireland with a view to producing a policy position for next year’s Ard Fheis.

LIMERICK CITY (Limerick East)

21. The Single European Act proposes free competition in the money market. The activities of other EEC countries in the Irish money market will mean that profits made here by other countries will cause money to flow out of the Republic of Ireland. Bearing these facts in mind we: (1) reject the idea that insurance should remain almost the exclusive preserve of private enterprise; (2) public enterprise activity should be further extended into the insurance industry to cover housing, transport, lands, commerce and industry.

WILLIAM THOMPSON BRANCH (Dublin)
WOMEN IN INDUSTRY AND MINIMUM WAGE

22. That this Ard Fheis, recognising
1. That women in industry are still disadvantaged, despite 'equality' legislation and lip-service to 'women's rights';
2. That low pay is still the major obstacle to women's equality in employment, that the vast majority of low paid workers are women, and that the solution to this lies mainly in structural change in the labour market (including an end to sex-segregated industries and occupations and better legal protections for workers in casual, insecure, temporary or marginal employment);
3. That the current restructuring of the labour market by capitalism, both nationally and internationally, is aimed at decreasing pay and reducing the price of labour, by creating or retaining a permanent 'pool' of unemployed, under-employed, and under-paid workers, and that this particularly affects women and makes progress more difficult;
4. That even when increases in women's earnings occur, the burden of taxation and the erosion of the value of the 'social wage' (through the worsening of health, education and other social services, reductions in local services and the introduction of new charges by local authorities, health boards and other public bodies have particularly adverse effects on women as low-paid workers, social welfare recipients, or dependents of men in these categories;

CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT
(a) To amend the equality legislation so as to render it effective in removing all direct and indirect sex discrimination;
(b) To provide positive support and encouragement for 'positive action' programmes which will facilitate women's entry and advancement to non-traditional areas of employment;
(c) To introduce minimum wage legislation and extend the application of Joint Labour Committees to all major industries, so as to end the scandal of low pay and super-exploitation of women workers and others in weak industries, undervalued occupations and 'marginal' employments;
(d) To introduce reforms in tax and social welfare which will end all remaining sex discrimination, levy taxation on all income on a progressive basis, and restructure state investment in favour of industrial development and the provision of better social services; thus increasing the true value of women's — and all workers' — wages and bringing about real improvements in their quality of life.

ARD COMHAIIRLE/CEC
23. That this Ard Fheis/ADC calls on the Workers’ Party to initiate a campaign for the introduction of a Minimum Pay Act which:
(a) provides for the extension of Joint Labour Committees to cover all industries;
(b) makes special provision for part-time and casual workers, as well as young workers;
(c) provides for an effective system of enforcement with the co-operation of the trade union movement;
(d) ensures that the statutory minimum pay rate is maintained at least at two-thirds of average male industrial earnings;
and that in campaigning for this legislation, the Party should formally seek the support of other progressive organisations, parties and individuals, both inside and outside the Oireachtas.

DUN LAOGHAIRE (Dublin D/L)

24. That this Ard Fheis/ADC agrees that the Ard Comhairle/CEC initiate a party campaign on low pay to include the demand for a national minimum wage.

BALLYMUN (Dublin N/W)

25. This Ard Fheis calls upon the Westminster Government to implement a national minimum wage in Northern Ireland for all workers of 21 years and over, of £2.50 per hour.

NEWCASTLE (South Down)

26. This Ard Fheis condemns the poor conditions of employment as well as the low wages of tens of thousands of workers, many of whom are women, and calls for a statutory minimum wage to improve the position of low paid workers. Further, this Ard Fheis calls for the extension of employment rights to protect part-time, temporary and contract workers.

SANTRY WHITEHALL (Dublin N/W)

AN t-IMIRCE/EMIGRATION

27. Is tar éis an Ghorta Mhóir 1845—47 a thosaigh an t-imirce ón tír seo — lean sé ar aghaidh ó shin gan ach sos beag sna seachtaidh. Tá an t-imirce chomh mór anois agus go bhfuil paraistí beag mar Leitir Móir i ndon fuireann peile (Gaeltachta) a chuir ar an bpáirc i Londain agus New York agus i Chicago.

Is trua leis an Árd Fheis seo an t-imirce, cáineann muid an chúis a tá leis agus an dearcadh diúltach atá ag an Rialtais agus an có-Rialtais a bhí agus go
In all countries of Europe the key role and importance of public transportation systems is recognised by national governments which intervene to provide funds for both capital and running costs, essential for maintaining competitiveness and efficiency.

Given that, and recognising that the comparable level and extent of intervention by the state in Ireland is abysmally low, this Ard Fheis agrees that in order to restore proper funding and operational efficiency to the Irish public transport agencies a special levy be applied to commercial enterprises operating within urban areas serviced by public transport, and that this levy be used exclusively for the purposes of providing additional funding for Irish public transportation systems.

GALWAY NORTH EAST (Galway West)

INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY/LABOUR LAW

That this Ard Fheis instructs the relevant Party committee to draw up an extensive discussion document on the concepts and practical working of Industrial Democracy. This document should be produced within the next six months and be published either as a separate document or as an article, or series of articles, in some other party publication.

DONNYCARNEY (Dublin N/C)

Resolution 29 from Donnycarney covers similar received from Drumcondra/Glasnevin.

30. That this Ard Fheis/ADC recognises that the current Minister for Labour is in the process of drawing up changes in a number of Labour Laws. That this Ard Fheis believes that the only changes in any labour legislation that will be acceptable to this Party are those which improve workers' rights.

GALWAY CITY WEST BRANCH (Galway West)

31. That this Ard Fheis/ADC instructs the CEC to oppose any attempt by the Government to take away rights now held by the trade union movement.

SHANKILL/BALLYBRACK (Dublin D/L)
TAXATION
32. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the growing practice of dual bookkeeping and accounts systems by most private business companies, ‘professional’ practices etc. This is a tax avoidance system to hide turnover and profits and is made possible by the ‘skills’ of the accountancy firms who prepare annual accounts.

As the self-employed etc. are assessed for tax on such accounts, in order to ensure that this sector pays its share of tax, we demand:
1. that the Revenue Commissioners be given adequate powers and resources to investigate company accounts and to enable them to make detailed random examinations;
2. that legislation be enacted to make accountancy firms legally liable when they knowingly, or negligently endorse fraudulent, misleading or inaccurate accounts.

DUBLIN SOUTH

33. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the government for not proceeding rigorously enough with its plan to impose proper rates of income tax and PRSI on the farmers and self-employed and thereby reducing the burden on the PAYE sector.

WEXFORD

REGIONAL INVESTMENT
34. That this Ard Fheis/ADC calls on the government to apply to the EEC Regional Fund to match the £1 million being put up by Cork Harbour Commissioners for the purchase of two cranes for the discharge of ships at the Deepwater Berth in Ringaskiddy.

CORK CITY NORTH WEST (Cork N/C)
The Environment

Steering Committee Recommendations
All motions in this section — 2 to 26 inclusive — will be taken as addenda to the document on the environment which is part of the Clár, although circulated separately.

However, Regions, Constituencies and Branches may make amendments or addenda and these will be taken under this debate.

1. That this Ard Fheis/ADC adopts the document “The Environment is where we live”, as the Workers’ Party’s policy statement on the Environment.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

2. This Ard Fheis/ADC reaffirms Workers’ Party policy on protection of the Environment and calls for a realistic level of enforcement and realistic penalties against polluters of our inland waterways and rivers.

MITCHELSTOWN (Cork East)

3. This Ard Fheis/ADC requests that the Party develop and promote a comprehensive policy on the natural environment to be published by October 1988.

WEXFORD

POLLUTION
4. This Ard Fheis/ADC notes with concern the failure by successive governments to act to prevent serious air pollution in large urban areas and in particular condemns the inactivity of the present Minister for the Environment who has ignored pollution levels in the Dublin area of up to four times the permitted EEC level. We call for an urgent programme of action to combat air pollution based on:

- the re-introduction of realistic grants to allow for installation of cleaner heating systems;
- smokeless fuel costs being subsidised so as to allow sale at the same price as ordinary household fuels.

The Ard Fheis also notes the absence of any comment or action on this matter by the Minister for Health despite his much repeated interest in health promotion and in the prevention of unnecessary hospitalisation.

NORTH CITY CENTRE (Dublin Central)
5. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls on the government to establish sufficient monitoring stations in Dublin and other urban areas to establish the true level of smog and lead emission in the atmosphere. We also call on the government to introduce a financial package which will allow householders to convert to and permanently use smokeless fuel without incurring extra costs to themselves.

DONNYCARNEY (Dublin North Central)

6. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls for the banning of some chemicals which cause cancer and are ecologically harmful, such as Chloro FluoroCarbons (CFCs), from aerosols and other household products.

FINGLAS WEST (Dublin N/W)

7. This ARd Fheis notes that the British nuclear industry is presenting an ever increasing threat to the health of Irish people and accordingly:
1. Directs the Party's TDs to continue to impose pressure on the government to take action through diplomatic and legal channels to remove this threat.
2. Urges the launching of a comprehensive national campaign by the Party on this issue.

WEXFORD

8. That this Ard Fheis/ADC notes and congratulates the efforts made by the Party, through its public representatives to highlight the major danger posed to Irish people by the continued operation of Sellafield (formerly Windscale) Nuclear Reprocessing Plant.

This Ard Fheis commits the Party to continue its efforts to force the closure of all UK nuclear installations which are hazardous to the health of Irish people.

DONNYCARNEY (Dublin North Central)

9. That this Ard Fheis/ADC calls for an immediate cessation of dumping of nuclear waste from the Sellafield plant into the Irish Sea, as such dumping is polluting the sea and placing the health of the population of Northern Ireland in jeopardy.

