



campaign for a new workers' party



If Brown won't listen then it's...

Time for a new workers' party!

The newly merged union Unite is leading a lobby of the Labour Party conference on Sunday 23 September. A whole list of grievances will be presented to the Labour leadership in defence of the rights of working people. But millions of trade union members will rightly be asking 'How can the big unions still remain handcuffed to New Labour, in the face of its pro-business agenda?'

The last week has seen these union general secretaries correctly denouncing Brown for his 'meet and greet' session with Thatcher. This disgusted generations of workers, from ex-miners and steelworkers to postal workers and civil servants. Totally aware of this, union leaders have

rushed out statements attacking Brown. Yet the very same leaders refuse to carry those sentiments through to their logical conclusion - stop giving millions of our union subs to New Labour and launch a new mass workers' party!

Brown meeting Thatcher is the logical conclusion of the New Labour project, transforming it into an openly big-business party. Brown, and Blair before him, are the heirs to her legacy, making Britain a place where the rich and powerful can prosper at the expense of millions of working-class people suffering from the effects of privatisation and the rest of the neo-liberal agenda.

Thatcher called the miners 'the enemy within' and now Brown views the whole trade union movement with the same distain. Brown wants to abolish the right of Labour Party conference to vote against the government on policy. He plans to end the opportunity for unions and constituency delegates to vote on so-called contemporary motions, shuffling off controversial issues to private sessions of the machine-dominated national policy forum. New Labour democracy has been an oxymoron for years now and this latest move is just another nail in the coffin of Labour as a party that workers can have any influence over. We need to break the link and fight for a new party that can fight in our interests and which we can have a real say over the policies and campaigns of.

Of course, New Labour prime ministers, like Thatcher herself, are war leaders as well. Millions live in poverty but billions are spent in the illegal war and occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan. Tens of thousands of miners and steelworkers were

sacked by Thatcher just as Brown announced over 100,000 civil servants losing their jobs live on TV when he was chancellor. Yet the union leaders have been doing their best to try and persuade us that Brown is different to Blair. In reality, he is part and parcel of the New Labour regime. Why do we need to waste more time and money? We need to cut the links with Labour now.

On 17 October, the unions will be lobbying Parliament to put pressure on to get the Trade Union Freedom Bill passed. These are the same laws that were used to defeat the miners and the printers at Wapping. Yet 27 years later, the anti-trade union laws remain, even after 10 years of a Labour Government. Surely, if Labour MPs don't deliver yet again, the penny must drop! Let's cut the links and launch a new party that can link together the millions that have opposed this government, from the anti-war protestors to the anti-NHS cuts campaigners, and give working class people the political voice that they deserve.

Fat Cat Britain

Gordon Brown boasts of building a 'stable' economy and 'ending the Tory boom and bust.' Tell that to the hundreds upon hundreds of ordinary people queuing round the block outside Northern Rock to withdraw their life savings! It seems the 'lucky chancellor' is to become an 'unlucky prime minister', and its ordinary workers who'll feel the brunt of it. As chancellor, Brown oversaw a period of boom where the rich got richer, with the average pay rise for a FTSE-100 director for 06 - 07 reaching 30%! But for most of us it seemed as if that boom was taking place in another world, with wages stagnating, conditions worsening and bills being covered through credit each month. Enormous anger has built up at the unequal nature of society. A job - albeit often low paid and insecure - and the availability of relatively cheap credit, have softened the blows that have rained down on working-class people. But now the chickens are coming home to roost and the chaotic unregulated nature of global capitalism means that images like those outside of Northern Rock could become more common. The commentator Will Hutton stated in the Observer "No culture [of regulating business] exists in degenerate Britain. We need a party which will speak for an interest other than self-interested, amoral plutocrats. None exists." The only sort of party that could put anyone's interests above those of the fat cats and financiers would be a party made up of and controlled by working class people.

Campaign for a New Workers Party

Since 1997 the trade union leaders have given more than £100 million of their member's 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. The Campaign for a New Workers Party (CNWP) was launched in March 2006. So far around 3,000 trade union and community representatives have signed the declaration for a new party. 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!

support the campaign for a new workers' party!

www.cnwp.org.uk

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