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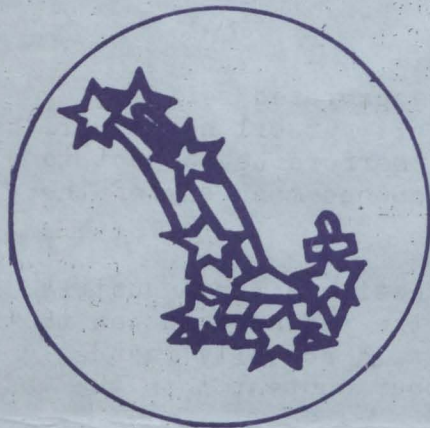
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Southside News

NO 3. JANUARY 1976.

EQUAL PAY.

1975 was to have been a year of great progress for women in general and women workers in particular.

Under a directive from the EEC anti-discrimination legislation was to be introduced and more importantly the long awaited Equal Pay Bill was to become law on the 31st December 1975. When the Minister for Labour announced that he intended not only to amend the Equal Pay Bill but also to postpone the implementation of the final phase to workers in the public service, many good citizens were outraged. The Minister was accused of 'reneging on his promises', of betraying the women of Ireland etc. Many of the outraged citizens took this as a personal insult to women.

What they fail to realise is that the denial of equal pay to women is not an isolated attack on women by men, but part of an overall policy which penalises the working class for the incompetence of Irish management.

The blame for managements failure to reinvest its profits in new machinery, maintain the old level of employment and create new employment is laid at the feet of the workers, both male and female. Accordingly the incompetence of Irish Capitalism is translated into the 'greed of the workers', accusing fingers are pointed at employees in the public sector, who because they enjoy job security and good working conditions are labelled parasites by the avaricious private sector.

Native capitalism, now in its death throes calls on the Government to divert money into private enterprise--- to prop it up. They urge the government to impose a wage freeze, and were of course instrumental in 'persuading' the government to postpone Equal Pay. The point therefore is that Equal Pay and its postponement is neither simply a 'women's' issue, an issue upon which women of all classes can unite, nor is it an issue which confines itself solely to women workers. The denial of equal pay to women involves all workers. It is part of a wide ranging attack on the living standards and dignity of the working class.

Understandably many women are incensed by the Governments decision. Regretably, however far from pinpointing the real source of guilt they misguidedly choose men as the culprits. They advocate that men should take a cut in pay in the next round of the National Wage Agreement. But as a recent letter from Sinn Fein to the daily newspapers pointed out over 100,000 workers have not even received the last phase of the N. .A. yet. Male workers did not cause the present crisis. It is divisive and incorrect to suggest that any section of the working class is responsible for the present economic crisis, which amongst other things has permitted the postponement of Equal Pay.

Sinn Fein deplores the Governments failure to implement Equal Pay, but recognises that any demands for its implementation must be made in the context of broader trade union demands..

DUBLIN BAY OIL REFINERY - THE FACTS AND IMPLICATIONS.

1. Why build a Refinery in Ireland? The building of the proposed refinery, together with the refinery at Whitegate will mean that all our oil needs will be refined in Ireland. Oil sold on the Irish market will therefore be subject to price control. The State will also have the power to oppose monopoly of the multinationals by buying oil on the world market.
2. Will the refinery cause pollution? A study by the Institute for Industrial Research and Standards on the planning application for the refinery showed that it would cause no noise or water pollution and that it would actually reduce pollution since the refined oil would have a lower sulphur content than that used at present.
3. Why support the proposal for a refinery in Dublin? We support the building of the Dublin Refinery for a number of reasons:- a. There is only one 'live' proposal for an Irish Refinery and that is the Dublin one. Anyone opposing this is in effect, opposing a refinery for Ireland. b. A refinery is a natural port industry and the present proposal fits in well with the proposals of the Dublin Port and Docks Board for the long term development of Dublin Port- this deals with developments in Industry, housing and amenities. c. 66% of the Irish market for oil is adjacent to Dublin and it is, therefore logical to refine the oil in Dublin.
4. What are the long-term advantages? Great oil and gas wealth lies off the Irish coast. If we have the capacity to refine all our needs on the national territory, we will be able to develop these resources independently of the multinationals. We can refine our own oil and gas in Ireland and develop petrochemical industries. This will create the many manufacturing jobs needed to end unemployment and will be the basis of the industrial revolution that is needed if we are to provide the Irish people with the living conditions they deserve.
5. What will this mean for the public sector? The Public Sector and particularly the State Companies, are now under heavy attack from the government and the champions of private enterprise. Development of our natural resources should be under full state control and should involve the massive expansion of the public sector (in particular, the ESB, CIE, Bord na Mona and Aer Lingus.) At last the public sector will be involved in an enterprise that is inherently surplus-generating. Jobs will be provided and an industrial economy developed by the state where private enterprise has failed.
6. Why do the Community Councillors oppose this refinery? They say they oppose the refinery on the pollution issue. We have seen that the proposed refinery will not cause pollution, as it is a modern distillation type, sulphur extraction plant. The Councillors seem to be well meaning, but misguided. They are, however acting objectively in the interests of the oil multinational. They also seem to be opposed to the development of an industrial economy. They should therefore be rejected by the Irish people against whose interests they are acting.