LOWER GLEN (Lagan Valley)

10. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls for the introduction of adequate and realistic legislation to deal with the growing problem of pollution of our waterways by both individuals and industrial companies throughout the
country. In support of this legislation sufficient finances should be made available to allow for proper monitoring and the preservation of our waterways. Stringent fines should also be introduced for all offenders who should have to pay adequate compensation allowing the full restoration of affected waterways.

GALWAY NORTH EAST (Galway West)

URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE & RENEWAL & DEVELOPMENT
11. That this Ard Fheisl/ADC calls on the government to formulate a comprehensive programme for urban renewal which will ensure the planned and effective revitalisation of our major towns and cities. Such a programme must include democratic controls by the local authorities, combined with properly planned economic, social and cultural development. Immediate steps must also be taken to control the price of building land, to achieve a proper social mix in inner city housing and to initiate an imaginative programme of environmental construction designed to combine job creation with environmental improvement.

DUBLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

12. The delay in the provision of a proper town centre and a rapid rail system for the people of Tallaght is yet another example of the neglect of this area by various governments. This Ard Fheisl/ADC calls for positive action to be taken by government to provide these necessary facilities.

TALLAGHT EAST/GREENHILLS (Dublin S/W)

13. That this Ard Fheisl/ADC calls for the development of existing rail lines to provide a commuter service to growing working class areas such as Ballyfermot and Clondalkin, with the appropriate feeder services.

JAMES LARKIN/BALLYFERMOT (Dublin West)

14. That this Ard Fheisl/ADC condemns the long delay in the proposed building of the Tallaght Town Centre.

Given the high unemployment rate in the area, the jobs created in building the centre, and the permanent jobs when the centre is complete would go some way to help the high unemployment in this area.

TALLAGHT WEST (Dublin S/W)

15. That this Ard Fheisl/ADC demands the full implementation of the original plan to extend the DART system to Tallaght, Clondalkin and Blanchardstown, thereby creating much needed employment.
While the introduction of the local link bus service is much appreciated we feel that Tallaght, with a population of over seventy thousand people, has many people living in relative isolation because of the lack of a proper transport system linking it with the city centre, and other major suburbs, such as Clondalkin, Blanchardstown etc.

TALLAGHT WEST (Dublin S/W)

16. That this Ard Fheis/ADC noting the proposed Custom House site development in the north inner city of Dublin and the extraordinary planning and tax laws applicable to the project and noting the way in which similar private enterprise schemes for selective ‘urban renewal’ have been to the detriment of the public good and the good of local communities calls for:

★ A comprehensive policy and action plan for the renewal of the entire inner city of Dublin based on a draft plan properly discussed with the representative organisations of the people of Dublin and on the discussion and decision of the elected Parliament of Dublin, i.e. Dublin Corporation.

★ A tax on derelict sites and dwellings and a combination of incentives and sanctions by national government to encourage local authorities who control significant numbers of such sites and dwellings.

★ An active policy of use of CPOs for the acquisition and development of derelict and neglected buildings.

★ Earmarking of specific areas of serious social deprivation for special projects aimed at linking housing/flat development with recreational, educational and employment opportunities with negotiation of specific EEC funding for designated areas.

★ A system of commercial insurance assistance in order to allow small to medium sized businesses set up in areas regarded by insurance companies as ‘black spots’ and where commercial insurance is in many cases effectively denied.

★ An adequate system of home renovation grants to enable renovation of older housing stock with repayment clauses to prevent re-sale of renovated premises within a given period.

★ The grant for local authority tenants to buy a new house to be made available for second-hand houses in the inner city areas.

★ Funding for the upgrading and development of local authority flat blocks with support schemes for groups of tenants wishing to purchase through housing associations and tenant co-ops.

★ An urgent programme for the creation of sustainable employment in the inner city areas based on the full development of the potential of Dublin port to act as a manufacturing industrial base thus contributing not only to the economic wellbeing of the area, but also to the lowering
of heavy goods traffic through the city centre.

DUBLIN NORTH CITY CENTRE (Dublin Central)

17. This Ard Fheisl ADC condemns the lack of attention in the Dublin City Draft Plan given to the outer city areas where 80% of the population of Dublin lives, calls for the establishment of Dublin Corporation technical aid teams to conduct improvement studies in conjunction with the local communities and further demands the development of comprehensive community based maintenance teams to implement a five year minimum maintenance plan for these areas.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL (Dublin N/W)

18. In view of the recent difficulties experienced by local authorities in acquiring open space land and the complications arising from compensation claims, this Ard Fheisl ADC requests the Environment Committee of the Party to produce a report and recommendations on this issue and urges that these recommendations be acted on by our TDs and Councillors at the earliest opportunity.

DRIMNAGH BRANCH (Dublin S/C)

LOCAL DEMOCRACY
19. That this Ard Fheisl ADC supports the granting of local government as an entitlement in towns with a population in excess of 1,500 (one thousand five hundred) and that entitlements would progress with the town's population growth.

KILDARE CONSTITUENCY COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

20. That this Ard Fheisl ADC recognises the importance of environmental protection, that the CEC takes a firm stand on environmental issues, and we call upon the CEC to arrange education lectures for all members on environmental issues.

CORK SOUTH EAST BRANCH (Cork S/C)

HOUSING
21. This Ard Fheisl ADC considers that local authority housing stock, as well as providing accommodation for workers and their families, also
constitutes a multimillion pound public resource. Accordingly, we abhor the manner in which this resource is being jeopardised by the failure of local authorities to carry out essential repairs, as a result of government cutbacks.

WEXFORD

22. We reject the recent changes in local authority house purchase loans which mean:
a a reduction of service and management by local authorities,
b a direct subsidy of public money to banks and financial institutions while local authorities have to carry a higher risk.

BRAY N/E (Wicklow)

23. That this Ard Fheis/Annual Conference calls on the Minister for the Environment to make finance available to Cork Corporation as a matter of urgency to allow them to finish the bricking up and refurbishing of the NBA housing schemes which were built in the early 1970s.

MAYFIELD BRANCH (Cork N/C)

24. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls for the restoration of a national rent scheme for local authority tenants.

WEXFORD

25. This Ard Fheis/ADC notes the scandalous run-down of house maintenance and construction by local authorities as a result of government funding cuts, combined with the refusal to carry out the long overdue Housing Standards Survey; and commits the incoming CEC to prioritising a campaign for adequate housing construction and standards in the coming year.

EAST WALL/MARINO (Dublin Central)

26. That we condemn the government's policy in running down the construction industry and local authority funding which has led to major cutbacks in house-building and infrastructural development.

While the impact of this is already felt in job losses the long-term effects on future developments are also of grave concern.

WICKLOW CONSTITUENCY COUNCIL
Local Government

Steering Committee Recommendations
Under sub-head Travelling Community: 1 & 2 to be taken together.
Under sub-head Funding of Local Authorities: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 to be taken separately under this heading.
Under sub-head Gaming Arcades: 8 to be taken separately.
Under sub-head Fire Safety 9 & 10 to be taken individually.
11 & 12 to be taken together under sub-head Play Centres.
13 take under 'Liberties Motorway'.

TRAVELLING COMMUNITY
1. This Ard Fheisl ADC deplores the continuing failure to provide suitable accommodation for travelling people, especially in the Dublin area which has the largest traveller population and calls on:
   1. the government to provide adequate funds for the provision and maintenance of sheltered housing and halting sites,
   2. Dublin Corporation and Dublin County Council, as an urgent priority, to implement its planned programme of serviced halting sites without further delay.

TALLAGHT EAST/GREENHILLS (Dublin S/C)

2. That this Ard Fheisl ADC condemns the delays in the settlement of travelling people and instructs all Workers' Party Councillors to actively pursue through local authorities the immediate provision of serviced halting sites and group housing, where appropriate.

SHANKILL/BALLYBRACK (Dublin Dun Laoghaire)

FUNDING OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES
3. This Ard Fheisl/ADC condemns utterly the drastic cuts in funding to local authorities imposed by this present government with the cooperation of their friends in the other right-wing parties and calls for the proper funding of local authorities to enable them to provide the essential services to the communities in a planned and equitable manner.

TALLAGHT EAST/GREENHILLS (Dublin S/C)

4. That this Ard Fheisl/ADC re-affirms its commitment to the principle of a property tax based on the traditional economic relationship between property and the means of production; and that this Ard Fheisl resolutely opposes any attempt by conservative political parties to impose a Residential
Tax on working people (a) who are already overburdened by the current taxation regime, (b) whose residences are owned by financial institutions, and (c) whose residences have no potential for production or profit.

CLONDALKIN BRANCH (Dublin S/W)

5. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls on all elected representatives at all levels to oppose the imposition of a poll tax in Northern Ireland since such a tax is a direct attack on the working class, which would pay an extortionate amount of the tax, while those who own large properties would pay much less than at present, giving a financial benefit to the capitalist class, and forcing those with large families deeper into the poverty trap.

UPPER BANN/CRAIGAVON

6. That this Ard Fheis/ADC reiterates its opposition to taxes on essential services such as water and calls on the government to rescind the legislation which first introduced them in 1983 and thereby honour its pre-election pledge.

DUNGARVAN (Waterford)

7. That this Ard Fheis/ADC seeks the abolition of development charges on property valued less than £40,000 (forty thousand pounds).

MALLOW (Cork East)

GAMING ARCADES

8. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the gaming arcade owners for their refusal to abide by the decisions of the various city and county councils, compelling them to stop gaming.

It's a clear indication of the financial wealth of these arcade owners that they are attempting to circumvent the law by engaging in a legal filibuster, from District Courts to High Courts and even to Supreme Court appeals.

This Ard Fheis/ADC calls upon all party councillors to continue the struggle to have these gaming arcades become a thing of the past.

WALKINSTOWN/PERRYSTOWN (Dublin S/C)

FIRE SAFETY

9. This Ard Fheis/ADC notes the recent Dublin Firebrigade strike resulting from Dublin Corporation's attempts to cut staffing levels and increase the workload of remaining staff, and further notes the failure to implement safety training courses agreed seven years ago after Stardust.

