

Campaign Briefing

SUNDAY

24 September 2006

Published daily at Labour Party Conference and on line at
www.clpd.org.uk Tel. 07767 761338

CLP delegates: Don't waste your vote in the Priorities Ballot

This afternoon each CLP has four votes in the Priorities Ballot. We recommend CLPs vote for the following vital subjects: Housing, Middle East, Single Equalities Act and Fighting the BNP.

The Party rules guarantee that the four contemporary issues the unions pick will be timetabled, along with the top four voted for by the CLPs.

This means that in order to ensure the widest range of issues are debated by this conference, (i.e. eight issues), CLPs must vote for four issues that are different from the four supported by the unions.

The unions vote as a block and have already decided on their four issues. These are Corporate Liability (T&G); Rights at Work (Amicus); Pensions (GMB); Health (Unison). – so these four issues will be debated. If a CLP votes in the ballot for any of these four they are wasting their vote. Some delegates have been mandated to prioritise the Leadership issue, so are considering ways of doing so.

Housing, Middle East, Single Equalities Act and Fighting the BNP

Council tenants need real choice through the introduction of a level playing field for direct investment in council housing as an alternative to privatisation. This "fourth option" has been agreed as party policy for the past two years, but still not implemented.

United States blocking of a united international call for an 'immediate ceasefire' enabled Israel to continue

bombing Lebanon's civilian infrastructure. Our government's misguided support for the US strategy in the Middle East is fuelling conflict. This failing policy has also contributed to the loss of support for Labour.

If equalities legislation is to improve the framework for tackling and eliminating inequality it must draw on the lessons of what has been shown to work. That requires strengthening legislation to allow class actions, so that issues of discrimination affecting a group of people can be pursued and remedied.

The BNP's electoral advance can be halted, but clearly this will require a different strategy than has been largely pursued to date. The BNP has now gained nearly 50 council seats on the back of racism. Labour must ensure that the BNP's arguments are convincingly rebutted and defeated. It additionally must oppose the legitimisation of racism promoted by tabloid myths.

CLP delegates:

Vote for

- **Housing**
- **Middle East**
- **Single Equalities Act**
- **Fighting the BNP**

Don't vote for

- **Corporate Liability**
- **Rights at work**
- **Pensions**
- **Health**

as these are guaranteed to be on the agenda from the unions.

Party Leadership: Support Reference Back

At least ten emergency resolutions from CLPs have been submitted calling for Conference to be allowed to discuss the Party leadership. Everyone else has been debating the issue, but the platform has worked overtime to keep the subject off Conference agenda. Today, as soon as Conference opens delegates will seek to remove the gag by using the procedural device of moving reference back of the CAC Report 1.

**Defend Party Democracy
Vote for Reference Back**

The emergency resolution from 10 CLPs:

"Conference notes that Contemporary Resolutions were submitted by some 17 CLPs on the Party Leadership issue.

Conference further notes that the Conference Arrangements Committee ruled all these motions out of order. Conference believes that as the Party's sovereign body this vital issue should be discussed by this Conference. Conference, therefore, asks the NEC to timetable appropriate motions to facilitate this."

Contemporary motions: Conference gagged!

This year the Party Establishment's brutal and undemocratic treatment of CLPs is unprecedented. For the first time more contemporary motions have been ruled out by the CAC than have been accepted. Submitting a Contemporary Motion is the only chance that CLPs have of directly influencing Labour's policy agenda. Now even this is being closed off. And Party bigwigs wonder why membership and activity is at its lowest ever level.

In fact CLPs face a double whammy. After causing mayhem in the press, ministers and ex-ministers now have the gall to demand that CLPs and unions keep quiet at Conference. Yet ministers themselves caused this damage. And, just to make sure delegates accede, the powers that be are anyway ruling out almost everything controversial. In the case of the Contemporary motions from the big four unions (which they can't keep off the agenda), the Establishment have ensured that the unions' motions are surrounded by pro-government ones. Vital subjects like Iraq, Trident replacement, anti-nuclear power, trade union laws, Venezuela, faith schools, fair admissions policies and incapacity benefit, have been kept off the agenda. CLPs haven't suddenly forgotten how to draft contemporary motions. Every year they are worded in much the same way. What changes is the political whim of the platform.

