Government crisis deepens

**TORIES OUT**

For a general election

We need to sweep this rotten lot out! The Labour leadership and trade union movement must act now, for a mass mobilisation to boot out the Tories and for a general election. Tories out - a Corbyn-led government in with socialist policies!

As the Brexit white paper staggered its way through the House of Commons, the crisis in the Tory party just deepened and deepened.

Parliament has now broken for summer - no wonder Theresa May wanted to end it all five days early. But the shipwreck they leave behind them in Westminster will not disappear over the summer.

We should prepare for a general election as soon as possible after parliament returns.

With little over two months until an agreement with the EU is meant to be reached in October, “project fear” of a no-deal Brexit is ramped up, with the likes of Amazon warning of riots if Britain crashes out of the EU.

The attempt at compromise at Chequers lasted less than a week. Tory grandees, like Chris Patten on Newsnight, say they have never seen the party in such crisis.

Still Theresa May has managed to scrape along, despite resignations and open warfare around her between the right-wing Brexiteers and the Remain-in-all-but-namers.

A third Tory front has been opened up by former education minister Justine Greening, backed by former Tory prime minister John Major. Greening openly declared that parliament is unable to come to a decision on Brexit, and so there should be a second referendum, in which she will campaign for Remain. What an admission that her own party is unable to govern.

As we go to press, it appears the new Brexit secretary, Dominic Raab, has already been sidelined by May. He cuts a hapless figure as he attempts to negotiate with EU representatives despite multiple guns being held to his head.

Chief whip Julian Smith now faces a clamour of calls to resign after it emerged that he had instructed MPs to disregard the parliamentary ‘pairing’ system in order to save the government’s neck in knife-edge Brexit votes.

Pairing is only a convention, which has, in fact, been broken many times by all parties, but in the heat of this crisis this blatant manoeuvre just serves to underline the murky, untrustworthy, desperate state of the Tory party.

And the open warfare is not confined to issues around Brexit. On Radio 4, Tory MP Dominic Grieve tore into home secretary Sajid Javid’s abhorrent decision not to oppose the death penalty when two UK citizens are tried as IS suspects in the US. Again Theresa May is paralysed.

This follows crisis after crisis: universal credit, NHS and social care, Windrush to name but a few.

Continued on page 2
Corbyn and unions must act to bring down government in crisis

A "national government" would not be in the interests of the whole nation, it would be the interests of big business, the vast majority of which wants to see Britain remain in the EU.

A majority of which wants to see Britain remain in the EU. A national government is a political crisis of historic proportions. The crisis is such that some Tories are now voicing a fear of trade union power which could push the Labour party towards a national government. Labour is ahead in the polls and only 11% support May’s Brexit plans. The crisis is such that some Tories are now voicing a fear of trade union power which could push the Labour party towards a national government.

Political and economic crisis in a fragile world economy still burdened with debt and austerity. For workers, the threat they use against each other. Leading politicians threatened that if the government is not overthrown in 2017, then it would achieve it could cut through the chaos like a scythe. The crisis is such that some Tories are now voicing a fear of trade union power which could push the Labour party towards a national government.


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This measure is the most likely, not least because it’s a desperate call that can only be played once. Most importantly, it could leave Corbyn in a powerful position to lead the opposition that would develop. Behind the scenes, the pro-Mercury布莱恩特 prepares the ground for the possibility of a new ‘centre’ party. They are in talks with the Lib Dems. They suggest a pro-capitalist, pro-Remain party. The idea of a national government is raised when capitalism is in crisis. The crisis is such that some Tories are now voicing a fear of trade union power which could push the Labour party towards a national government. Labour is ahead in the polls and only 11% support May’s Brexit plans. The crisis is such that some Tories are now voicing a fear of trade union power which could push the Labour party towards a national government.

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Fight the racist far right

Trade unions should name the day for a national demonstration

John Reid
RMT member and
North London Socialist Party

On 14 July, after participating in a counter-demonstration against a ‘welcome Trump’ march – organised by the far-right group known as the ‘Democratic’ Football Lads Alliance (FLA) – a number of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers’ Union (RMT) members were subjected to an unprovoked and extremely violent attack. Those injured included Steve Hedley, RMT Assistant General Secretary. Earlier in the day, racist thugs also held up a bus to intimidate a Muslim woman bus driver.

