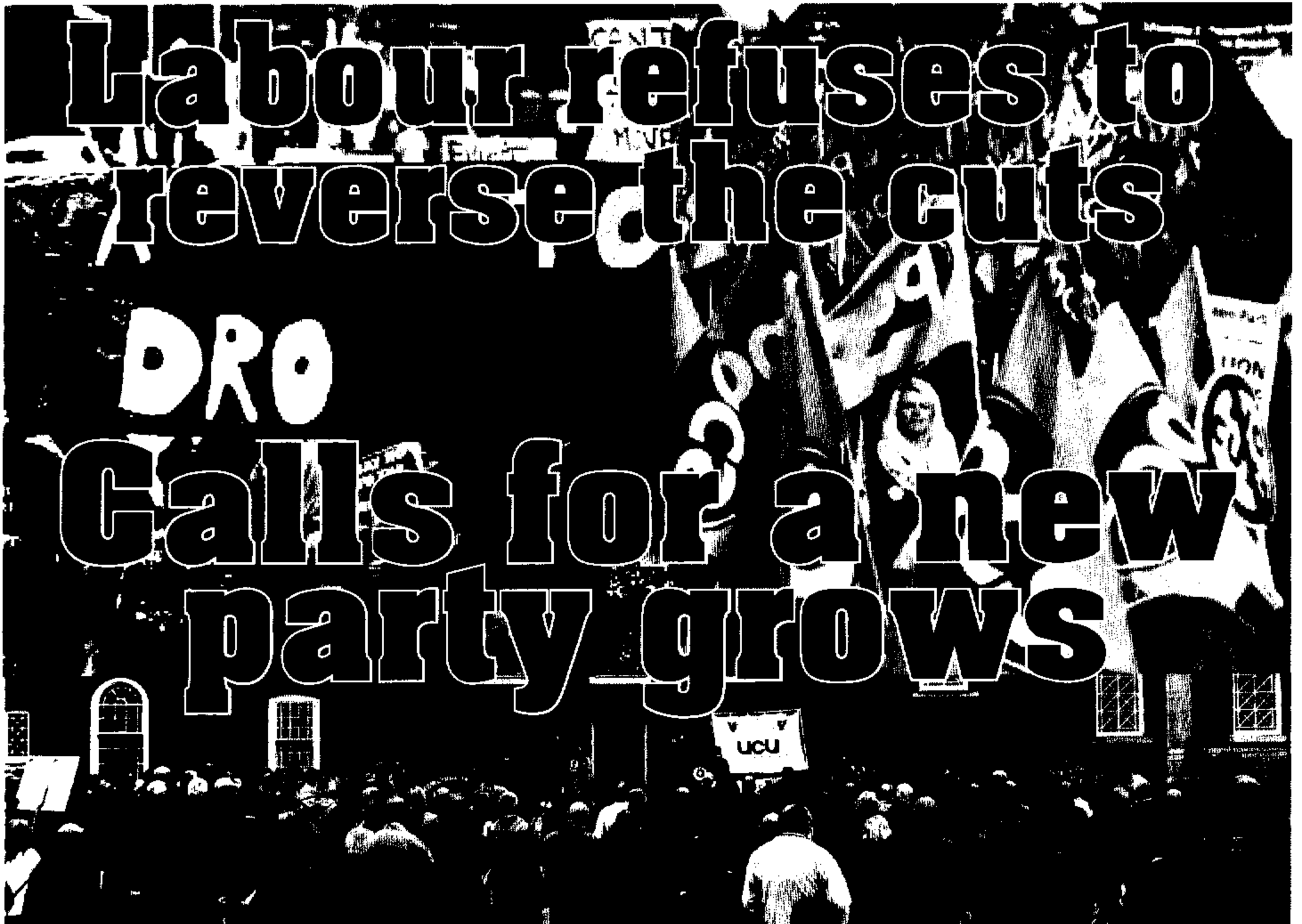


SocialistVoice[★]

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The discussion on the need for a new party of the working class is in progress in many sections of the labour movement.

Whether the struggle involves students, social movements that have previously been unorganised, or the trade unions, they all collide with the Labour leadership, the TUC leadership and other union leaderships.

These clashes are coming because the government is continuing to slash public services and jobs. It is continually seeking ways to attack the working class.

Attacks on the disabled, unemployed, immigrants, women and youth are fundamentally removing any safety nets that had been gained by years of struggle.

At the same time the Labour party is offering no opposition to austerity attacks; in Labour councils they are the ones who are destroying services that provide basic and essential needs, such as Sure Start centres for under-fives and their parents.

The government is also removing the funding ring fence from Sure Start programmes and other services which end up being cut or closed.

Most Labour councillors and Labour MPs publicly blame the government, however the previous Labour government laid the foundation for these attacks. Labour began using ATOS 14 years ago, a company who have been given a £400 million contract by this government to conduct "fit to work" assessments which leads to the removal of support to many sick and disabled people.

Labour also developed the Academy school programme that has now pushed more than 50 per cent of secondary schools out of local authority control; and continue to push the PFI programme for hospitals, schools and housing.

Ed Miliband has made it clear he supports, and will continue, austerity measures if the Labour party win the next election in 2015. Furthermore he

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BILL HUNTER ON THE NEW PARTY QUESTION

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Life of our parties

Revolutionary and internationalist youth camp in Europe

Corriente Roja and the IWL have organised this year's camp between 25 and 28 July. It will be held in the region of Solsona, in the Catalan Pyrenees, a stunning mountainous area.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of May 1968 and the camp will study Marxism, and the science of revolution.

The theme will be "Imperialism and the European Union". Today, the EU make the cuts and policies against the people with German capitalism at the head.

To understand the background to the looting of Greece, Portugal or Spain, you need to understand what imperialism is, based on the elaborations of Marx, Engels and Lenin.

We will discuss whether it is possible to "reform the European Union" or if you need to break with it to build a Europe of Workers and Peoples. We will also cover other topics such as the different oppressions that capitalism takes advantage of to divide the working class and further exploit the oppressed.

We will discuss what policy and revolutionary fight is needed to unite the working class in struggle.

We will also discuss the Syrian Revolution, which is part of the revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East. But it is experiencing a turning point in the struggle. Today there is a great battle between revolution and counter-revolution, and therefore our camp cannot forget solidarity with the Syrian fighters.

Brazilian PSTU grows in the struggle

During the "June Days" (see article on page 8), thousands of young people took to the streets for the first time and they asked parties to remove their banners.

It was a repudiation of parties who were in power, whether right or "left" wing - like the Workers Party (PT) - which for decades have turned their backs to the people's needs. But it was also against left parties, such as the PSTU, which

has always been in opposition to the capitalist governments and supported all the struggles against them.

However, this obstacle did not last long or hinder the party's construction. In June, a daily average of seven applied to join on the party's website. The national day of strikes and demonstrations, on 11 July, gave further impetus to this process.

Young students and workers looked for political discussion, which was reflected

in the increased sale of hundreds of PSTU newspapers and the debates organised by the party in the country's major cities were full of "new faces".