Congratulates Dublin fire staff and others in Dun Laoghaire for their
resistance to these cuts which seriously threaten lives and public safety and re-affirm full support for an adequately funded, staffed and trained fire service throughout the country.

**EAST WALL/MARINO (Dublin Central)**

10. Following the outbreak of a spate of fires in homes throughout the North, the incoming CEC instructs the Party’s public representatives to actively campaign for the installation of smoke detectors in all homes, including private sector dwellings.

**LOWER GLEN (Lagan Valley)**

**PLAY CENTRES**

11. The Ard Fheis/ADC congratulates our Dublin Councillors who, along with other concerned interests, won a reprieve of at least another year for Corporation-run playgrounds in Dublin City.

   Recognising the importance of these playgrounds as
   (a) a physically safe play area for children,
   (b) a supervised drug-free environment,
   (c) an important facility which allows mothers a break from the constant work and worry of child-minding.

   This Ard Fheis resolves to continue our campaign to ensure the continuation of funding for these playgrounds.

**DONNYCARNEY BRANCH (Dublin North Central)**

12. That this Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the proposal of Dublin Corporation to close down the eight playcentres in Dublin, a measure which will severely hit young children in working class areas already savagely affected by Dublin Corporation cut backs.

**JAMES LARKIN, BALLYFERMOT (Dublin West)**

**LIBERTIES MOTORWAY**

13. That this Ard Fheis/ADC:

   condemns the recent decision by Dublin City Councillors, FF, FG, PD, Labour Party, to push through the Clanbrassil Street motorway against the expressed wishes of the local community and that we oppose further the remaining plans to destroy the Liberties by motorway madness.

**LIBERTIES (Dublin S/C)**
Agriculture/Food Development

Steering Committee Recommendations
1, 2 & 3 to be taken individually.

1. This Ard Fheis/ADC views with concern the incoherent and damaging nature of agriculture policy within the EEC. Following a period of subsidised overproduction and surplus, there is now a drive to take productive land out of agricultural use. This could eventually result in underproduction and a rapid increase in price to the consumer.

The development of agriculture needs a properly structured programme with clearly defined aims namely: the provision of food which is plentiful and affordable and the creation and maintenance of secure, well paid jobs in the production, processing and marketing sectors.

COUNTY DERRY BRANCH

2. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls upon the Party to draw up an agricultural policy suitable for the 1990s, which will take account of problems such as rural wages, taxation, housing and land use.

NEWCASTLE (South Down)

3. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the government proposal to privatise the Northern Ireland Artificial Insemination Service, putting at risk the jobs of those employed in the service and damaging the development of the Northern Ireland cattle herd.

COUNTY DERRY BRANCH
International Affairs

Steering Committee Recommendations
Under sub-head State Foreign Policy:
1 Main Resolution with 2 & 3 as addenda.
4 take separately under sub-head Peace, Disarmament.
5 with 6 as an addendum, take under EEC sub-head.
7 under Australia sub-head, with 8 as an addendum.
9 with 10 & 11 as addenda under Palestine sub-head.
12 under sub-head South Africa, with 13 as an addendum.
14 & 15 take together under sub-head Nicaragua.
16 under sub-head Dumping of Nuclear Waste.
17, 18 & 19 to be taken separately under sub-head General.

STATE FOREIGN POLICY
1. This Ard Fheisl ADC expresses alarm at the increasing submerging of our neutrality within EEC foreign policy, and notes that the adoption of the Single European Act last year, without adequate re-negotiation, creates additional difficulties for continuance of an independent and non-aligned foreign policy by this country.

This erosion of neutrality is emphasised in a number of ways, such as the refusal of the Department of Foreign Affairs to sponsor proposals for peace initiatives in Nicaragua, the continued failure at the UN to recognise the new government of Kampuchea which replaced the genocidal Pol Pot regime, allowing unrestricted overflights of military aircraft last year, many on NATO exercises, and refusing to accept commonsense proposals such as the banning of any craft from Irish waters and airspace which carry nuclear weapons;

—welcomes, however, the recent adoption in the Dáil of an all-party motion initiated by the Workers’ Party, supporting the plan for a ceasefire and peace talks in Central America as evidence that efforts to maintain and develop a positive foreign policy for Ireland can be successful;

—reaffirms support for Ireland becoming a member of the non-Aligned Movement as the best method of ensuring that Ireland will play a positive role in seeking solutions to international problems;

—instructs the incoming CEC to seek a meeting with the Department of Foreign Affairs on these matters.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

2. This Ard Fheisl/ADC urges the government to accord diplomatic
status to the Cuban and Nicaraguan governments.

FINGLAS WEST (Dublin N/W)

3. This Ard Fheis/ADC reiterates its call for the government to recognise the ANC and PLO as legitimate representatives of the majority populations in South Africa and Palestine respectively by forging diplomatic links with both movements.

FINGLAS WEST (Dublin N/W)

PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

4. This Ard Fheis/ADC welcomes the signing in December 1987 of the INF treaty between the United States of America and the Soviet Union. This agreement represents the first real reduction in the nuclear arsenal and is indicative of the desires of the peoples of all the world for an end to the arms race and the destruction of all nuclear weaponry.

This Ard Fheis expresses the hope that this represents the beginning of a new era in international relations which will ultimately lead to further and more far-reaching agreements on arms control. We therefore call on the USA and the Soviet Union to work towards an agreement on longer range nuclear weapons which could be signed this summer in Moscow. Such a process gives confidence that the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction can be achieved before the year 2000.

This Ard Fheis recognises the contributions of many in the world which have lead to such positive agreements. All countries big and small have a role to play in securing a nuclear free world. Therefore this Ard Fheis calls upon the Irish Government and all peace organisations in Ireland to redouble their peace activities in the coming year, as a means of consolidating what has already been achieved and as an impetus to what remains to be achieved.

In particular we call upon the Irish Government to promote peace and disarmament policies in international fora such as the United Nations, the European Security and Co-Operation process, and increased contacts with the Non-aligned Movement.

Further this Ard Fheis calls upon the incoming CEC to draw up a programme of peace activities for Party branches in the coming year.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

EEC (SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT)

5. This Ard Fheis/ADC commits itself to an ongoing campaign by our Party for major and fundamental reform of the institutions of the European Community. Such reform must be directed towards measures which will
benefit the people of the member states of the community rather than simply increase the profits of the major financial institutions.

In this campaign we will co-operate with other European representatives of the working class in ensuring that issues such as full employment, balanced regional and social development, democratic control of all community institutions become political priorities in the years ahead.

Following the ratification of the Single European Act in 1987, all the member states of the EEC are now committed to greater economic, social and political integration, with 1992 as the target date for the achievement of the single international market. Our party pointed out during the referendum campaign that without explicit commitments in the Act for doubling of the regional and social funds and specific derogations for Ireland, the process of integration would continue to work to the disadvantage of Ireland. Since the ratification of the Act our worst fears are increasingly being realised and now calls for urgent attention by representatives of the working class.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

6. This Ard Fheisl ADC calls for the production of a comprehensive Party policy document on the European Community to be available by this time next year.

KILMORE/ARTANE (Dublin N/C)

AUSTRALIA

7. This Ard Fheisl ADC expresses its support for equal rights for the aboriginal people of Australia, in the Australian Bi-centennial year, and recognises that this will require an immediate and effective programme of social, economic and political change.

As a practical step we call on all Irish elected representatives who visit Australia in 1988 to express their concern at the plight of the aborigines.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

8. This Ard Fheisl ADC calls on the Australian government in this year, which they are celebrating as the Australian Bi-centennial, to recognise the rights of the aborigines, Australia's first citizens, and compensate them for their losses as second-class citizens in their own country, resulting from their treatment by non-aboriginal people and government in Australia.

UPPER BANN/CRAIGAVON

PALESTINE

9. This Ard Fheisl ADC condemns the current 'iron fist' policy of the
Israeli government in the occupied areas.

- Recognises that the only solution to the problems of the area lies in the granting of a homeland for the Palestine people;
- Calls for an end to the current Israeli Zionist policy of brutality and expulsions and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied areas;
- Reiterates full support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people, and calls on the Irish Government to extend formal recognition to the PLO;
- Supports the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices to be attended by all States in the region, together with the USA and USSR, and with the PLO as full participants as representatives of the Palestinian people, as a major first step in seeking a lasting and just solution to the problems in the area.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

10. This Ard Fheisl ADC condemns the acts of repression and terror by the Israeli authorities and “seltben” against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as indicative of the ongoing persecution of the Palestinian people. This Ard Fheis renews its call for an international peace conference involving the Palestine Liberation Organisation and for an independent Palestinian state as an interim step towards the establishment of a democratic, secular state of Palestine.

SOUTH BELFAST BRANCH

11. The Lagan Valley Constituency Council calls on this Ard Fheis to condemn the activity of the Israeli government in the occupied territories.

LAGAN VALLEY CONSTITUENCY COUNCIL

SOUTH AFRICA

12. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the failure of the Fianna Fáil government to take any positive steps at international level aimed at bringing about an end to Apartheid rule in South Africa and the illegal South African occupation of Namibia, or to extend support for organisations in these countries seeking to bring about democracy and an end to racist government, as well as implementation of United Nations Resolutions on Namibia.

In particular this Ard Fheis calls for recognition by the Irish Government of the African National Congress of South Africa and the South West Peoples’ Organisation (SWAPO) of Namibia, and the extension of official invitations to representatives of both ANC and SWAPO for talks on Southern Africa, noting that Ireland is one of very few European countries which have yet to
grant such recognition.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

13. This year Nelson Mandela marks his 26th year of imprisonment for defending the rights of his people in South Africa.

This Ard Fheis/ADC salutes the courage, integrity and humanity which have enabled Nelson Mandela to withstand the barbaric punishments inflicted by the racist South African Regime.