These events have exposed the racist thugs closely surrounding Tommy Robinson, the former leader of the far-right English Defence League (EDL). Some angry, alienated and disillusioned people have supported the demo called by the FLA, hit by austerity and decades of cuts and privatisations, betrayed by all the mainstream parties. But there can be no doubting that the core forces trying to exploit those fears and anger are far-right racists and fascists.

This violent assault on trade unionists has caused outrage among RMT members as well as within the wider trade union movement. It has shown the FLA as a racist, anti-trade union and anti-working class organisation.

It was no accident that these thugs picked out members of one of the most industrially and politically militant trade unions: the RMT. At its Annual General Meeting earlier in the summer, the RMT passed a resolution calling on the union to oppose Robinson and the FLA.

Trade union response

Since 14 July, the response of many trade union members has been swift. Activists in the RMT called a meeting of trade unionists and anti-racists which took place on 13 July. At the meeting, Steve Hedley stated that the RMT would organise to confront the far-right wherever they gathered, but also emphasised the need for a working class, trade union-based opposition to be built.

Socialist Party members in the RMT also pointed to importance of linking the struggle against racism and fascism with building a mass movement against austerity – to fight for jobs, homes and services for all.

On Saturday 21 July, a protest against a mobilisation by the FLA in Cambridge saw a larger turnout from the trade unions than there has been at similar events that have taken place recently. In particular, it was noticeable that there had been a greater mobilisation by the RMT, the Fire Brigades Union (FBU), and Unite. Around 500 joined a march against the FLA, who only mustered a pathetic 30.

Nonetheless, the threat posed by the far right remains a serious one. Reports this weekend have revealed the big money being placed behind Tommy Robinson and his campaign, including from prominent figures in the US ‘alt-right’ such as Steven Bannon, Trump’s former chief strategist.

It is vital that the trade union movement places itself front and centre in the fight against the FLA and other far-right forces.

This union agrees that:

1. If the far right attempt to invade a local community it is essential that we fight for a massive mobilisation of the community to defend itself. The trade unions can be crucial in this. With an energetically-built campaign in the workplaces we can mobilise members. Trade unions should provide stewarding instead of relying on the police to keep people safe.

2. Crucially, trade union action can hold out hope and an alternative to those small numbers of people who may be attracted to far-right ideas. While some of the people that give their support to organisations like FLA, DFLA and ‘Britain First’ subscribe to the racist rhetoric expounded by their leaders, the people demonstrating are not all ‘fascists’. A lot of them are angry young working class men, deeply alienated by austerity and by decades of capitalist neo-liberal policies. They have been betrayed by all the establishment politicians, in particular abandoned by the betrayals of Blairite New Labour that has pursued pro-capitalist policies of cuts, privatisation and austerity-lite in councils and in government.

3. When Jeremy Corbyn put forward an anti-austerity manifesto in the 2017 general election a million previously-Ukip voters switched to vote Labour. While up to 15,000 marched to ‘Free Tommy’ on 9 June, in March 2011 three quarters of a million marched under the banner of the TUC when people believed the trade unions were going to fight austerity.

4. If the trade unions mobilise with energy and with clear demands to fight for jobs and homes and to kick out the Tories, we’d have hundreds of thousands on the streets and could cut across the appeal of far-right leaders.

This union therefore further agrees:

1. To build an anti-racist workers’ movement that fights for jobs, for council homes, for pay, benefits and decent public services.

2. We resolve to open up a debate in the trade unions about the slogans and tactics necessary to defeat the far-right, putting the resources, authority and power of the organised working class at the centre of a mass anti-racist, anti-austerity movement.

3. To write to the TUC to demand it launch a ‘jobs, homes not racism’ campaign to unite the wider trade union movement and to campaign effectively against the far right.

This should include workers taking all legal steps (up to and including strike action) to disrupt all attempts to organise for the purposes of extending the rhetoric of the FLA and DFLA or any similar organisation.

4. The trade unions should name the day for a national demonstration.
The inept Tory government is yet again in the firing line after further details emerged about the sham-bolic roll-out of the cruel ‘universal credit’ welfare system. Meanwhile, of families in temporary accommoda-

ption, 33,300 are in work; 55% of the total (see ‘Them & us’, right).