This shows that the new phase that has opened in Brazil not only changed the routine of Brazilians, but began to generate a new political consciousness, one result of this is the incorporation of new fighters into PSTU's rank and file.

USA: Workers' Voice foundation Congress

The June congress was an important victory for the USA Workers' Voice organisation.

They agreed a set of principles that will guide their program and differentiate them from the bourgeoisie and reformist organisations, based in the struggle against capitalism and for the socialist revolution; the permanent mobilisation

of the working class; anti-imperialism; the fight against oppression; for revolutionary morals.

They voted motions on the national situation and on a project of construction. It is a left opposition to the Obama administration, and they aim to build their party in the struggle of the working class, the youth and oppressed against

austerity, against anti-working class reforms and the restriction of civil rights.

Workers Voice is a revolutionary socialist party, based on democratic centralism, which is reflected in the approved statutes. In a country where there is a permanent campaign against centralism and for "horizontal" movements, this is no secondary issue.

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(continues from front page)

Labour refuses to reverse the cuts

Calls for a new party grows

has expressed his opposition to any strike action and in July he called the police to investigate the Unite union over recruitment of Labour Party members in Falkirk. This led to the central office taking over the Falkirk Labour Party, and the imposition of a Miliband supporter.

Some union leaders hold on to Labour

Len McCluskey, leader of Unite, said he broadly supported reforms proposed by Miliband in response to the Falkirk selection row, arguing that the current system in which union members who paid the political levy automatically provided the party with funds was "not working". Guardian, 17 July.

It is not working because opposition to Labour is growing. "...I can no longer defend putting one million of my members as affiliates to the Labour party when our own internal polling demonstrates that a large chunk of that one million vote for other parties." Quoted from above Guardian article.

In fact McCluskey and Paul Kenny, the GMB general secretary, have warned that less than 10 per cent of its political levy-payers will wish to affiliate to Labour. However this is not a policy to create a new party, it is just a way of trying to put pressure on Miliband to change Labour's support for cuts.

What McCluskey does not address is the question that is continually being raised amongst many sections of the working class, in particular those involved in anti-cuts campaigns, that is "why support and therefore, why fund the Labour Party?"

Many are shocked to find that Unite are funding 1000 councillors and many Labour MPs, as do Unison and GMB. About 98 per cent of them grab the money and then apply the Tory policies of cut and slash to services and benefits. Unite has given £8.4 million to the Labour party since Miliband was elected. This is workers' money and could be used to fund a new workers' party.

Labour a party of cuts and capitalism

Labour of course has always refused to undo the attacks that came out of the Thatcher years; they merely refined the attacks and never repealed any anti-trade union laws. Any policy change that was made, such as using the PFI privatisation scheme, was to strengthen them for the benefit of big business and to lay the basis for new attacks.



In another move to push the party further to the right Miliband plans to run primaries (ideas borrowed from the US) for the Labour candidate for London mayor. He has suggested permitting anyone registered as a party supporter up to the day of the London selection contest to vote, including non-members.

Miliband wants to end the influence of the trade unions, by removing the union block vote. This is why many on the left and many workers continued to give their support. In that sense this is an historic turning point.

For the Labour leadership the aim is ensure the maintenance of the Con-Dem austerity onslaught.

Despite this, the leadership of the biggest unions continue to support Miliband, like McCluskey, who has adopted a subservient position saying, "Unite is not looking to bankrupt the party and we will continue to support the Labour party in any way we can without becoming a problem."

A party for the working class

Left Unity have announced the aim to form a new party, 9000 people have signed Ken Loach's petition calling for a new party and many groups are being set up throughout the country.

For a new party to build a successful struggle against the government it must be a party of the working class. Labour (and the union bureaucracies) after November 2011, stopped the public pensions strike movement.

Labour have historically attacked sections of the class with their support for imperialist wars, the 'war on terror' and immigration controls. And has always been based on representing the most privileged sectors of the working class.

We need a party that demands no government or council cuts. An alternative policy must defend and extend public services, and remove and end all big business and privatisation schemes.

A new party must represent all workers both the organised and unorganised and fight to unify all struggles in national actions, including general strikes.

Trade unions will have to support the development of a class struggle party if they want to fight for a socialist alternative, they will have to stop funding Labour, not just for economic reasons, but to help fund a new and a genuine workers party.

All the possibilities that exist from the growing movements in the working class, from the unions and the anti-cuts organisations, and bedroom tax and disabled peoples' struggles.

Unite the political and class struggles

"The laws against secondary picketing and the laws against union organisation in the work place were political class acts against the organised workers in many ways, far worse than the Taff Vale judgment (1901) and the attacks on workers' organisations which stimulated the desire for political representation at the beginning of the century". Bill Hunter, 1995 (see back page in this issue)

We have been pushed back over 100 years on the question of political representation. We are witnessing a Labour leadership who aim for a US style of politics, where greed and parasitism is even more pronounced than in the UK.

Who politically represents and really fights for the unemployed, poor and homeless? Who politically represents and fights for the old, the sick and disabled? Who represents and politically fights for the young?

A real workers party will have to show its class nature by mobilising and fighting against big business, government and union bureaucracies, and for workers democracy and internationalism.

A new party has to raise the old slogan of an injury to one is an injury to all, which means the fight for all workers' rights and against all oppression anywhere in the world including women's oppression, the fight for migrant rights and the defence of LGBT.