Nelson Mandela is an inspiration to all those in the world who believe in liberty and the rights of people everywhere to live free from discrimination due to colour, race and creed.

Nelson Mandela’s unjust incarceration shames not only the Pretoria regime but also its international backers, particularly the USA which has close military, political and economic links with South Africa.

This Ard Fheis reaffirms that Nelson Mandela is a hero of the international working class. Wherever freedom and the rights of man are cherished his name is legend.

FINGLAS EAST (Dublin N/W)

NICARAGUA

14. This Ard Fheis/ADC congratulates the Sandinista government on their efforts to secure peace and safeguard democracy in their country, and noting the adoption of an All Party motion in the Dáil last year backing peace in Central America:
Resolves to pressure the government to
—open diplomatic relations with Nicaragua at least on a non-residential basis initially.
—release food stocks from intervention to the Nicaraguan government;
—support all positive measures at the United Nations aimed at ending armed attacks on the Nicaraguan people and government to allow them reconstruct their society.

EAST WALL/MARINO

15. This Ard Fheis/ADC notes the refusal of the recent SDLP conference to condemn continual American aggression against the Nicaraguan people. This we believe is the direct result of their acceptance of American gold from their paymasters in the Pentagon.

CROMAC (South Belfast)
DUMPING OF NUCLEAR WASTE

16. This Ard Fheisl ADC notes with concern the continuing policy of the British government of dumping nuclear waste off the Irish coast. Over 150,000 tons of nuclear waste already dumped in the North Atlantic poses immense risks both to the future health of people in Ireland and for widespread pollution of the ocean and environment.

- Notes also that since 1983 the London Dumping Convention has placed a moratorium on all dumping of radioactive wastes at sea, which the British government ignores as 'non-binding', and that while an embargo by trade unions has prevented dumping of industrial nuclear waste the British government proposes to continue dumping antiquated nuclear submarines using the British Navy.

This Ard Fheis therefore calls on the Department of Foreign Affairs to seek international support for a fully binding moratorium on dumping of nuclear waste at sea before the next meeting of the London Dumping Convention in October 1988, and to have all radioactive substances placed on the Annex 1 ‘Blacklist’ of the Convention — which prevents dumping at sea under any circumstances.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

GENERAL

17. This Ard Fheis/ADC commends the work of the various overseas development charities, encourages all Party members to actively assist these bodies, but affirms that a lasting solution to world poverty can only come through a radical restructuring of the global economy along socialist lines.

FINGLAS WEST (Dublin (N/W)

18. In the Republic of Ireland there is much unused land, cutaway bogs and land taken out of production by the EEC grants system.

The Workers’ Party proposes that the land should be acquired or used by the state to produce food for the underdeveloped world. Food produced in this way should be processed in Ireland by Irish labour.

This food should then substitute our present monetary contribution to the EEC Food Aid Programme.

WILLIAM THOMPSON BRANCH (Dublin)

19. The Lagan Valley Constituency Council condemns Libyan interference in Irish affairs.

LAGAN VALLEY CONSTITUENCY COUNCIL
Youth

Steering Committee Recommendations
1 — Main Resolution under Workers Party Youth Constitution.
2 with 3 & 4 (as addenda) to form a substantive under the sub-head 'Building Workers Party Youth'.
5 & 6 to be taken separately under sub-head 'Young People in Northern Ireland'.
7 with 8 as an addendum to be taken under sub-head 'Exploitation of Young Workers.
9: take separately under sub-head 'Youth and the Law'.

WORKERS PARTY YOUTH CONSTITUTION
1. 1. The name of the organisation shall be Workers Party Youth.
2. The aims of the organisation shall be:
   a To educate young people in the principles of Socialism and enable them to play a full part in the establishment of an Irish Socialist Republic.
   b To promote the development of young people through a variety of cultural, recreational, sporting activities, and encourage them to participate in all areas of life.
   c To provide support and assistance to other progressive movements and oppressed peoples throughout the world.
3. a Workers Party Youth is constituted under Section J of the Workers Party constitution.
   b Workers Party Youth as the youth-section of the Workers Party accepts the political leadership of the Central Executive Council of the Workers Party.
4. a Membership of Workers Party Youth shall be open to all those aged between 10 and 22 who support the aims of the Workers Party.
   b Workers Party Youth shall be organised into a Junior and a Senior section. The Junior section shall cater for those aged 10—14, and the Senior section for those aged 15—22.
   c Any person wishing to join Workers Party Youth must submit an application form with the registration fee.
   d Those applying for membership of the Junior section must get the written consent of their parents.
   e No member of Workers Party Youth can be a member of any other Party political organisation except the Workers Party.
   f Membership of Workers Party Youth may be extended past the upper age limit subject to the approval of the National Executive of
5. The National Executive shall have the right to expel any member, disband any Group or refuse membership to any applicant. Such a person or Group shall have the right to appeal in writing to the Central Executive of the Workers Party.

a Each youth-group shall consist of at least five members and be organised within parliamentary constituency boundaries.
b No youth-group shall be set up without the approval of the National Executive and without registering with that body.
c Leaders of youth-groups shall be at least 18 years of age. Each Junior youth-group shall have at least one male and one female leader. Exceptions to the above may be made only with the approval of the National Executive.
d Each youth-group shall be required to send a bi-monthly report of its activities to the National Executive. The National Executive shall ultimately have the power of veto over local campaigns initiated by youth-groups.
e The youth officer elected by a constituency council of the Workers Party, if not already so, must become an active member of the youth-section in the constituency. Where no youth-group exists he/she shall set about establishing one. He/she shall liaise between the constituency council and the youth-group(s) in the constituency.
f Workers Party Youth in any constituency shall be entitled to send two observers to constituency council meetings of the Party.
g The Chairperson and Organiser of a constituency council shall be entitled to attend as observers any meeting of the youth-section in the constituency.
h The National Executive shall have the power to establish an area committee of Workers Party Youth on a constituency or regional basis. Such a committee shall consist of not less than three youth-groups and its function shall be to co-ordinate activities in its area.

6. a Workers Party Youth shall hold an Annual Conference.
b The Annual Conference shall consist of: four delegates from each senior youth-group, two delegates from each junior youth-group and members of the National Executive. All delegates must be over 15 years of age. All other members shall also be entitled and encouraged to attend as observers.
c The function of the Annual Conference shall be to:
(i) discuss resolutions submitted by youth-groups and the National Executive;
(ii) review the previous year's work;
(iii) plan the coming year’s activities;
(iv) elect six members to the National Executive. Only those in two years’ continuous membership of Workers Party Youth and over 15 years of age shall be eligible to stand for election to the National Executive.

d Decisions, once taken by the Annual Conference, or by the National Executive are binding on members and all members must work towards their implementation.

7. a The National Executive shall be responsible for the organisation and administration of Workers Party Youth between Conferences.
b The National Executive shall consist of a maximum of nine members, six of whom shall be elected by the Annual Conference, and who must then be ratified by the CEC of the Workers’ Party. One member of the Executive, the full-time organiser, shall be appointed by the CEC of the Workers’ Party.
c The National Executive shall have the right to co-opt up to two members, who must also be ratified by the CEC of the Workers’ Party.
d The National Executive shall meet at least every two months.
e Those elected to the National Executive, if not already so, must become members of the Workers’ Party.
f The National Executive at its first meeting shall elect the following officers: chairperson, treasurer/finance officer, international officer, public relations officer, student officer, education officer, recreational/cultural officer. The full-time organiser shall automatically be secretary to the Executive. All officers shall work closely with the organiser.
g The National Executive shall have the right to invite to its meetings as observers, representatives of youth-groups.
h A Standing Committee shall be elected by the National Executive to include the full-time organiser, which shall meet at least every two weeks.
i The National Executive shall prepare a report from the Annual Conference of Workers Party Youth, to be presented to the Ard Fheis of the Workers’ Party.
j The National Executive shall have the power to set out rules dealing with any matter not covered by this constitution. However, these must be ratified by the following Annual Conference.
k The National Executive shall report regularly on its activities to the Executive Political Committee of the Workers’ Party.
l The National Executive shall also have responsibility for organising members of the Workers’ Party and Workers Party Youth in Third
Level Institutions. The National Executive shall have the authority to set up work groups in colleges/universities and to appoint convenors for these.

8. 
   a Every member shall pay an annual membership fee to the National Executive.
   b Every member shall pay a regular subscription to their youth-group the amount of which shall be decided from time to time by the National Executive.
   c Every youth-group shall pay an annual registration fee, the amount of which shall be decided from time to time by the National Executive.
   d The financial records of each youth-group shall be audited annually by the constituency treasurer of the Workers' Party. The constituency treasurer and the National Executive shall also have the right to inspect the financial records of youth-groups at any time.
   e In the event of any youth-group disbanding, its funds shall automatically revert to the National Executive.
   f The National Executive shall have the authority to raise funds in pursuit of its objectives.
   g The financial records of the National Executive shall be audited annually by the National Treasurer of the Workers' Party.

9. This constitution can only be amended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the delegates at the Annual Conference of Workers Party Youth. Any amendments must then be ratified by the Ard Fheis of the Workers' Party.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

BUILDING WORKERS PARTY YOUTH

2. To defeat terrorism and religious segregation in every aspect of life, to campaign for a secure peaceful future, young people must be actively encouraged to engage in the anti-sectarian, socialist politics of the Workers' Party. To ensure that this takes place we must give every assistance to the building of Workers Party Youth.

We call on this Ard Fheis/ADC to direct every branch and constituency to undertake a youth recruitment campaign in their area in conjunction with Workers Party Youth in the coming year.

BELFAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

7. That this Ard Fheis/ADC give priority to the development and expansion of our youth movement. That a recruitment campaign for youth be launched to provide the Workers' Party members of tomorrow.

NEWCASTLE (South Down)
4. That this Ard Fheis/ADC consider the establishment of a Junior Youth Movement at some future date if a significant demand for such an organisation can be shown to exist in any area.

