

Defend democracy in the T&GWU

**Re-instate Mick O'Reilly
+ Eugene McGlone**

Protect the rights of members

At the end of June Mick O'Reilly T&GWU Irish Regional Secretary, and Eugene McGlone, Regional Organiser were suspended from Office, pending a hearing in London at which they face the sack. The decision was taken by the General Secretary, Bill Morris over the heads of the membership. Neither Mick O'Reilly nor Eugene McGlone was given any notice. There was no consultation with the Irish Regional Committee or with any branch.

After their suspension the two officials received a 240 page document setting out the "charges". There is not a single substantial charge. In particular – despite earlier innuendo – there is no charge that either official was guilty of any financial irregularity.

Clearly the union leadership took the decision to get rid of Mick O'Reilly and Eugene McGlone first and then came up with the "reasons" later. We would not let an employer away with this. We shouldn't let it happen in our union.

The real reasons

What is taking place is a witchhunt. The real reasons for it are not the petty "charges" that have been raised.

The leadership of our union are trying to develop cosy relations with the New Labour government. This is despite its attacks on public services and its defence of low wages and poor working conditions.

They want a similar friendly relationship with the government in the south. And they want partnership deals with employers that are really agreements to drive down wages, conditions and workers' rights.

Mick O'Reilly opposed the partnership deals between the government, the employers and the unions in the south. He stood against the leadership of the ICTU by offering train drivers who had been refused recognition rights membership of the TGWU. The leadership wants to get rid of Mick O'Reilly and Eugene McGlone because they see them as an obstacle to future cosy deals with the Westminster and Dublin governments and with employers.

An attack on you

This is not just a disagreement at the top of the union. It is not just an attack on two individuals. It is an attack on the democratic structures of our union, on the Irish leadership and on every member.

Senior officials sent from London have tried to prevent the Irish Regional Committee which is made up of delegates elected by the local membership from meeting and functioning. If they get away with this administrative coup d'état we will end up with a dictatorship by senior officials.

Unless the witchhunt is stopped any other official who tries to defend member's rights and conditions will also face the threat of removal.

And branch activists who threaten the cosy relationship with employers will be liable to be victimised.

What you can do

If you want a union that fights for your interests you need to stand up and oppose this coup.

Get your branch to support our call for the immediate reinstatement of Mick O'Reilly and Eugene McGlone.

Demand that the democratic structures of our union in Ireland be allowed to function. Put the membership back in charge.

Support the call for a special delegate conference of the Irish region to debate and take the final decision on this.

We are not asking for a cover up. Let the leadership circulate any charges to the branches so that they can be debated at the Conference. Let the membership rule on the matter.

A local campaign has been set up to oppose the suspensions and demand that democracy be restored in our union.

To contact us phone Dawn Stuart on: 07855920419 or Ciaran Molloy on 07719692657

Produced by the *Mick O'Reilly and Eugene McGlone Defence Campaign*