
UNITY

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Epic fail! Again.

YOU would have been forgiven for thinking David Cameron would go down in history as the worst British Prime Minister in British parliamentary history but these days you would be hard pressed to find anyone who remembers anything he did beyond declaring the Brexit referendum. He's been in hiding ever since. The mantle must now surely belong to Theresa May, she has suffered a real kicking over the last year and like Rocky keeps coming back.

Yesterday the British Government suffered the worst defeat in the House of Commons in nearly 100 years. The defeat was not unexpected but the scale of the defeat took many by surprise. Today MPS will debate a motion of no confidence in the prime minister tabled by Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn. His hope will be to bring down the government and force a general election, bizarrely that is unlikely as most of those who voted against May yesterday will give her their confidence today.

There were heated exchanges in the chamber in the run up to the vote, most impassioned of all was Gregory Campbell who declared without a hint of irony that the people did not want to belong to an "expansionist empire" and in the style of Mel Gibson called for the

By Mel Corry

return of "freedom"

Aside from the buffoonery we have come to expect from the DUP and their likes uncertainty remains. Tory Toff Jacob Rees Mogg has stopped taking about No Deal and is now using the phrase "exit on WTO terms". Labour remain sheepish about their own position preferring instead to call for a general election. They are acutely aware that to win a general election they would need to win seats that voted strongly to leave. The other parties are calling either for a people's vote or a new referendum.



The people's vote will be a referendum on the eventual deal reached by the government a new referendum would seem ill advised as each side is claiming that they would win and that their vote would increase.

The reaction in Strasbourg was not one of triumph but rather steely resolve to squeeze the British and continue their punishment as they did

with the Greek people. Interestingly the pundits were concerned about the markets but as the pound slipped initially it quickly bounced back. The stock market remains stable with no sign of panic.

So, the drama continues May will survive the no confidence motion and on Monday she must return to parliament with a new deal. It took two years to negotiate the deal that MPs threw out yesterday, one wonders what she can deliver between now and Monday. She has failed to reach across the house to Labour and keeps trying to placate the ERG (European Research Group) within her own party.

It is clear that the Tory party, the DUP, the European Union and the "Markets" whoever they may be, fear a Corbyn government more than anything else and will do whatever it takes to frustrate the only vote that would give real effect to democracy a general election.

Such an election here would be a barometer for how the parties are viewed here particularly since the imposition of more Tory austerity with universal credit and the pending publishing of the RHI findings. I fear however that article 50 will be extended and the uncertainty we have become accustomed to will continue.

Editorial

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Happy Families?

THE European parliament was known as a gravy train for those fortunate enough to be elected to it and whilst the Stormont assembly may not deliver such rich pickings there seems to be a smell of nepotism in the air.

Recently published figures show that 15 assembly members have relatives on the payroll being paid out of the public purse.

Those employed range from sons and daughters to wives and fathers whose jobs include manger/researcher, receptionist, parliamentary officer and secretarial case worker.

By far the biggest percentage comes from the DUP, which is not surprising considering some of the revelations during the RHI inquiry.

Of their 28 MLAs, 9 employed family members, although that is down from three years ago when a Stormont report revealed that of the 38 DUP MLAs at that time 22 had family members in their offices.

This is a significant reduction on today's figures brought about by the Stormont expenses watchdog introducing new rules in 2016 which limited to one the number of family members who could work for an assembly member.

Two Ulster Unionist MLAs, Steve Aiken and Roy Beggs employ their wives, as does the DUP's North Down MLA Alex Easton, as does his party colleague Paul Frew.

East Belfast DUP member Joanne Bunting employs her aunt and a party colleague's son. East Derry DUP William Irwin also employs a colleague's son and his own daughter. Other DUP members employing family members are Paul Givan, father, Edwin Poots', son, Michelle McIlveen brother,.

Sinn Fein and the Green Party do not allow the practice of employing family members, but of the others the TUV's Jim Allister employs his daughter as does John Dallat of the SDLP while Paula Bradshaw from Alliance employs her husband.

No-one would suggest, without evidence, that there was anything untoward in these appointments but the more cynical amongst us would not be so convinced and to a certain degree you couldn't blame them.

Brexit": Trade Union Perspectives Public Event

Wednesday 30 January,
6 p.m.

Exploring the views within the trade union movement on how best to defend and advance the interests of their members.

Speakers: Owen Reidy (assistant general secretary, Irish Congress of Trade Unions), Davy Thompson (regional co-ordinating officer, Unite), Alex Gordon (past President, RMT Union), Paddy Mackel (President, Belfast and District Trades Union Council).

Canada Room, Queen's University



Dublin Saturday 26 January,
11 a.m.

People's Dáil
Celebrating the centenary of
the first Dáil Éireann
Commemoration and celebration • Reflection • Inspiration

►Liberty Hall (Beresford
Place)

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Republican Forum

To register:

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We have a score to settle

GREETINGS from Berlin. On Sunday the streets of Berlin were awash with red flags when a hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets to remember the death of Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht murdered by fascists. The Communist Party of Ireland was represented by one of those flags.



People put red roses and carnations on the Memorial to Rosa and Karl and also those who fought fascism in Spain.



It was a wonderful if sad occasion. The Unity Supplement about Rosa in both the English and German Language was well received. LW.

Ernest Walker, Ulrike Rom, Lynda Walker in Berlin



Berlin pays its respects to Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht

By Ben Chako

THOUSANDS marched through Berlin last Sunday to pay their respects 100 years after the brutal murders of Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht.

Socialists from all corners of Germany and many foreign countries laid red flowers at the tombs of Luxemburg, Liebknecht and other revolutionaries in the Friedrichsfelde Socialist Cemetery in east Berlin on the Sunday preceding the centenary of their deaths, which falls on Tuesday.

The German communist leaders were assassinated in 1919 as the Spartacist revolt was crushed by the “Freikorps,” a far-right grouping of demobbed German soldiers who had refused to give up their weapons after the German surrender in World War I, on the orders of Social Democrat Party leaders Friedrich Ebert and Gustav Noske.

Marchers sang the Internationale and chants echoed from the myriad socialist groups who came together to honour the martyred revolutionaries, calling for solidarity with the Kurdish people oppressed by Turkey’s Erdogan regime, with the workers struggling against repressive governments in Sudan and Iran and for an end to neoliberalism and warmongering in the EU and NATO.

Demonstrators included the last prime minister of the German Democratic Republic and honorary Left party chairman Hans Modrow, numerous Left MPs, many members of the German Communist Party and international guests including

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament general secretary Kate Hudson and Communist Party of Britain leader Robert Griffiths.

The huge demonstration came a day after the largest yet annual Rosa Luxemburg Conference in Berlin, hosted by newspaper *Junge Welt*.

Over 3,500 socialists came together for a day of discussion on themes including the next crisis of



capitalism, the changing nature of imperialist war and the prospects for socialist revolution.

Talks and panel discussions were interspersed with cultural content including a theatre piece on Rosa Luxemburg and the Perfect Revolution, songs and rallies.

Enthusiasm rose to a crescendo in the session devoted to the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, with Culture Minister Abel Prieto and Cuban Communist Party central committee member Iliana Hernandez. Pointing to the rise of the far right in many parts of Europe, *Junge Welt* warned that “we are slipping back into barbarism, to which socialism is the only alternative.

“That’s why we must honour Rosa and Karl, not just this year, but every year.”

This article was first published in the Morning Star