

Socialist News

NIPSA Conference 2009 Socialist Party Bulletin

Action needed now on civil service equal pay claim

It's over a year since Peter Robinson admitted that the NICS have been guilty of discrimination for decades and promised action to rectify this – and still our low paid civil service members are left waiting.

NIPSA has lodged equal pay claims at tribunal and has been trying to resolve the issue by negotiation. But it has become clear that the Assembly politicians and senior civil servants are just buying themselves time to find a way to avoid having to pay civil service workers the money they are due. Lack of decisive action by the right wing controlled civil service executive has allowed this situation to drag on.

It is now time for us to say enough is enough. Although the legal cases must continue, NIPSA must also urgently begin to build for industrial action to bring the issue to a head. If NIPSA doesn't act decisively now we will be seen by our members as letting management and the politicians off the hook on this.



Visteon workers show the way

On 31 March the workforce in Visteon were given six minutes notice to leave the factory which was being put into administration. They were to leave with nothing other than their statutory entitlements.

The workers instead took the courageous decision to stay put and occupy the factory. It was the administrators who were forced to leave. Seven weeks on and the workers marched out of the factory having forced Ford/Visteon to come up with a significant redundancy package.

This is a huge achievement. That 600 workers in three factories were able to take on two major multinationals and force them to make concessions shows that decisive action can achieve results.

Visteon was a victory but, because the jobs are gone, it is not a complete victory. Visteon was a viable factory. It should have been nationalised and retooled to produce alternative products in order that the jobs and skills could be retained.

Ford/Visteon have also been able to walk away without having to meet their pension obligations to their former workers. **Support the emergency motion on Visteon and back these workers in the ongoing battle to secure their pension entitlements.**

Support the sacked NCP workers

NIPSA must follow the lead of Visteon and mount a determined campaign to have the sacked NCP workers reinstated.

This case highlights once again the need to have the anti trade union laws, which allow employers to sack workers for going on strike, repealed.

It also shows the need to stop the privatisation of public services. Reinstatement the victimised workers and instead give NCP the boot. Bring this service back into the public service.

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Linamar (formerly Visteon) convenor sacked

Re-instate Rob Williams



On May 6 the management of Linamar (formerly Visteon) sacked the Unite plant convenor Rob Williams.

Linamar workers are now balloting for strike action demanding Rob's immediate reinstatement. Rob, who is a member of the Socialist Party, has been sacked because, as an effective trade union leader, he has successfully defended the pay and conditions of Linamar workers.

This is not just an attack on an individual – it is an attempt to smash trade union organisation in this factory. If Linamar win this will be a green light to other employ-

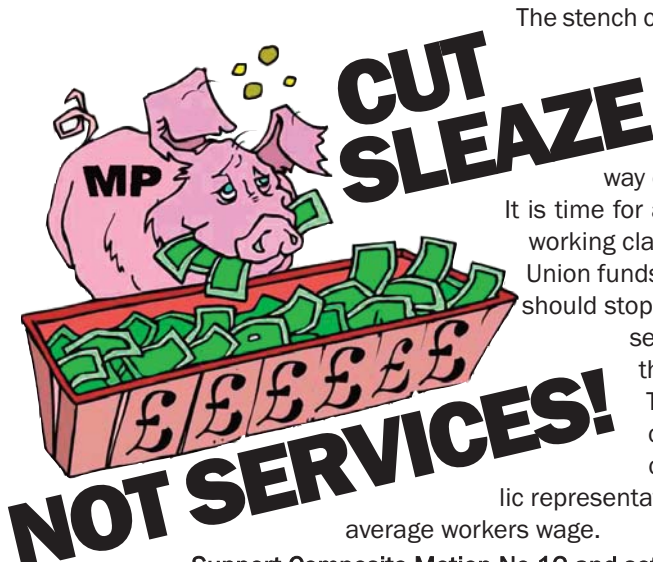
ers to go after “uncooperative” convenors and shop stewards.

It is therefore a declaration of war by anti trade union bosses against the trade union movement as a whole. The entire trade union movement must draw a line here and mobilise fully behind the campaign to reinstate Rob.

Support the emergency motion – make sure that NIPSA stand fully behind the Linamar workers in their struggle to have Rob reinstated.

An end to political sleaze

– Build a new party to represent working class interests



The stench currently arising from the Westminster parliament is the stench of corruption. Politicians from all the main parties have been caught with their noses in the trough.

Closer at hand a similar stink is coming from the Assembly where extravagant expense claims, double jobbing and nepotism are a way of life.

It is time for a clearing of the political decks. We need a new party to represent working class interests and fight for a socialist alternative.

Union funds should no longer go to propping up New Labour. Locally, the unions should stop giving behind the scenes support to the sectarian parties in the Assembly. Unions like NIPSA, who claim to be non political, must recognise that we have to fight on the political as well as the industrial front.

The resources of the unions should be used to build a new working class party. This should not be a gravy train for a new batch of politicians. Those elected should follow the example of Socialist Party public representatives such as Joe Higgins when he sat in the Dail and accept only an

average workers wage.

Support Composite Motion No 12 and set up a political fund.

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