

1991-04-29

Workers Youth Party : Letter from Stephen Hayden

Workers Party of Ireland

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W O R K E R S P A R T Y

Head Office 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1 Telephone (01)740716/741045

Area

Address

29-4-1991

Dear Comrade,

The position of National Youth Organiser with Workers Party Youth will soon become vacant.

We are now in the process of advertising the position and seeking applications.

If you would inform members of your branch of this and ask any interested member to forward any information regarding possible experience/ qualifications to Workers Party Youth, 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1, we would be grateful.

Further information about the position will be sent to all applicants upon receipt of their letter of application.

The final date for receipt of applications is Friday the 31st of May.

Yours Fraternally,

Stephen Hayden.

Stephen Hayden,
National Youth Organiser,
Workers Party Youth.

W O R K E R S P A R T Y

Youth

30 Gardiner Place Dublin 1

Telephone (01)740716/741045

Hello and welcome to the Workers Party Youth pack for the '91 Ard Fheis.

Enclosed you will find the following:

1. A brief report on the various activities of Workers Party Youth throughout the previous year and also a year planner outlining our proposed activities for the year ahead.
2. A letter advertising the position of National Youth Organiser which will soon become vacant.
3. Copies of some of our leaflets which were distributed during various demonstrations/campaigns over the last year.
4. A list of the items for sale, and their price, on the Youth stall.
5. A copy of a ticket from our quarterly draw which we hope you will all support!

Comrades, The following is a brief summary of the activities of Workers Party Youth over the past year and an outline of our proposed activities over the coming year.

Workers Party Youth, whilst not being as active as we had hoped in the first part of the year, have been involved in a number of Campaigns/demonstrations more recently.

And although numbers have not grown vastly we have made steady progress and existing members have made a renewed commitment to building our organisation.

Many of our problems sprang from lack of resources which in turn served to complicate other problems.

This served to create a certain amount of apathy within WPY which has fortunately been overcome since the Youth Conference.

Workers Party Youth as I have said were involved in a number of demonstrations etc.

The first of these was the Low Pay Campaign which has been running for some time at different levels of intensity. This proved successful in reaching young people and encouraging them to contact both WPY and the ICTU for information about rights in work etc.

It is hoped to expand this campaign into a broad coalition of concerned groups which will attempt to highlight this issue nationally. Steps have already been taken to establish this coalition.

We were also heavily involved with the Gulf Peace Committee activities being present at all of their demonstrations etc and being members of their committee.

Workers Party Youth also organised our own activities to highlight the problems of the Gulf Crisis and of the Irish Governments part in that.

We also organised the distribution of leaflets and free condoms in Dublin city following the decision of the Dublin District Court to fine the Irish Family Planning Assoc. £500.00 for selling condoms in Virgin Megastore.

This again proved both popular and successful especially with younger people.

Our organisation also participated in demonstrations organised to protest at US involvement in El Salvador in conjunction with the El Salvador Support Committee and the protests organised for the visit of F. W. De Klerk of South Africa.

Finally, we distributed leaflets to commemorate the cease-fire called by Pearse to prevent the "further slaughter of Dublin citizens" and we call on the Provisional IRA to do likewise to prevent the "further slaughter of the citizens of this island".

Besides our activities on the streets we have also maintained a programme of education within WPY with such issues as "the nature of oppression" and "trade unions" being discussed.

We have also established a Young Womens Group in both Dublin and Belfast and we hope to expand this to areas such as Derry. It is hoped that these Young Womens Groups will elect a national body, the Chairperson of which will attend future National Youth Executive meetings so that we can work closely together.

Workers Party Youth maintained its links with a number of international groups this year through exchanging delegations and through meetings.

A WPY delegation attended the Independent Labour Publications (ILP) conference in Scarborough in the early part of last year and this visit was subsequently returned when a delegation of three members of the ILP visited us in August.

Two members of WPY (Orla O' Connor and Stephen Hayden) met two representatives of the FMLN from El Salvador during the year also to discuss possible ways in which WPY could help their organisation in their struggle to overthrow the present oppressive regime there. It was agreed that the best way in which we could help was to raise money to help in the running of their mobile radio transmitters. We hope to achieve this task in the coming year.

Workers Party Youth also recieved a delegation from Komsommol during the year and sent a delegation of three to Moscow just prior to christmas.

The Executive of WPY also met with a representative of the World Federation of Democratic Youth to discuss the possibility of our joining this organisation. No decision has as yet been reached regarding this.

Last year as always we ran a very successful Junior Summer Camp. Forty four youngsters and six leaders went on the week long camp in Kilnacrott House, Co. Cavan. Unfortunately it was not possible to organise a senior summer camp during the summer although we later ran an education weekend which proved successful.

