

Scottish Socialist Party

PCS Members' Voice



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but let's

STRIKE: stop job cuts on the cheap! stand up for jobs and services - not bankers' profits

As PCS members meet and ballot for strike action against Labour's assault on the Civil Service Compensation Scheme, all four mainstream parties compete for who can carry out the deepest cuts to public services.

Labour, Tories, Lib Dems and SNP all strive to make working people pay the price of the bankers' £1.3trillion bailout.

The attempt to cheapen the compensation given to civil servants thrown out of work is part of this drive. Gordon Brown told the TUC he wants to save £500m through cuts in redundancy payments - which proves Labour plans an absolute slaughter of jobs, but on the cheap. This would also usher in galloping privatisation, by making the prospect more attractive to profit-crazed privateers, because they wouldn't have to pay out as much to the tens of thousands they threw on the scrapheap.

It is complete nonsense - a barefaced lie - to say public sector cuts to jobs, services, pensions and redundancy terms are unavoidable. The money is there - but in the wrong hands, too few hands.

The public deficit could be almost mopped up overnight if the £130billion uncollected taxes on big business and the rich was pursued - but that requires more staff in HMRC!

Replacement of Trident - our very own REAL weapons of mass destruction, parked up the Clyde - will cost over £75billion.

War in Iraq and Afghanistan has cost £billions - Brown promised "as much as it takes" for these bloody, futile wars of occupation, which have made the world a far more dangerous place to live - but he wants to slash our pay, pensions and redundancy payments!

Inequality is now greater than at any time since 1945!

The richest 10% have 100 times more wealth than the poorest 10%. The richest 1% (600,000 out of 60million people in the UK) EACH enjoy over £2.6m household income. But still we're told there's no money for a pay rise, decent pensions, schools or public services!

Neither Labour, Tories, Lib Dems nor SNP have any intention of taxing the rich their fair share. They are all the bankers' pals!

The Scottish Socialist Party is on the other side of this growing class divide - for people not profit, workers not bankers.

The SSP wants a massive re-distribution of wealth, with measures that tackle inequality head-on, create jobs, fund vastly better services.

The SSP fights for a 10% wealth tax on every millionaire; in Scotland alone that would fund 80,000 new jobs, on £25,000 a year, for 3 years.



We want Corporation Tax and income tax on the stinking rich to revert to pre-Thatcher levels as a first step - which would raise hundreds of billions extra for jobs, environmental protection, free public transport and other vital services.

Voting to strike against the attacks on the Compensation Scheme is the first, vital, very courageous challenge to Labour's punishment of workers for the bankers' and billionaire's crisis.

United, pre-General Election strikes would put all the parties who put profits before people on the spot.

Alongside that, PCS members should take the next step to resist this obscene inequality and exploitation: join the SSP, the only party in Scotland that since 1998 has fought alongside PCS members to defend every job, every penny in pay, every pension right.

Join the SSP to crusade for a socialist Scotland, with democratic public ownership and control of all the banks, big business, oil and all public services - a Scotland of the millions, not the millionaires.

"Civil servants are being made to pay for the economic crisis created by the capitalist class. We face job losses, with redundancy payments slashed - whilst the world's 500 richest fat-cats have more combined wealth than the poorest 416 million people."

JOHN JAMIESON, PCS NEC (in a personal capacity)

"At a time when the tax gap - the difference between what should be paid and what is paid - stands at £130 billion and growing, it makes no sense to cut jobs in HMRC and across the Civil Service. The HMRC Chief Executive Officer was forced to admit to the Public Accounts Committee that each Revenue officer brings in over 20 times their salary in tax.

We should be focussing and expanding our resources on big earners and big business, most of whom exploit government-designed loopholes to pay next to nothing.

An attack on the Civil Service Compensation Scheme is a cynical ploy by the same government to get job cuts on the cheap.

I urge all civil servants to take action in defence of their jobs, offices and communities by voting YES YES in the ballot.

I also urge you to join the SSP, the only party that has consistently stood up for civil servants and against the bosses."

JOHN DAVIDSON, HMRC Group Executive Committee (in a personal capacity)

for more material on community and trade union struggles - and socialist policies to combat mass unemployment, low pay, rent rises, public service cuts, privatisation, and the attempts to make workers pay for the bosses' crisis, visit:

www.scottishsocialistparty.org

bail out jobs & services - not bankers' profits!

workers speak out

"I am very concerned I might lose my job. And if I was made redundant the changes to the Compensation Scheme would mean I was £thousands worse off.

