

PROFIT SYSTEM MUST BE FOUGHT!

Join the struggle for socialism

SO AUTHENTIC do the Con-Dems want our Christmas to be that they're taking us back to Dickensian times! But workers and young people have the power to stop them.

Dave Griffiths

West Midlands Socialist Party secretary

More gets revealed every day about Scrooge-like big companies such as Vodafone and the wealthiest people dodging taxes, but for you and me the tax rises will pile up in the New Year.

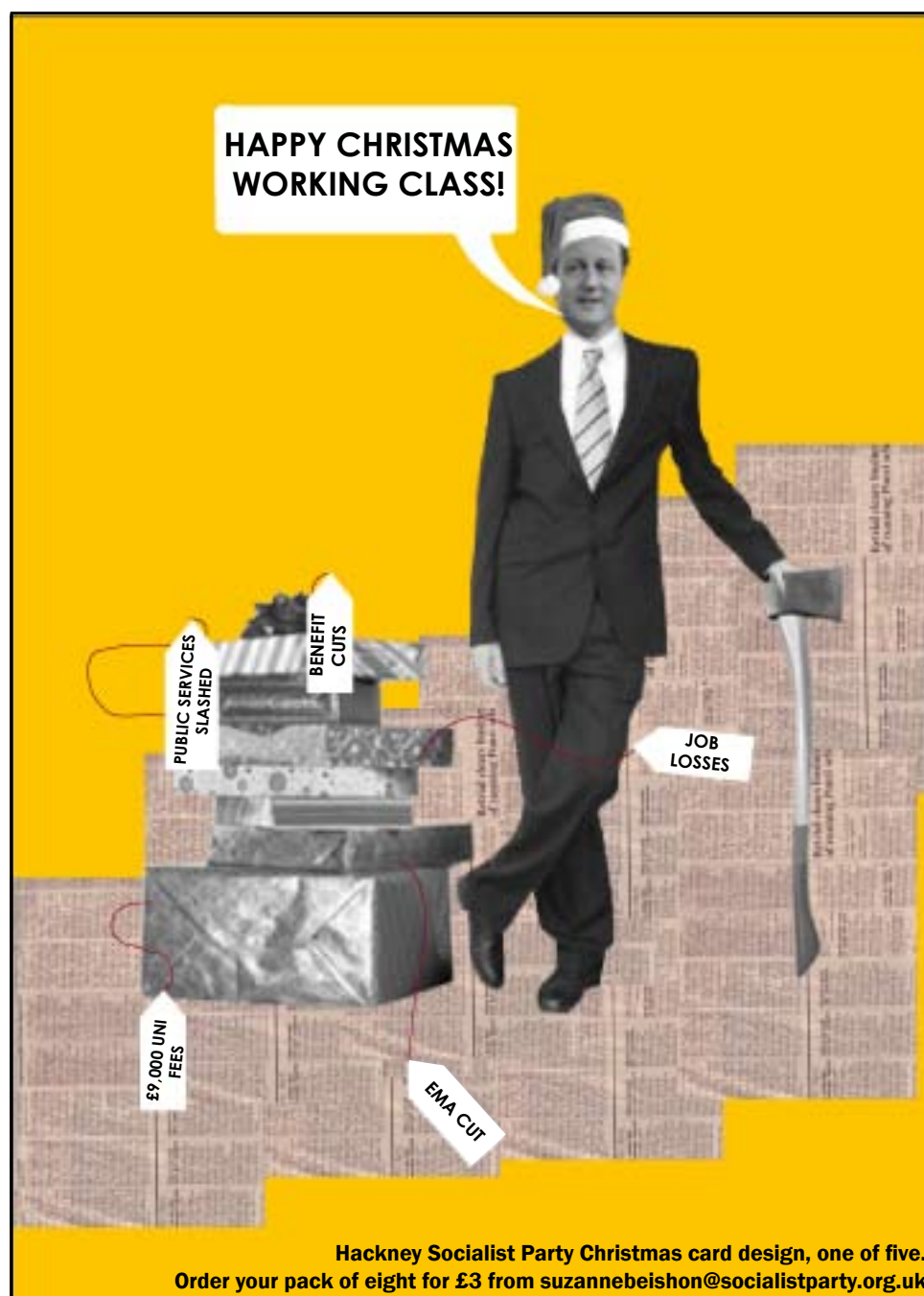
The rich get richer, and we pay the bill for the mess they've made. And, as Ireland shows, this pain isn't just for a year, it's going to go on and on – if we let it.

