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Address by the General Secretary of the Federated Workers' Union of Ireland, Mr William A Attley, on Trade Unions in the 1990s, at the College of Industrial Relations on Wednesday [illegible]

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The invitation to d[illegible]gard as a challenge for it no[illegible]e current problems which Trade [illegible] area of forecasting, which i[illegible]ecause of the great political [illegible]inties of technological developme[illegible]

The most certain thi[illegible]e full of uncertainty, and livi[illegible]ade Union Movement's biggest chal[illegible]

My approach to this[illegible]ck at the developments that hav[illegible] current problems, and to see [illegible]) be made about Trade Unions in t[illegible]

I have no doubt that[illegible] "Big Bad Wolf" and I have some [illegible]capes me is that for some ine[illegible]enerally depicted as innocent "Li[illegible]

One reason I suspect [illegible]of Trade Unions against a backgr[illegible]rting of which by the media c[illegible]predator harrassing some poor [illegible]public notice against a backgro[illegible]s, the contents of which cas[illegible]e as to whether we fully know an[illegible]

The employers have bee[illegible]refully prepared media presentati[illegible]hey who work in the general i[illegible] of the people of this country and that Trade Unions are acting against them.

The reason why this has happened is that too often in the past, we have tended to look selfish and self-centred, and when defending the interests of the Trade Unions sometimes have appeared to have forgotten working people. The message which perhaps we have failed to carry across is that the sole moral purpose of Trade Unions is to help and defend the interests of working people, and that when the interests of working people improve the well-being of all people will improve in the country.

Achievements

Looking back at the development of Irish society over the past 100 years, with particular emphasis since the foundation of the State, the greatest single factor for social and economic advancement for ordinary working people has been the Trade Union Movement.

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