To add insult to injury, CLPs have no way of assessing the judgement of the CAC, since none of the ruled-out motions are printed. So, in a very real sense, the CAC is unaccountable.

Gagging exposed

Contemporary motions:

	2005	2006
- ruled in	120	95
- ruled out	70	125

Guess who said:

"What is unbelievably depressing about the government's response, is that they see in the evidence about greenhouse gasses, not an opportunity to promote environmental concern, but a chance to make the case for nuclear power."

Answer: Tony Blair, attacking the Tories in 1988 when he was shadow energy secretary.

Help!

Could you help distribute

Campaign Briefing in the mornings? If so, please phone 07767 761338

CAC ignores rule book

Delegates who yesterday visited the Conference Arrangements Committee to appeal against the ruling out of 17 contemporary resolution on the Leadership were surprised to be informed by the CAC chair that such resolutions were 'unconstitutional'. This mantra was repeated with increasing desperation as delegates pointed out that the rule book explicitly places the NEC in charge of the Leadership election process with powers to determine the procedure and that this is precisely what the 17 resolutions had requested.

Party Elections

The Centre Left Grassroots Alliance are supporting the following candidates:

• **Monday**
Conference Arrangements Committee (General Section):
John Boughton (sitting member)

• **Tuesday**
National Constitutional Committee (CLP Section):

Ray Davison

Auditor

David Hopper

[voting 9am - 4pm each day]

Peaceful delegate in security fracas

A constituency delegate visiting the GMEX secure area yesterday was detained by police for half an hour whilst advice was sought on whether it was permissible for her to wear her rainbow peace scarf. She was told they could not risk the possibility of a protest. But as the bemused delegate pointed out, this was unlikely since the conference hall was completely empty at the time.

Campaign for Labour Party Democracy

Conference assessment and the next steps

Thursday: 1pm Jurys Inn Hotel

Chair: Mohammed Azam

Speakers: Ann Black, Billy Hayes, Gaye Johnston, Christine Shawcroft, Pete Willsman, Walter Wolfgang

Sunday 24th September, 7pm—Labour Against the War

Enough! It's time to leave Iraq

Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street - Chair: Alan Simpson MP

Speakers: Tony Benn, John McDonnell MP, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Billy Hayes (CWU), Christine Shawcroft (LP NEC), Rose Gentle & Linda Holmes (Military Families Against the War), Milan Rai

Campaign Briefing

Monday

25 September 2006

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Vote for Rule Changes from CLPs

Leadership nomination rights

Delegates should remain in their seats towards the end of this afternoon's session to support rule changes improving democracy in the Party. Support for the Erith and Thamesmead CLP amendment will ensure MPs get the right to nominate for Leader and Deputy Leader on an annual basis. This always used to be the case, but during the last five years Head Office has failed to send MPs the appropriate form. At least one MP's request has been ignored three times. The NEC are saying, somewhat disingenuously, that nominations can be made at anytime. But there is all the difference in the world between an extraordinary situation where MPs have to gang up to trigger an election and an automatic process as with Treasurer and all other positions in the Party. John Smith, Neil Kinnock et al were subject to annual endorsement and that democratic arrangement should be continued.

Support Erith and Thamesmead

Party staff should be impartial

The rule amendment from Beverley and Holderness CLP proposes that the Rule Book includes an expectation that paid party staff, when carrying out their duties, always act impartially. Every delegate would agree with this. Indeed, it might seem unnecessary that such a rule is proposed. Unfortunately, in recent years, some staff have not fulfilled these basic expectations. There have been far too many examples of officials interfering in internal elections. The NEC has a Code of Conduct but it has proved all too often to be a paper tiger.

Support Beverley and Holderness

'There is a culture of stitching and fixing for short term advantage which has been allowed to flourish within the party for far too long. It is time for all concerned members to stand up and resist the efforts by party staff and others to unfairly influence internal elections, selections and ballots.'

Tony Robinson

10 year limit

Mole Valley CLP are calling for a limit on any Party Leaders' term of office to ten years if they have not retired beforehand.

Support Mole Valley

Rule Changes require card votes and these are all taken at the end of the session and delegates need to pay careful attention. Quite often the platform gets muddled.

