

PCS INDEPENDENT LEFT

Annual Delegate Conference
2010

WEDNESDAY 19 MAY 2010

The Liberal/Tory Coalition Prepares for War on Public Services

In their coalition agreement the Lib Dems and Tories promise:

- "...modest [!] cuts of £6 billion to non-front line services...within the financial year 2010-11, subject to advice from the Treasury and the Bank of England on their feasibility and advisability." **More and faster cuts than even Brown was planning.**
- "...a significantly accelerated reduction in the structural deficit over the course of a Parliament, with the main burden of deficit reduction borne by reduced spending rather than increased taxes." **Deeper and wider cuts over five years, with the rich protected from high taxes.**
- "... an independent commission to review the long term affordability of public sector pensions, while protecting accrued rights" **A renewed attack on our pension rights.**

The Tories have promised to "...reform the Civil Service compensation Scheme to bring it more into line with practice in the private sector." This is a promise to sack us on something closer to statutory minimum severance terms.

Clegg and Cameron's "Savage Cuts"

This is as much the Liberals' cuts agenda as it is the Tories and will meet Nick Clegg's call for "savage" cuts. Both parties are signed up to cutting the real value of public sector wages.

Place PCS on a War Footing

From now on we need honest and timely reporting of all negotiations; constant explanation to members setting out what is in store for us and why we need to defend ourselves; the vigorous recruiting of new members and a levy to fund action; and the development of a genuine, meaningful plan to hurt the employer, through the use of national, selective and other action. We must prepare ourselves for the inevitable attacks.

For a Public Sector Alliance

But we should also put ourselves at the head of a movement for a public sector alliance. PCS must press union leaders to commit to a public sector wide defence of services, jobs, pay, terms and conditions. We must commence a rank and file agitation across the unions, utilising PCS regional and town committees and holding public meetings the length and breadth of the land. And we must develop political answers that put equality at the heart of everything we say and do, demanding that the rich bear the cost of the financial debt.

"Club Caucus 2010"

Independent Left Social

*Tonight, Wednesday 19th May,
8-1, The Globe, Middle Street*

See any Independent Left member for tickets

Come and hear Professor Wilkinson joint author of "The Spirit Level"

the path breaking book that demonstrates the human cost of inequality in Britain
and across the world.

Tomorrow, 20th May, 6:00pm at UMI hotel

turn left out of the Conference centre and cross the road. UMI hotel is on the corner

Reconstitute the Labour Movement, Fight for Equality

For certain, with the triumph of the Blairite cuckoos, the Labour movement lost its political bearings. The end result is that **Britain is now one of the most unequal countries in the developed world**, when the official and scientific evidence shows that the more unequal a society the greater the social ills, such as sickness levels, mental illness, low life expectancy, low levels of social trust, lower and more unequal levels of educational attainment, and a higher crime rate.

Unequal Britain/Unequal Civil Service

This society wide inequality is inevitably reflected in the civil and public services, most dramatically in the morbidity and mortality rates amongst civil servants, which are in sharp inverse ratio to grade i.e., on average, the lower your grade the poorer your health and the lower your life expectancy.

As at 31 March 2009, 50% of full time civil servants earned just £22,850 or less. Yet according to the Office for National Statistics in 2009, 810 Senior Civil Servants (SCS) received over £100,000pa, with ten getting over £200,000pa (something like £285k in the case of Gus O'Donnell). Indeed for years now the majority of SCS have been raking in thousands of pounds worth of bonuses - in 2008 the average bonus paid to SCS was £9,620.

A clarion call for much greater equality in a Britain scarred by inequality will not only benefit PCS civil service members but also our commercial sector members where inequalities in the workplace are even starker. It has the potential to unite public and private sector workers, employed and unemployed. That is why independent Left supporters last year argued, in moving A47, for equality to move centre stage in PCS' work and it is regrettable that the NEC has not reported one jot of work on that key equality decision in the annual report. Nevertheless, Independent Left will be arguing for the same basic approach today, for instance at A14, and over the rest of conference.

For an effective union – join Independent Left

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT PCS INDEPENDENT LEFT?

If you are tired of the spin and same old strategy of Left Unit. If you are opposed to deals that offer new members worse terms on entry. You should join the **Independent Left** – a new socialist voice for members in the Union. To find out more simply fill in this form and send to:

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Chorlton
Manchester
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Name: _____

Address: _____

Branch: _____

Email: _____

Visit our website at www.pcsindependentleft.co.uk