KILBARRACK EAST (Dublin N/E)

YOUNG PEOPLE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

5. This Ard Fheis/ADC deplores the deteriorating physical, social and economic situation of young people in Northern Ireland and condemns the assaults on their well-being by the Conservative Government, aided and abetted by Nationalist and Unionist politicians. In particular, we must oppose the continued use of horrific “Islamic Fundamentalist” style attacks in which young people, unfortunate enough to get caught up in car theft and petty crime, have been savagely beaten and shot in every joint by paramilitaries.

We call on all those genuinely concerned with ridding our society of terrorism and with creating the peaceful conditions in which young people can secure a decent future for themselves, to join with us in our total rejection of terrorism.

BELFAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

6. That this Ard Fheis/ADC absolutely condemns the so-called punishment shootings of young people by paramilitary gangsters, calls for an end to this barbaric practice, full support for the forces of law and order to bring those guilty of these shootings to justice.

WHITEROCK BRANCH (West Belfast)

EXPLOITATION OF YOUNG WORKERS

7. This Ard Fheis/ADC notes the gross exploitation of young workers in many employments but especially in the services sector and such areas as the Fast-Food trade. The Ard Fheis notes that apart from the appallingly low wages, many young people work long and late hours and are often not insured.

The Ard Fheis calls on the Workers’ Party to campaign to force the government to introduce legislation which will ensure a basic living wage for all young workers.

DONNYCARNEY (Dublin North Central)

8. This Ard Fheis/ADC instructs Workers Party Youth to carry out a “Fair Day’s Pay for a Fair Day’s Work” campaign, highlighting the plight of under-paid, un-unionised young workers.

FINGLAS WEST (Dublin N/W)
YOUTH AND THE LAW

9. That this Ard Fheis/ADC instructs the Party to campaign for an alternative juvenile justice system in Northern Ireland. That this alternative juvenile justice system should be based on a strict separation of care and custody, and that its aim should be developmental rather than punitive.

And that the Ard Fheis should further instruct the Party to consistently highlight the inadequacies and abuses of the present system in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which spends more on locking young people up than any other country in Europe.

DOWNPATRICK (South Down)
Women

Steering Committee Recommendations
1, with 2 & 3 as addenda, to be the Main Resolution on Women at Work. 
4 — take separately under sub-head Law in Relation to Rape 
5 & 6 — take together under sub-head Equality.

WOMEN AT WORK
1. This Ard Fheis/ADC notes the large increase of women workers, particularly part-timers in Northern Ireland;
   That these workers need a better deal and where that matters most is decent pay;
   That poor conditions of employment, lack of employment rights and access to many social security benefits are a way of life for them;
   That cut-backs and privatization of public services further erode their general conditions of employment.
   This Ard Fheis therefore calls on Government to:
   ★ Introduce a statutory minimum wage.
   ★ Amend employment legislation to afford equal rights at work to part-timers.
   ★ Amend equality legislation to make it more effective as a means of achieving equal opportunities for women workers.
   ★ Promote, particularly in the public service, measures such as programmes of positive action and contract compliance aimed at ending discrimination against women workers.
   ★ Increase expenditure on, and end privatization of, public services.
   ★ Provide proper child care facilities so that women can have real choices about working full-time or part-time.
   This Ard Fheis/ADC further calls on trade unions to maintain vigorous campaigns to recruit and organise women workers.

BELFAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

2. This Ard Fheis/ADC supports the provision of a tax-free allowance for child-minding in the absence of a state-funded creche system.

LEIXLIP BRANCH (Kildare)

3. That this Ard Fheis/ADC calls on the government to provide creche facilities in Dáil Eireann, and that this call be seen as the first stage in a campaign to extend creche facilities to all public sector places of employment, and ultimately to all workplaces, in both public and private sectors.

KILBARRACK WEST (Dublin N/E)
LAW IN RELATION TO RAPE
4. This Ard Fheis/ADC reiterates the Party’s determination to have the legal definition of rape extended to include forced oral sex, forced anal sex and penetration by foreign objects. And to throw its full weight behind campaigns which seek justice for women in terms of parity of sentencing of offenders.

DOWNPATRICK (South Down)

EQUALITY
5. This Ard Fheis/ADC reconfirms its commitment to working for equality for women in all areas of society and will resist the thinking that sees such equality as a luxury when times are good.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL (Dublin N/W)

6. That this Ard Fheis/ADC reiterates its commitment to full female participation in all aspects of living. Our total attention is needed not only in raising women’s consciousness but particularly in raising men’s. Our ideological struggle will prove fruitless unless it achieves such consciousness and participation by both men and women.

BLACKROCK/STILLORGAN (Dublin Dun Laoghaire)
Health

Steering Committee Recommendations

Under sub-head Health in the Republic of Ireland:
1 & 2 together to be the substantive resolution, with 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 as addenda.

Under sub-head Northern Ireland:
9 to be Main Resolution with 10, 11, 12 & 13 as addenda.

Under sub-head Women’s Health:
14, 15, 16 & 17 to be taken individually.

HEALTH – REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

1. That this Ard Fheisl ADC reaffirms our total opposition to the health cuts which are creating a two-tier health system in which the public health system is being decimated and public health care reduced to dangerously low levels.

MITCHELSTOWN (Cork East)

2. This Ard Fheisl ADC condemns the cut-backs in the health and education services, and pledges the Party’s vigorous opposition to the alliance of the three right-wing parties.

RIVERSTOWN (Cork N/C)

3. This Ard Fheisl ADC re-asserts its opposition to the policy of reducing public funding to the health services.

   This policy has been implemented
   (a) without any, or adequate, planning for the overall health needs of the community;
   (b) with negligent disregard for the standards of care and availability of services for those dependent on them;
   (c) with a view to establishing a two-tier system of private and public care, where those who can pay will have access to good services quickly, and those who cannot pay will depend on ever reducing public services.

   While this may reduce public spending it will increase total community spending on health, and lead to duplication, lack of control and inefficiency. It is also politically unacceptable that money should be the factor determining health.

   DUBLIN SOUTH BRANCH
4. That this Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the long delays suffered by patients awaiting treatment due to severe cut-backs in the Southern Health Board area of Cork and Kerry.

   MAYFIELD (Cork N/C)

5. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the present government’s policy of cuts in the health service, which has prevented a paediatric unit being provided in Wexford County Hospital, thereby causing severe hardship and suffering to the parents and children of Co. Wexford.

   WEXFORD

6. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemning the run down of services at children’s hospitals such as Temple St and Crumlin, and the resultant inferior health service which poses a direct threat to children’s long-term health:
   - Calls for restoration of adequate emergency services on a 24 hour, seven days basis to ensure sufficient access to health care.

   EAST WALL/MARINO (Dublin Central)

7. This Ard Fheis/ADC notes that for the second year in succession the pay for trainee nurses has been drastically reduced. The Ard Fheis condemns this savage attack on the livelihoods of workers in the Health service especially at a time when staff cut-backs are forcing more work and responsibility on these trainees.

   The Ard Fheis contrasts the treatment meted out to these nurses with the handouts and facilities given to private consultants who are abusing the public health service for their own gain.

   DONNYCARNEY (Dublin N/C)

8. The Ard Fheis/ADC demands that the Minister for Health recognises the disastrous effects the embargo on recruitment and promotions in the health service is having on patient care and staff well-being. We insist on the directive to the health boards being rescinded totally.

   NAVAN (Meath)

HEALTH - NORTHERN IRELAND

9. This Ard Fheis/ADC recognises that the NHS cannot be safe in the hands of the Conservative Government because:
   1. Conservative political philosophy is implacably hostile to the concept of public services.
2 There can be no equitable NHS for all alongside a system of 'private' treatment. This ADC therefore reiterates our belief that:
1 The NHS can only continue for as long as it is funded out of central taxation and free at the point of delivery to patients.
2 That campaigns to save the NHS must be politically motivated rather than based on specific threats to individual services or hospitals.
3 That the vast majority of people are opposed to cuts in personal taxation while funding to the NHS is reduced.
4 That there is sufficient public money available to fund the NHS: only the political will is missing.

Furthermore, this ADC commits its branches to:
1 Raise the political issues central to the NHS at all times.
2 Be vigorously engaged in campaigns to defend services at community and hospital level.
3 To bring public attention to the vast amounts of money being pumped into privatised care, e.g. private nursing homes.
4 Campaign for the democratisation of the Health Boards and their development as a lobby for patient interest against the machinations of bureaucrats and professionals.

BELFAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

10. That this Ard Fheis/ADC opposes the continuing cuts and other attacks on the NHS, including the most recent proposals to end the free dental check-ups and optical tests.

BALLYMURPHY (Belfast West)

12. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls on the Thatcher government to provide the National Health Service with adequate funding to ensure proper health care for all.

EAST BELFAST BRANCH

13. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls on the Party in Northern Ireland to rally the people in defence of the National Health Service which is being blatantly and publicly destroyed by the Tories.

COUNTY DERRY BRANCH

13. As part of a save the health service campaign, the incoming CEC instructs branches to actively support the fight to save the National Health Service. And further instructs Party Councillors and the Local Government Department to pursue vigorously the promotion of an environmental health
campaign involving (i) Housing, (ii) employment and unemployment, (iii) Councils.

LOWER GLEN BRANCH (Lagan Valley)

WOMEN'S HEALTH

14. This Ard Fheisl/ADC supports the ideal 'Every Child a Wanted Child'. We recognise that such support demands a commitment to the provision of such educational, medical, financial and other social services as are necessary to the well-being of a mother and child before, during and after pregnancy.

We commit ourselves also to support women whose pregnancies are unwanted, with the same degree of compassion and help.

We affirm that the only approach open to a socialist party is to try to alleviate the reasons why unwanted pregnancies occur, and when they do, to assist a woman in whatever action she decides to take in response to her situation.