Defending Labour's funding and keeping the union link

Today Conference will discuss the party's submission to the Hayden Phillips review. As the draft is an NEC document it cannot be amended. It opposes the Tories' proposal for a cap on donations. If agreed this would cut the unions' ability to affiliate and donate to the party. In the electoral cycle from 2001 to 2005 union donations and affiliation fees made up two thirds of the total raised for the party.

The weakness of the NEC draft is its radical proposals to increase state funding of parties. A 'Foundation for Democracy' is suggested, to oversee a plethora of new subsidies to parties. It would dole out taxpayers money for such activities as training the public, party staff and activists; policy development and new technology, plus additional funds for the party of government. Such proposals threaten to reduce members' and affiliates' influence in the party and are unpopular with the electorate.

Hayden Phillips will make an interim report this autumn and this may prompt some in the party to reconsider their approach. It will then be important that the NEC sticks to its opposition to donation caps.

Corporate Liability

Every year hundreds of workers die at their workplace and thousands more are injured. Yet the penalties against directors who fail to provide a safe workplace are derisory. The TGWU/UCATT/Deptford CLP composite calls for the government to ensure directors have legal health

Continued over

Sunday's NEC meeting

This was short but lively. The chief of police reported that Saturday's demo was probably the largest ever in Manchester. (He had evidently not heard of Peterloo.)

Angela Eagle drew attention to the high number of contemporary motions ruled out and pointed out that this increases cynicism and therefore badly serves the Partnership in Power process. Jeremy Beecham pointed out that there is an appeals procedure. Pete Willsman responded that this procedure was hardly perfect, given that the appeal is to the same body as made the original decision. He added that the CAC is not accountable to Conference for its actions since the priorities ballot begins before the CAC Chair makes her report.

Ann Black said that there has to be something wrong when, after eight years of Partnership in Power, there were, for the first time, more resolutions ruled out than accepted. Ann added that the ruled out motions are not published and therefore delegates have no way of verifying the CAC's decisions. Christine Shawcroft noted that this year a considerable number of motions were ruled out as 'unconstitutional' and that this seems to be another innovation from the CAC. The General Secretary responded by saying that the early opening of the Priorities Ballot was for the benefit of delegates and suggested that there were problems with 'model resolutions' that needed looking at. A few hours later the CAC Chair made exactly the same point from the rostrum. It looks as if another innovation is on the way.

Justice on pensions

The Government has been too timid with its pensions policy. Delegates should support the GMB composite to strengthen Labour's commitment on pensions and to maintain its support amongst Britain's 12 million pensioners.

Means-testing should be abolished, giving today's pensioners a decent state pension and taking them out of poverty, many of them women. This could be partly-funded from the massive National Insurance Fund surplus. Pension increases linked to earnings should be reinstated well before 2012. And the retirement age should not be increased above 65.

The Government should also reinstate a realistic, second, earnings-related pension with employers contributing and workers saving during their working lives.

Finally the Government should act to fully compensate members of occupational and private pension schemes while coming to acceptable agreements on pensions for public sector workers. All these proposals are affordable. Only the political will is needed.

**Vote for the GMB composite
Oppose the weaker alternative**

Corporate Liability

Continued from page 1

and safety duties, with imprisonment if they are party to unsafe working practices causing death or injury. The current Corporate Manslaughter Bill before Parliament should be amended accordingly, to fulfil a long-standing Labour commitment. Earlier this month the TUC resolved to campaign for this improvement to the Bill.

**Vote for the TGWU and UCATT composite
Oppose any weaker alternative.**

Fair deal for vulnerable workers

Despite commitments going back to John Smith, improvements in workers' rights have been limited and piecemeal. Delegates should support the Amicus/CWU composite.

The unions are rightly concerned that 'Warwick' commitments are slow in being delivered. The delay in implementing the rights for temporary and agency workers allows exploitation of workers such as those from new EU member states.

Ministers have dragged their feet improving statutory redundancy pay, and the rights to include bargaining for pensions and training in collective agreements are still awaiting Ministerial approval. 50/50 trustee appointments to pension funds are also being delayed at the whim of employers.

