

# THE **Leveller**

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## No Deal for the Working Class



## Scandal, cuts, crisis and class conflict

So the deal on policing and justice has gone through after months of high drama, the dragging and digging in of heels, the missing of deadlines, locked negotiations and political high-jinks. Both the Shin Feiners and the DUP have acted hard-line in order to help sell the deal to their hardliners - SF with, apparently, greater ease than the DUP. The UUP, still hurting that they are no longer the big boys at Stormont, tried to throw a spanner in the works at the last minute and punch above their size but it was all just so much hot air.

The deal that has been reached will mean that our wee statelet is a statelet with teeth for the first time since the imposition of direct rule in 1972. Not since we had effective one party rule under the Unionist Party has control of policing and judiciary been held at Stormont.

Our local politicians certainly milked the publicity generated

with deadlines, delays, 'compromise', visits from the British PM and Irish Taoiseach, threats from America and eventual agreement on devolved responsibility for policing and justice. Seriously though, no-one up at Stormont wanted to or ever intended to topple the devolved institutions. They did their best to ensure they talked tough without endangering the cash cow that has been so good to the lot of them.

While all this was going on something else was becoming increasingly apparent. The nature of the 'real' politics our leaders have worked so hard to secure has never been so blatantly exposed. First it was local politicians lining up like pigs at a trough to claim exorbitant expenses, along with the rest of them, as Westminster MPs. Not as if these double and treble jobbing MPs, MLAs, MEPs and councillors had enough coming in they got jobs for their

nearest and dearest and rented premises to and from themselves on what must be one of the most lucrative gravy trains in the north.

It is not our place to comment or pass judgement on the sexual proclivities or relations of consenting adults. However the Iris Robinson affair is of concern because it has uncovered a political underbelly of backhanders, shady dealings and profiteering.

As more severe cuts are set to fall, at Westminster's behest, the Assembly are demanding the power to rob the working class directly. The political consensus, echoed by even our more liberal 'betters', is to raise rates and 'reintroduce' water charges'. The choice is presented as one between cuts to the services used, and desperately needed, by working class people - necessary because of the financial crisis - and making us

pay for their financial crisis. Capitalism fucks up and we get screwed over either way! The politicians, like international corporations, are using the recession to punish working class people for their fuck ups. Companies have used the cover of the recession to relocate and cast workers onto the dole - and the republic gives a hint of what is yet to come following the Westminster elections.

It is not up to anarchists to come up with schemes for more successfully managing capitalism. What we must help ensure is that successful opposition to all proposed cut backs and increased taxation is built. Only the working class can achieve that, just as we have been successfully fighting off water charges for years, just as the Fujitsu and countless other workers have stood up against their bosses.

Solidarity is strength!