

Workers Weekly

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Safeguard the Future of the NHS! No to Privatisation! Our NHS – We Must Decide!

As can be seen from the accompanying report of the Save Whipps Cross Hospital Campaign meeting (page 2), all the

powerful and rational arguments of those concerned for the future of the NHS are against the government's policy of "investment with

reform", which is a programme of privatisation, closures and cut-backs. These arguments are deepening the conviction of the vast majority

of the people who are involved with the NHS as workers, professionals or patients that the campaign

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OPPOSE NEW LABOUR'S "SECOND WAVE" FOREIGN POLICY



The new Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, on Tuesday delivered a keynote speech at the Labour Party conference, in which he spoke of "the second wave of New Labour foreign policy". Already some media com-

mentators have presented it as an attempt to distance the foreign policy of Gordon Brown's government from that associated with the governments of Tony Blair.

It is true that Miliband was forced to acknowledge that many

within the Labour Party, as well as millions up and down the country and throughout the world, have opposed New Labour's foreign policy during the last ten years. But he merely asserted that the government must learn the lessons

of the last ten years and then move on. In general, his speech was entirely unapologetic and firmly based on the view that the defence

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Commentary

Northern Rock Crisis: Banks and International Usury

AS NORTHERN ROCK WENT INTO FINANCIAL TURMOIL, IT APPLIED FOR EMERGENCY BANK OF

ENGLAND FUNDING in order to roll over the outstanding short-term debt. Despite the protestations of Chancellor Alistair Darling and others that the financial system as a whole is sound, it is the system of international usury itself which is in crisis. The Bank of England bail-out is not sufficient to quell this crisis, nor can the government assurances of deposit protection have any serious affect on the underlying crisis. The bailout of Northern Rock through lending it money and guaranteeing deposits is to save not only particular monopoly capitalists but the system itself from

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Safeguard the Future of the NHS! No to Privatisation! Our NHS – We Must Decide!

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against the direction the government is taking the NHS must and will succeed.

The Whipps Cross Campaign meeting exemplified what is to be found up and down the country where similar campaigns to defend the NHS are taking place. The overwhelming sentiment of the people is to demand a modern, efficient health care service that meets their needs and to reject the government's vision of the health care service as a source of maximum profits for the health care monopolies. It also exemplified the growing anger that people are feeling about their disempowerment and the way fraudulent consultation processes are set up in which their voice counts for nothing and which are then used as a cover under which to justify the implementation of the very programme of privatisation and cuts to which they are opposed.

The times call out for the working class and people to put on the table the question of taking hold of the decision-making power so that they can shape the type of health care service that they require.

Whose NHS? Our NHS!

Who Decides? We Decide!

Save Whipps Cross Hospital Campaign

www.savewhippscros.org

On September 18, a well attended meeting called by the Save Whipps Cross Hospital Campaign addressed how to save local hospitals from being downgraded and resist the government drive to break up the NHS.

Charlotte Monro, chair of the campaign, outlined the victories that have been achieved over the last year to save the hospital from being downgraded. The demand to keep Whipps Cross as a fully functioning district general hospital fully funded as part of a full health care service for local people had been taken everywhere. The committee had united people from different political strands. The options put forward for consultation under the Fit for the Future Review involved the loss of 637 beds in outer north east London, either at Whipps Cross or at King Georges in Redbridge. The meeting, she said, had been called so that people could put forward their own agenda for the NHS, and act as a rallying point for the defence of the NHS.

Professor Colin Leys, Honorary Professor at the Centre for International Public Health Policy, Edinburgh, congratulated all involved on their efforts to save the hospital. The Department of Health has a vision in which

health care would be provided by privately owned businesses run for profit. In this inapplicable model, health care was no different from any other commodity. The NHS has been broken up into competing units and recent market reforms have led to a significant rise in costs. The introduction of independent sector treatment centres is a further sign of the privatisation of health care. Over the next five years all the financial risks associated with their introduction would be borne by the NHS. By 2017 it is estimated that 50-75% of all NHS care will be provided by the private sector.

Norma Dudley, a local health visitor and activist in Unite/Amicus, spoke on the basis of her experience as a health visitor. Two years ago community nurses were told that they were too expensive. Local job freezes and the refusal of the local PCT to replace staff puts the remaining nurses under pressure as they try to provide high quality care. This could endanger vulnerable patients.

John Morton, a representative of the local PCT, outlined its plans with regard to the consultation process over the Fit for the Future review. It would now have to take account of the London-wide consultation. A number of contribu-

tions from the floor showed that there was opposition to the run-down of community health services, questioning where the PCT would find the funds for its development priorities. How would the consultations process be organised so that views counted? Mr Morton replied that as the PCT was in deficit, they were heavily constrained by central government. The modalities governing the consultation process were governed by the law.

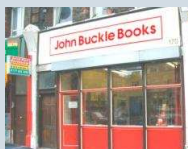
Dr Alan Hakim, a consultant at Whipps Cross, spoke about the future of Whipps Cross and the significance of the Darzi Report. The improved efficiency at Whipps had moved it from being vulnerable to being strong. The case for keeping Whipps as a fully functioning district general hospital fully funded as part of a full health care service for local people was based not on sentimental attachment but on providing good quality health care to the local population. The Darzi Report is based the idea of providing health care on a "factory model", and none of its proposals had been piloted in Britain.

