WE all knew that Donald Trump’s reign was going to be a reactionary term of office and for the foreseeable future to expect some decisively right wing actions. But at times it is as if the Senate and Congress have frozen in the wake of his election.

One of Trump’s first acts was to scrap the health care legislation that President Obama brought in. His pronouncements regarding the travel ban, barring citizens of seven predominantly Muslim nations entry into the US has created an extremely divided society with some supporting the ban and others stating that it is an “un American Act”.

This act sparked widespread public protests and anger across the United States and the world in general with millions of people objecting. Protests against the ban took different forms.

In New York taxi drivers held a strike in protest and several thousand people protested at JFK airport where twelve refugees were held.

The Morning Star reported that the agency that runs the JFK airport tried to restore order by shutting down the trains that run to airport terminals, but Governor Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, reversed that decision, saying people had the right to protest. “The people of New York will have their voices heard,” he declared.”

New York District Judge Ann Donnelly issued her own emergency order last Saturday after lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union, a non-profit organisation that provides legal assistance for civil rights cases, filed a court petition on behalf of people detained at airports across the country as the ban took effect.

The order stops border agents from removing anyone arriving in the US with a valid visa from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen. It also covers anyone with an approved refugee application.

Global protests are a symbol of how people view his policies but it is the US citizens who must expose, protest and remove this man.

During the war against Vietnam, millions the world over protested as president followed president in that unjust war.

But at the end of the day it was the people of America that broke the camel’s back.

It is in the midst of all this that Prime Minister Theresa May made her first visit to the USA to shore up the special relationship that Britain has. Falling over herself to invite Trump to Britain, usually a president is two or three years in office before that “pleasure”, May has created a backlash of opposition to this visit.

Issues of concern rising from May’s US visit range from economic to human rights. The statement of Trump’s regarding the use of torture is just one of them.

Other considerations are the possibilities that Theresa May could offer up the NHS as a new trade deal. Trump’s association with capitalist drug firms make other countries’ public services such as the NHS appealing.

War on Want campaigner Mark Dearn warned that, in conjunction with TTIP’s corporate courts, “a future attempt to renationalise any or all of the NHS would see US health companies suing the UK for lost profits resulting from their lost ‘market’ access”.

Trump is the unacceptable face of the USA but let’s not kid ourselves, some of the actions he is implementing were also supported by previous presidents; the difference is that he is attempting to openly legitimise them.
Looking in the wrong direction

AS the DUP and Sinn Fein will be the two major players in the forthcoming election there is no doubt that the European Union will be a big issue, especially as both of them have contrary views on withdrawal.

The support for withdrawal by the Communist Party of Ireland does not mean we are in the same camp as the DUP or UKIP and right-wing Tories who will put the interests of business in any withdrawal negotiations. However we totally reject the nonsense emanating from the pro-EU side who are constantly telling us that withdrawal threatens the peace process.

The latest uttering from Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams are of that vein when he alleged that fundamental human rights enshrined in the 1998 accord to end violence “could” be undermined.

He added that the British government's intention to take the north out of the EU, despite the wish of the people to remain is an “hostile action.”

Significantly Adams, like all those in the Remain camp, have never quoted the actual voting figures in the Northern Ireland vote proving the old saying, “figures can lie and liars can figure.”

He accuses Theresa May of intending to bring an end to the jurisdiction of the European Court.

The fact that he later went on to mention the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) puts his judgement into question as the ECHR has nothing to do with the European Union. The European Court he referred to could be the European Court of Justice which has ruled against trade unions and whose very existence is one good reason to withdraw.

Two days after Adams’ comments, the west Belfast branch of the Ulster Political Research Group called for a “scrapping of the Good Friday Agreement”, describing it as “dead in the water,” and citing their “misgivings” about power-sharing.

If the Belfast Agreement is under threat maybe Adams and others are looking in the wrong direction.