**Support Amicus/CWU
Oppose the weaker alternative**

Elections to Conference Arrangements Committee

TODAY

Vote for sitting member John Boughton from the TGWU. The candidates from Amicus (Allan Cameron) and GMB (Harry Donaldson) are also worth supporting. All three will defend delegates' rights.
[voting 9am - 4pm today]

Help!

Could you help distribute *Campaign Briefing* in the mornings? If so, please phone 07767 761338

unite against fascism

Unite to stop the BNP

5:30 Monday

Cross Street Chapel, Cross Street, M2 1NL

Speakers include: • Ken Livingstone • Billy Hayes, CWU Gen Sec • Bob Abberley, Unison Asst Gen Sec • Kitty Usher MP • Sadiq Khan MP • Henry Guterman MBE • Glyn Ford MEP • Mohammed Azam, North West UAF • Lee Jasper, Sec, National Assembly Against Racism • Sabby Dhalu, UAF

Campaign Briefing

Tuesday

26 September 2006

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Housing – support the 4th option

Britain has a housing crisis with thousands on waiting lists across the country. Local authorities need the powers and finance for a massive building programme to make up for the impact of Thatcher's right to buy on council housing stocks. Yesterday Gordon Brown seemed to be listening.

Delegates should support the composite from Gravesham CLP

"There is no substitute for public sector housing accountable directly to the people who elect councils and governments and that's what council housing is all about. I, with my constituents and my Labour Party, oppose stock transfer totally."

Gerald Kaufman MP speaking at a lobby of Parliament on 8 Feb.

modestly calling for Councils to have the resources to refurbish their remaining stock to modern standards. Yet the government refuses to let councils get on with job. The 2004 and 2005 Conferences voted to support a 'level playing field' for tenants and councils. This would ring-fence income from rents, capital receipts and ensure debt is written off fairly.

Uphold Conference sovereignty. Support the composite moved by Gravesham.

Opposing racism unites communities

by Mohammed Azam (NEC member)

In today's discussion on 'social cohesion' it is very important that the tabloid agenda that pretends there is a link between the issues of race and security is firmly rejected. Pandering to that agenda only assists the racists. Instead Labour should confront the myths being promoted, particularly the recent campaign that attributes all society's ills to multiculturalism. The truth is the exact opposite; allowing everyone to express their heritage, faith and culture as long as they respect other's rights, helps improve community relations and undermines bigotry. The alternative to multiculturalism, enforced assimilation as promoted in France and the Netherlands, leads to disharmony, as witnessed in France last year. Telling people that their culture is not welcome sends a strong message that one culture or religion is considered superior to another.

Rebutting the reactionary tabloid framework should be complemented by our own positive campaigns, outlining the ways society benefits from diversity. We should make no concessions to the current xenophobic campaign being whipped up against migrant workers from central Europe. The economic facts are entirely clear. The recent influx of workers is boosting the economy and making a large net contribution to government finances. Immigration is not responsible for unemployment nor for low wages, but

has been meeting labour shortages in the least desirable jobs and helping maintain our vital public services.

Countering racism, defending multiculturalism and explaining how migration raises living standards, helps build a sustainable society. Such an approach additionally benefits Labour by strengthening the party's electoral appeal.

No to Trident Replacement

As part of the *Britain in the World* discussion, delegates are encouraged to raise opposition to proposals to squander billions of pounds on replacing Trident nuclear weapons. The Prime Minister has said a decision will be taken this year.

Recent estimates show it could cost a staggering £75bn to replace Trident and maintain new nuclear weapons, billions that would be better spent on hospitals, schools and tackling global poverty.

Trident was built for the Cold War, when it was argued that it was necessary against the Soviet Union. We now live in a changed world. There is no ongoing justification for Britain to continue holding nuclear

Continued over

Monday's NEC meeting

This was held at 8.15am in the NEC hotel. Bleary-eyed NEC members found the door to their room barred by stewards and a demonstration by some 20 'loyal party members'. The latter were demanding that in the interests of unity the NEC should support Tony Blair. The demonstrators were allowed to mill about and generally cause mayhem. Of course, had they been lefties, they would have suffered the fate of Walter Wolfgang and been out on their ear.

