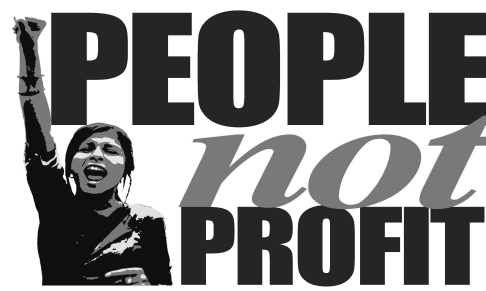


Scottish Socialist Party



Strike on 'til Victory! defeat the Royal Mail and Labour govt service wreckers

The Scottish Socialist Party applauds and supports the proud, courageous unity in action of CWU members - forced to strike again in defense of the public service threatened by RM bosses and their Labour government backers.

This is not a strike against modernisation, as RM bosses, the government and most of the media try to spin it. It is socially responsible action against destruction of the public service by those hell-bent on profits, privatisation and even more profits. The very fact talks through the TUC took place is testimony to the power and impact of the first two days of strike action - which pummelled arrogant bosses into talks.

But a "form of words" is not an agreement. It does not protect jobs or the service. The fact the talks did not produce a satisfactory agreement shows RM bosses are hell-bent on ramming through draconian attacks on jobs, conditions, workplace rights - to cheapen the business for future privatisation. **What has been won on the picket lines must not be thrown away in talks; any half-hearted fudge along the lines of the 2007 Agreement would be used by the bosses to push through their agenda of attacks once the strikes are over.**

That is why RM bosses who earlier spurned repeated CWU offers of peace talks became so eager to have "a period of calm" - a suspension of the strikes, in the run-up to the Xmas rush. And the secret document leaked through *Newsnight* makes it plain just how much they are on the warpath against postal workers - and therefore the CWU, which stands in the way of their bully-boy agenda. **They let slip they want to by-pass the CWU; impose change, not negotiate; scrap payments for D2Ds (a hefty £25-30 a week for many); lengthen Saturday shifts; use mechanisation to slash jobs, not cut hours without loss of pay.**

Mandy - Labour's thug in Ermine

Standing behind RM bosses is Lord Mandelson - Labour's thug in ermine! He seeks revenge, spins lies to undermine the strike in the public, and **highlights how absurd it is for the CWU to continue funding New Labour (£5million since 2001!!).** Nobody wants to strike if it is avoidable - especially low-paid postal workers whose families suffer. But now is the time to

stand firm, hitting back in the period that produces two-thirds of RM's annual profits. Any suspension of strikes until beyond Xmas on the basis of "a form of words" for further talks would be a massive blunder, giving the upper hand to bosses who would come back in January with a vengeance.

The massive backlogs after the first strikes show how dependent RM and society is on postal workers' skills and effort. It also shows that scab managers and private profiteers like TNT can't cope.

The real wreckers - RM bosses and the Labour privatisers

RM bosses and the Labour government trotted out the lie that the strikes are wrecking Royal Mail. On the contrary, it was the Labour government that de-regulated the service, gave TNT and others unfair pricing advantages, and just months ago tried to privatise RM. Now they want to use the strikes as an excuse to "justify" privatisation!! The power of postal workers' unity in action - alongside fellow-workers and communities - is the only means of defending a public postal service.

Crude attempts at divide and conquer by claiming this is a London-centred dispute is pure crap. The first strike was in Cowdenbeath in April, and numerous others since in Ayrshire, Greater Glasgow, Lothians, Fife, Dundee and elsewhere prove this is a UK-wide battle for survival of the service and in defence of tens of thousands of jobs.

And the loss of 63,000 RM jobs in 5 years is not the end of the butchery, unless we win this battle. Look at Belgian Post: mechanisation there has slashed full-time staff from 42,000 to 30,000 - a 30% cut - equivalent to over 40,000 job losses here.

