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Forward Battle Group Yewtree

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UNITY! FREEDOM! SOCIALISM! - ONE CIVIL SERVICE UNION, ONE GLORIOUS DESTINY!

FRINGE PROTEST HALTS TRAFFIC FOR SECONDS

By Judas Iscariot



There was no national coverage of Conference in the media yesterday, but we did hit the spot when local disability activists threatened to have a “Die In” outside the Brighton Centre. They wanted to draw attention to the routine refusal of PCS (and many other unions) to discuss any tactics which might actually work as part of the opposition to Government attacks on the “welfare community” - if such tactics raised even the smallest risk that the employer might resort to the law and threaten sequestration or members’ jobs. They dare to pose the reasonable question “when the state implements a policy which demonstrably causes excess deaths among the citizenry, should we really be so squeamish about breaking a few eggs ourselves?”

Anyway, Brighton Centre’s night-shift heavies were drafted into action to stop the enraged mob from storming Conference and a police car was on stand-by. Come the hour, London’s UK UNCUT activists caved in to pressure from other activists and didn’t show. Nor did a splinter group led by a nutty professor in Cardiff, which left the protest to a handful of local activists who demonstrated peacefully outside the main entrance until the police unwisely ordered them to take down their “Con-Dems Kill” banner which they had taped to the wall. The demonstrators, which included a couple in wheel-chairs, complied but only to march into the centre of the main road blocking traffic for several seconds before moving on.

There were no arrests.

Conspiracy Corner



Another dreary day in Brighton was reflected in the pervading gloom that hovered over the first day of national conference. Our great and glorious leader, MARK SERWOTKA, inspired us with: "We can take the defeatist, fatalistic route of managed decline, capitulation and quiet irrelevance; or we can map out together a vision of a fighting, campaigning union, well-organised in our workplaces."

So what's he been doing for the past ten years then?

You may well ask - given the fiasco over facility time and the failure to achieve any of our goals on pensions, pay and jobs in recent years. As usual, the question is "Cockup or Conspiracy?" Some say the failures are down to the incompetence of senior negotiating officers, outmanoeuvred and side-lined by Management time and time again. Others however see "dark forces" at work. Wearing their signature tin foil hats, they claim that:

- The Democracy Alliance NEC and the FTOs appear to have virtually bankrupted the union. As such, Group Conferences and the ADC will be very difficult to finance on the current basis in future years.
- Large numbers, if not already the majority, of delegates have no TU or Special Leave to attend this year's conference and are here on annual or flexi-leave. Nearly all will be facility-free in 2014.
- Rather than being utterly useless, the grandees have deliberately provoked the Government into launching the attack on facility time in order to provide the pretext for re-organising conference in line with their own factional ends.
- The chaos will help cover up their financial incompetence and blaming it all on "this vicious anti-working class Tory Government" is an easy get out.
- Having to attend future conferences on annual leave won't deter Spartan comrades in the Socialist Party. If lesser mortals wilt under the pressure, so mote it be.
- Conference could be cut to just one day. Needs a bit of tinkering with the Constitution but it could be done. After all, very few motions need actual debate these days. Branches could send in their mandated votes before Conference and motions clearly won or lost would simply be declared in Standing Orders. No need to waste a moment of Conference time.
- Several more hours can be shaved just by cutting out the waffle from the President, Gen Sec, Life Members, Guest Speakers, finance et al
- Hold Conference in a shit-hole like BIRMINGHAM, which is central but nobody wants to linger in. Overnight subsistence would be halved.
- Similarly truncated group conferences might even shrink to the point where they could be dealt with over breakfast, before the main event
- Online conferencing is becoming a serious option. Cram the delegates into their regional offices; NEC and senior officers into Falconcrest and the business could all be conducted in cyberspace. Some may even choose to logon from home.
- Interim options include biennial conference - as favoured by the right wing of old - and regional "sub-conferences" voting on motions and electing delegations to a national ADC of only a handful of delegates. This is largely how Unite does it...

Even if the tin hat brigade is hallucinating, events look like they'll conspire to produce a similar result. It's an ill wind...

As we know, Welsh Windbag DAVID RICHARDS has recently been snubbed by the 9.5% voting for the NEC. Of greater amusement, is the news that he is currently approaching a state of near-panic brought on by the looming 50 per cent facility cap for ALL TU reps – even prospective



Richards

Grandeas. Dave's nominal day job is on territory controlled by the well-practised union bashers of CSA Hastings who are enthusiastic to make good use of his abilities. This working class hero is noted for the grand job he did there, shafting EDDIE FLEMING, some years back (PFL *passim*). The smart money tells us that he also faces ejection from his sinecure as Assistant Secretary to the DWP Group. That's the bill for supporting the losing side.



Albert

IAN ALBERT, self-appointed DIMMOCRAT leader, is whispered to be considering his position. Thought he was a shoe-in for the vacancy created by the LANNING's departure, and was already spending the pension topped up by the extra 5 years as a senior officer. Turns out, the grandeas weren't in on the project and LUNITY will be supporting the rule change which will delete the post and scupper his retirement scheme. Ian's Plan B involves a quick merger with UNITE, and a gamble that his Labour Party membership will earn him preferential access to one of the lucrative posts in the affiliated Union. This is a pipe-dream. The merger's dead and when McCLUSKEY eventually goes, the post will be filled by one of his loyal lieutenants.