Once the meeting was under way four draft NEC statements were handed round. These were on Rights at Work, Pensions, Corporate Liability and Health. The Leadership were hoping that these statements would be agreed and that all the movers of the relevant composites would then be asked to remit. If they refused to remit the NEC would then ask Conference to vote against. This course of action was fiercely resisted. It was pointed out that the drafts had popped up out of the blue, behind the backs of the CLPs and unions involved in the composites. It was proposed that a process of consultation should first take place with all those involved in order to seek a consensus. The NEC would then meet to agree final statements. This was put to the vote and carried 18-13 [Those in favour – Azam, Black, Coulter, Dromey, Eagle, Griffiths, Holland, Lillis, Kennedy, Mann, Shawcroft, Sonnet, Speight, Stephenson, Turner, Ward, Willsman, Yeo] [Denis Skinner was unavoidably absent.]

Middle East

In today's debate on international policy delegates are urged to raise the need for change in the government's policy on the Middle East. Britain's involvement in the invasion of Iraq has become increasingly unpopular. It has become evident that the US-led occupation is able to bring about neither peace nor stability. UK support for the US blocking of an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon also damaged the Labour Party, as it is widely believed that the US could have pressured Israel to halt its destruction of Lebanon lives and infrastructure. The Middle East would benefit from Britain adopting a policy that promotes dialogue and negotiation to resolve the regions conflicts. This requires ending the subordination to the US.

'America's war in Iraq has ...played a big part in fomenting terrorist cells and attacks, according to an authoritative report pooling the views of 16 US intelligence agencies'
Guardian 25 September

Sinking ship

Partnership in Power has been holed below the waterline. The latest damage has been inflicted by Tony Blair himself, with his unilateral decision to set up four ministerial policy commissions to develop the Party's future policy programme. At the NEC he said that his legacy would be a framework of new policies. But developing policy is precisely what the National Policy Forum is supposed to be doing. We were told that under PiP there would first be dialogue with members, CLPs and unions and then policy would be knitted together in the Party's Policy Commissions and NPF, with Annual Conference finally giving its seal of approval. It would be bottom-up, rather than top-down from ministers.

Things went badly wrong when key Government policies such as support for faith schools, top-up fees, foundation hospitals and foundation schools never went anywhere near the NPF. Many activists have always said that Partnership in Power was always a manoeuvre to undermine the power of Annual Conference and the NEC — that it was really little more than a sham. Tony Blair seems intent on proving us right.

No Trident Replacement

Continued from front page

weapons.

Polls show a majority of the public oppose a replacement for Trident. The TUC Congress recently passed policy in opposition. Yet this conference will not have a chance to vote on the issue. As part of the gagging of conference, 17 contemporary motions against Trident replacement were ruled out.

Speak out against Trident replacement.

ELECTIONS TODAY

National Constitutional Committee (CLP Section)

Ray Davison (East Devon CLP)

Auditor

David Hopper (NUM)

[voting 9am - 4pm]

Spot the lanyard

In just two days the white Sky lanyard (*Lanyardus Murdochius*) has become very rare. There is serious concern they will be completely extinct by Thursday. Please report any sightings to *Campaign Briefing*.

[NB: Tony Blair's does not count.]

Help!

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CRISIS IN PALESTINE

Peace & justice in Lebanon and Palestine

Richard Burden MP ■ Richard Howitt MEP
Prof. Manuel Hassassian, PLO Rep. in London
Louise Richards—War on Want ■ Tony Benn

12:30pm Tuesday ■ Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street

Palestine Solidarity Campaign and War on Want

Campaign Briefing

Wednesday

27 September 2006

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Price for the week: £2

No to Health Privatisation

By Kelvin Hopkins MP – Co-convenor of Unison Group of Labour MPs

Despite increased funding the Health Service is under pressure due to continual re-organisation. Trusts are having to make staff cuts to balance the books – to clear debts caused by being forced to refer patients to expensive private sector health care. There is understandable, wide-spread, local anger when cuts to services and hospitals are announced.

Health cuts are being caused by Trusts having to offer alternative facilities for treatment and payment by results. The cross-party Health Select Committee found that forcing Trusts to make referrals to Independent Sector Treatment Centres was the main cause of cuts by those Trusts. Trusts are required to pay ISTCs in full, regardless of contract delivery.