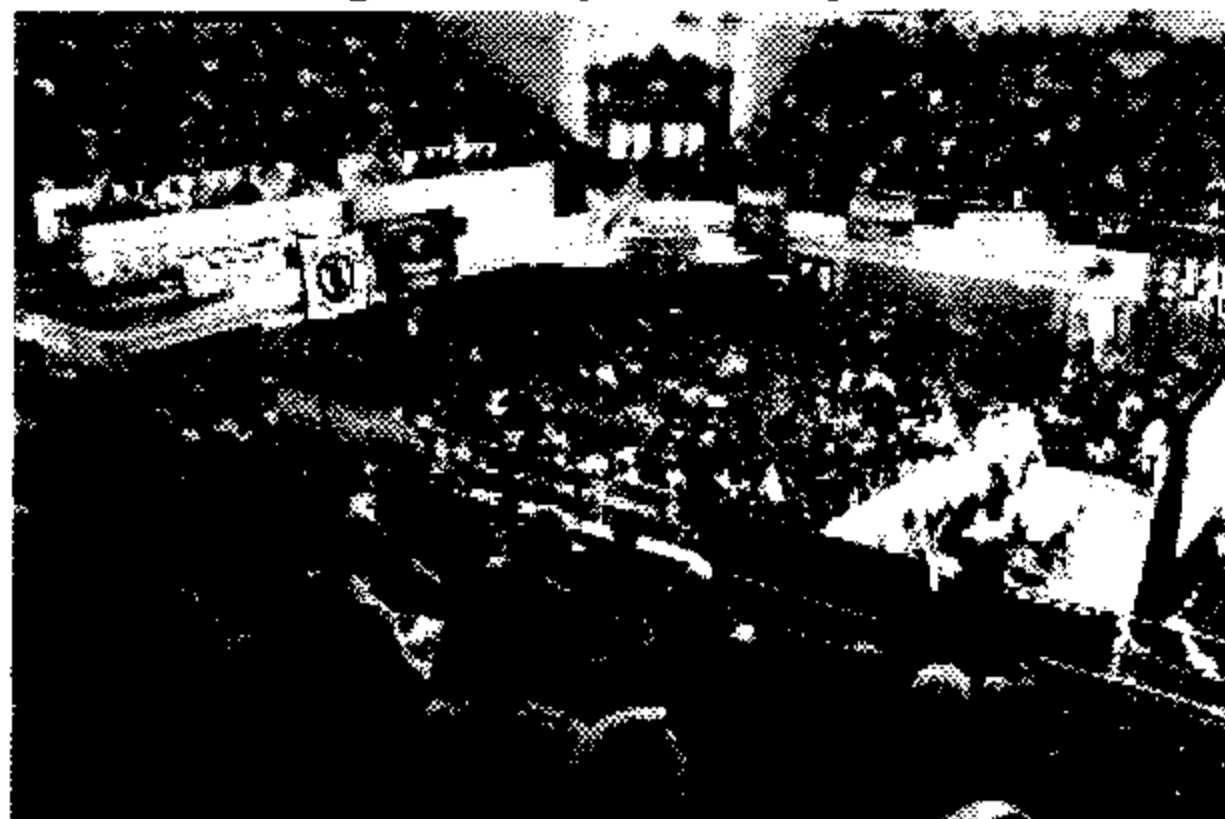
Any genuine movement of the class must be supported anywhere in the world with decisions being made in the hands of the rank and file, not in the hands of leaders.

In a year that is seeing an ending to the universal provision of health and education services it has become blindingly clear that there is an immediate and urgent need for a party that will and can represent the interests and needs of the working class. It is now unpostponable.

People's Assembly: call for a general strike

Larry Bowles, a Unite shop steward at Broadgreen Hospital, Liverpool

Larry attended, with 4,000 other activists, the London People's assembly on 22 June. His report reveals that while many attending the conference support the call for a general strike, the question was avoided by the majority of platform speakers.



The opening of the meeting was relaxed and created a positive attitude. Several speakers took to the stand and made some good speeches. Although all of the speakers were telling us what we already knew.

Frances O'Grady, general secretary of the TUC, addressed the assembly. She asked everyone to stand and linked arms in a show of solidarity. I thought for a minute she wanted us to do the hokey Cokey. Myself and my comrades thought this was a bit cynical so we never budged.

She then went on to berate Osborne and the coalition. She expressed the thought to us that it's a class war – as if we didn't know. She said the TUC will back the teacher strike to the hilt. She finished off by quoting Jack Jones "we will move mountains" but one thing Frances never mentioned was a general strike. I wonder why.

A Unite spokesman announced that there was a bus going around the country to support rallies. No wonder you can't get a bus when you want one! This austerity bus tour, the TUC council majority decided, was to replace the question of a general strike.

Comedian Mark Steel took the stand and gave a humorous and cynical account of why we were in this mess. "It's the poor who caused the problem not the rich that's why they're taking the money from the poor and not the rich". His attack on this government and previous Labour governments connected

with the feeling in the conference as sometimes comedic speeches only can.

The poet Stephen Morris Burke reached out to the assembly with a poem about the struggle. It was received with great applause.

Workshops

We were invited to choose workshops during most of the day. We had a particular interest in a workshop about local authorities and the cuts affecting local councils.

Various speakers told of the struggles they are facing as activists and trade unionists. This is all too familiar to our union and community activists.

The most vocal of all was Matt Wrack, General secretary of the fighters' union, FBU, gave a great speech on the savage cuts in the fire service. He said if the Labour Party will not reverse the cuts then they must not be put into power.

Keep our NHS public

This workshop was well attended and speaker after speaker gave accounts of savage cuts in their region. It was also explained that the costs of PFI that is crippling the NHS. More and more of these activists are blaming the Labour Party for their past mistakes.

PCS

PCS, Public and Commercial Services Union, had many fine speakers who talked about the struggle that their members now face. They also talked about the fight against racism and homophobia. General Secretary of PCS, Mark Serwotka talked about Labour stepping aside to allow a different political party takeover.

Final speeches

The assembly congregated into the great Hall for the climax of the meeting. Len McCluskey took to the stand and slated politicians from all parties. He did not mention Ed Miliband at all, he gave the usual rhetoric, but was then heckled by members of the assembly.

He mentioned the word strike several times but when he was asked to name the day for the general strike from the floor he turned to Mark Serwotka and said "I will leave that to Mark". This did not go down well with many in the audience.

Ken Loach called for a new party to represent the working class in this country in one workshop.

I agree with Ken. But Ken was not on the platform for the final speeches. I wonder why.

The People's Assembly called for a "national day of civil disobedience and direct action against austerity on November 5th"

The organisation is supported by Unite, Unison, NUT, CWU, PCS, FBU, NUJ and many campaigning and political groups. The main question is this, will the unions and others now start to campaign for a general strike on 5 November? If civil disobedience means anything it has to include the fight for co-ordinated strike action. At the moment these unions are taking or planning to take strike action in the autumn. Strike action can be co-ordinated for 5 November. If the will is there this can be achieved. It is the only way to unify our struggles.

Manchester fights austerity



**We are the many,
They are the few
Unite with one voice**

By Manchester Ancoats' rat

Our government has started to introduce a series of measures that are clearly designed to destroy council and housing associations housing, and force us to pay vastly inflated rents for our accommodation. Add in the bedroom tax and cuts in services on a daily basis and our dwindling society slowly but surely loses all of the life it once possessed. This government and our capitalist ruling master are committing social murder right before our eyes, and our voices go unheard because we do not stand together. But we have a voice, a true and meaningful voice, a voice that is local and international that shares one thing in common - economic austerity and oppression.

The Peterloo massacre of 1819 in Manchester led to the birth of the working class movement. People in those times were struggling as we are today, but unlike today they stood together with one voice with passion and belief. After that fateful day in 1819, more and more people realised that if



Activists from Miles Platting and Ancoats fight the benefit, housing and job cuts and oppose Labour

we stood united we can overcome the establishment and achieve our goals for better social conditions. Without social solidarity the people would never have got the freedom to vote.

Stop accepting this new world order where austerity is the normal way of life. Our three main political parties are all the same, and none of them care about basic human needs. Labour, the monopoly capital friendly party, itself is using the anti-austerity anger which has been building up for some time now to get itself elected. If they do get elected we will have more exploitation, more taxes to pay, and more misery. Miliband has already admitted if Labour gets back into government they will impose a 3 year cap on welfare spending.

