

Solidarity with the Bombardier workers

NO JOB CUTS!

Steve Score

Thousands of people are marching through Derby on 23 July in protest at the threatened 1,400 job losses at the train building firm Bombardier. There is an overwhelming anger at the Con-Dem government who, only months ago, visited the city claiming to 'defend' manufacturing industry.

For every job at Bombardier that goes, four more in the supply chain will disappear. The Canadian firm are reviewing their UK operations, which if shut down would result in a total of 3,000 jobs going at Bombardier with another 12,000 other jobs being wiped out in the region.

The government is making huge cuts in public services, resulting in the loss of hundreds of thousands of public sector jobs. Cameron claims that private industry will 'expand to take up the slack'. But by allowing these jobs to go Cameron is encouraging the opposite.

Workers in the private and public sectors need to unite to fight all these job cuts.

In the bidding process for the £1.4 billion Thameslink rail contract the government has awarded 'preferred bidder status' to German firm Siemens, the immediate cause of the Bombardier crisis. Yet they have not taken into account the wider costs of massive unemployment. We have also been given information that suggests the difference in costs between the two bids was the 30-year maintenance contract, and that in its UK maintenance facilities Siemens does not recognise trade unions.

The Con-Dems say the tendering process was set up by the previous Labour government, claiming that they had no choice. Of course, the last Labour government also had a pro-privatisation and pro-big busi-



Private and public sector workers must unite to fight all job cuts
photo Paul Mattsson

ness approach, but to say that an elected government cannot change things is nonsense.

Bombardier, like Siemens, is a multinational company whose motivation is only maximising profit. We say open the books to inspection by the unions and the workforce. The Socialist opposes all job cuts and calls for the immediate renationalisation of Bombardier to

save jobs, with democratic control involving the workforce.

If this was linked to the renationalisation of the railways and a plan for consistent re-investment in, and expansion of, the rail system then plenty of jobs could be provided. This would have the benefit of aiding the fight against global climate change by taking traffic off the roads.

• Support the Bombardier workers. Unite the private and public sectors to defend all jobs!

• No job cuts!

• Nationalise Bombardier under democratic workers' control and management to save jobs.

• For an expansion of the rail network and public transport on the basis of public ownership and democratic control.

• Come to the demo in Derby on 23 July. Assemble 10am, Bass recreation ground. March to a rally at Cathedral Green.

A Bombardier worker

Cameron's lot came to Derby a few months ago. He told us that they were going to stand up for manufacturing. He commented on how the rail industry was at the forefront of industry in Derby and praised the Bombardier works. Then he pulled the rug from under our feet...

Bombardier doesn't really tell us much at all. I agree they should open the books. They are always telling us how well they are doing abroad; they are a massive global company. Yet since the announcement on job cuts there has been no feedback. As workers we make all this huge amount of money for

them, and then our reward is to be thrown on the dole!

Since privatisation, it was originally British Rail Engineering Ltd (BREL), the company has been taken over several times by people who were really asset strippers. I get the feeling Bombardier took us on to get into the UK market, with the full order books at the time, but now want out.

Since the privatisation of the railways the work has come in huge contracts every now and then, resulting in a dependency on agency workers who are taken on, then got rid of when not needed. It would be better if rail was nationalised, had consistent investment and the work came as a steady flow."

National Shop Stewards Network

The National Shop Stewards Network is organising a lobby of the TUC on Sunday 11 September before this year's conference in London.

The aim of this lobby is to push for coordinated strike action this autumn to oppose the government's cuts and attacks on public sector pensions.

There will be a rally at Friends Meeting House in Euston from 1.30-3.30pm on the day.

PCS general secretary Mark Serwotka will be among the speakers to address the rally.

What we stand for

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 and 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

retirement pension, as a step towards a living pension. Reinstate 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!