

# Morning Star

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## OUR UNITY WILL DELIVER JUSTICE

Only by working together will we defeat profiteers and the Cabinet of millionaires, says LEN McCLUSKEY: p8

A great account of Cesar Chavez's farming union

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# Unions slam Labour's cuts capitulation

Party must have alternative to Tory misery, say workers' leaders and MPs

by Paddy McGuffin and Roger Bagley

THE Labour leadership came under withering fire from unions and left Labour MPs yesterday for its "capitulation" on Tory-driven cuts and its support for freezing public-sector workers' pay.

Labour-affiliated unions reacted with outrage after shadow chancellor Ed Balls said this weekend that he backed the government's wage freeze.

Unite general secretary Len McCluskey said Mr Balls had put the party into conflict with millions of poorly paid public-sector workers.

Writing in the Morning Star today, Mr McCluskey said: "Capitulation to the politics of austerity and despair is not fairness. It is an admission that the government in this country sees its job as one of stitching together capitalism, however broken it may be.

"Blairite reheats do not serve working people, and will not serve our country either."

He said Labour has a duty to provide an alternative to the coalition-imposed misery, not fall into its embrace

"Acceptance of Osborne's public-sector wage freeze and now doubt over what cuts Labour will actually oppose is not clever positioning but in fact boxing itself into a corner.

"And for anyone hit in some way by welfare job or wage cuts, where can they go for an alternative?"

RMT general secretary Bob Crow said: "At the weekend Ed Balls and Ed Miliband doomed the Labour Party to electoral defeat by lining up with the Tory-led coalition's cuts and their attacks on public-sector workers and that view is widely

held across the trade union movement.

"They could have sided with the millions of people at the sharp end of this government's policies and they have blown it, and the price they pay will be political oblivion."

Meanwhile left and centre Labour MPs are becoming increasingly alarmed at the leadership's lurch to the right, but most were not prepared yesterday to put their heads above the parapet and openly criticise Mr Miliband.

Campaigning left MP Jeremy Corbyn protested that "we are now apparently supporting the ludicrous debt repayment policies of the Tories, which are hitting the poorest and most vulnerable in this country."

He declared: "Our job is to stand on the side of those who have been hit by the Tories and are suffering, which is the historic duty of the labour movement.

"If we are going to rebuild ourselves, then we do it on the basis of these values, not on the values of the bankers, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank."

And John McDonnell MP bluntly accused Mr Miliband of "capitulation to Cameron's economic analysis."

He praised Mr McCluskey for expressing "the general feeling among Labour Party supporters of overwhelming disappointment."

A spokesman for Mr Miliband last night rejected Mr McCluskey's attack.

"Len McCluskey is wrong about our policy now and our approach for the future," he said.

paddym@peoples-press.com  
Star comment: p8

**GREECE:** Creditors not welcome



**PROTEST:** Greek workers poured onto the country's streets yesterday to show a visiting group of debt inspectors that they wouldn't stand for any budget cuts

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**Council clears protest camp**

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**Portugal draws up new cuts package**

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**Old Havana's Rafael Trejo gym in pictures**

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