

Socialist Party

TIME TO FIGHT BACK

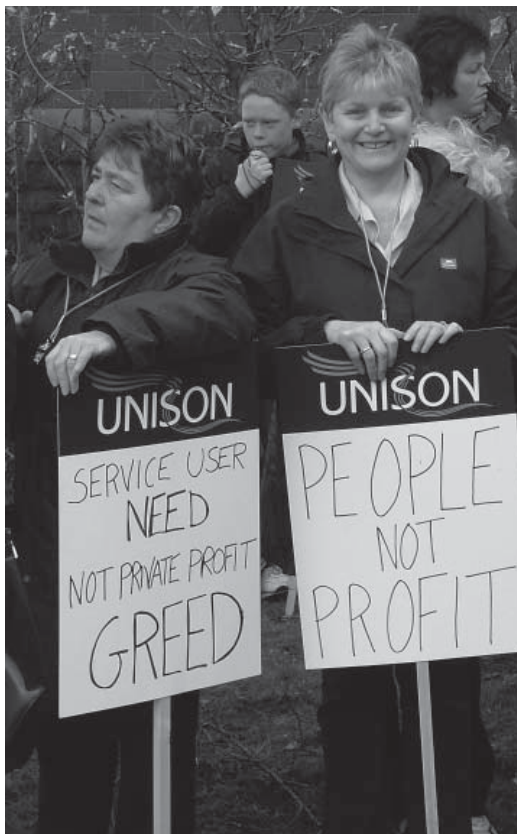
LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS - STRIKING AGAINST A PAY CUT

The Socialist Party gives full support to local government workers in Unison and Unite who are striking on the 16 and 17 July against a below inflation pay offer tied to a review of national terms and conditions.

Local government workers are taking action across England, Wales and Northern Ireland with workers in Scotland balloting for action in August.

600,000 unison members, alongside tens of thousands of Unite members, have been forced to take action following a final offer from the employers of just 2.45%. With inflation running at almost 5% and prices rising daily, workers are being told to accept a pay cut. In fact, local government workers have put up with derisory, below inflation pay deals for the last ten years! Contrast this to the fat bonuses of city slickers and top civil servants, and MPs who have voted to keep generous expenses to furnish their SECOND homes!

continued over...



local details



www.socialistparty.org.uk

By closing down or severely disrupting essential services, the strike will show how critical local government workers are for the millions of people who rely on them.

Local Councils

Local government employers argue that they cannot afford anything above 2.45% unless they raise council tax or make further cuts to jobs and services. But the 6% pay claim could be met almost entirely from efficiency savings which the Labour government have insisted councils implement. Council workers have suffered job cuts and have had to work harder to contribute to savings of £6bn. Councils should be demanding more funding from the government instead of continually making cuts.

For united strike action

Faced with this hard-nosed government, this two day strike is unlikely to be enough to win this pay claim. Unison and Unite could be forced to take further action after these two days of strikes while teachers and civil servants are also looking to strike over pay in the autumn. This raises the need for all public sector workers to organise united strike action against Labour's pay freeze.

Earlier action needed

As in previous years, local government workers in Unison have still not had an increase due in April, allowing councils to make millions from backdated pay!

At the recent Unison national conference, Socialist Party members pro-

posed that, in future, the union needs to be ready to take action if necessary as soon as the employers make an offer in April. This was agreed.

New Labour:

What do we get for our money?

While union members are losing pay by having to strike, Unison and Unite continue to fund New Labour who are attacking workers pay and conditions!

As the economy sinks into recession, Brown has insisted that workers tighten their belts and accept below inflation pay deals. Meanwhile Northern Rock was given millions of pounds of taxpayers money.

Anger towards the Labour government was expressed at the recent Unison national conference where many branch delegates expressed anger towards New Labour who privatise and cut services and hold down workers pay.

It is time for all unions to break the link with Labour and start to build a new party for working people.

The Socialist Party supports:

- 6% pay increase now with further increases linked to inflation
- United public sector strike action to overturn Brown's pay freeze
- An end to the privatisation of our public services

What does the Socialist Party stand for ?

Workers must not pay for economic crisis

The Socialist Party supports workers fighting against low pay, for decent pensions and secure jobs.

It is ordinary workers who provide essential services and produce goods and materials, but do not control how services are run or what is produced.

Yet, as this economic crisis deepens, it is ordinary workers that are told they must accept lower pay while big businesses pay lower taxes and still rake in profits.

The more the bosses can drive down pay and the harder people have to work – the greater the profits they enjoy.

So the majority of the population, who create the wealth, have very little say in how society works while the rich minority enjoy a life of leisure and plenty.

Public services

Public services such as schools, home care and leisure facilities have been attacked by both Tory and Labour governments who have allowed big business to make massive profits by privatising public services for the benefit of the rich.

The Socialist Party campaigns for the renationalisation of privatised services under democratic working-class control.

For a new workers' party

We call on those unions affiliated to the Labour Party (including Unison), to stop funding New Labour who are holding down workers' pay and cutting our services.

Instead, the trade unions should stand candidates for local councils and parliament and begin to discuss how to build a new party for working-class people.

We stand for a socialist society and economy which meets the needs of all whilst protecting our environment.

If you would like to join or find out more then complete the slip below.

Come along to our meetings and visit our website.

JOIN US!

I would like to join the Socialist Party

I would like to find out more about the Socialist Party

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....Post Code.....

Telephone No.....

Email.....

Return to: Socialist Party, PO Box 24697, London E11 1YD, phone 020 8988 8777 or email join@socialistparty.org.uk