This Ard Fheis therefore demands:

1 A comprehensive education programme be included in the curriculum of all schools, dealing with human reproduction in all its aspects; sexuality and sexual relationships, and parenting skills. Such a programme to start at primary level so that by Inter Cert level all students have a basic, sound understanding of the issues involved.

2 A comprehensive family planning programme be made available through local health clinics, maternity hospitals and other such facilities under the direction of the Department of Health. We reject the current unsatisfactory situation where such services are dependent on private clinics and the whim of health board members' political opportunism, as well as the uncertainty of the codes of ethics of various voluntary hospitals.

3 That all families receive such state supports as are necessary for a reasonable standard of living under the general guidance of the recommendations of the commission on social welfare.

4 That the pre and post natal services available to all women be extended from their present inadequate level.

5 That where treatment for a medical condition is at conflict with a woman's pregnancy, or where the mother's life is threatened by her pregnancy, the due regard for the life of the mother as guaranteed by the Constitution be stressed, and that where such situations arise a monitoring system be implemented to ensure that her treatment does not depend on the vagaries of the code of ethics of a particular hospital.

6 That non-directive counselling services be available at the same venues at which family planning services are available and also at rape crisis centres and sexual assault units.
That the criminal status of women who have had abortions be abolished.

That full post-abortion medical and counselling services be made available to women whose pregnancies have been terminated, both abroad, where such terminations are legal, and in this state where women are in serious danger from back street abortions; such services to be available through maternity and general hospitals and local clinics as appropriate.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

15. The Lagan Valley Constituency Council endorses the recommendations in the discussion document – Pregnancy Termination.

LAGAN VALLEY CONSTITUENCY COUNCIL

16. This Ard Fheis/ADC believes that ‘Every Child a Wanted Child’. That to give effect to such an ideal requires progressive, imaginative and humane family planning and contraceptive services.

That we reaffirm our policy of free, comprehensive services available to all regardless of class, marital status or place of abode.

That we recognise the major inadequacies of existing services in Northern Ireland, in particular:

1. Most clinics only open for family planning sessions a few hours weekly.
2. That there are virtually no evening clinics, thus militating against women workers.
3. That the restrictive nature of the service in local communities deters many women from attending.
4. That young people in particular are not attracted to “clinical” services.

And therefore urges:

1. A deliberate policy of sex/health education aimed at young people to raise their awareness of sexuality and sexual relationships.
2. Extension of FP Clinics to provide a wide range of counselling, advice and education to women on health related matters, e.g. that cervical smears, breast examination and PMT clinics be included in the services offered.
3. That all such services be publicly available at all times, and not hidden behind discreet advertising in Yellow Pages.
4. That to face up to the problem of unwanted pregnancies, infanticide and the traditional response of exporting the problem elsewhere, this Ard Fheis calls for the extension of the 1967 Abortion Act to Northern Ireland.

BELFAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
17. This Ard Fheis calls for the extension of the 1967 Abortion Act to Northern Ireland.
Social Services

Steering Committee Recommendations
1 to be the main motion with 2 as an addendum.
3 & 4 under sub-head Northern Ireland Social Welfare, to be taken individually.
5 take separately under sub-head School Meals.

1. That this Ard Fheis/ADC, noting with alarm the many manifestations of increasing poverty in our society, the failure of the 1988 Budget to improve the living standards of the vast majority of our 1.3 million social welfare recipients, and the government’s continuing refusal to implement the major recommendations of the Commission on Social Welfare: calls upon the government to make public its intentions regarding implementation of the Commission’s recommendation and to embark on a process of social welfare planning and reform which will secure, by 1992, (i) implementation of the Commission’s main recommendations, and specifically:

(a) real increases in the levels of all social welfare payments, particularly the lowest ones, to ensure that none fall below the equivalent of £55 per week (1985 prices — now nearly £60 p.w.) This year’s increases, which are not even applicable until late July, mean only about £1 p.w. for most recipients, and even the £4 p.w. for those on unemployment assistance or supplementary welfare allowance will only bring the highest of these payments to about £42 p.w. — little more than two-thirds of the recommended level;

(b) real increases in the level of child support, by fully rationalising social welfare child dependent allowances and increasing their value; and by restoring and increasing the value of child benefit (which has been frozen, and therefore declining in value, since 1986);

(c) widening of the scope of the social insurance system — but by including the self-employed on the basis that they pay their way and are not subsidised by the Exchequer to any greater extent than employees. (Their inclusion at a contribution rate of 3%, even if it rises to 4% and then 5%, is a blatant contravention of this principle as it means the Exchequer paying, respectively, 82%, 76% and 70% of the cost of self-employed pensions — compared with a contribution of 30% of the cost of employees’ contributory pensions. If this imbalance is allowed to continue, an ever-increasing burden on the PAYE sector will result, as long as
(d) improving the 'delivery' side of social welfare services, which has worsened steadily with the increasing number of claimants;

(ii) removal of all remaining discrimination based on sex or marital status, including the unfair consequences of the so-called 'equality' legislation of 1986 (one of which is to discriminate against married people on unemployment assistance);

(iii) reform of the social welfare appeals system, which is long overdue and which has been made all the more urgent by the 'Jobsearch' scheme and other vigorous attempts to remove people from benefit, often to the detriment of genuine claimants;

(iv) establishment of a Social Welfare Planning Board which will monitor and review the development of social welfare policy, advise and recommend on improvements in the system, propose legislative change as required, and represent the interests of all beneficiaries of, and contributors to, the social welfare system.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

2. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls on the government to change the method of assessing eligibility for supplementary social welfare benefits in the following way: that instead of using gross income as the yardstick, income after tax and PRSI deductions should be the new figure.

DRIMNAGH BRANCH (Dublin S/C)

SOCIAL WELFARE – NORTHERN IRELAND

3. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the failure of the Conservative Government to increase child benefit (family allowances) for the period 1988/89.

NEWCASTLE (South Down)

4. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls upon the Government to treat Invalid Care Allowance as a wage paid to a carer, allowing the family of carers on Supplementary Benefit to retain £4 of the award as earnings in the same way as ordinary earnings of a dependant are treated.

NEWCASTLE (South Down)

SCHOOL MEALS

5. The Workers' Party notes with concern the proposed privatisation of the School Meals Service. Bearing in mind the vital importance of adequate nutrition for the physical and mental development of growing children, this
Ard Fheis calls for the establishment of mandatory minimum nutritional standards, whether the Service is privatised or not.

NORTH BELFAST BRANCH
Education

Steering Committee Recommendations

Under sub-head State Education — Republic of Ireland
1 Main Resolution.
2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 are addenda to 1.

Under sub-head State Education Northern Ireland
13 to be taken as the Main Resolution with 14 & 15 as addenda.
16, 17 & 18 to be taken individually.

STATE EDUCATION — REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

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.

This Ard Fheis/ADC therefore:

i. commits the Workers’ Party to campaigning for a well resourced, democratically governed education system which is open to all citizens;

ii. condemns the cut of £86m by the Fianna Fáil government from education in the 1988 spending estimates;

iii. notes that these cuts are a treacherous breach of pre-election commitments and will result in a major rise in teacher unemployment and a further deterioration of the comparatively low teacher/pupil ratio;

iv. congratulates the teachers’ unions and parent associations which have campaigned effectively against the cuts;

v. pledges all sections of the Workers’ Party to involve themselves in a continuing campaign to highlight the dismantling of progress towards free education and to stress the socialist alternative in education policy;

vi. deplores the further breach of pre-election commitments involved in the failure to establish a statutory curriculum and examinations board and in the scrapping of plans to build Regional Technical Colleges in Dublin, Castlebar and Thurles;

vii. is particularly concerned at attempts to downgrade the VEC sector of education;

viii. believes that legislative protection for all areas of the education service is essential in order to guard against further damage to the system being caused by monetarist policies.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC
2. That this Ard Fheis/ADC considers the proposed cutbacks in Vocational and Community and Comprehensive Schools to be a particular attack on the less well-off.

Though all second-level schools are publicly funded, the schools being hit at present are the only ones which allow open access, irrespective of ability to pay, academic ability or religious persuasion.

The Ard Fheis therefore calls on the government not to proceed with these cutbacks and instead to set about reforming and extending the VEC Act to ensure that all publicly funded schools are brought under the democratic control of parents, teachers and the public interest.

**SHANKILL/BALLYBRACK (Dublin Dun Laoghaire)**

3. This Ard Fheis/ADC

A deplores the recent proposals for cuts in the education services in primary schools which would result in

i. the loss of 2,000 teaching posts,

ii. unacceptable increases in the size of classes in national schools,

iii. freezing of capitation grants to schools at last year’s already inadequate level,

iv. the halving of the capital financial provision for primary school buildings,

v. the reduction in the budget for school transport.

B deplores the fact that these cutbacks are leading to an increasing number of schools seeking a so-called ‘voluntary contribution’ from parents for their children’s education, and

C demands that the government fulfil the constitutional obligations of the state by providing free education for all children in national schools.

**DUBLIN SOUTH**

4. This Ard Fheis/ADC re-affirms the right of every citizen to a decent and complete education, and opposed every attempt by government or others to deny this right.

**WALKINSTOWN/PERRYSTOWN (Dublin S/C)**

5. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns cutbacks in education services in this the 21st anniversary year of the introduction of free second-level schooling, and supports the rights of those with educational needs to access to the system and the maintenance and improvement of standards of provision within that system.

**TALLAGHT EAST/GREENHILLS (Dublin S/W)**
6. This Ard Fheis/ADC totally opposes the ongoing government educational cutbacks and the gradual dismantling of the public education system.

KILMORE/ARTANE (Dublin N/C)

7. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the appalling cutbacks that have been imposed on education since 1983.

WEXFORD

8. This Ard Fheis/ADC recognises the role played by the education system and condemns as false economy the limits and restrictions on subject choice, as a direct result of government fiscal policy.