Let us stand as one, one voice, and say to the capitalist and oppressors that we the real people, we are the light, you are the dark, we are the day, you are the night, we are the sweet, you are the sour, we are the good, you are the evil, we are the many, you are the few. Look at the people from Brazil, they joined together and awoke a sleeping giant in June this year. Organising demonstrations on the scale like this shows us all how it should be done. Our future is a two tier society, the masters and the helots. So let's get out there and use our best weapon against austerity - our voice. Unite the struggles into one voice this is the way forward, not backward like the recent years.

Liverpool Dublin Lockout 1913 centenary march



The Liverpool Irish Patriots flute band led a commemoration march on 27 July. Over 300 also demonstrated against the current austerity policies which, like 1913, are aimed to divide workers, abolish basic rights and force thousands into poverty and destitution. See ISL leaflet on <http://www.facebook.com/islinfo>

Name the day for a general strike

Margaret McAdam, International Socialist League

Persistent shouts from activists demanded a “general strike” and to “name the day”. These were heard in the final plenary of the People’s Assembly in London, which was attended by 4,000 activists, as Len McCluskey, general secretary of Unite, was speaking. He deflected this pressure to Mark Serwotka of the PCS, who was speaking last and who supports a general strike, to deal with that question.

No wonder impatience is growing. On September 2012 the TUC Congress approved a motion from Prisoner Offices Association stating that: “The Congress accepts (...) taking coordinated action where possible with far reaching campaigns including the consideration and practicalities of a general strike.”

Most unions who voted for the motion have done nothing so far. For twelve months they have made speeches in a few meetings but have not sought to organise anyone who wants to fight for a general strike.

In June the national conference of Trade Union Council called for a lobby of the TUC Congress of 8 September to demand a general strike. The unions calling call for a general strike include the RMT, PCS, POA, BFAWU and others however not Unite nor Unison.

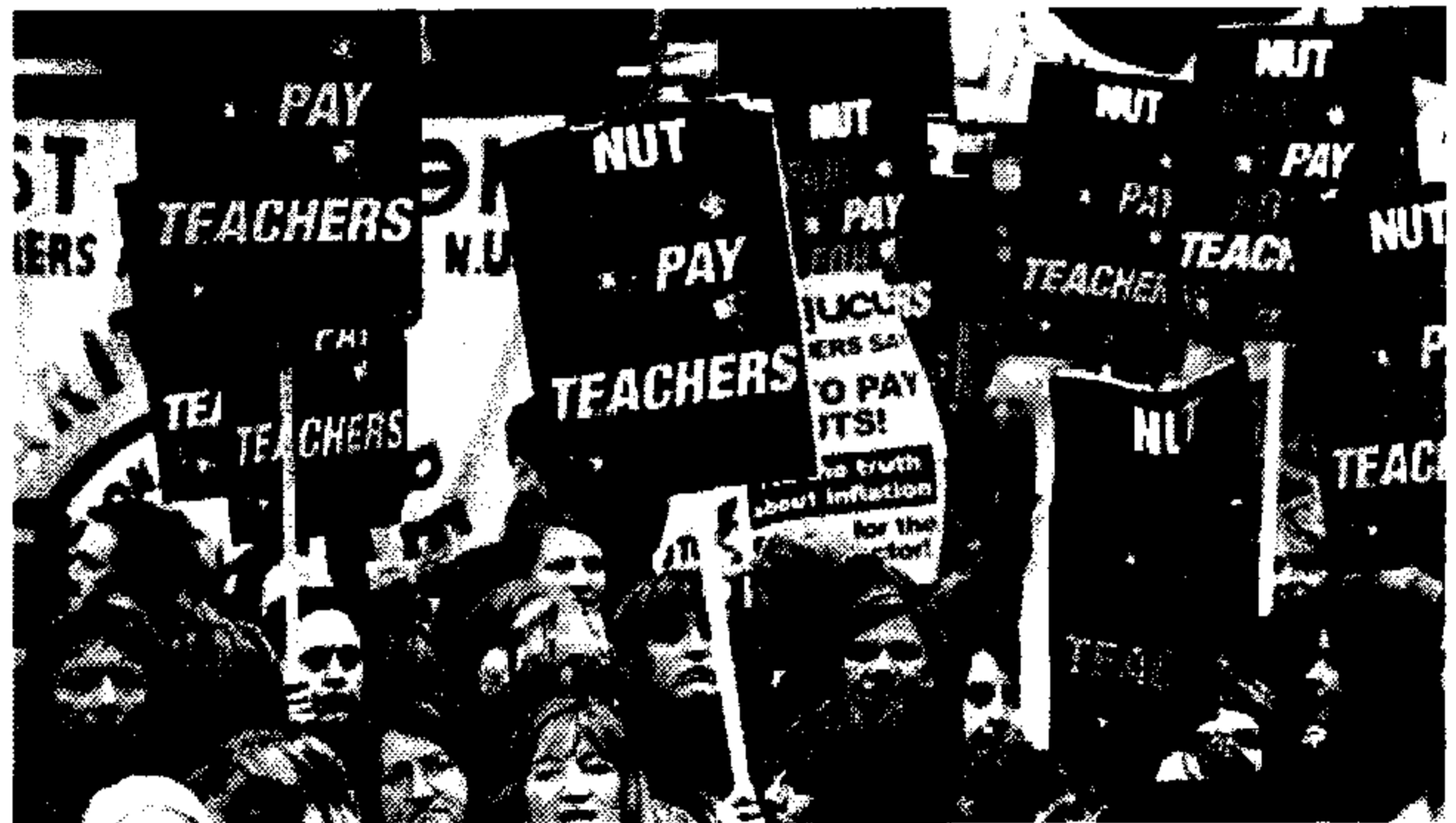
The People’s Assembly did agree to organise a national day of civil disobedience on 5 November. Unions behind the People’s Assembly include Unite and the teachers NUT.

All unions who support the 5 November actions should turn it into one of nationally co-ordinated strike and community action.

The NUT is organising a national strike day in the first and third weeks of November.

All strike actions should be co-ordinated with 5 November and in the evening Guy Fawkes can be replaced by the policies of the government and images of David Cameron.

The FBU, RMT and CWU are taking strike action now, either nationally or in a number of sections over cuts in jobs, wages, conditions and closures. Taking



Other unions must join the strike action proposed by the NUT, strike together against austerity

national action, and even local action, if it is strongly organised, can push employers back but without the united action of unions and communities the austerity policy of the government cannot be stopped.

On 22 July the Liverpool University UCU started a ballot for industrial action against attempt by management to impose a contract on all support workers without a maximum number of hours and without proper payment for overtime that is worked. They are using the threat to issue redundancies, to dismiss and then re-engage on the detrimental new contracts, to try to force through these changes.

This dispute is of national significance and if lost will show a green light to employers in education and elsewhere.

Any retreat by union leaders will lead to further and deeper attacks by employers.

The only way to unify the local and national disputes over public services, contracts, jobs and the fight against benefit cuts is with a general strike.

The attacks continue

Since the beginning of the world economic crisis in 2008, which erupted over the US mortgage subprime crisis, and especially since the sovereign debt crisis in Europe in 2010, national governments of the EU have imposed plans of unprecedented

attacks on the workers’ living conditions by the destruction of the so called welfare state.

