

Scottish Socialist Party

Scottish
Railworkers
Voice



Labour AND SNP back strike-breakers for public ownership - not public subsidies to strike-breakers

The Scottish Socialist Party is proud to side with the 550 guards/conductors striking against First Scotrail's assault on public safety. Imposition of Driver Only trains is safety-wrecking by penny-pinching profiteers, who can afford to hand out £18million in dividends to their shareholders last year, but refuse to spend £300,000 to hire 32 guards to make these trains safe and secure for the travelling public. All this despite public subsidies paying for 75% of their costs! Emboldened by promises of compensation for loss of revenue during strikes, **agreed in the past by New Labour - and now being implemented by the SNP (see below)** - Scotrail bosses arrogantly refused to give a single pledge to retain Guards on any lines whatsoever, anywhere in Scotland, at the recent ACAS talks. **Scotrail is plundering taxpayers' money, handed over by the spineless hypocrites in the SNP government - who talk about electing**

'SNP champions' on May 6th, but are only interested in being champions of big business and their profits.

The media - owned by big business and funded by business advertising - has been vicious in its bias against the RMT strikers.

Unlike the corrupt parties of profit - bought off by salaries that are light years removed from workers' wages, and the funding they receive from money-grabbing capitalists - the SSP will do all we can to help the RMT counter the media smears e.g. by helping leaflet the public, organising public meetings and workplace solidarity meetings. **Stand firm and united in defence of public safety!** Pound the SNP government into reversal of their shameful use of public funds to subsidise scabs! Spread the action to other companies who refuse to guarantee Guards for safety! **And join the one party that since 1998 has fought for workers' rights and public safety - the SSP.**



Tartan profiteers caught red-handed!

by Richie Venton, SSP national workplace organiser
29-03-10

The SNP government has been caught with their hands in the taxpayers' till, dipping into public funds to bail out a multi-millioned strike-breaking company that wants to endanger the safety of its workers and the public!

Before the current strikes by First Scotrail guards/conductors, against the imposition of Driver Only trains, the RMT met SNP Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson. He assured the union their case was well-founded, that the £300,000 cost of putting guards on the new Airdrie/Bathgate line is negligible within the overall £30m budget. **But now it has been proven the SNP government agreed to Driver Only trains a full year ago.**

In February 2009, First Scotrail wrote to the Scottish government, explaining their intentions to introduce Driver Only trains, warning that the RMT was opposed and strikes were likely, moaning that with only four years left of their franchise they could not recoup the losses this would incur, and therefore would have to agree to guards on the trains - unless the government was prepared to compensate them - to

subsidise them against strikes!

The SNP government's reply confirmed Driver Only Operations should go ahead and gave the strongest possible hints they would compensate First Scotrail out of public funds for any loss of income caused by strikes against this assault on public safety!

In January this year, Scotrail asked the SNP government for £300,000 to 'train' and deploy staff to scab on the RMT members' strikes. To jet scab managers up from London, Bristol, Plymouth, Southampton ... and house them in the £535 a night Balmoral Hotel. So much for the SNP being 'Scotland's party'!!

As one Glasgow guard told me, "This is outrageous. The SNP tell us tough decisions have to be made about public spending, yet they are prepared to subsidise a company that made over £18m profits last year to break our strike.

And to add insult to injury, the SNP Transport Secretary who has sneaked behind our backs to collaborate with big business First Scotrail, Stewart Stevenson, is an RMT sponsored MSP!

It just goes to show that SNP are as bad as Labour, they put big business profits before the safety of the public and workers' needs." And as an Edinburgh guard put it, "Are we striking against Scotrail, the SNP government, or both? This reinforces the need for nationalisation of the railways. At least then we would know who we were dealing with."

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

www.scottishsocialistparty.org

safety not profits - vote SSP for Socialist MPs on a worker's wage



TAX THE RICH - bail out jobs and services - NOT bankers' and billionaires' profits
INVEST IN HOUSING, HOSPITALS, DECENT WAGES
- not weapons and war

Labour, Tories, Lib Dems, SNP - they're all Thatcherites now! JOIN THE SSP!

- Labour, Tories, Lib Dems AND the SNP are competing over whose cuts to public services and jobs will be the most barbaric.
 - It was a New Labour amendment to the Tories' vicious anti-union laws that allowed the unelected Judge to ban the recent signallers' strike - despite a democratic ballot. The Tory law insists on lists of names and National Insurance numbers of workers being balloted - but a Labour law tightened the noose by also insisting on lists of jobs and workplaces.
 - New Labour retained the Tories' privatisation of the railways - letting profiteers like First Group make an absolute packet (£90m profit last year) at public expense and off railway workers' backs.
 - The SNP is funded to the tune of hundreds of thousands by Brian Souter (Stagecoach), one of Scotland's richest fat-cats, who made his fortune from the privatisation of buses and trains. After he handed the SNP his latest bung, they dropped the SNP's previous policy of public ownership of transport. And the head of the SNP's Economic Council is former head of the Royal Bank of Scotland. He who pays the SNP piper calls their tune!
- Now they've been caught red-handed funding First Scotrail bosses as they endanger public safety in pursuit of even bigger profits.**
 So much for the SNP being 'Scotland's party' - the bankers' and billionaires' party, more like!
- That's what makes the **Scottish Socialist Party** so important; we won't be bought off - we unashamedly side with workers against bosses, people against profit, public safety against private greed.
- The SSP has consistently fought for public ownership of the railways - and transport as a whole - but with democratic working class control.
VOTE SSP on May 6th. Our MPs will reject the obscene £65,737 salary and live on the average skilled worker's wage - to stay in touch with workers' conditions. Join the SSP - the workers' party.

"Scotrail bosses trot out their lies every day there's a strike, and the press publish them - but don't carry a word of the truth from those of us on strike. Today (12th April) a Perth driver told us on our picket line that only ONE passenger train had went out of Perth. Others were driven out of the station, but empty, because there were no conductors available.

These ghost trains are to help Scotrail fiddle the statistics - to make their false claims about 95% of trains running, as they do every strike day. What they don't tell the public is that many of the trains are empty, using up fuel, eating up the environment, but empty - run for pure propaganda. And Perth is not the only place to have ghost trains!"
 A Glasgow Scotrail Guard



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
- 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
- repeal all anti-union laws - independent, democratic unions
- 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
- an independent socialist Scotland - as part of a socialist Europe

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

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

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 www.scottishsocialistparty.org railworkers Voice 12 April 2010