The government must re-think its headlong rush to competition in the NHS. This is a forerunner to full privatisation, with US multi-nationals making profits out of sickness and infirmity. Today's strike by Unison members at NHS Logistics shows the firm resolve of staff.

Privatisation is being dressed up as 'reforms', with NHS assets being sold to global companies. Recently a plan to force Primary Care Trusts to put all their health services out to tender was announced. Changes at the top of the Civil Service are also being made to reinforce this programme. A recent recruit to the Department of Health is Commercial Director, Texan, Ken Anderson. He was appointed following his work for Amey - negotiating PFI contracts with the NHS.

PFI is, of course, notoriously expensive, with companies creaming off the profits whilst hospitals are saddled with high levels of ongoing debt. The PFI company working with Norwich and Norfolk Hospital recently took £115m out of the scheme, for example. The Commons Public Accounts Committee criticised this re-financing deal for having 'lined the pockets of the investors'.

Conference must unite to stop privatisation in the Health Service.

Vote for Composite 8 from Unison/Oxford West.

Vote against Composite 7 from Tamworth/Waveney.

Step up action on climate change!

Recent analysis by the highly regarded Tyndall Centre suggests that we have ten years at most to begin reducing greenhouse gas emissions before catastrophic climate change becomes irreversible. The poorest and most environmentally stressed parts of the world are already suffering. The people around Lake Chad, for example, have seen their major source of water shrivel from being the sixth largest lake in the world to little more than a pond.

Britain's domestic record is not impressive. The government's recent Energy Review proposed a new generation of expensive, unsafe and inefficient nuclear power stations. Cameron's Tories are trying to capitalise on this and project a media image of being 'green', with various environmental pronouncements that lack real substance. The issue is increasing its

electoral significance among key sets of voters, particularly in metropolitan areas. In London, Ken Livingstone has developed a range of initiatives in response to climate change.

Continued over

Campaign for Labour Party Democracy

Conference assessment and the next steps

Thursday: 1pm Jurys Inn Hotel

Chair: Mohammed Azam

Speakers: Ann Black, Billy Hayes, Gaye Johnston, Christine Shawcroft, Pete Willsman, Walter Wolfgang

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

Tuesday's NEC meeting

A draft NEC statement on social housing was the first item of business. It was pointed out that yesterday, four draft statements had popped up out of the blue, and that now yet another had appeared. On Monday, the four statements had been referred to those involved with the union composites in order to seek consensus. Officers were asked if the same procedure had been adopted in relation to the CLPs involved with housing. Answer came there none. Several amendments were made to the document. In particular, the mealy-mouthed phrase "creating a more level playing field" was changed by deleting "more". The majority view on the NEC was that the sub-group of the Sustainable Communities Policy Commission was a significant step towards a greater role and funding for council housing. In accordance with usual practice, the movers of Composites 9 and 10 were to be asked to remit in favour of the statement.

Following Saturday's massive *Stop the War* demonstration, their statement calling for withdrawal of troops was circulated to NEC members after the meeting had ended.

Conference Capers

Yesterday, in the Housing debate, we had a rare, perhaps unique, situation. Michael Cashman passionately moved an NEC statement on Social Housing. But there was one problem: the delegates hadn't been given a copy! But this is no problem for New Labour and Mike ploughed on regardless. The problem may have been caused by the NEC having the temerity to amend the statement (see "Tuesday's NEC Report" above). The duplicators collapsed under the pressure.

Earlier, Diane Hayter had chaired the *Britain in the World* debate in classic Old Right fashion. A string of big wigs were called up, but very few ordinary delegates. And none on the issue of Trident.

Also, two delegates raised points of order complaining about the platform speakers' rudeness to delegates at the rostrum. In both cases Diane responded by switching off the delegates' microphones while they were in mid-sentence!

The lesser-spotted white lanyard

Yesterday a lone delegate was spotted wearing a Sky lanyard. Surprisingly he is one of our keenest readers! But the comrade revealed it was only a ploy to get called to speak. It had worked twice before!

Help!

