

Campaign Briefing

Monday

27 September 2004

Briefing for delegates published daily at Labour Party
Conference and online at www.clpd.org.uk

Alice Mahon for the Conference Arrangements Committee

A vote for Alice is a vote for democracy

Alice Mahon MP is standing for election to the Conference Arrangements Committee (CAC). The ballot takes place today. All delegates – from both trade unions and constituencies – have a vote for this section of the CAC. We urge you to vote for Alice.

Alice will be a strong voice for democracy and will speak up for the right of delegates to discuss issues they consider important, and will respect the sort of transparency in decision-making and accountability to members that conference needs. Alice Mahon has an unbroken record of campaigning for the issues supported by Labour members.

This year – once again – many resolutions on subjects which members consider vital to discuss were ruled out of order by the CAC. They covered issues such as progressive taxation, Guantanamo Bay, selection in education and civil service job cuts. Clearly ‘contemporary’ matters such as these were suppressed by the current majority on the CAC using the spurious argument that they ‘have been discussed before’!

These manoeuvres make a mockery of conference. For Labour to regain its public esteem requires the Party to have confidence in,

‘If elected, I will strive to ensure that conference is delegate-led, with a real opportunity for full and frank discussion of the issues that delegates have submitted resolutions on. Conference is the sovereign body of the Labour Party. Party members and affiliates must be allowed to debate and take a position on the critical issues facing our party.’

ALICE MAHON MP

and listen to, its own members. The government ministers who currently take up constituency places on the CAC have shown they do not effectively represent the members.

Alice will be a much needed voice for the members and for democracy.

**For a democratic conference
and a fair say for members
VOTE ALICE MAHON MP**

Delegates vote for debate on Iraq

Despite blatant leadership pressure and manipulation, CLP delegates have voted to debate Iraq. In a string of regional briefings Party officials misled delegates by telling them to vote for the four union subjects, because there would ‘not be enough time’ to discuss other matters!

The four union priorities — public services, pensions, employment rights and manufacturing — were guaranteed to be debated. As a result of last year’s victory – when conference voted through CLPD’s 4+4 rule change – CLPs and unions were each entitled to choose four subjects.

Unfortunately constituency delegates did vote for 3 out of 4 of the union favoured subjects and therefore threw away the opportunity to debate additional important issues. But the strength of feeling on Iraq could not be suppressed. Conference must ensure the vote is respected. No more dirty tricks!

*Labour Party Irish Society
and the Left Field*

**Can Trade Unions make a difference in
Northern Ireland?**

Monday, 9pm till very late

Brighton Charter Hotel, 15 King Street

Chair: John McDonnell MP

Followed by music from Neck

**Campaign Briefing is published by the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy,
the Centre-Left Grassroots Alliance and the Socialist Campaign Group of Labour MPs**

Public ownership: the right track for our railway

TSSA has received tremendous support for our alternative position on public ownership for rail – from both unions and constituencies and we put on record our appreciation.

Everyone realises that this is a genuinely popular, vote-winning policy. Our own independent polling has revealed that two-thirds of all voters and 75% of Labour supporters think passenger services should be run in the public sector, not by private train operators.

There's been some scurrilous briefing that this would cost £20bn because it would mean taking Network Rail back into the public sector. Nonsense. Network Rail can stay exactly as it is – a not-for-profit organisation.

The same can't be said for private train operators, where it is the economics of the madhouse. Last year they received over half a billion more than BR did before it was sold off. And some franchises are even set up so firms are guaranteed a profit.

TSSA wants to see train franchises taken back in-house as they expire; that way it won't cost the Treasury a penny in compensation. We don't want to see a BR mark II. But we do want to see a publicly owned railway where every penny goes to improve services.

Please support TSSA's alternative position on rail this afternoon.

Gerry Doherty, Gen. Sec., TSSA

The Acid Test

In 1997, when Partnership in Power was introduced, Conference was assured that any alternative positions that were carried would be accepted in full by the Leadership. Yesterday, for the first time since 1997, an important alternative position was carried in the teeth of opposition from the platform. The test will be whether this is taken on board by Ministers. If it is not, Partnership in Power will be exposed as a con!

* **Stay in the hall on** *
* **Tuesday afternoon** *
* **for the rule changes!** *

DIRTY TRICKS (PART 4)

When picking up our ballot form for the Priorities Ballot a be-suited apparatchik smoothed up to me to ask if I knew how to vote. I said I was a first-time delegate and so would appreciate help. "Do you know about the TU motions?" he asked. Upon replying in the negative he drew attention to the 4 TU motions and said that shortage of time would prevent more than four subjects. Therefore they were encouraging CLP delegates to support the TU motions. We did not accept his advice, but instead followed *Campaign Briefing*. I have lodged a complaint with the CAC.

Delegate from London Region

DIRTY TRICKS (PART 3)

At the North-West delegates' briefing Hazel Blears MP used her position as the only person on the platform to present the leadership's view on this week's policy debates.

Despite the introduction of the 4+4 rule change, she urged delegates to back those motions already guaranteed to be backed by the "big four" unions and also carefully ran through each of the NPF minority reports, citing reasons for them to be rejected. Rail renationalisation would be "too expensive", advocating continuing to subsidise the private companies. We should reject the council housing minority position because of the great benefits ALMOs bring. When challenged that there was time for policy debate on the conference floor, with both sides represented, she argued that she was expected to provide "leadership".

Delegate from the NW Region

National Assembly Against Racism

Monday 5.30-7

Montpellier Room, Royal Albion Hotel, 35 Old Steine

Speakers include: Billy Hayes—Gen. Sec. CWU; Lee Jasper—Sec. NAAR; Ken Livingstone—Mayor of London; Claude Moraes MEP; Abeer Pharaon—Co-ordinator, Assembly for the Protection of the Hijab

Followed by a reception by Unite Against Fascism: 7-9pm

LLB/SCG/CFS

Target Labour Government?

7pm Monday, Friends Meeting House, Ship Street
Tony Benn, John McDonnell MP, e Smith MSP, Bob Crow, Mick Shaw, Christine Shawcroft

Labour: the party of war or peace?

7pm Monday Hilton West Pier Hotel, 137 Kings Road

Speakers: Tony Benn, Jeremy Corbyn MP, John Holmes (CWU rep on NEC), Kate Hudson (Chair CND), Sabad Jawad (Iraqi Democrats Against Occupation), Alice Mahon MP, Michael Meacher MP, Keith Sonnet (Dep. Gen. Sec. Unison)

Organised by Labour CND, LAP and CND..

9pm: Peace Connection Social with special guests