The student area is an area which has for some time been somewhat neglected as a result of the poor resources at our disposal. Some resources have however been given towards the development of a student structure and this is progressing well. Our students groups, particularly in Trinity College Dublin and in Maynooth College, have been very active on a number of issues.

As with all other sections of the Party we have had serious difficulties regarding finances.

Much of our planning last year was based on a budget which we had been promised. This year we are again seeking a budget but we are also making a concerted effort to raise our own money also for such things as the local elections etc.

We have managed to run a number of fund-raising activities in both Dublin and one in Belfast. Our problem, in Dublin at least, is that no party members whatsoever supported these efforts.

The Workers Party Youth Annual Conference was again held in Trinity College Dublin, this year over the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of February. As with other years the conference was broken into two sections.

The Saturday of the conference dealt with policy whilst the Sunday dealt with organisational aspects of WPY.

Overall the conference was successful and ran smoothly with the exception of a minor and unfortunate episode on the Sunday afternoon which arose due to misunderstandings regarding proposed organisational changes.

It is the feeling of the National Youth Executive that the Youth Movement is a great deal stronger this year than last and this fact is evidenced by the amount of activity within WPY since February.

The newly elected Youth Executive and the positions held by each officer is as follows:

Paul Moloney - International Officer, Mark Murphy - Vice-Chair and Juniors Officer, Niall Behan - Womens Officer, Roby McKnight - Education Officer, Ian Boersma - Cultural Officer, Paul Kerwick - Finance Officer. Stephen Hayden was also ratified by WPY as National Youth Organiser.

The two Co-opted members of the Youth Executive are:
Morgan Nolan - Chairperson, Richie Keane - Press Officer.

The Chairpersons of each regional group are also attending Executive meetings as are the Chairpersons of each Young Womens Group.

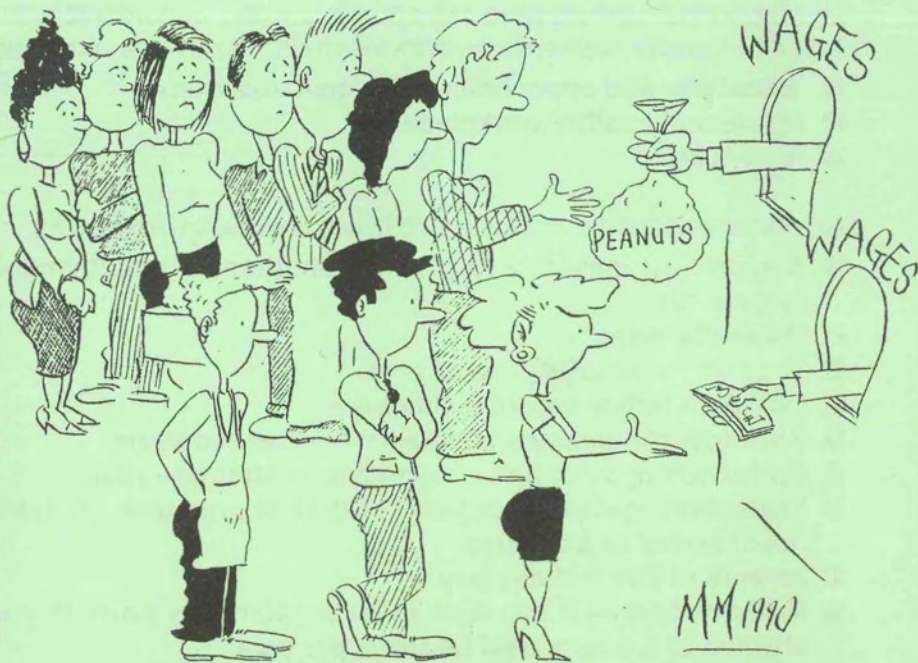
Fiachra O' Ceilleachoir is the Student representative on the Executive. Stephen Lewis is the Civil Rights/Gay and Lesbian rights Officer.

The fact that no female member was elected to the Executive at the conference was noted by the new Executive and consequently the Young Womens Groups were established to overcome this problem of lack of participation.

One final point which should be made regarding the Annual Youth Conference is the the organisational changes agreed by the youth delegates have as yet not been ratified by the Party Ard Fheis. This we hope will be done in the not too distant future.

So Comrades, overall Workers Party Youth is quite strong both in terms of morale and organisation and we believe that over the coming year, with a little support from you, we can make significant advances.

WORKING for PEANUTS?



Employers know that young people are desperate for work — and more and more are using this knowledge to rip off their workers.

If you're working for peanuts you're not alone, so are 7 out of 10 of all young workers. Many are also in part-time jobs, so as well as being on low wages they also have very few entitlements.

