

campaign for a new workers' party

We need a party for the millions not the millionaires!

THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT

In the short space of time he has been prime minister, Gordon Brown has proved his credentials as a pro-big business, anti-working class politician and the rightful heir to Tony Blair's legacy of cuts, closures, privatisation and war. Any sort of honeymoon period for Brown was short lived as it soon became clear that he would pursue the same neo-liberal, privatising agenda as Blair. Brown showed his contempt for working class people right from the word go by welcoming into his cabinet Sir Digby Jones, the former head of the bosses' organisation the CBI. This is the man described by George Monbiot as "the most Neanderthal boss the CBI has ever had" who opposed the introduction of a minimum wage, has attempted to block corporate manslaughter legislation and is notoriously anti-trade union. This, along with his tea with Thatcher in 10 Downing Street, is a slap in the face to trade unionists whose money still lines the Labour



Party's pockets and shows the contempt that Brown & New Labour hold them in.

It's clear that there are now three parties of big business; we are determined to build a party that stands up to the bosses and fights in working class people's interest.

THE TRADE UNIONS

Over 100 years ago trade unionists and socialists joined together to fight for independent

political representation for the working class, the result was the Labour Party. Today Labour has joined with the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats in defending big business, leaving trade unionists with no party to defend their interests. In spite of the treachery of New Labour, trade union leaders have donated more than £100 million of their members' money to New Labour since 1997.

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In 2005 alone almost £12 million of trade unionists money went into the coffers of the Labour Party. Yet in return the trade unions have received nothing. It's the equivalent of buying your boss a new pair of Doc Martins for him to kick you with! The RMT and FBU have already broken the link with the Labour Party - trade unionists in the other affiliated unions need to fight for not one more penny to go to the party that's attacking them. Imagine what a difference it would make if instead that money was used to fund anti-cuts, anti-privatisation candidates, socialists and trade union candidates. This could be an important step towards building a new mass political alternative for working class people.

THE LABOUR PARTY - CAN IT BE RECLAIMED?

One of the first decisions made by Tony Blair upon being elected Leader of the Labour Party, backed all the way by Gordon Brown, was to rip the heart out of the party, by getting rid of Clause 4, the 'socialist clause'. This has been followed by a systematic destruction of the party's democratic structures. This process was again escalated at the 2007 Conference where new proposals were voted through that gave the leadership the right to ignore conference decisions!

Membership numbers have been in free fall, now at around 182,000 down from 198,000 in 18 months, which in itself was half the level of 1997. In most parts of the country the Labour Party is now no more than a shell. The time when the Labour party could be 'reclaimed' has long gone, we need to put our energy into the fight for a new mass workers' party!

COMMUNITY ACTION

The fact that 10,000 people marched recently in Haywards Heath in rural Sussex in opposition to cuts in local NHS Accident and Emergency services is indicative of the growing anger there is up and down the country. Many working class people are becoming involved in anti-cuts campaigning for the first time. The CNWP is committed to working alongside these community activists in campaigning against cuts and privatisation, whilst at the same time linking all these attacks to their root cause. We would like to see groups of CNWP supporters established in every local community, raising the need for a fighting political alternative to the three capitalist parties.

GET INVOLVED

The CNWP welcomes all trade unionists, socialists, community activists and other working class

The CNWP believes that some of the demands which will be central to the formation of a new party include:

- Keep health and education public. Stop and reverse cuts in, and sell off of our public services.
- For properly funded, democratically controlled public services for all.
- For decent, affordable public housing for all who want it.
- No to racism and discrimination! Oppose the divisive BNP. No to the specific oppression of people due to their ethnic background, nationality, gender, sexuality, age, disabilities or health.
- For a living wage at least £8 an hour, and a living pension- restore the link with earnings now.
- No to trident nuclear weapons! Spend the £76 billion on public services.
- Ownership and planning of energy and transport, leading to massive investment and expansion of renewable energy and clean public transport.
- Immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.
- For a democratic republic - a radical extension of democracy including all representatives elected by proportional representation, subject to recall and paid the average wage.
- No to the capitalist profit system. For a democratic socialist society, based on public ownership of the major corporations that dominate the economy, and run to meet the needs of all and to protect our environment for future generations, instead of the profit of the few.

people to become supporters. We wish to discuss in an open and democratic way how we can best build a broad new workers' party. The CNWP seeks to link the anti-war, anti-privatisation and other campaigns together with trade unionists in building such a party.

support the campaign for a new workers' party

www.cnwp.org.uk

Name

Address

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..... Tel

email

return this form to:

CNWP
PO Box 858,
London,
E11 1YG
or phone 020 8558 7947
or email
info@cnwp.org.uk