

**Fed up with cuts, closures and privatisation? Want a party for the millions, not the millionaires? Then you should join the Campaign for a New Workers' Party** ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶



# **campaign** for a **new workers' party**

**Campaign for a New Workers' Party July 2007 Shop Stewards Network bulletin**

**Brown, Cameron and Ming all stand up for the bosses...**

## **Time for a party that stands up for workers!**

The Campaign for a New Workers' Party (CNWP) welcomes the founding conference of the Shop Stewards Network. It is an important event for all in the workers movement; an active and organised network of shop stewards would have a huge impact in sharing experiences of struggle, co-ordinating action and building solidarity - linking together struggles at a local level will strengthen the fight back against the bosses. The CNWP believes the fight for a new workers' party goes hand in hand with the campaign for a strong shop stewards movement. We believe that as well as an industrial solution, the struggle against the anti-working class policies of the establishment requires a political answer.

### **Blair gone**

After a decade in power, Tony Blair is finally gone. Many workers are understandably pleased to see the back of the man who once boasted that he had "taken from [the Labour Party] everything that they thought they believed in." But his final speech to parliament gave an indication of what's around the corner - he was greeted with a standing ovation from both New Labour and Tory MPs!

It's a bizarre set of affairs when two political leaders, Gordon Brown and David Cameron, are vying over who is best placed to continue the work of a man who left office as hated and loathed as Tony Blair was. But that is the situation that we are in now; New Labour, the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats all occupy the same political 'middle ground' which in reality means pro-big business policies, tax breaks for the super rich, privatisation and cuts in our public services.

### **Bosses' Parties**

Brown and Cameron have nothing but contempt for working people - Gordon Brown was callous enough in 2004 to announce 104,000 civil service job cuts live on television before any civil servant had been consulted. There'll be no shift to the left under Brown; despite minor cosmetic changes, his track record over the past decade shows it'll be more of the same cuts, closures and privatisations.

Tony Blair has in the past stated that he felt the break with the Liberals had been a historical mistake, and now Gordon Brown is proving in action that he holds the same belief. Brown's "government of the talents" doesn't



just stop with asking Lib Dems to join his cabinet; Former CBI head, Sir Digby Jones, is being ennobled so he can take a ministerial job. And the new Prime Minister has created a 'Business Leaders' Council' of company bosses such as Sir Alan Sugar to advise him.

It exposes how far back the Labour Party has gone that there has been barely a murmur of protest about Brown's "government of the talents" and makes it clear that to all intents and purposes what we have now are three separate 'wings' of one pro-big business 'party' who are united on the big picture of protecting the profits of the super rich and attacking workers, but squabble over the small print of how this is done. So this begs the question, if the establishment have got three different parties that all represent their interests - isn't it about time that we had one of our own?

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Imagine the impact it would have if there were a mass party that actually stood in our interests - against privatisation, against job cuts and for public services, affordable housing and workers rights.

#### **Solidarity**

The recent strike action of CWU members in the postal service is a prime example of this - in the run up to the strike, Royal Mail chief executive Adam Crozier and his lackeys made statements which were reported in the press claiming that Postal workers were over paid and under worked. Not one voice in parliament spoke out against this! A new mass party could give workers a political voice to counter the bosses' lies.

There is an increasingly small minority of those in the workers'

movement who still hang on to the Labour Party and believe that it can be 'reclaimed' for working class people. The recent Labour leadership 'contest' exposed the truth of the argument that Labour can be changed when the left-wing MP John McDonnell failed to even get on the ballot paper, so far to the right has Labour now gone.

#### **Leadership 'contest'**

A modicum of choice was given in the form of the Deputy Leadership contest. But there wasn't even much to choose from here - all six deputy leadership candidates endorsed Gordon Brown and even John Cruddas, who was seen as the 'left' candidate because of some basic points he was willing to make about class, refused to support anything so bold as just a minor tax increase on the super rich!

The time to try and reclaim Labour is long past - since 1997 New Labour have pocketed over £100 million of trade unionists money, but barely 8% of trade union members in the affiliated unions bothered to vote in the deputy leadership contest. We get nothing positive from New Labour; that money would be better spent in fighting to build a party that puts forward policies in our interests that workers can actually get enthused by and participate in.

We're in a situation now that workers have not faced for over one hundred years - working class people have no mass political voice in this country. That was the case before the foundation of the Labour Party. Then, trade unionists argued over whether their energy would be better spent putting pressure on the 'progressive capitalist' Liberal Party or whether they should struggle for an independent party of their own. This was not sorted out overnight; it was a process, but a process which resulted in the formation of the Labour Party that, however imperfectly, gave working class people a voice.

#### **New Workers' Party**

Now, the Labour Party is an unrepentant party of big business and Gordon Brown is intent on turning the clock back even further. The struggle to build a strong, left trade union movement and the campaign for a new mass party for working people are two vital elements in the fight against the bosses' offensive that the three main parties represent. If you want to join that fight, then we would urge you to sign up to the Campaign for a New Workers' Party today.

### **Campaign for a New Workers' Party Shop Stewards Network fringe meeting**

#### **Why we need a New Workers' Party**

Saturday 7 July

5:00pm - 6:00pm

South Camden Community College Library  
(Just opposite main conference hall)

**Speaker: Councillor Dave Nellist, CNWP Chair**