The same system that's robbing us is robbing people all around the world. The shops advertise Christmas jumpers and other sea-

sonal fare and pile pressure on us to buy buy buy. But there is little mention of the three Bangladeshi garment workers shot dead, and scores wounded, for protesting against not being paid the wages they were owed. Or of the migrant farmworkers who were systematically abused, intimidated, beaten and kept in 'inhuman conditions' by a gang who made over £10 million supplying big supermarkets.

Twin toffs

THE TWIN toffs David Cameron and Nick Clegg will have a very different Christmas to the millions of young people whose education and future they are attacking. Eric 'Jabba the Hutt' Pickles will be OK, but not the tens of thousands of council workers he's insisting are sacked, or the people dependent on the



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services they provide.

The Tories think we don't need a good education for a life of working in call centres. Bosses or governments can repress workers and youth if they resist. This is the bare-knuckled class society that exists today, a system based on exploitation.

The manic, relentless logic of driving wages and conditions to the bottom in competition for profit drives bosses, and the governments who do their bidding, to attack all our lives. It also means ever more people go unnecessarily hungry, homeless and jobless.

Don't expect to hear too much about Jesus chasing the moneylenders out of the temple amidst the Christmas TV mush and adverts. But chasing the class-ridden profit system out of our societies is what we must do. The students have set the tone with their mass, determined

and energetic protests. Mass action by workers and well-organised community campaigns can bring down this vicious government.

Change society

SO LET'S work to make it a happy new year. For a real 'Out with the old and in with the new', we must fight for a new society – a socialist society where class privilege is ended, and production is democratically organised, not for short-term greed but for the benefit of all people and the planet itself.

There's more than enough to feed, house and educate the entire world and more. But the profit system stands in the way.

What better new year's resolution? Join the fight to change the system. Join the Socialist Party. Better still, do it now.

whatwestandfor

The Socialist Party fights for socialist change – a democratic society run for the needs of all and not the profits of a few. We also fight, in our day-to-day campaigning, for every possible improvement for working-class people.

As capitalism dominates the globe, the struggle for genuine socialism must be international.

The Socialist Party is part of the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI), a democratic, socialist international that organises in over 40 countries.

Our demands include:

Work & Income

- Trade union struggle to increase the minimum wage to £8 an hour without exemptions as an immediate step towards £10 an hour. For an annual increase in the minimum wage linked to average earnings.
- All workers, including part-timers, temps, casual and migrant workers to have trade union rates of pay, employment protection, and sickness and holiday rights from day one of employment.
- An immediate 50% increase in the state retire-

ment pension, as a step towards a living pension. Reinstating the link with average earnings now.

- Reject 'Welfare to Work'. For the right to decent benefits, education, training, or a job, without compulsion.
- Scrap the anti-trade union laws! For fighting trade unions, democratically controlled by their members. Full-time union officials to be regularly elected and receive no more than a worker's wage.
- A maximum 35-hour week with no loss of pay.

Public services

- No to privatisation and the Private Finance Initiative (PFI). Renationalise all privatised utilities and services, with compensation paid only on the basis of proven need.
- Fully fund all services and run them under accountable, democratic committees that include representatives of service workers and users.
- Free, publicly run, good quality education, available to all at any age. Abolish university tuition fees now and introduce a living grant. No to academies!
- A socialist NHS to provide for everyone's health needs – free at the point of use and under democratic control. Kick out private contractors!

- Keep council housing publicly owned. For a massive building programme of publicly owned housing, on an environmentally sustainable basis, to provide good quality homes with low rents.

Environment

- Major research and investment into replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy and into ending the problems of early obsolescence and unrecycled waste.
- Public ownership of the energy generating industries. No to nuclear power. No to Trident.
- A democratically planned, low fare, publicly-owned transport system, as part of an overall plan against environmental pollution.

Rights

- Oppose discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, disability, sexuality, age, and all other forms of prejudice.
- Repeal all laws that trample over civil liberties. For the right to protest! End police harassment.
- Defend abortion rights. For a woman's right to choose when and whether to have children.
- For the right to asylum. No to racist immigration laws.

New workers' party

- For a new mass workers' party drawing together workers, young people and activists from workplace, community, environmental and anti-war campaigns, to provide a fighting, political alternative to the pro-big business parties.
- Trade unions to disaffiliate from the Labour Party now and aid the building of a new workers' party!

Socialism and Internationalism

- No to imperialist wars and occupations. Withdraw the troops immediately from Iraq and Afghanistan!
- Tax the super-rich! For a socialist government to take into public ownership the top 150 companies and banks that dominate the British economy, and run them under democratic working-class control and management. Compensation to be paid only on the basis of proven need.
- A democratic socialist plan of production based on the interests of the overwhelming majority of people, and in a way that safeguards the environment.
- No to the bosses' neo-liberal European Union! For a socialist Europe and a socialist world!