

Socialist Party

SUPPORT

THE POSTAL

WORKERS

Fair pay & no strings! ● Defend the postal service ● No cuts - no privatisation

Postal workers have been left with no choice but to take strike action to achieve a decent pay rise, defend jobs and working conditions and to defend the Postal service.

Royal Mail have refused to budge on their miserable 2.5% pay offer - in effect a pay cut with inflation at nearly 5%. This offer comes with completely unacceptable strings. Proposed changes in start times for delivery staff will not only worsen the service but will mean a loss of £12.37 a week shift allowance or £643 a year. Their proposals include 40,000 job losses and a complete destruction of the postal service as we know it.

Royal Mail try to tell us that postal workers are "25% overpaid and 40% underworked". Postal workers who are struggling with an ever-increasing workload or who have to take second jobs to make ends meet can tell a different story. At the other end of the scale the man who is lecturing postal workers about their pay, Royal Mail Chief Executive, Adam Crozier, has a salary, pension and bonus of over £1 million a year.

Further action

This is a battle that postal workers cannot afford to lose. It is clear that Royal Mail are determined to break the union so that they can get away with further attacks on pay and conditions without resistance. They are trying to break the unity of postal workers by isolating offices and abolishing national pay bargaining.

Unless Royal Mail come up with a decent pay offer without strings the industrial action will have to continue. One-day strikes can be an effective demonstration of strength and can have an impact. However, if they do not succeed in bringing Royal Mail to the table with a decent offer, it will be necessary to escalate the action.

If the union nationally is prepared, if necessary, to take the kind of determined and solid action that was taken by postal workers in Belfast and Mallusk in last year's strike against management bullying and harassment, this battle can be won.



Other workers should stand behind the postal workers in this fight. It is not only postal workers who are faced with a pay cut and with attacks on jobs, conditions and pensions. These attacks are common to the whole of the public sector.

Health workers, teachers, civil servants and other workers are already lining up to do battle against Brown's imposed pay limits and against other attacks. A victory for the postal workers will be a victory for all other workers.

Time to break with New Labour

Underlying this whole dispute is the attempt by the New Labour government to privatise the postal service and hand over the sorting and delivery of mail to their friends in big business.

Any idea that a Brown government will be any different from Blair will be quickly dashed. On the day that Brown took office four leading businessmen, including the head of one of the biggest private equity companies, a leading venture capitalist and an internet betting tycoon, gave over £500,000 to the Labour Party.

Brown will carry on with the policy of privatisation in the interests of speculators and profiteers like these.

It is time that the unions stopped propping up New Labour. Between 2002 and 2005 the CWU contributed £735,000 to the Labour Party. In return, postal workers have been given a huge kick in the teeth.

It is time for the unions to break with Labour and instead use their resources to build a new party that can genuinely represent the interests of working class people.



Socialist Party For Workers' Unity & Socialism

The Socialist Party campaigns on many issues affecting working class and young people in the communities, workplaces, colleges and schools. We have consistently stood for unity of working class people against attacks from Government and the bosses and against sectarianism. Throughout the 'Troubles' our members played a leading role in organising strikes and workers demonstrations against sectarian killings and attacks.

Fighting water charges

We have been the most active political party to fight the introduction of water charges and the attempt to privatise the water service. In 2003 we initiated the We Won't Pay Campaign to build support for and organise mass non-payment of water charges. Socialist Party members, against the opposition of the right-wing trade union leaders, successfully campaigned for the trade unions to support mass non-payment of water charges.

All the parties in the Assembly are united in supporting New Labour policies of attacking working class people's living standards. What we need is a party which stands for the common interests of working and unemployed people - a socialist alternative where the millions run society, not the millionaires!

Management harassment

The overwhelming vote for strike action was achieved despite the petty attempts by management to obstruct union activities, prevent meetings etc.

Locally this harassment has continued right up to today's strike. Union reps are being denied facilities in order to prevent them having access to their members.

Managers have even gone to the lengths of removing material from union notice boards. When one rep this week put up a copy of the famous Pastor Niemoller poem on the Nazis ('First they came for...'), a local manager promptly took it down!

All this harassment is clearly appreciated by those at the top. Local managers have just received a £1,800 bonus for 2006/7! Meanwhile postal workers, the people who actually deliver the service, get nothing.

That is a sign of how things will be if this dispute is lost.

Join the Socialist Party

I would like to join more info

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Fill in and Return to a member of the Socialist Party or post to: Socialist Party,
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