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ASLEF runs into buffers

Yesterday morning Tony Woodley informed Conference that ASLEF delegates had been stuck in the Late Accreditation Office sidings for three days, desperately trying to obtain their credentials. This sends the wrong signal to ASLEF members campaigning to remain affiliated to the Party.

Yesterday afternoon Tony Blair told Conference that he may be turning up as a surprise delegate next year. Thankfully we won't see him until at least Tuesday, because he would be stuck in the Late Accreditation Office with other delegates.

Guess who said:

"We believe US policy is thoroughly misguided and a serious obstacle to democratic transition within Cuba."

Answer: Tony Blair, in a letter as Leader of the Opposition on 14 June 1995.

From the New Labour bunker

"Far from helping Labour win a victory at the next election, Tony Blair's loss will be a disadvantage."
John Reid, *Guardian* 26 Sept.

Climate change

Continued from front page

The government needs to implement a serious programme to improve energy efficiency, move cities from wasteful centralised energy generation to more efficient decentralised systems, and invest strongly in renewable sources of energy. It should take up initiatives such as congestion charging and invest in public transport to reduce emissions from road vehicles. There are real economic opportunities here – but perhaps not for long. China is already moving rapidly into the production of solar and wind energy technologies.

While Composite 11 does not go far enough, delegates should support its call for every department of government to have a strategy for cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Vote for Comp 11 from Morley & Rothwell CLP and SERA

Sinn Fein fringe meeting

Next steps in the peace process

Pat Doherty MP - Vice President Sinn Fein
Catriona Ruane—Sinn Fein Assembly Member

1pm Wednesday @ Rochdale Room,
Jury's Inn, 56 Great Bridgewater Street

Socialist Campaign Group of Labour MPs
and Labour Representation Committee

Challenging for Labour's Future

7.30pm Wednesday

Life Café, 23 Peter Street

Chair: John McDonnell MP

Speakers include: Tony Benn;

Katy Clark MP; Jeremy Corbyn MP;

Jeremy Dear, Gen Sec NUJ;

Gerry Doherty, Gen Sec TSSA;

Paul Kenny, Gen Sec GMB;

Kate Hudson, Chair CND;

Mark Serwotka, Gen Sec PCS;

Alan Simpson MP;

Bob Wareing MP;

Mike Wood MP;

Tony Woodley, Gen Sec TGWU

Campaign Briefing

Thursday

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Hold company directors to account

The Corporate Manslaughter Bill is now before Parliament and we welcome that – but we are proposing Composite 2 because the Bill deliberately excludes the prosecution of negligent directors from its scope.

The promise of a Corporate Manslaughter Bill has been around for years and has been in two Queen's Speeches. Through all that time, trade unionists and Labour members were under the impression that directors' duties would be included in any legislation.

Yet we now have a Bill which, effectively, will hand directors a 'get-out-of-jail free' card.

Incompetent and greedy bosses are getting away with murder every day. The Bill should allow the prosecution of directors and it should include a sufficiently strong deterrent.

In the 30 years since the Health and Safety at Work Act was introduced, 10,000 people have been killed in

work-related incidents.

Yet in that same period only 11 company directors have been convicted of manslaughter and only five of those directors went to prison.

We believe that this situation will not be sufficiently changed by the Government's Bill—unless Ministers can be persuaded to change it and include statutory duties for directors.

It has been alleged that the TGWU/UCATT composite would destroy the existing Bill. This is absolutely untrue – there is nothing in the composite that would undermine this Bill.

*Tony Woodley, General Secretary TGWU
Alan Ritchie, General Secretary UCATT*

**Vote *against* the NEC statement and *against* Comp. 1
Vote *for* Composite 2 from TGWU/UCATT**

Rebuild Labour

The warnings from last year's general election must now be heeded if the party is to maintain its position in Scotland and Wales and go on to win a fourth term. This May's local elections, as well as the polls, confirm that the current leadership's agenda is not winning back Labour support. There is nothing inevitable about third term unpopularity; nor is the party losing its will to govern. Rather, the policies being pursued are alienating key sections of the electorate. The party needs to return to its progressive agenda: improving living standards and public services, fighting inequality, and a foreign policy that promotes peace. Additionally, the party's electoral strategy has to change: there are not a lot of votes to be gained by positioning the party to the right of Cameron's Tories on the issues of race, immigration and law and order. In fact such orienta-

tion repels large sections of Labour support.

