

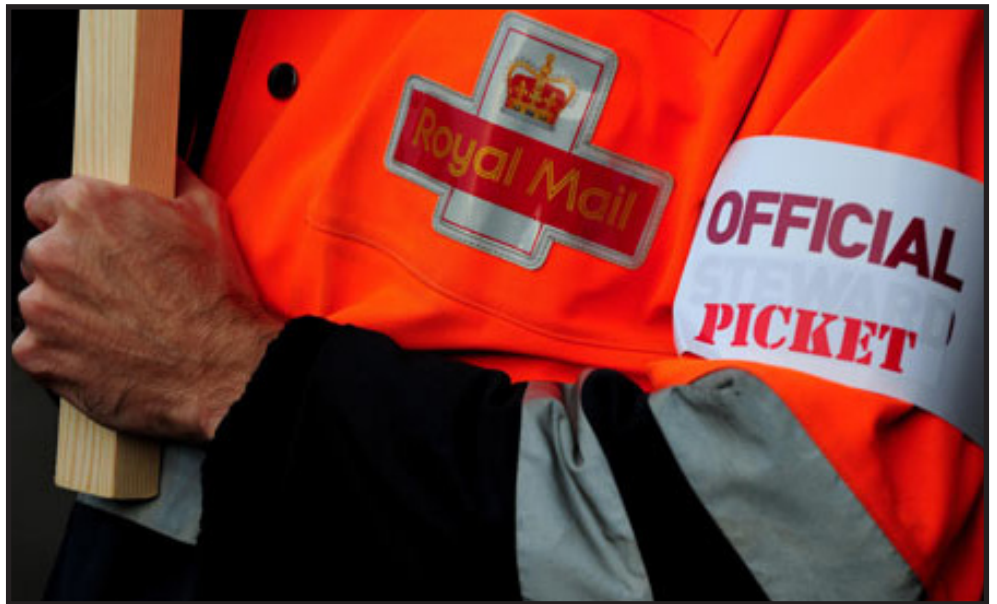
STOP THE SELL-OFF OF ROYAL MAIL

PREPARE NOW FOR ACTION TO HALT PRIVATISATION

CWU activists from across Britain will today descend on parliament to lobby their MP's and demand to Keep the Post Public. In amongst the barrage of attacks that working people are facing at the hands of this government of the millionaires is, again, a plan to try and sell off Royal Mail. The CWU has seen off attacks like this before; We can not allow this to happen now and Socialist Party members in the CWU are determined to help build the biggest campaign against privatisation and link this up with the anti-cuts movement that is developing across the country.

The ConDem argument for selling Royal Mail is that the company needs 'an injection of capital' to allow further modernisation and to reduce the pension deficit of £8.4 billion (down from £10.3 billion last year). This argument falls down on both counts and is shown up to be the ideological claptrap it really is.

First, workers in Royal Mail created profits of £321 million in 2009 and £408 million in 2010 during the worst recession in living memory and in the face of (supposedly) falling mail volumes, doing more



work for the same wage with less staff.

Second, the pension deficit which successive governments allowed to build up through 'pensions holidays' and siphoning off profits, has reduced over the last 12 months by £1.9 billion and under a plan agreed between Royal Mail and the fund's trustees, the deficit will be eliminated over 38 years as a result of increased funding by the business.

There is a third reason now being spouted by Royal Mail's chief executive, Moya Greene, as to

why privatisation is necessary and that is the £1.2 billion loan New Labour made to the company for modernisation. Repayment began this year. Greene has stated that she is seeking to suspend the repayments; otherwise, according to her, Royal Mail will become insolvent by Christmas.

Greene has been in the job since June, having previously been in charge of Canada Post, where she was extremely unpopular with the workforce. Profits increased in her time there but so did injuries at work, grievances and strikes.

continued over...

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The Montreal Gazette (27/5/10) was under no illusions as to why she was head-hunted by Royal Mail: "Moya Greene is going to the UK to execute something the Canadian government doesn't yet have the political appetite for here - privatising the mail service."

Whatever happens to Royal Mail in the future will depend on what action we take now. The CWU needs to make it clear to workers and the public exactly what privatising the postal service would mean - job cuts, wage cuts, increased workload, reduced or withdrawn services and public subsidies for private companies.

That means a sustained campaign with the necessary national resources put into it; it also means CWU activists enthusiastically taking part in the anti-cuts campaign groups that are developing in communities across the country. This will both give us a platform to build support for our fight and allow

us to help in linking up the struggles that all workers and young people are facing.

As a union we need to raise the consciousness of workers and the public, link the fight to the anti-cuts campaigns and to organise and cooperate with other unions planning action, like the NUT, UCU, RMT, PCS and others.

When the details of the Postal Bill are announced by the ConDem Cutters, we must be prepared to take strike action - starting with a one day national strike of all postal workers as a warning shot across the bow of the government. Where possible, we should coordinate this with other unions taking action.

To prepare for this, in the short time we have before the bill is published, a consultative ballot on industrial action would give the CWU leadership the opportunity to discuss with our members across the country and shore up support for this struggle.

Royal Mail has existed for 350 years but if the ConDem's get their way, it could be lost forever within 350 days.

- **Stop the Privatisation of Royal Mail!**
- **No to cuts, closures and job losses.**
- **Build a mass campaign to stop the sell-off.**
- **Prepare now for industrial action to keep private hands off our post service!**



National Shop Stewards Network

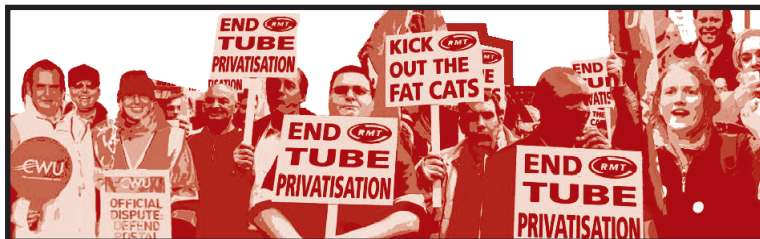
FIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR CUTS

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