LEIXLIP (Kildare)

9. This Ard Fheis/ADC notes the very high costs incurred by families at "back to school" which includes books, equipment and school uniforms. The Ard Fheis further notes that many schools needlessly increase this burden of costs by insisting, in their school rules, that school uniforms are purchased only from appointed shops. In many cases this may mean an extra cost of between £60 and £100 per school year.

This Ard Fheis, recognising the difficulties that this imposed snobbery imposes on many people, asks the Party generally, and the education committee in particular, to highlight this practice wherever it exists. Further we ask the Party to campaign to ensure that such discriminatory rules are not imposed in any school which receives State funding.

DONNYCARNEY (Dublin north central)

10. This Ard Fheis/ADC deplores the way the people of Jobstown, Tallaght, were treated by the present Minister of Education regarding the Jobstown Community College, after appointing a College principal and hiring teachers. The need for the college is an undeniable fact — the Minister now refuses to build the school. This after giving a firm commitment to a deputation of parents and teachers that she would build the college.

TALLAGHT WEST (Dublin S/W)

11. That this Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the effect of the current cutbacks on adult education and reaffirms the rights of those people who having suffered under an undemocratic and elitist system of education now wish to participate in second chance education or literacy schemes.

CRUMLIN BRANCH (Dublin 5th Central)
12. This Ard Fheis/ADC recognising that the present primary school curriculum is child centred, that teachers try as best they can in spite of large classes to meet the social, emotional and intellectual needs of all the children in their care, strongly supports this type of education, rejects the narrow, rigid and authoritarian demand of some people for a return to the 3 Rs and formal assessment for young children, and calls on the Government in the context of the Primary Education Review, to provide the necessary resources for teachers to fully implement it.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL (Dublin N/W)

STATE EDUCATION – NORTHERN IRELAND
13. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the sectarian nature of the education system in Northern Ireland. Such a divisive system has been responsible for fostering sectarian prejudices and practices. We do not accept that there are any justifiable grounds for the maintenance of this system.

Furthermore, we deplore the growing tendency towards the establishment of a “separate development” view of life in Northern Ireland, which at the moment is being subtly promoted in the education field by programmes for “Mutual Understanding” and the like.

Therefore this Ard Fheis calls for the establishment of a Standing Committee by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland, to plan for the introduction of a state system of secular integrated education in Northern Ireland.

The Ard Fheis calls upon the Party organisation in Northern Ireland to make this demand the basis of a vigorous campaign in Northern Ireland, as an invaluable contribution to the defeat of sectarianism.

BELFAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

14. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls on the British Government to apply fair employment principles to all schools in Northern Ireland, including teaching staff, thus ending discrimination against anyone due to their political, religious or moral beliefs.

CROMAC BRANCH (Belfast South)

15. The Lagan Valley Constituency Council condemns as inadequate the small number of integrated schools in Northern Ireland and calls on this Ard Fheis/ADC to reiterate its demand for the introduction of a Standing Committee on Secular State Education.

LAGAN VALLEY CONSTITUENCY COUNCIL
16. This Ard Fheis/ADC urges the Party to put pressure on the Government to treat the concept of non-denominational schools with the respect it deserves in view of the pluralist outlook of these schools. This concept has been proven to be a success where it was operated both north and south, despite little in the way of material help. Therefore a more serious view should be taken in the future development of these progressive schools.

DRIMNAGH BRANCH (Dublin S/C)

17. In view of the success of the Peto Institute in Budapest in Conductive Education, that this Ard Fheis/ADC calls on the Government to make available funds for the training of personnel at The Peto Institute as Conductive Educators.

CORK CITY NORTH WEST (Cork N/C)

18. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the reduction in FAS (AnCO) adult training allowances by one third, and the reduction of the SES single person’s wage by £10 to £60 per week.

WEXFORD
Northern Ireland Politics, Terrorism & Civil Rights

Steering Committee Recommendations
1 to be the Main Resolution and, together with 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 which are addenda, goes to make a substantive resolution on Northern Ireland.

1. The Workers’ Party has for the past three years sought to bring about a democratic convention in Northern Ireland in order to achieve a democratic consensus on a new form of devolved government. At every possible opportunity we have publicly urged that all democrats must unite.

The Party is increasingly winning respect and support for its firm maintenance of this position in the face of the extremes of ‘integration’ and ‘terrorism’. The Central Executive Committee calls therefore for the adoption of this resolution on Northern Ireland as ongoing evidence of our total commitment to the development of the principle of democracy in all areas of life in Northern Ireland.

POLITICS
The Workers’ Party remains firmly committed to the establishing of democratic devolved government in Northern Ireland. Once again we draw attention to the fact that we supported the Anglo-Irish Agreement, albeit reluctantly, because it contained a clause in support of new central democratic institutions in Northern Ireland.

Equally we reaffirm our total opposition to the continuation of direct rule which in the words of the only European Parliamentary report on the situation “provides no solution to the political problems of Northern Ireland...It bars for the time being the way to any attempt of implementing other policies”.

This Ard Fheis therefore calls on the Party to sustain its efforts, nationally and internationally, to secure a Northern Ireland democratic government.

The partners to the Anglo-Irish Agreement have not sought to bring about one of its fundamental goals, a Northern Ireland devolved government. We therefore demand that in this year’s process of review, the signatories of the Agreement create conditions for all Party talks on devolved government. This will entail removing the Anglo-Irish Secretariat from Northern Ireland and holding all future meetings of the Anglo-Irish Conference only in Dublin or London until agreement on devolved government is reached.

When a new governmental structure is agreed, its representatives should be included in all future meetings of the Conference.

TERRORISM
Northern Ireland society needs peace. This requires the total defeat of
terrorism. That cannot be achieved by security methods alone. It requires a united, determined community, creating the conditions under which terrorism cannot flourish. No legislation no matter how draconian, no topping up of military measures can be absolutely successful. We must remember the other terrorist gangs, such as the Baader Meinhof, the Red Brigades, Action Directe, the ETA, the Red Army Faction, often only a handful of murderers, who have wreaked havoc for years.

This Ard Fheis therefore calls on the Party to exert every effort to win the entire population to the position that terrorism will only be totally eliminated by a united community committed to anti-violence and democratic politics.

CIVIL RIGHTS
There is general political acceptance in Northern Ireland of the need for a Bill of Rights. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the reluctance of the British government to place such a Bill before Parliament. The Ard Fheis therefore calls upon the Party to continue to promote the concept of a Bill of Rights stemming from the needs of all sections of the people of Northern Ireland as the cornerstone of a future democratic society.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

2. This Ard Fheis/ADC deplores the continuing deterioration in political life in Northern Ireland, and notes the role which the Anglo-Irish Agreement has played in this respect.

This Ard Fheis further deplores the absence of central democratic political structures, despite the promises contained in the Anglo-Irish Agreement (November 1985).

This Ard Fheis further recognises that no serious or meaningful progress has been made towards tackling the many serious political, social and economic issues which confront the people of Northern Ireland, and reiterates our belief that the establishment of a democratic devolved government remains the best possible means of doing so.

This Ard Fheis believes that the review of the Anglo-Irish Agreement planned for November of this year provides a unique opportunity for all democrats in Northern Ireland to secure a democratic resolution of the present impasse.

BELFAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

3. That this Ard Fheis/ADC instructs the Ard Comhairle/CEC to initiate steps to secure the co-operation of other democratic parties and organisations in establishing a broadly-based anti-terrorist campaign with the aim of ending terrorism in Northern Ireland and the Republic.

CRUMLIN BRANCH (Dublin S/C)
4. Having recognised that the Anglo-Irish Agreement has failed to deliver on its two main promises of Devolved Government and the elimination of terrorism, and that the Anglo-Irish Agreement is now an obstruction to some Parties taking part in political progress in Northern Ireland, this Ard Fheis/ADC calls for the suspension of the Anglo-Irish Agreement when it comes up for review. This would enable all constitutional Parties to become involved in talks that would possibly result in the forming of a devolved local government structure that would serve Northern Ireland and its people. This would be a first step on the way forward towards Peace and Democracy.

TURF LODGE BRANCH (Belfast West)

5. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls on the Party to initiate and pursue actively a public campaign to promote our policies on Northern Ireland with particular emphasis on a Bill of Rights, review of judicial procedures and reorganisation of the forces of law and order. This is particularly important in view of the recent events in relation to the areas mentioned.

DRIMNAGH BRANCH (Dublin S/C)

6. That this Ard Fheis/ADC reiterates its total support for the Party’s ongoing opposition to terrorism in Northern Ireland and calls for a wider dissemination in the Republic of the Party’s critical role in blocking the efforts of the Provisionals and other terror gangs to plunge the country into sectarian civil war.

WHITEROCK (Belfast West)

7. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the talks which took place between the SDLP leader, Mr John Hume, and Provo leader Mr Gerry Adams. These talks were an affront to all democratic political parties in Northern Ireland, and have added to the deterioration of political life in Northern Ireland.

BELFAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

8. This Ard Fheis/ADC demands that the Provisionals call a ceasefire immediately. In calling for this ceasefire this Ard Fheis/ADC notes that the Provisionals’ campaign has been increasingly directed at the Protestant population of Northern Ireland.

TURF LODGE (Belfast West)
Steering Committee Recommendations
1 Main Resolution with 2 as an addendum.
3 & 4 to be taken separately under sub-head Irish Film Industry.
5 & 6 to be taken separately under Culture & Arts and Dáil Pensions respectively.

CULTURE & THE MEDIA
1. This Ard Fheis/ADC notes the role of government in the privatisation of cultural life, particularly in the areas of radio and television. Under the guise of 'cultural freedom', the concept of public service broadcasting is being cast aside in favour of the profit-making ambitions of market forces. This, in turn, is leading to a two-tier market structure in which real choice is available only to the rich, while an inferior, standardised service is offered to the majority. These developments are hostile to the integrity of cultural expression, and are essentially anti-democratic. The Workers' Party is therefore opposed to the introduction in the cultural sphere of information technology under market conditions, and affirms its support for public service broadcasting as a vital element in the development of cultural democracy.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

2. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns RTE for its blatant disregard of Irish working class culture.

