



campaign for a new workers' party

A change of leader won't mean a change of policies.

After a decade of attacks at the hands of New Labour, Blair is finally gone! Almost as hated as Thatcher before him, Blair's 'legacy' is cuts in public services, privatisation, attacks on workers rights and the bloody quagmire of war and occupation in the Middle East. But there will be no street parties for Blair's passing - instead, workers are gearing themselves up for more of the same under Gordon Brown. Where once we had 'New Labour' we now have 'New New Labour'. Brown has acted as chancellor for the past decade and has been a key architect of New Labours policies every step of the way.

Together, Brown and Blair have overseen a continuing increase in the chasm between rich and poor. 1 in 3 children in the UK are born into poverty and 9.7 million people live below the poverty line. Meanwhile, many corporations are experiencing record profits, particularly companies in energy, oil and banking. But thanks to Gordon Browns tax cuts for big business these fat cats are paying less than ever before.

There will be no change of direction for New Labour under Brown. Instead, it will be a case of 'same tracks, different driver.' Since Labour came to power, their pro-big business, anti-working class policies have seen a mass desertion of their ranks - official party membership has dropped by 50% and even this is an underestimate! In 2005 alone, £12m of trade union member's money flew into the coffers of a party that holds nothing but contempt for them. A change of leader won't mean a change of policies. We say the trade unions must break the link with Labour and working class people need to fight for a political voice in the form of a new mass workers' party!



We need a new party for the millions not the millionaires!

No to war and terror

Despite huge levels of opposition, the war and occupation in Iraq continues and has now cost over £5 billion of public money in the UK alone. It is estimated that over 100,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed since the invasion in 2003 and thousands of troops have died. However, private companies are not shying away from the potential for profit in Iraq - over 60 British companies have gained from at least £1 billion worth of contracts and investments since Saddam was overthrown while ordinary Iraqi people face a shattered infrastructure and over 70% unemployment. Opposition to the occupation of Iraq runs deep and it cannot be ruled out that Brown will be forced to initiate a staged withdrawal of British troops from Iraq in an attempt to distance himself from the warmongering of the Blair years. But Brown has voted with Blair for war and occupation all the way along and many of those troops pulled out of Iraq will simply be redeployed to Afghanistan. We need a new mass party that isn't afraid to draw the link between war, oil and big business and clearly states no more war and occupation for power and profit.

Stop the BNP

To increase support for their wars and to distract attention from crumbling public services, New Labour has attempted to divide working class communities with racist policies directed particularly against asylum seekers and Muslims. The far-right, racist British National Party (BNP) is using the situation to claim that it is on the side of the 'white working class' - nothing could be further from the truth; the BNP opposes the right of workers to defend their pay and conditions through strike action and their millionaire leader Nick Griffin is part of the landed gentry! In the recent local elections, the BNPs vote was squeezed alongside all the smaller parties. But if a new mass political alternative for all working people does not emerge it can not be ruled out that the BNP will again pick up a layer of votes from workers who feel abandoned by the Labour Party.

Save our NHS

The greatest single achievement of any Labour government was the establishment of the National Health Service in 1948. Now, nearly 50 years later there has been a fundamental change in the nature of the Labour Party. Where once, however imperfectly, Labour acted as a voice for working people, it is now an out-and-out party of the bosses intent on clawing back the gains of previous generations by opening the NHS up to privateers and the ravages of the market!

Big Business is destroying the environment

Global warming and climate change are threatening our future. The New Labour government has made empty promises about carbon reduction but as a party, they are devoted to the interests of big business. In a recent survey of top British executives, it was revealed that more than half of them regard climate change as their bottom priority, way behind such key issues as 'improving brand awareness'! These are the people who Brown answers to and none of the parties of big business are willing to step on their toes. To develop alternative forms of energy - such as wind, wave, geothermal or solar power - requires cooperation and planning. It means putting the needs of humanity and the planet before profit, something that capitalism is completely incapable of achieving.

Break the link!

Since 1997 the trade union leaders have given more than £100 million of their members' money to New Labour. In 2005 alone, almost £12 million of trade unionists' money went into the coffers of the Labour Party! But this money hasn't bought us a fivers worth of influence. While the billionaires get knighthoods and cut-price public services in return for their 'dodgy loans', trade unionists get kicked in the teeth. Some had hoped that Gordon Brown would be different when he became prime minister, but Brown has shown time and time again that he has the same political agenda as Blair. It is also clear that the Liberal Democrats do not pose a real alternative to New Labour as they have a track record of privatising services and making cuts where they control local councils. On the other hand, there are the Tories, whose Old Etonian leader Cameron has tried to rebrand them as 'cuddly conservatives'. But most ordinary workers aren't fooled by this; they know that the Tories stand for the same diet of cuts, closures and privatisation that New Labour do and that they answer to the same big business paymasters. The time has come for the trade unions to stop funding New Labour and work towards the establishment of a new party that genuinely represents the interests of the working class.

Unite the struggles!

All of the issues outlined above have the same root cause - the establishment parties stand in the interests of the fat cats, they defend the profits of the bosses well above any concern for the lives of ordinary working class people. A new party of the working class is needed to stand up for the millions, not the millionaires, and to take up issues such as cuts in hospital services, school closures, attacks on working conditions, reductions in pension rights and other such matters that affect our every day lives. A new workers' party could put forward a programme that properly takes account of environmental issues, fights racism, opposes war and occupation and does not give in to the profit motive of the fat cats! For a new party to win the support of many who are turned off by today's party political squabbling while the establishment parties are united on the big issues of cuts, closures and privatisation, it would have to be clearly open and democratic, but also a fighting organisation offering practical support to workers and youth in struggle. The Campaign for a New Workers' Party aims to bring together workers, trade unionists, socialists, young people and environment and community activists to work towards the establishment of such a party in England and Wales. The formation of a new mass workers' party would have a huge impact on giving workers the confidence to fight back. It could act as a national platform to counter the bosses' lies and slander and also act as a focal point for workers and young people coming into struggle. We are today faced with a situation unlike any other for the last century - there is no mass political voice for working class people. The Campaign for a New Workers' Party sets to change that as its task - if you agree, you should join the campaign today!

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