The economic crisis has turned into a social war; people face poverty, hunger and even death, as a consequence of catastrophic cuts on health systems and social services.

Britain is one of the main European imperialist countries and faces a savage onslaught from the coalition Con-Dem government, which is destroying our hard-won gains, public services and is strengthening anti-immigration policies. The Labour Party backs the austerity policies and pledge to continue them.

The Institute of Fiscal Studies states that “in April 2011, average real hourly wages were 4 percent lower than they were at the start of the recession in April 2008.”

To this we should add 730,000 public sector job losses. This is just what the capitalists are seeking, to make the workers and poor pay for the crisis. But it is just the beginning.

The IFS has pointed out that government spending plans will mean further cuts of £33 billion in the first three years of the next parliament.

Working class and youth want to fight

There is a need and a will to fight back and defeat this social war against the

UCU fights draconian attacks Unite and Unison ballot for strike action

Martin Ralph, International Socialist League



people, as was demonstrated when half a million people marched against austerity in 2011, by the two public sector mass strikes of 30 June and 30 November, and the explosions against police harassment, racism and unemployment in August 2011.

And it is clear by the fight against the Bedroom Tax leading to impressive local demonstrations.

There is also pressure for action from the union rank and file, who repudiate Labour's policy of supporting the cuts, forcing union bureaucrats like Len McCluskey to argue that the Labour party should "give hope to people and something different from the austerity programme that the government is pursuing."

McCluskey has his eyes on the 2015 election, but there is no time to lose, workers want to fight now.

The Union bureaucracy only negotiate

Unfortunately, the public sector general strike on 30 November 2011 was not followed up with more action because trade union leaders decided to negotiate with the government and postpone new general industrial actions.

But the leaders of the largest unions, Unite and Unison, only consider the practicalities of making deals with the capitalists and government, and in practice help them to manage the crisis – thus preventing the working class from decisive actions against the cuts.

It is time for a general strike

Workers now face challenge – how to go further than November 2012 and unite all the union and community struggles in one fight. This is the only way. If we continue fighting separately and divided the capitalists, the Con-Dem coalition and the Labour Party will feel more comfortable to manoeuvre, to divert and to defeat our demands. If there is a strong and firm sectorial fight, they can concede local demands, but are always able to maintain their whole plan of destruction of the welfare state and the workers' rights.

Liverpool university management are proposing to issue dismissal notices (and re-engage on worse contracts) to 2,803 non-academic staff.. They want to remove time off in lieu agreements and to require working out of normal hours without pay and with no limit on hours worked.

The UCU ballot for industrial action started on 22 July and will continue into September, the agreed aim at membership meetings is to plan for strike action in September.

Three well attend UCU meetings, a successful rally, over 7,000 signing a UCU petition and 600 professors condemning the attack in a letter to the Time Higher Education shows what fair minded people think of the attack.

The university tries to con staff into thinking issuing dismissal notices is nothing more than normal consultation, they would dearly love this misinformation to accepted, but telling workers "if you do not accept our proposals we are going sack you" is not negotiation, it is intimidation.

The attack is the first of its type in any university in the UK, and is therefore of national significance. The management are trying to create a new system of management where they can change contracts at will.

This is the "contribution" of the University to the cuts the Tories, with the invaluable help of the Labour Party, are making to public services that the British working class need to live full lives. In doing this, they send the same message we hear every day from the government and the Labour: "Save the country, kill yourself".

These cuts are being driven by the Vice Chancellor Sir Howard Newby. Newby confirmed that any member of staff who rejects the new contract will be dismissed. He earns approximately £300,000 per

annum, he receives a Victorian lodge in Sefton Park free of charge, and has many other free benefits.

But management are unsettled by the determination of the UCU and they "offered" to give 45 days further consultation without withdrawing the proposal to issue the dismissal notices. The UCU have rejected this attempt of the management to only change the date of dismissals.

Unfortunately, Unite and Unison's leadership stepped back and decided to postpone the start of their ballots.

The university says it champions standards of excellence research and teaching, but in its human resources management and industrial relations it is following the road of imposing draconian capitalist measures, no doubt trying to open the university to deeper working with the private market, which it has been doing in other ways since the 1990s.

We, from ISL, congratulate the UCU decision and are at the service of the workers to be successful in this struggle. For this, it is necessary to ask the members of Unite and Unison to make pressure on their leadership to take united industrial actions with UCU, and to hold joint assemblies to discuss the best ways of fighting together. It is necessary to prepare for a longer fight, because one day strikes may be not enough to win.

Stop the management's intentions to make the workers pay for the crisis. We think this is part of a social war will only go to a favourable conclusion only if working class makes one fight, because we have a common enemy: the capitalists and their government.

That is why we support the call for a general strike. The TUC approved it in September 2012. Now we want them to name the day.

Brazil has woken up

Marcos Margarido,

International Socialist League and member of CSP-Conlutas, Brazil

Brazil has woken up. This was the shout that echoed through the country in June and July as millions of young people took to the streets, most of them for the first time in their lives.

It started as small protests against public transport fare increases but swelled as many joined the rallies. As the protests grew the demands increased. The demands were against: poor public health and education services; attempts to limit the public prosecution investigation into corruption (a congress bill called PEC 37 would have ended meaningful investigation but it was not voted through); the attack on the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, trans-sexual) community and against the ruling parties who, after 25-years of congress democracy, are using public services to enrich themselves.

"We don't want the World Cup, we want money for health and education", shouted many thousands as they marched during the football matches of the Confederations Cup in the cities of Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and Salvador. They oppose the tremendous expense of building "first world" stadiums in a country with "third world" public services. The "country of football" became the "country of protest".

Police savagely attacked the marches with tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, stun grenades and acoustic bombs. Governors and mayors condemned the demonstrators as vandals.

The daily press demanded an end to protests and President Dilma Rousseff, from the Workers Party (PT), offered the help of the federal police to crack down on "troublemakers". The repression did not last.

Mobilisations against repression and for new demands started.

The community of Rocinha (a favela, or shanty town, based in the hills of the most valued district of Rio de Janeiro) surrounded Governor Sergio Cabral's house demanding sanitation services. In Sao Paulo, residents from the poor neighbourhoods, blocked major roads to demand plumbed water, street paving and lighting.



The government, state authorities and the press rapidly changed their position and began to "compliment" the protesters for their civility. In a desperate attempt to end the demonstrations they canceled the fare increases in the main cities. It was too late. The masses had found it possible to fight for their needs and liked what they did. They learned also that their fight is winnable, and then demanded more.

Some of the demands of various sectors are being met. The PEC 37 bill was rejected; the allocation of 75 per cent of oil royalties as a subsidy for public transport was approved.

A bill is pending in congress to provide free bus fares to high school students. The hated bill known as "gay cure" (which talks of sexual diversity as a disease) was shelved. These are small victories, but show the path for the masses to take. Brazil will never again be the same.