One woman I work with has been in the civil service for 32 years; she would lose £80,000! The government is slashing jobs in the name of cost-cutting pre-

"Since the Gershon Report, the DVLA has lost over 15% of jobs. We are doing the same volume of work, with far less staff, proving our efficiency already. We have already been cut to the bone, so more cuts made with the excuse of 'efficiencies' would mean a far worse service to the public.

That's a key reason to defeat the attacks on the Compensation Scheme - a blatant attempt to

"In Cumbernauld, growing numbers are 'pre-surplus', which is how they are identified for redundancy. 70 or 80 in the Postroom, 100 in HR. These people have been doing their jobs for years, but they are going to have to produce CVs and prove their competence! So if they're selected, cuts to redundancy terms would hammer them.

But the madness is that alongside this job insecurity, people are working overtime in the Contact Centre.

We are on a 37-hour week, but non-replacement of staff means

Election. They think it's a vote winner. But the vast majority of civil servants are on low pay. The government should use the workforce better to collect the £130billion in uncollected taxes from the rich and big business and put it into public services."

HMRC Contact Centre worker

get rid of people on the cheap. **In the General Election the 3 big parties offer choices of Fast cuts, Slower cuts and Savage cuts. That's why we need the Scottish Socialist Party - which fights for cuts on Trident and war, not jobs and services."**

WILLIE TELFER, Dept for Transport PCS GEC (personal capacity)

less flexibility in working hours. For example, they suspended all leave for 2 weeks in the Electronic Banking Unit, and the Senior Manager announced nobody will be allowed to take a Monday off if they wish to do the 37 hours over 4 days. With job cuts, this will become more prevalent. **A shorter working week, 35 hours maximum, but without loss of earnings, would secure vast numbers of jobs."**

JOHN MILLER, Cumbernauld HMRC PCS rep (personal capacity)

redundancy.

In Jobcentreplus we have 16,000 temporary staff, mostly due to go at the end of this year. Their contracts may be extended depending on the economic climate and whether the Govt decides to retain them.

We need to call on their support. A defeat for PCS will make their departure far more likely; if the union wins, we have greater bargaining power with our employer. We stopped them on pensions before, we won a redundancy protocol where virtually nobody has been made compulsory redundant, so lets have a go!"

GERRY McMAHON, Glasgow DWP PCS rep and Town Committee convener (personal capacity)

"Civil Service pay is poor. Many workers have stayed because we enjoy providing essential public services. The pension and redundancy schemes were viewed as reasonable, partly compensating for poverty pay.

This attack will cut payments by a third; most staff will lose out.

The current scheme is not gold plated. It was negotiated by Thatcher in 1987, so if she thought it was OK, what does that say about New Labour?!

We have to vote YES to strike action, new staff and long serving staff. If job losses take place, the staff near retirement who might have opted to leave before will not do it on such poor terms, putting newer staff at greater risk of



SSP STANDS UP FOR SCOTLAND

The Scottish Socialist Party stands up for working class people. As part of our battle for a democratic, nuclear-free, poverty-free, independent socialist Scotland, we demand:

- no cuts to jobs and services - demand the funds off Holyrood and Westminster - tax the rich instead of punishing the poor
- for free, quality child-care provision, round the clock
- cut class sizes - not schools and education - 20's plenty in any class - save our schools and communities
- increase pensions and benefits £50 a week as an immediate emergency step towards a living income for all
- for an £8 national minimum wage for all workers and trainees over 16 - end age wage discrimination - equal pay for women
- cuts hours - not jobs or pay - for a 35hour maximum working week without loss of earnings
- scrap Trident - invest in homes, hospitals and schools - not weapons of mass destruction - with jobs guaranteed through peaceful alternative work for all at Faslane
- reverse Tory and Labour privatisation - for democratic public ownership and control of services, banks, transport, construction, major industries, N Sea oil - for people not profit
- for an independent socialist Scotland - as part of a socialist Europe



SSP on the march to stop racist/fascist BNP/SDL. UNITE!

JOIN THE SSP TODAY - the party of workers' unity, public ownership and socialism

name..... email.....
 address.....
 phone(s) union.....

return this form to: SSP, 93 Hope St (suite 308), Glasgow G2 6LD
 ring 0141 221 7470 or 07828 278 093 email: richieventon@hotmail.com
 www.scottishsocialistparty.org PCS Voice Feb 2010