What their papers say

The usual workers' conference groupies are swarming around the delegates waddling in and out of the conference centre. Reporting for duty this week are the MORNING STAR, NEW WORKER, SOCIALIST WORKER and THE SOCIALIST. Inside the centre we can peruse the wider, if duller, selection of mainstream solidarity magazines and esoteric journals readily available from the campaign stalls downstairs. So far, so conference. It's the quality of modern factional leafleting which disappoints the connoisseur.

PCS DEMOCRATS produced a bland flyer which was little more than a recruiting bulletin while 4TM has so far produced nothing at all, which at least spared us the trouble of reading it. SOCIALIST WANKERS had a modest stall out front, outgunned by the SOCIALIST APPEAL group, former MENDICANTS who stayed in the LABOUR PARTY and who are now making a renewed effort to capture the hearts and minds of the TROT community in PCS. Good luck with that. You'll have to find the relevant organs first.

HMRC LUNITY crowd doled out a leaflet called *Broadside* – a title last used in anger by the old CPSA BORED LEFT magazine edited by messrs RED BACON and RICHARD HALFPENNY (neither of whom would get floor-space in R & C's Lunity group today). Today's incarnation is a pale echo of its namesake; largely smug self-congratulatory drivel. The author was too embarrassed to complete the second side.

The COMMISSARS spent some serious money and churned out a glossy PCS UNITY full-colour four-pager but its attempts at humour were frankly embarrassing. And someone really should have stayed awake long enough to proof it. The same could be said of the SOCIALIST PARTY PCS Conference issue which also included flattering full-colour images of JOHN McINALLY and FRAN HEATHCOTE to pad out the sparse copy.

INDEPENDENT LEFT's efforts are curiously subdued this year. Perhaps they still hope to crawl back into the BIG TENT someday. All they boiled down to was a demand to raise a

strike levy – a strategy that few of them apart from CHARLIE McDONALD really support and similarly few delegates even understand.

Finally the new kid on the block is *At the Coal Face*, the bulletin of the newly formed Civil Service Rank and File Network which is a semi-anarchist front. It appears to be the usual rant.

Not one of the sectarian leaflets reviewed made any recommendation on specific motions or even offered guidance on block vote candidates. Perhaps it's a sign of the times...

ERRATA



Caukwell



Not Caukwell

It wasn't the LUNITY slate, it was the DIMMOCRAT alliance slate. And apparently we got the 4TM "informal" times the wrong way round. Do we look bothered?

PFLCPSA NEWS

If you missed any (or all) of yesterday's riveting action in the hall, you didn't miss much. So I'm told. Perhaps it'll liven up today. Don't hold your breath. By lunch time you'll be quietly grateful that it'll all be over in 24 hours. What we were thinking, is that if we pool the mobile phone video footage we're all recording, we could cobble together a bootleg video. Just the thing to break the ice at parties. See www.pflcpsa.com for progress reports on this initiative.

It's always good to see our therapy easing your pain, but to achieve maximum benefit, you need to embrace the full Judas inside you and let it have free rein. The imams will guide you through the cleansing ritual in the privacy of the shady nook of your choosing. Or, if you prefer guaranteed anonymity, rip out one of the notes pages from the motion book, scribble out the gist of your revelation and, surreptitiously, leave it underneath the waste bin outside the toilets in the East Wing coffee lounge. Then, using the chalk provided, mark a discreet X on the wall as you re-enter the conference hall. Alternatively, use Blackberry Messenger (PIN 666BBC1). We'll do the rest.

One way or another, tell us what you know, so we can share these insights with the assembled hordes. Last chance to share you secrets, slip us a bribe, raise the ghosts of conferences past or whatever - will be in the usual place at the usual time. (If you don't know by now, you're obviously not qualified to attend) Email was still working last time we checked: dropbox@pflcpsa.com.

If you merely consume the output, you can still feed the machine by oiling its gears with filthy lucre. Don't be shy. Whether it jangles or folds, it'll find a welcoming home in our collection bucket. Then you can bask in the glow of the tiny blow you have just dealt the foe by helping us show what they don't want you to know.

PFL AUSTERITY T SHIRTS available in all colours (white) for a Solidarity price of £10 and you get an **IMMOLATION SELF STARTER KIT** for free with the T Shirt (strictly one per customer). Or, if you only want the starter kit, it's yours for a quid. If we haven't got stock in your size, we can take orders for delivery before close of play tomorrow. And if you can't risk being seen carrying our merchandise, it can be delivered to your own home in discrete packaging, labelled "Child Pornography" to allay suspicion.



And thou shalt have a paddle upon thy weapon; and it shall be, when thou wilt ease thyself abroad, thou shalt dig therewith, and shalt turn back and cover that which cometh from thee - Deuteronomy 23:13-14 Blessed Oxydental