The working class enters the struggle

The national day of action on 11 July called by all trade union federations,



marked the entry of the working class into the protest wave. Strikes, roadblocks and demonstrations occurred in at least 23 states. Important sectors such as engineers, construction workers, dockers, public servants, teachers and oil workers, went on strike and took to the streets.

To the people's general demands, historic demands of workers were added, such as: reduction of working hours, wage increases, an end to the reduction of pensions, land reform, and suspension of oil auctions to the private sector.

The organised working class has entered the struggle and its well-defined objectives hit the PT's popular front (class collaborationist) government after 10 years in power and President Dilma is being unmasked by the struggle of the masses.

The role of CSP-Conlutas

Only a few times in Brazil's history has the role of a small union organisation in defining the direction of the labor movement been seen. CSP-Conlutas is a minor trade union central, which brings together some hundreds of unions and social and youth movements. The giant union federations, the CUT and Força Sindical, have more than 35 per cent of the 9,700 unions, and there are three other federations.

However, neither federation took any positive initiatives when the masses took to the streets. The CUT gives continual support to the PT government and it repeats the threats and sermons of the government. It even warned that demonstrations could lead to a military coup. Força Sindical, a bureaucratic union federation, has never promoted any action outside of its own interests.

The CSP-Conlutas unions however on 27 June held a successful day of struggle and made a call to all union centrals to call a national day of general strike.

The demands of the streets, the pressure of the workers and the lack of response from the central government forced them to convene a national day of struggle on 11 July.

The success of the mobilisations led the centrals to convene a new national day on 30 August. Definitely, Brazil has woken up!

two million demand change

Background to the demonstrations

Many wonder why all this happened, because before June president Dilma's popularity had reached 75 per cent in the polls (but 30 per cent afterwards), the mayors were at the beginning of their terms, and media propaganda boasted that, "Brazil was the seventh world power", the PT boasted that they had led, "10 years of developmental government".

However Brazil's GDP had decreased from 7.5 per cent growth in 2010 to 0.9 per cent in 2012. It is expected to be below 3 per cent this year. Meanwhile the PT government has made massive attacks on workers, such as road, airport and port privatisation and is continuing the auction oil, and grant tax exemptions to employers.

From January to May this year the trade deficit was \$2.5 billion and the country had to use its reserve funds. As a result of currency devaluation there was a sharp increase in food prices.

These early symptoms of the arrival of the world economic crisis added to the eternal tax burden due to the payment of public debt — which takes about 45 per cent from the annual revenue budget to pay debt interests. This has already led to a deterioration of public services.

These are reasons workers and youth took to the streets.

The PSTU (IWL-FI's section in Brazil) says, "have no confidence in Dilma Rousseff and the proposed referendum on political reform, it is merely an attempt by the popular front government to channel the struggle in the streets into the dead end of elections".



Many youth, one fight

As millions of youth took the streets, ANEL (National Students Assembly - Free) a militant student union and affiliated to CSP-Conlutas as there. The struggle is national and needs the coordination of all the fighters in Brazil. That is why ANEL played an important role in the June demonstrations. Since its founding in 2009, the organization has been participating in major struggles of the Brazilian youth.

It was also a key part of the struggle that forced the bus fare increase in Porto Alegre to be removed in April. Just weeks before the explosion that defeated the transport mafias and governments, its second congress passed a resolution for a campaign "against the increase of the bus fare! Free bus fare in Brasil".

The biggest students union UNE (National Students Union) in Brazil has been, as with the NUS in the UK, taking the side of the Workers Party (PT) government and abandoning the student's fight.

Dreams and struggles make the future

Oliver Tressel, PSTU Brazil

Between 31 May and 2 June more than 2,000 students attended the 2nd congress of ANEL.

In Brazil if one was to believe the mainstream media, one would assume Brazil to be a country with a 'socialist' government. But since PT entered the government there has been a vast increase in the number of private universities and the implementation of REUNI (Reestruturação e Expansão das Universidades Federais / Program for Restructuring and Expansion of Federal Universities). It is the biggest attack on public universities in Brazilian history.

While it was implemented by Lula, the true brains behind the reform are the IMF, World Bank and the United Nations. It has seen class sizes more than double, teacher's and university worker's salaries fall behind inflation, a growth in distance learning, advancement of Prouni (government paying for scholarships at private universities), relaxation of relationship between universities and business funded research and much more. Essentially turning universities into large factories of workers for big business.

These are the government policies ANEL voted to fight.

Minorities

The third day of the Congress was dedicated to the struggles of minority groups. Debates and workshops about the women's struggle, the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community, Black and indigenous communities took place. As crises cripples capitalism, people from minority groups become even more marginalised. The struggle for LGBT rights has a huge base in the students.

ANEL thinks it is essential to unify the struggles of minorities with the wider class struggle and movements. MML (Movimento das Mulheres em Luta/Womens Struggle Movement), a socialist and feminist movement in Brazil was present at the congress.

Also present was the Quilombo Race and Class, which took the debate beyond the struggle against racism in higher education to the racism in Brazilian society.

The need to develop ANEL is essential in building a true students movement to fight alongside workers in the fight for a better future.

International movement

The 31 May was the International Day of Solidarity with the Syrian revolution, and this was not forgotten by the activists of ANEL, two Syrian students attended the conference. Students have been central in the bloody two year revolution in the region, where a independent students' union (UELS - Union of Free Syrian Students) has also developed. The congress had student delegates from Spain, Canada and Chile.

June uprising: "This is only the beginning, the struggle continues"

Canan Sagar, International Socialist League

Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Turkey, insisted that the construction would continue "no matter what" against the aims of the uprising that was trying to stop the destruction of Gezi Park.

But the resistance continued – against the government repression from May to July.

Erdogan authorised police attacks against thousands of demonstrators who were protesting. But Gezi Park is not any park.

On May Day 1977, dozens of protesters were killed. In 2007, police detained nearly 600 after a rally demanded Erdogan's resignation. And on May Day this year an anti-government protest was attacked by police following government attempts to ban it.

Youth and activists continued the fight for their right to occupy and to demonstrate.

The police responded with tear gas, plastic bullets and water cannon. They also used gas bombs made of chemical agents. There are claims that illegal chemical agents, such as orange gas that can cause permanent damage, have been used. Fascist groups also attacked demonstrators with the support of the police.

This time however Gezi park was not alone, protests swelled to 100,000s in many Turkish cities. Demonstrators defended themselves carrying goggles, gas masks and helmets and as the police brutally dispersed the crowds they developed numerous ways to re-organise.

The police killed five people. Ethem Sarisülük was shot dead with a bullet and although the police officer was arrested he was later released on the basis of self defence. Ali Ismail Korkmaz (19 years) who took part in the resistance in Eskisehir was violently beaten to death. A witness said Ali was beaten by civilian police officers and people with bats, mainly aiming at his head. It has been reported that only one person was detained after this incident even though street cameras show at least 5-6 people attacking him!