Renters entitled to the included benefits are now £24 million in ar-


rents, to make potentially life-changing decisions about what meagre benefits a caller is entitled to. “It’s me that has to judge whether it’s appropriate to ask a claimant if her third child is the re-
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Food banks

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Dodgy MP lobbied for genocidal Sri Lankan leader after getting £100,000 of free holidays

Ian Paisley Jr, Democratic Unionist Party MP for North Antrim, North-

ern Ireland, is set to be suspended from the House of Commons for 30 sit-
ing days.

In 2013 he had taken his fam-

ily on two holidays to Sri Lanka - all expenses paid by the government of that island. He did not register the trips, then lobbied on behalf of Mahinda Rajapaksa’s regime.

As president, Rajapaksa was be-

hind the genocide against Tamils at the end of the civil war in 2009. But by 2013 he was on a charm offensive.

Sri Lanka was preparing to host the Commonwealth heads of gov-

ernment meeting. David Cameron, then Tory prime minister, attended.

To the Tamil audience - a significant part of Britain’s electorate - Cam-

eron spoke of the need for ‘justice’. But to Rajapaksa and his cronies, Cameron talked trade.

But to Rajapaksa and his cronies, Cameron talked trade.

join our fightback!

Boris Johnson is still living rent-free in a £2.3 million house he owns, according to parliament’s register of interests. The millionaire Tory gets big

money from the Telegraph for columns - £250,000 a year while he was mayor of London. He’ll also get £17,000 a year for writing a monthly column in the Daily Mail and £20,000 for writing a book for the Sunday Telegraph. Johnson is paid a £7,500 monthly fee for his ‘Best of Britain’ column in the Spectator, which is owned by his brother, James.

Meanwhile, in Cardiff, around 130 parents queued from before dawn to get their kids into a school’s free breakfast programme. Parents who can’t afford the food - or pre-class morning childcare while they work - started queuing from 3am. says the Guardian.

The next year, Rajapaksa faced criticism at the UN. Having enjoyed the lavish hospitality, on 19 March 2014 Paisley wrote to Cameron. In the words of the Commons stand-

dards committee, to “lobby against a proposed United Nations resolution setting up an international inves-
tigation into alleged human rights abuses in Sri Lanka.”

The committee says Paisley’s trips were worth up to £100,000. Paisley said “around £56,000.” At the time, the threshold for registering benefits like this was £660.

The committee called it “paid advocacy,” lamenting that it could “bring the House of Commons into disrepute.” It’s a bit late for that! But for a parliamentary committee to state so is a big deal - the 30-day ban is the harshest for 15 years.

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The massive mobilisation on 13 July heightened the crisis she faces. Among those taking part in the protest was a strong presence of Black Lives Matter, which made clear that the protest was against racism and not just Trumpism. The larger challenge facing the union movement is that the Labour party, under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn, is in flux, including in Britain. In America, a debate is going on about whether the organisations of the main opponents of the far right in Trafalgar Square chose to promote speeches from pro-assimilation politicians such as anti-workng class policies have helped to isolate and marginalise and targeted those of colour, while keeping imperialism alive. This was the platform given to recent Trump rallies, which were credited after five years spent working with the Hasidic community of London. It was a great relief to see that the action did not result in violence, and that the police were present in numbers to prevent this.

Some students expressed concern about the march’s snail’s pace due to the number of those taking part. The day started with a protest led by the Socialist Party, calling for a/anti-austerity government. The unions must seize the day: we need to show the Conservative government that the march is not only a vehicle for working people to see the depth of the crisis faced by the most lively and energetic demonstration against Trump (see next page). Similar calls we had put out to walk out of school in protest. When Donald Trump came to visit on 13 July, I and several of my friends went to Trafalgar Square to protest against Trump, to show how badly we are being treated and how much we need change. We came to the march because we believe that - for this march to be a success - we need a clear message. We want to show the world that we are united in our struggle, and that we are determined to stand up to the ultra-right wing policies of the US government. We want to send a clear message that we are united in our struggle to resist the ultra-right wing policies of the US government.

Socialists and students: read the full interview at socialism.org.uk/2016/02/13/.

The unions must seize the day: build movement to get Tories out

HUMAN TIDE SWEEPS ONGOING AGAINST TRUMP

A human tide swept central London on 13 July in a massive move against the Tories, with tens of thousands joining a protest. When Donald Trump, who was visiting Britain, saw the march, he wrote on Twitter: “Who are these people?” More than 15000 people took to the streets - an enormous figure, especially considering that this took place on a normal working weekday. Homemade banners, huge placards, chanting, music, and drums and maracas as well as the usual march down Whitehall, all made it a most lively and energetic demonstration against the divide-and-rule politics of the super-rich 1% wherever they are.