There has been a dramatic decline in Labour support since the invasion of Iraq. And Britain's backing of the US over Lebanon was also unpopular. It is not just the 'price' of subordination to the US that is objectionable – it is the absence of 'benefit' – the policies are exacerbating, not resolving, the underlying conflicts.

Many CLPs and unions came to Conference this week with proposals that would shift the party's agenda on to more progressive terrain. Unfortunately much discussion was gagged. The CAC, for the first time, ruled out the majority of resolutions it received, including those on Trident replacement, on which a decision is imminent.

However, Conference did take some steps forward. If conference

Continued over

TODAY

**Campaign for Labour Party
Democracy**

*Conference
assessment
and the
next steps*

1pm Jurys Inn Hotel

Chair: Mohammed Azam

**Speakers: Ann Black,
Billy Hayes, Gaye Johnston,
Christine Shawcroft,
Pete Willsman,
Walter Wolfgang**

Wednesday's NEC meetings

7.30am A highly charged meeting. Yet another two draft statements popped up, on Health and Corporate Liability. Gordon Brown made impassioned speeches in favour of both documents, stressing the importance of unity. Some NEC members questioned whether votes on these issues would, in fact, damage the Party. In relation to corporate liability, he argued that if the T&G proposal on directors' liability were accepted the existing Bill before Parliament would have to be withdrawn. This argument was challenged by several NEC members.

5.30pm The NEC held its AGM. Walter Wolfgang was welcomed to his first meeting. Pete Willsman asked for a report at the next meeting on the problems at the Late Accreditation Office. The General Secretary undertook to do this, but said that the average wait at the LAO was only 1½ hours.

Rebuild Labour

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decisions are respected: on health, further marketisation will be subject to trial and evaluation; rights at work and pension arrangements will be improved. The housing fourth option has been re-affirmed for the third year running.

Whilst the unions have led the way on policy improvements, this year the CLPs have given stronger support. On the issues of rights at work, pensions and health a majority of CLPs united with the unions.

There has been growing recognition amongst party members that a change in direction is needed. This was reflected in August with the election of Centre-Left Grassroots Alliance candidates to the top four places in the CLP section of the NEC.

The mood at this conference has confirmed the pressure for new policy. In the forthcoming Leadership election this demand for radically new policy should be central.

Tales from the gulag

If you meet anyone looking dazed and bewildered, then it's likely they have been languishing for days in the Late Accreditation Office!

The ASLEF delegation was in the LAO for four days, but there are lots of other horror stories. A Devon delegate was there for five days. Several very generous corporate donors had applied for day passes. They eventually received them for the required day - but at 6pm. The Director-General of the BBC turned purple waiting in the very long and winding queue. "I'm hosting a dinner with Tessa Jowell" he pleaded.

To make matters worse the LAO was shut for Tuesday afternoon!

"Smarties" under threat!

Support the Emergency Motion from GMB/Amicus calling for the defence of UK food manufacturing as multi-nationals seek to transfer more jobs outside Britain, including the "Smarties" brand.

Shenanigans

Until yesterday this Conference had seen fewer dodgy goings-on compared to recent years. But in the health debate we were back to New Labour at its worst. Not only was Dave Prentis' microphone turned off when he was in full flow, but a leaflet 'Support the NEC: Vote against composite 8' was handed out in the hall, reportedly by party stewards. Questions were raised at the rostrum as to the provenance of this leaflet. Eventually the mover of composite 7 rushed to the rostrum to disingenuously claim she had produced the leaflet. She also bizarrely asked where a letter signed by Dave Prentis had come from.

The NEC had not agreed its statement until 8.30am. You would have to be really naïve to believe that a lone delegate could have produced such a detailed leaflet in so short a time. All the evidence points to a team of regional officials acting on instructions from No 10 apparatchiks.

The same shower have been fingered for the pathetic demo outside the NEC's room at 8am on Monday morning (see Tuesday's *Campaign Briefing*). We are told that sycophantic delegates were texted by regional officials and urged to turn up at the Radisson to defend Tony Blair. Control freakery is alive and well! But little good did it do them!

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