Everyone is entitled to a decent wage, to job security and fair treatment. But the only way to ensure you get these is to do something about it! Contact a trade union, get informed about your rights. A list of your rights at work is on the back of this leaflet.

However to really solve this problem we need a legal 'minimum wage' (which exists in many other countries) and equal rights for part-time workers. Workers' Party Youth is trying to raise peoples awareness about this issue and highlight what needs to be done.

**If you want more information contact
Workers' Party Youth
30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1. Phone 740716**

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Most rights that workers have only apply to workers who work at least 18 hours a week. However, workers who work less than this do have some basic rights.

- **Equal pay and opportunities for men and women**
- **A safe and healthy workplace**
- **A pay slip**

All workers who work more than 18 hours a week are entitled to:

- **A written statement of terms and conditions of employment — after one month**
- **Maternity leave**
- **Time off for ante/post natal care**
- **Minimum notice before dismissal**
- **Statutory redundancy payments — after two years**
- **Protection against unfair dismissal — after one year**
- **Protection against dismissal because of pregnancy or trade union membership or activities**
- **Arrears of pay, holiday pay**
- **Paid holidays — if you work at least 120 hours a month you're entitled to 3 weeks paid holidays per year**

Young workers, between 15 and 18 have the following rights under the 'Protection of Young Persons (Employment Act 1977)'

- **Rest breaks — half an hour after 5 hours work**
- **Overtime must be paid at time and a quarter — workers between 15 and 16 are entitled to this after 37½ hours a week, between 16 and 18 after 40 hours a week.**
- **Also each employer must at all times display a copy of this Act in the workplace if employing young people.**

Finally, as was said at the start, the only way to ensure that you get these rights and a decent wage is to be a member of a trade union. Your right to join a trade union is probably the most important and fundamental right of all.

So remember, all workers, no matter what your employer may tell you, have a constitutional right to join a trade union - under the Unfair Dismissals Act 1977. You should contact the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, 19 Raglan Road, Dublin 4, (01) 680641, if you don't know which union to join or how to go about it.

FINED: £500 for selling a condom

The Place: Ireland The Year: 1991

The Venue: Dublin Circuit Court.

The Irish Family Planning Association was fined £500 on Tuesday 26th February 1991 for selling condoms in the Virgin Megastore. The IFPA provide an invaluable service in terms of both education and preventative health, of which condoms are an integral part. The reality is that young people are sexually active and as such are open to many sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS being the most dangerous.

AIDS is not a "Gay Plague" as some people still think. Many of those who have been diagnosed as HIV positive are heterosexual and can be sexually active for some time before being diagnosed.

The Facts about Ireland

- * *Number of deaths as a result of AIDS* 69
- * *Number of Irish people with full blown AIDS* 176
- * *Number of Irish people diagnosed HIV positive (real figure many be as much as 3 times higher)* 1,014
- * *Number of heterosexuals diagnosed HIV positive* 87
- * *Number of children diagnosed HIV positive* 75
- * *Number of Irish women who have abortions in Britain each year* 4,000
- * *The amount of births outside of marriage has risen from 1.6% in the '60s to some 12.6% in the '90s.*

Successive Irish governments have failed to face their responsibilities in this area. **WPY** call on them to do so now and we call on all young people to support the Irish Family Planning Association and to make your views known to the Minister for Health.

WORKERS' PARTY YOUTH OUR FUTURE ON OUR TERMS

Contact Workers' Party Youth at
30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1, Phone *Stephen* at: 740716

Workers' Party Youth says Feed the World ! Stop the War !

WHAT IT COSTS

Seven Tornados Lost **£147m**

British Operating Costs
for one day **£3.6m**

33 Scud Missiles fired by
23 January **£3.3m**

Cost of Bombs dropped in
31 B-52 Sorties. **£31m**

WOULD BUY

enough grain to feed all the 20 million people likely to starve in Africa this year for five weeks. £5 per person/ month

Save the Children 1990/91 Budget for Ethiopia.

50 Trucks plus spares and shipping costs to Africa (current African requirement 400)

OXFAMS entire 1990 Budget.

You can help stop this senseless War

- * Make your views known by letters and phone calls to TV, Radio and newspapers.
- * Lobby your local political representatives in FF/FG to reverse Dail vote allowing Irish participation in this unnecessary war.
- * Write to the Taoiseach and Minister of Foreign Affairs at Dail Eireann seeking Government peace initiatives and no refuelling or other facilities for waging war at Shannon.

WORKERS' PARTY YOUTH OUR FUTURE ON OUR TERMS

Join WPY, further information from
30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1 Phone: 740716 or
6 Springfield Road, Belfast BT12 Phone 328663