

## **STOP THE JOBS SLAUGHTER** Nationalise to defend jobs and communities



Recent weeks have seen a devastating series of closures and large-scale redundancies, particularly in the steel industry from SSI, Tata and Caparo. Workers at Crown Packaging (ex Metal Box) and JCB are also bracing themselves for an announcement on job losses.

The Socialist Party calls on the unions involved to bring together shop stewards in all the affected companies to discuss a national strategy of action including industrial action and occupations alongside the demand of nationalising. These skills should not be lost.

If the plants were nationalised communities and workers could decide on a socially useful plan of production, investing in a programme of public works such as infrastructure and house building to stop the jobs slaughter and tackle the housing crisis.

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he steel industry is 'in crisis' and needs [[ 'life-saving surgery', Gareth Stace the director of UK steel has warned. Tata Steel has announced 1,200 job cuts at sites in Scunthorpe and Lanarkshire. This follows the closure of SSI's plant in Redcar, Teesside where 2,200 jobs have been lost.

It is estimated that for every sacked steelworker another seven jobs will go in the supply and service industries, and it is not just steelworkers who are losing their jobs. Construction equipment companies Caterpillar and JCB have already shed hundreds of agency workers and are now making redundancies from their full time workforce. 500 staff workers at JCB will go in the next few days and shop floor redundancies are set to follow. This April JCB announced its second best annual profit margin in its 70 year history of over £300m.

Caterpillar employs over 100,000 worldwide and has announced it will cut its workforce by 10,000. It wants to close 20 manufacturing facilities over the next three years and is not ruling out the closure of its Desford plant in Leicester with the loss of 1,500 jobs. Metal Box in Wales

is also threatened with job losses.

Gareth Stace appeals to Tory business Secretary Sajid Javid to honour promises he has made to address some of the challenges facing the industry. But the response from Mr Javid was 'there is no straightforward solution to complex global challenges' facing the industry.

In other words let global capitalism run its course in determining the livelihoods of thousands of skilled workers. This crisis is a result of the continuing economic catastrophe caused by the billionaire bankers, speculators and spivs. We will not pay for this with our jobs.

The trade unions cannot allow



## nationalshopstewardsnetwork

www.shopstewards.net ■ The NSSN was initiated by the transport union RMT in 2006 so that rank and file trade unionists could organise together across the union movement and ensure that workers in struggle would be supported. It is officially backed by nine national trade unions

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this to happen and in the first instance should immediately convene a national joint conference of all the unions involved. This should be led by the shop stewards from the various plants to plan a united fight back against these redundancies.

The unions should be demanding the opening up of company accounts to inspection by the workforce and opposing all jobs losses. Private and public workers need to unite to fight the jobs slaughter.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has re-popularised the idea of nationalisation through his election campaign, raising the idea of re-nationalising the rail industry (although he would do this on a gradual basis as the various franchises came up for re-newel). We call for immediate re-nationalisation of these industries and any other company threatening redundancies. This should be on the basis

of genuine democratic workers' control and management.

In 1971 Rolls-Royce in Derby went bust. Then workers took to the streets with demonstrations. Such was the anger that the Tory Heath government was forced to nationalise it in 24 hours."

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