The law is protecting the killers and the government is hiding them! The mayor of Ankara accused the resisters of being

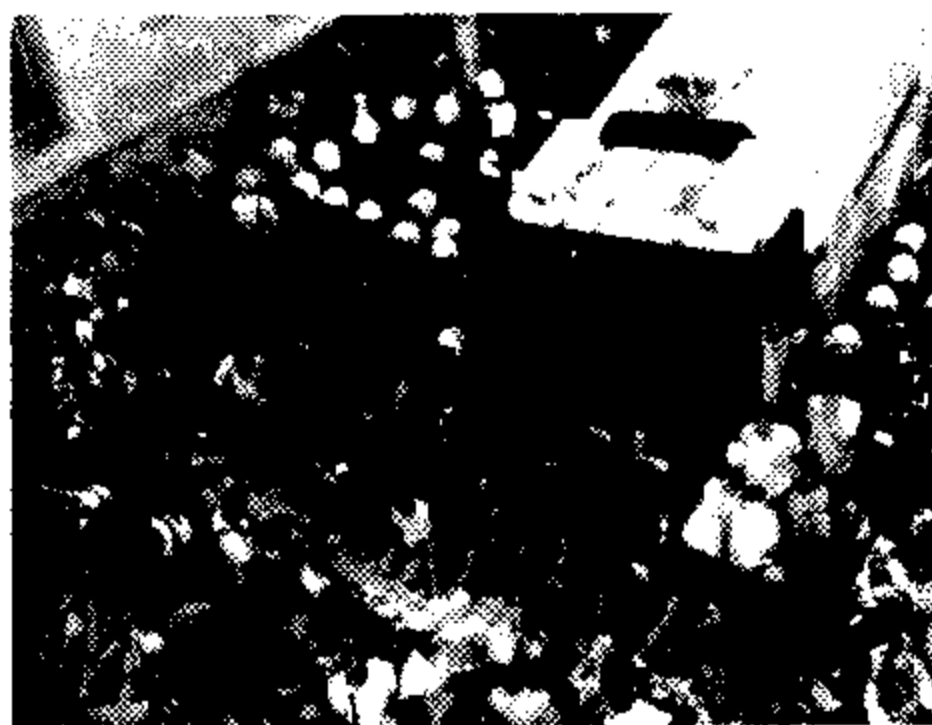


Israeli agents! While Erdogan blamed foreign powers.

The resistance in Turkey has raised the awareness of large sections of the population. People across the country are resisting and standing up against Erdogan's reactionary government and its policies.

Forms and forums of resistance

The government is dominated by corruption, it is attacking the public sector, cutting jobs and wages, and forcing through large scale privatisations. Turkish union confederations, DISK and KESK represent workers who are facing these attacks and called a national stoppage against the police repression of the protestors.



Anti-capitalist Muslims on the first day of Ramadam protest against the government

These unions represent 100,000s of workers and the stoppage affected schools, hospitals and public offices. Three other groups representing doctors, engineers and dentists also joined the action.

One of the biggest football fan groups Besiktas Çarşı joined the resistance. Çarşı first heard of the resistance through facebook and twitter and decided to march immediately with around 300

people, however that number had increased to 5,000 people by the time they got to Gezi Park.

As police cleared some of the parks, public forums (popular assemblies) started to take place in many other parks across Istanbul and other main cities. One of the forums called was at Abbasaga park. Abbasaga is in Besiktas, Istanbul. On the third day of the forum four thousand attended. Çarşı participated in the Abbasaga forum with around 1,000 supporters.

The forums are taking place in many parks and are bringing communities together.

Football fan groups, socialists, revolutionaries, workers, students, teachers and doctors all collaborate together for social and human rights and they occupied the streets and parks together.

Topics discussed in the forums included police violence and those injured and killed, how to organise the movement, the Kurdish question, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, trans-sexual) and ideas around the need for a new party. In June over 30 forums took place.

The governments' predicament increases daily, and resisters now say that "Erdogan did not kick us out of Gezi he made everywhere Gezi Park".

From the first day of the uprising in different cities in the country the comrades of RED (Turkish section of the IWL) and supporters were at the forefront of the barricades. In this exhausting process the comrades have been injured, poisoned with gases, beaten up, hit with water cannons but they did not step back, not even once.

In London militants of the International Socialist League intervened on a regular basis building solidarity with the struggle in Turkey and finding new friends.



Bill Hunter's Archives**The struggle for a new party***(Continued from back page)*

ways, far worse than the Taff Vale judgment and the attacks on workers' organisations which stimulated the desire for political representation at the beginning of the century. Blair is for continuing them!

No wonder that the Liverpool dockers shop steward, engaged in a bitter struggle for trade union organisation among Britain's dock-workers, began his speech at a meeting to discuss the new party in December by saying: "we are in the position we were a hundred years ago".

With all their Disraelian hypocrisy about, one nation, Toryism, the Conservative Party, always was a party of the governing class.

Now it is clear that there is no difference between Blair's New Labour and Mrs Thatcher so far as a refusal to represent the deprived and oppressed sections of the country is concerned.

In 1994 the ISL declared that,

"Blair travels thousands of miles to discuss with Murdoch in Australia but when does he ever go to talk to the homeless in the streets not a few hundred yards from the Palace of Westminster.

When did he seek and listen to the opinions of youth unemployed, of dockers, or single mothers etc?"

"Blair and Company embrace completely the capitalist ideology on which Thatcherism is based.

The declarations of Blair and Brown to meetings of financiers and speculators in the City of London that they intend to be tough were meant to convince the capitalist class that under their government, the state would steadfastly continue to carry out capitalist measures to assist capitalism at the expense of the mass of the population."

Before the 1997 election it was clear that Blair and his band of middle class philistines would get votes, not because of "New Labour" policies but because of hatred of Tories and desire for a change and increasing opposition to capitalist anarchy and privilege.

The need for a new mass workers party is overwhelming but we have to recognise that it cannot be imposed. The new labour party must come out of the disenfranchised just as the original Labour Party was formed as a political expression of the working class after the big upsurge of union organization at the end of the nineteenth century. Therefore the question of building is to go to the deprived, go to those in struggle, to seek a unity of those

who are struggling at whatever level against capitalism and its effects.

Further a centralisation cannot be imposed on this movement. We are convinced that a democratic centralised party will be necessary to bring victory against capitalism but together with that we have another belief: that such a party must be one that has won the majority of the working class with a discipline based on conviction which can only come from struggle and experience.

Our criticism of Scargill is that he tries to jump over the problems and appears to want a ready worked solution decided by a small circle.

We have to first find the anti-capitalist demands which unite the various sections who come into sharp struggle with anti-capitalist aims born out of the decay of capitalism and its culture.

The democratic rights of the mass of the population in Britain; their legal rights to organise themselves, their rights against oppressive actions by their employers as well as their rights to vote, came out of a series of many times bitter and bloody struggles against British ruling class.

All these have been thoroughly undermined together with the destruction of the powers of councils and the development of unelected and profitable quangos.

The crisis in society brings forward, not only problems of immediate struggle against attacks on weakest sections of society but general conditions in relation to democracy, culture, privilege, corruption, polarisation of wealth and other general questions of the nature of society. Questions of control and power are posed.