A particularly galling example of this was the platform given to West Virginia had spoken at a rally providing us with the inspiration. On this day, we were determined to show the world that we are united in our struggle, and that we are determined to stand up to the ultra-right wing policies of the US government. We want to send a clear message that we are united in our struggle to resist the ultra-right wing policies of the US government.

The Lionel Wind School

School students: we walked out

Students from several schools in London walked out to join protests against Donald Trump on 13 July, led by Socialist Students and Young Socialists.

‘It is the responsibility of all young people to stand up’

Semenaz Junes

Student, Highgate Wood School

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Labour ‘Alternative Models’ report: A break with Blairism but Corbyn must go further

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**HULL RECYCLING WORKERS WIN RIGHT TO SICK PAY**

Mark Winter Hull Trades Union Council president

FCC recycling workers - members of Unison in Hull - have forced management to suspend their strike action after management agreed to the workers’ demands.

The Spanish multinational had previously offered to negotiate on any terms and conditions at the start of the strike and, despite some strikes having been declared illegal, this was an unexpected victory. The strike was called because management refused to pay for sick leave to all 2000 workers.

While some of the workforce are concerned about the impact of the full demands of the strikers for pay and terms and conditions, the result is a clear win for workers everywhere. The victory will add to the growing movement of workers' control over their working conditions.

**VICTORY FOR SWANSEA POSTAL WORKERS AGAINST MANAGEMENT VICTIMISATION**

Alex Thomas Swansea Socialist Party

Swansea postal workers have won a big victory, forcing Royal Mail management to withdraw an unfair and unjust attack on their union, the CWU.

The action was called after Market Deeping, a company hired to do the Royal Mail's job, sacked a postal worker for not following the correct work procedures.

The sacked worker was reinstated following the threat of strike action at Swansea Delivery Office. The management had tried to dismiss a CWU member, Robert Davey, but the CWU's strike action forced them to change their mind.

The same has been true in other areas, such as Teesside, where Royal Mail sacked a worker for following the correct procedures for the work.

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Plastic waste is now piling up every corner of the globe, from the Ariake to the Antarctic and including the Mattania Trench, the deepest point on Earth. Pollution caused by discarded plastics has become a major environmental threat. While recycling and reusing plastics are good solutions to the problem, plastic debris is raining down on all levels of the oceanic chain, and can end up in the sealife we eat, where the longer-term health effects are unknown. Big pieces of plastic are choking and entangling sealife and marine animals, not clogging the stomachs of marine carnivores who might eat it, for food from plankton to whales.

Plastic production has risen from 2 million tonnes in 1950 to 340 million tonnes in 2015, with 25 million tonnes of this ending up in the oceans. The increase has been driven by plastic items that are used once only, such as food packaging or disposable water bottles. In the UK alone, the volume of single-use plastics disposed each year would fill the Royal Albert Hall 1.6 times over.

Recycling is often described as reducing, reusing, recycling, existing plastic, so that it is used over and over again, rather than being damaged to landfill. This can reduce the scale of the problem, in under better governance from governments. The recycling process is already underway, so paper production will generate more power than greenhouse gas it takes from plastic and the main method of packaging, it doesn’t done carbon free.

The dangers of this happening is vast, because the drive to recycle plastic, which can reduce the scale of the problem, in under better governance from governments. The recycling process is already underway, so paper production will generate more power than greenhouse gas it takes from plastic and the main method of packaging, it doesn’t done carbon free.

A recent article in the Mirror outlined the现实 that is currently going on. Because it is much cheaper, Britain’s supermarket chains and big international supermarkets report nearly all of its plastic waste to receive money for recycling. Until recently China was the main reprocessor, but in 2017 refused to take it any longer. The cost of having to dispose of the material will be more expensive, so that will cut off the source of revenue.

But there are problems with this, because paper packaging requires more energy to manufacture than plastic and therefore will generate more greenhouse gases that cause global warming. Because it is made from trees, it can use cleanliny the amount of carbon dioxide that it absorbs back again, but as it can’t be recycled, it is a permanent contribution to global warming. Also, there’s a limit to what can be recycled in the UK, with only 20-30% of plastic waste being recycled (or incinerated, the reality is only 5% of all the plastic ever produced has been recycled). This is because made reusable plastic waste is not accepted for recycling. A recent article in the Mirror outlined the reality that is currently going on. Because it is much cheaper, Britain’s supermarket chains and big international supermarkets report nearly all of its plastic waste to receive money for recycling. Until recently China was the main reprocessor, but in 2017 refused to take it any longer. The cost of having to dispose of the material will be more expensive, so that will cut off the source of revenue.