KILMORE/ARTANE (Dublin N/C)

IRISH FILM INDUSTRY
3. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the continued closure of An Bord Scannán na hEireann/The Irish Film Board by the Fianna Fáil government, and fully supports the on-going Campaign for a Single State-sponsored Body for Irish Cinema.

FINGLAS WEST (Dublin N/W)

4. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls on the Cultural Committee to produce a detailed study on the potential for the creation of a viable Irish cinema industry.

FINGALS WEST (Dublin N/W)
CULTURE & THE ARTS
5. This Ard Fheis/ADC instructs the CEC to publish a detailed document on its attitude towards Culture and the Arts.

TURF LODGE (Belfast West)

DÁIL PENSIONS
6. That this Ard Fheis/ADC demands that Oireachtas pensions be paid only when the former members reach 66 years of age to bring them into line with the rest of the workforce.

CORK NORTH CENTRAL BRANCH (Cork N/C)
Justice & Civil Liberties

Steering Committee Recommendations

Under sub-head Family Law Reform: 1 to be the main motion with 2 as an addendum, and 3 as an amendment.

Under sub-head Policing — Republic of Ireland: 4, 5, 6, 7 to be taken separately.

Under sub-head Powers of Search: 8 to be taken on its own.

Under sub-head Prisons: 9 to be taken on its own.

Under subhead Policing — Northern Ireland: 10 to be the main resolution and deemed to cover similar from South Belfast, Lower Falls, Beechmount, Ballymurphy, all West Belfast and Upper Bann/Craigavon.

11 & 12 to be taken separately.

Under general heading Civil Liberties:

13, 14, 15 to be taken separately with 17 as an amendment to 16.

18 & 19 to be taken together, 20 to be taken on its own.

FAMILY LAW REFORM

1. Despite the promises made in the course of the referendum on Divorce, little progress has been made in improving the general area of Family Law as it relates to marital breakdown, even though there is wide acceptance of many of the proposals contained in the report of the Oireachtas Committee on that topic.

The Workers' Party welcomes the establishment of a pilot Family Mediation Service, but views this as only a tiny preliminary step towards reform of the law in this vital area.

We consider the following measures to be both important and urgent and call on the government to immediately initiate a programme of family law reform to include:

(1) Establishment of a unified family tribunal system to deal with all aspects of law relating to marital breakdown, custody of children, maintenance of children and dependant spouses, matrimonial property etc. This tribunal should have professional backup in the area of counselling, mediation services, social and psychological support services. It should be staffed by judges who are trained in this field. Its proceedings should be informal, accessible and geared towards amicable settlement rather than to apportioning blame and encouraging conflict, which can only discourage reconciliation. It should sit in reasonable physical surroundings rather than in the grim and forbidding judicial buildings used at present.

(2) The basic grounds for the granting of a Judicial Separation should be
irretrievable breakdown of the marriage.

(3) Orders relating to children, maintenance and property should form part of the Judicial Separation Decree.

(4) The fact of marriage should confer equal rights in relation to the family home.

(5) The law must be accessible to all, regardless of financial circumstances. The Civil Legal Aid Scheme is central to this and it must be properly funded and geographically dispersed to ensure reasonable access. The means test limits for Legal Aid must be set at a much higher level to be realistic.

(6) The pilot State Family Mediation Service should be extended nationwide.

(7) There should be a Civil Marriage ceremony applicable to all regardless of religious affiliation.

(8) The need for a Divorce law is now greater than ever. Nullity cannot be regarded as an acceptable alternative to Divorce as the termination of a marriage.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

2. This Ard Fheis/ADC calls for funding to be allocated for the implementation of any Childcare and Protection Bill as otherwise the passing of such legislation is nothing more than good intentions without any deeds.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL (Dublin N/W)

3. This Ard Fheis/ADC condemns the use of corporal punishment against children and demands that a five year programme to outlaw all forms of corporal punishment be developed aimed at adults including education programmes, the use of the mass media support services for parents, and legislation.

SANTRY/WHITEHALL (Dublin N/W)

Policing — Republic of Ireland

4. This Ard Fheis/ADC welcomes the announcement of the intended reorganisation of the Garda Síochána and improvements in their training. The Workers’ Party urges:

(a) A greater emphasis on developing a close relationship between the police and the community.

(b) That structures be developed which will make the gardaí more accountable to the community.

(c) An independent police authority to take overall responsibility for policing and to prevent the exercise of political influence in the appoint-
ment of senior officers, or interference in the even-handed enforcement of the law.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

5. That this Ard Fheis/ADC calls on the Minister for Justice to ensure that car theft is dealt with under the Larceny Act rather than under the Roads Traffic Act.

JAMES LARKIN/BALLYFERMOT (Dublin W)

6. That existing laws regarding the sale of intoxicating liquor to under age drinkers from licensed or off-licensed premises be strictly enforced.

DRUMCONDRA/GLASNEVIN (Dublin C)

7. That this Ard Fheis/ADC calls for the decriminalisation of the act of suicide in the Republic of Ireland.

GALWAY CITY WEST

POWERS OF SEARCH

8. In view of the concern expressed at abuses of the powers of search in the nationwide operation last November, this Ard Fheis/ADC proposes:

1. That the issue of warrants, other than by the Courts, should be the subject of strict monitoring and control.

2. That every warrant should state clearly the alleged offence in connection with which evidence is sought.

3. That clear guidelines should be laid down as to the rights of occupants when searches are being carried out, such as the right to privacy of personal papers and to accompany those carrying out the search into every room.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

PRISONS

9. This Ard Fheis/ADC urges the implementation of the recommendations of the Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Penal System and in particular:

1. The appointment of a Medical Director of Prisons.

2. The restriction of the penalty of imprisonment and the encouragement of other non-custodial penalties such as probation, confiscation of income or assets, restitution, community service orders, requirement of attendance at treatment centres for alcohol or drug abuse and compulsory residence in approved hostels.
3. An end to the doubling up in prison cells designed for one person.
4. The appointment of an Inspector of Prisons with overall responsibility for monitoring their efficient, fair and orderly administration.
5. The improvement of educational facilities within prisons.

ARD COMHAIRLE/CEC

POLICING – NORTHERN IRELAND

10. This Ard Fheisl/ADC believes that no group or individual has the right to place themselves above the law.

We call on the government to publish in full the Stalker/Sampson Report and condemn the decision of the Attorney General not to initiate any prosecutions following upon the Report, despite the fact that there is evidence against police officers of conspiring to pervert the course of justice.

BELFAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Belfast Regional Council Substantive Resolution on Stalker/Sampson Report to be deemed to cover similar resolutions from: South Belfast; Lower Falls (West Belfast); Beechmount (West Belfast); Ballymurphy (West Belfast); Upper Bann/Craigavon.

11. That in this year 1988, this Ard Fheisl/ADC recalls the 20th anniversary of the first Civil Rights marches.

In doing so, this conference reaffirms its commitment to the broad aims of the Civil Rights Movement of that era, namely, the democratisation of Northern Ireland.

We further reject the recent attempts by the Provisionals and their fellow travellers to hijack the Civil Rights inheritance as an act of gross hypocrisy by the very elements who have done so much to negate basic civil rights in this country over the last 18 years.

This ADC therefore instructs the CEC to make the 20th anniversary of those historic marches with a planned programme of related activity. This could culminate in a political conference to be held in Northern Ireland entitled “Civil Rights – 20 Years on”.

TURF LODGE BRANCH (Belfast West)

12. As part of a drive to secure a basic human right for the people of Northern Ireland, the Workers’ Party embarks on a campaign involving TDs and Councillors to have the notorious Payment for Debt Act in Northern Ireland abolished.

LOWER GLEN BRANCH (Lagan Valley)
GENERAL – CIVIL LIBERTIES

13. This Ard Fheisl ADC condemns the lack of pressure by Irish governments to secure the release of those wrongly convicted of carrying out terrorist offences in Britain, and demands sustained effort to achieve their liberty.

WEXFORD

Deemed to cover similar from South Belfast

14. This Ard Fheisl ADC calls for an end to the harassment by the UK authorities of Irish nationals in Britain.

WEXFORD

15. This Ard Fheisl ADC calls for the enactment of a Bill of Rights for the travelling community, according them equal status with other citizens.

FINGLAS WEST (Dublin N/W)

16. This Ard Fheisl ADC condemns the barbarous practice of enclosed live hare coursing as still widely carried out in this country. The Ard Fheis instructs our TDs to initiate and/or support legislative moves to outlaw totally live hare coursing.

DONNYCARNEY BRANCH (Dublin N/C)

17. This Ard Fheisl ADC condemns enclosed coursing and all blood sports and urges the present government to introduce a law which will make these ‘sports’ illegal.

FINGLAS EAST (Dublin N/W)

Amendment to 16

18. This Ard Fheisl ADC recognises the discrimination that exists against the Gay and Lesbian community in Ireland. This Ard Fheis calls on the Party members to support the Gay and Lesbian community in its struggle to overcome this discrimination.

LIMERICK CITY

19. This Ard Fheisl ADC views with concern the increasing attacks both literal and metaphorical on members of the Gay community and condemns in particular Clause 28 of the Social Government Bill and the continued criminalization of Gay people in the South of Ireland.

SOUTH BELFAST
20. The Lagan Valley Constituency Council calls for a thorough investigation into the workings of the Economic League which uses covert measures to collect funds for the Tory Party and black-list Labour and Trade Union activists.

LAGAN VALLEY CONSTITUENCY COUNCIL

21. This Ard Fheis/ADC fully supports calls for the seizing of assets of convicted drug pushers and calls on the government to implement legislation to ensure that those who engage in this destruction of fellow human beings bear the full brunt of the law.

TALLAGHT EAST/GREENHILLS (Dublin S/W)