Research Report to
The Minister for Labour

A STUDY OF UNOFFICIAL STRIKES IN IRELAND

FINAL REPORT



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The National Institute for Higher Education, Limerick, 1987

Record No: 10943
Dewey No: 331.89
Date Input: 23 AUG 1993
Price: Donation

PREFACE

A report as extensive and detailed as this represents the culmination of the work and assistance of many people not all of whom it is possible to individually mention.

A number of people made such a large contribution that it would be impossible not to publicly express my appreciation. Various colleagues at the National Institute for Higher Education, Limerick (N.I.H.E.) were most helpful. John Coakley, Martin Leonard and Clare McCracken provided data processing assistance. Marian Geoghegan and Thomas Garavan both commented on drafts of the report and relieved me of some teaching duties during the interview stage of the study. Without the latter assistance it would not have been physically possible for me to undertake the study. Margaret Bunce helped in the literature search while Wendy Stephenson provided efficient and friendly library support. Donal Dineen, Head of the Department of Business Studies, provided both advice and support as required; while Tom Turner read and commented on parts of the report. I would like to record the able assistance given by Dr. Tom Lyne with proof-reading

Callista Bennis provided secretarial support during the early part of the study and typed the 49 case studies. Anne Dundon, of Ancillary Services Limited, typed the final report and, besides enduring the normal problem of multiple drafts, had to contend with a sometimes less than legible handwriting.

A number of the staff of the Department of Labour assisted with the project. Bill Cox acted as an efficient liaison person in the early days, a role which was ably filled for a short period by Greg Heylin.

This task was then taken over by Alfie Duggan who was extremely helpful. He was both understanding and patient when confronted with the difficulties which inevitably arise when an author is trying to combine both teaching and research. I wish to express a special word of thanks to him.

Other members of the Department Jim Palmer and Kevin Bonner were also helpful at various stages of the research.

Breda Cody and Brian Leonard of the Monitoring Unit endured our many niggling queries on the raw data and were always most obliging. Bill Roche and Joe Larrigy of University College Dublin, (U.C.D.) kindly provided access to data on union organisation collected as part of their study on "The Development of Trade Union Systems in Western European Societies after World War II" (The D.U.E.S. Study). This considerably aided the analysis conducted in Chapter Four.

The major portions of this report could not have been compiled without the assistance of all the Managers, shop stewards and union officials who agreed to be interviewed.

Obviously I owe a major debt to my co-author Frank O'Shea who was also involved in the interviewing conducted as part of the field work.

My wife Verona supported me during the frustrations and exhaustion which are an inevitable part of research. She also assisted with checking and rechecking the computer coding for the study and parts of the final draft.

Any remaining errors or misinterpretations are of course my responsibility.

Finally, because of their length, it is not possible to reproduce the questionnaires used in the study in this volume. They exist as a separate Appendix and researchers may have copies by contacting me at the N.I.H.E., Limerick.

JOSEPH WALLACE
October 1987

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS OF UNIONS NOT DEFINED IN THE TEXT

A.G.I.B.S.T.U.	Ancient Guild of Incorporated Brick and Stone Layers Trade Union.
A.S.T.M.S.	Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs.
B.F.W.A.U.	Bakery and Food Workers Amalgamated Union.
C.O.B.S.	Cork Operative Butchers Society.
I.D.A.T.U.	Irish Distributive and Administrative Trade Union.
I.M.E.T.U.	Irish Municipal Employees Trade Union.
I.N.P.D.T.U.	Irish National Painters and Decorators Trade Union.
N.A.T.E.	National Association of Transport Employees.
N.U.J.	National Union of Journalists.
U.C.L.	Union of College Lecturers.
U.S.E.D.U.	United Stationary Engine Drivers, Firemen, Cranemen, Motormen and Machinemen's Trade Union.

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