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Tories' LGBT Action Plan

A cynical ploy with no solutions’

**Michael Johnson**
Socialist Party LGBT+ group

Two thirds of LGBT+ people are afraid of holding their partner’s hand in public, or being open about their sexuality for fear of a negative reaction. Almost one third have experienced entailment or felt ‘forced’ outings. A quarter of LGBT+ people in work have had negative reactions in their workplace in the last 12 months.

Nearly half of LGBT+ people have faced homophobia/ transphobia from strangers in the last year. Nearly all LGBT+ people experiencing this harassment do not report it for fear they “will have no one on their side” or feel that the feeling will change. The Tories have launched their new LGBT+ Plan to tackle these issues. Unfortunately it does not address the real problems faced by LGBT+ people. Tories lack of education in schools about sexuality, to tackling harassment to LGBT+ people from the disproportionate representation of LGBT+ youth in the homeless population, to lack of access to mental health services. More than half of LGBT+ people trying to accommodate health services report difficulties due to long waiting times.

Indeed, very few of the problems raised in this action plan are met with real solutions. To the question of tackling LGBT+ youth homelessness, there is no real answer. Not building affordable, safe housing.

Meeting LGBT+ people’s physical and mental health and social care needs is key. Data collection and policy setting. For instance a further 10,000 NHS and social care systems.

Additional LGBT+ people’s safety around the world! Getting them travel advice! Do the Tories realise that deporting LGBT+ asylum workers doesn’t cease as giving them travel advice?

Our campaign to the Croydon LGBT Action Plan implementation fund’ will hardly ever see a donation. Over £50 painted rainbows on people’s faces here after the events at London Pride”.

passerby said “I’m so glad to see you celebrate our sexuality. eco-friendly and vibrant event to celebrate our sexuality.

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ENERGY

abate the carbon emissions. The government has been accused of dismissing the issue.

We are opposed to any form of fracking and any other form of oil exploration.

We want a proactively managed energy sector that is owned by the people and run to serve the people.

We want a government that is committed to wind, solar, tidal and geothermal energy generation and the decommissioning of all nuclear power stations.

We want a government that is committed to implementing a programme of public ownership and democratic control of the energy sector.

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New health secretary. Same privatisation agenda.

FIGHT TO SAVE OUR NHS!

Beth Webster
Nurse and Cardiff West Socialist Party

Anyone breathing a sigh of relief at seeing the back of Jeremy Hunt as health secretary should take a closer look at his replacement Matt Hancock. As well as consistently voting to speed up NHS privatisation, he’s taken £32,000 in donations from a millionaire businessman who thinks the NHS should be abolished.

Meanwhile the NHS crisis is worsening. Acute mental health beds have fallen by 30% since 2009. Ambulance response times are still rising, NHS England is short of 100,000 staff, and operations such as hernia repair and tonsil removal are being rationed. Hospitals and services are closing across England and Wales.

Whatever Hancock says about his “heartbreak” for NHS staff, he’s just as intent on privatising the NHS for profit as Hunt.

In Hancock’s first speech as health secretary, he announced plans to invest £412 million in improving NHS technology - it seems there’s no magic money tree for staff or basic operations, but there is to invest in private technology companies.

Successful public campaigns against service closures such as Glenfield children’s heart unit in Leicester show that when we fight, we can win. The mere threat of industrial action by NHS staff forced the government to scrap the pay cap. But the failure of trade union leadership meant NHS staff were only offered a paltry deal of 6.5% over three years. Even this has been revealed to be a sham with some staff getting thousands less than they had been led to expect.

The Tories are disintegrating by the day. May has no credibility even in her own party, and no way to balance the anger of working class people and the interests of big business. Health unions need to build for strike action, fighting to link up and coordinate action with workers across the public sector.

Jeremy Corbyn should be calling for mass action to defend our NHS and bring down the Tory government. He must boldly pledge real funding for the health service, reversal of privatisation and scrapping of private finance initiative deals. A mass movement could bring the Tories down. Join the Socialist Party, join the fight back, and let’s kick the Tories out for good!