Under today's conditions the question of a new party is going to be something for large sections of the class which faces the need for struggle in a situation where the crisis in society is posing not only problems of immediate struggle against attacks crucifying the weakest sections of society, but general conditions in relation to democracy, culture, privilege, corruption, polarisation of wealth and other general questions arising from capitalist decline.

The party could attract those who want a party which will fight back against the effects of capitalism, and its greed, parasitism and corruption.

The new party must link together any militant political forces in the unions and

communities. It could be in the nature of an Alliance/Party of workers.

We think there could be an alliance for struggle among various movements on a programme like the following: for a workers' government laying down a socialist foundation with a policy of nationalisation and workers' control.

For the defence of multi-ethnic communities, immigrants and asylum seekers.

For the immediate re-nationalisation of railways, water, gas and electricity.

For a policy of taxing the rich and helping the disabled and the poor, with priority for a health service run by committees based on representatives of GPs, hospital staff, unions and communities.

Restoration of student grants, real training for the youth at work with a living wage, paid for by employers and a policy against unemployment, with public works on full wages and an education policy drawn up by parents, teachers and communities.

It should stand for the repeal of anti-union laws, the struggle for democratic rights, the abolition of quangos, of the Criminal Justice Act and the Defence Against Terrorism.

See www.litci.org/en for articles by sections of International Workers League

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Bill Hunter's Archives

The struggle for a new party

The question of a new party of the working class has arisen a number of times since the 1990s. This archive from Bill Hunter deals with the fundamental issues of how a new party could be built out of the class struggle and what the main principles should be.

Scargill, the Socialist Labour Party and the discussion on a new party

Bill Hunter, 1995

A discussion on whether there was a need for a new socialist party was in progress among trade union and socialist activists before 4 November 1995 when Arthur Scargill published his: "Future Strategy for the Left" - a discussion paper on the consequences of the Labour Party conference, October 1995.

In this he called for a socialist party of Labour, correctly declaring that Blair and the New Labour Party had "abandoned socialism and any commitment to common ownership".

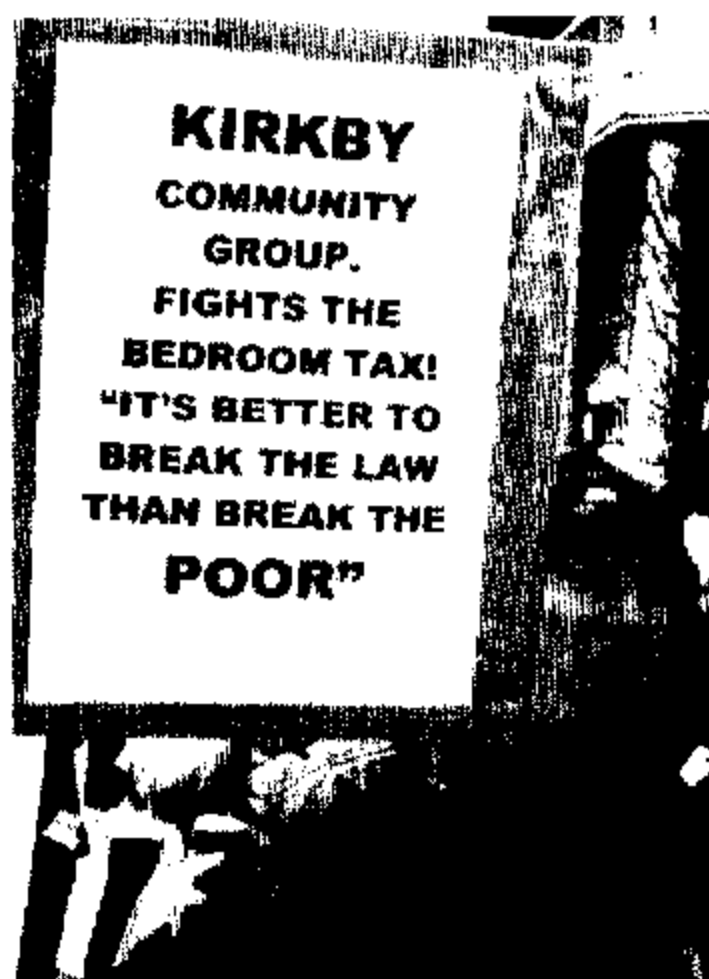
Subsequently, the progress - or lack of progress - of the Socialist Labour Party, has shown that Arthur Scargill's basic conceptions and methods of building an alternative party of the working class are profoundly wrong and owe more to Stalin than Lenin and Marx.

However, his document in 1995 and the formation of the Socialist Labour Party had some importance in so far as he led the most important strike in Britain since the Second World War in which all the repressive organs of the state, government and leading circles of the capitalist class and the media moguls, united to defeat the miners, and he won a certain prestige among a wide section of militants.

He and other miners have been proved absolutely correct in his exposure over many years of a pit closure programme built on class hatred and the desire to destroy the most powerfully organised section of the British working class with long traditions of struggle.

But the central importance of the discussion on the new party does not rest on the actions of Scargill.

The discussion comes out of important movements in the working class and those



wide sections of the population who are looking into the abyss.

They see there the prospect of a descent into a grim future in regard to employment, health education, old age and security. New Labour has effectively deprived this majority of the population of their political expression.

For decades the right wing of the Labour Party conducted a battle to remove Clause Four, which was added to the constitution of the Labour Party at the end of the First World War and was based upon a resolution carried by a Labour Party Conference in 1905, when it still had the name of Labour Representation Committee (LRC),

"The Annual Conference of the L.R.C. hereby declares that its ultimate objective shall be the obtaining for the workers the full results of their labour by the overthrow of the present competitive system of Capitalism and the institution of a system of public ownership of all the means of production, distribution and exchange".

In the 1950s, Hugh Gaitskell campaigned to abolish Clause Four and was soundly defeated. As we said in our pamphlet written in 1994, Clause 4 and the Struggle for Public Ownership,

"What is involved, therefore, in Blair's increasingly frenzied attacks on the supporters of Clause 4 is his desire, and that of other party leaders, to remove the last vestige of socialism from the Labour Party. But more than that, important though their attack on socialist aspirations may be, they want to destroy the Labour Party as a party representing the working class and remove any trace of its origins as a party coming out of the struggle of exploited and oppressed masses of people for a political representation.

"It was the great drive to organisation of the poorest, most deprived sections of society at the end of the last century that brought about the Labour Party. Now, it is the poorest and most oppressed sections who are being disenfranchised."

Who politically represents and really fights for the unemployed and the homeless? We asked.

Who politically represents and really fights for the old, the sick and disabled?

Who represents and politically fights for the young?

Who politically represents and fights for the dockers of Liverpool who are opposing the return of casualisation of the docks?

Blair speaks for none of these people. Who gives political representation to those trade unionists who are suffering political repression to-day?

The laws against secondary picketing and the laws against union organisation in the work place were political class acts against the organised workers in many

(Continues on page 11)

For more information or to join the ISL, Email: isinfo@talktalk.net
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