Stand firm and united - we can win! Other workforces are preparing to battle for jobs - BA, railworkers, firefighters, etc. The Labour govt that is egging on RM's Little Hitlers face the prospect of several fronts opening up against their attacks on workers and public services - which they are doing to pay for the £1.3trillion bail-out of the greedy, reckless bankers!

- Call on the STUC to organise a mass solidarity march.
- No suspension of strikes - pre-Xmas is the best time to hammer RM bosses - it makes up two-thirds of their annual profits.
- Stand firm and united - keep up the action until victory!

join the MARCH FOR JOBS

- no to another wasted generation - give youth a future - victory to CWU!

Saturday 7th Nov

12 noon, assemble outside Springburn Shopping Centre, Glasgow

KEEP UP THE ACTION UNTIL WE WIN!

UNITE AGAINST SCABBING

Scottish Socialist Party members in UNITE - the union proposed the Motion below at the Scottish Finance Workers' Sector Committee of the union. **It was passed unanimously - and sent to the UNITE national executive.**

UNITE leaders have already written to RM managers [members of UNITE - CMA] instructing them not to do CWU members' work on strike days. They should rapidly implement this Motion, prepare a strike ballot if managers are asked to oversee Crozier's scab army, step up pressure on RM bosses, and help achieve a speedy victory in defence of all jobs and the service.

THE MOTION PASSED:

"This committee notes the current dispute in Royal Mail and agrees to send a message of support to the CWU as they take a stand against bullying management practises, lack of consultation and in defense of a vital public service.

We note with alarm that Royal Mail senior management appear to be in breach of legislation by employing temporary workers to carry out the work of those on strike, with Unite members being required to manage these strike-breakers.

This committee calls on the NEC to instruct the relevant Unite members that they should not manage those hired to break the strike, as this could potentially put the Unite members in legal difficulties."



who claimed scab managers can't drive?!



STRAIGHT FROM THE PICKET LINES - the strikers' voice

A CWU Health & Safety rep:

"Mandelson wants to privatise the place, to sell off the assets. Two years ago Mandelson and Crozier met with TNT in Holland. First class mail is arriving by lorry, but it's automatically turned into second class, because it has been lying there for a day before they delivered it to us. I doubt if the councils and big companies using TNT, UK Mail and others realise this is what they're paying for."

A CWU Unit Rep:

"Nobody wants to strike, we'd prefer if we had got a negotiated settlement. But Mandelson, Crozier and Higson refused to negotiate. The government needs to intervene. Their role has been pathetic. They have colluded with RM bosses and they're behind the whole thing. They are trying to break us."

CWU Area Rep:

"Mandelson spat the dummy out because privatisation got gubbed, so now he wants to smash the union. If he gets rid of the union you can guarantee privatisation will come in.

We don't want to affect the public, but when we're backed into a corner, the only option left is industrial action.

The first strike is almost 100% solid. We would like the CMA to support us instead of hiding behind the strength of UNITE. The UNITE union should tell them to stop doing our work and if they refuse, kick them out of the union organisation."

A Mail Centre Postwoman:

"We're striking over terms and conditions at work, where there are constant duties changes. For example, one of us were told they were taken off their existing duty, put on a new shift, but then when they came in they were put back on the original shift! People suffer changes of shift patterns after years on the job. This has terrible consequences for families, childcare and other arrangements.

We are not against modernisation; we have 2 brand new machines here, but one of them lies dormant half the day, so how can management then claim to be the modernisers? They should do modernisation the right way,

with the inclusion of the workers."

Delivery Office pickets:

"I've been a part-timer for 7 years, still not given a full-time job. They want to make us a part-time workforce.

"They deliberately provoked strikes. We came out when drivers were victimised for not crossing official picket lines in Ayrshire. When we went back to work they attacked us and forced us back out. For example, one lad with no car was told he would no longer get picked up in the next town for a 5am start, when there's no public transport. He was expected to just walk to work.

"They are extending our walks all the time, and want to make them 5 hours. So you would be out all that time with no access to toilets. They promised us a bottle of water when they extended the walk, but that's never appeared. Nor has the sun cream - though in this climate it's not much of a concession!"

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