Tony Philips from the Campaign called on all present to be confident in their ability to defend the NHS, and added that our strength is our numbers.



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Professor Darzi's Review of the NHS:

"Our NHS, Our Future"

Gordon Brown's government has ordered another review of the NHS. Review after review has been ordered, a so-called Citizens Jury has met to discuss the health service, yet the direction in which the government is taking the health service is not presented for the people to discuss and take control of.

In this latest move, Alan Johnson, Secretary of State for Health, announced in July that Professor Sir Ara Darzi would carry out a wide ranging review of the NHS titled *Our NHS, Our Future*. Professor Darzi will complete an initial assessment in October "to inform the Comprehensive Spending Review" and will produce his full report in January 2008. "At the end of the review, consideration will be given to the case for a new NHS constitution."

Before considering this review, it is worth reflecting on the governments 10-year NHS Plan published on July 1, 2000. This plan promised by 2010 investment in the NHS to create

- * 7,000 extra beds in hospitals and intermediate care

- * over 100 new hospitals by 2010 and 500 new one-stop primary care centres

- * over 3,000 GP premises modernised and 250 new scanners

- * clean wards – overseen by "modern matrons" – and better hospital food

- * modern IT systems in every hospital and GP surgery...and investment in staff:

- * 7,500 more consultants and 2,000 more GPs

- * 20,000 extra nurses and 6,500 extra therapists

- * 1,000 more medical school places childcare support for NHS staff with 100 on-site nurseries.

One could be forgiven for at

least hoping that the government had called in Professor Darzi to ensure that the 10-year NHS plan that was supposed to be the centrepiece of its health policy was being implemented. As all over the country NHS organisations are shedding thousands of nurses, doctors and other health workers either through direct redundancies, or through not replacing vacancies as the government imposes its "deficit" financing on the NHS to force the NHS to "balance its books". A plan by the NHS Health Authorities to close around 50 District General Hospitals is also being vigorously opposed by the people up and down the country.

Yet the main theme of the government Darzi review *Our NHS, Our Future* is "improving quality and safety, extending access and reducing inequalities", creating "clinical pathway groups", "patient and public consultation" and "staff engagement" and at the end of the review a "new constitution"! What is the aim? The opposition to the anti-social offensive in health and the privatisation of health care is growing into a powerful movement. This is so amongst health workers, as well as amongst professionals and the public who have a right to the health care they require. In the review government is trying to create the impression that its "listening events" and "staff engagement meetings" and feed back on its website demonstrates that it is not "top down" driven. But the review is a closed book and regional events are carefully screened and by invitation only.

Neither is there any doubt that the review is a fraud and that its conclusions have already been decided. In fact, this is why Professor Darzi was picked to do the review in the first place. He



has already set out his blueprint for London's future healthcare in a report *A Framework for Action* which continues with the government's agenda of claiming to provide more care in community services as an excuse to close many London hospitals. This has led to huge anger and opposition from the people of London, yet the government is pressing ahead with these closures as if they were being sanctioned by the people via Professor Darzi's report.

All over the country these attacks on the NHS are meeting with resistance in one way or another. But it is extremely difficult to respond when caring for patients and when constant changes are being made that attack jobs, terms and conditions. A situation which is made worse by the reviews and "consultations" designed to give the appearance of involvement of the staff in decisions.

Whose NHS?

Whose is the "Our" in the title of the review? Under Gordon Brown the identification of the government with the people as a whole is being stepped up, a rosy picture is being painted of government and people working joyfully together. This cannot be allowed to go unchallenged, and the struggles of the people to defend what is in the public good is evidence that the people do not accept this parcelling together of government and people into "Our". There are very serious issues which demand being addressed in a plan designed to produce a "new constitution" for the NHS. It is not a matter of some "deep clean" of hospitals, or of consultation when some other force on high has already decided on the agenda and the parameters for discussion. Why should the parameters of the NHS being

"based less on central direction" be accepted? What is the issue with patients being offered "choices"? Is it even true that the direction of the NHS is one of being based less on "central direction"? Is not the government determining the NHS budget and forcing trusts and health authorities to jump through hoops to ensure that the budget is adhered to? If the people are deciding that the health service should not be handed over to private capital, where is the "choice" if the government declares the opposite? The issue of the right to health care is not one of being more "discerning as consumers", as Alan Johnson declares. It is that health is a most precious asset to the individual and society. It is a mark of a humane society that it not only cares for the ill and vulnerable but that the well-being of all is guaranteed, that health care is part of the very fabric of society. That is why people are so outraged by the monopolies and private capital benefiting from the provision of health care, where equality of treatment is just a mealy-mouthed phrase and not a reality.

Health workers should not become overwhelmed by this present situation but put their energy into discussing, planning and organising to take hold of the decision-making power so that they can shape the type of health care service that they require. In answering the question of *whose NHS?* the working class and people declare that it does not belong to the monopolies and businessmen but to health workers and the working class and people. It is our NHS and it is we who should decide and we should step up this fight to safeguard the future of the NHS.

Whose NHS? Our NHS!

Who Decides? We Decide!

BROWN'S NEW LABOUR - SAME MONOPOLY CAPITALISM

Gordon Brown at the Labour Party Conference

Gordon Brown spoke to Labour Party conference on Monday, after whipping up speculation about a forthcoming election, which seems to be a way of diverting from the main issues facing the British people at this time. In his speech he set out his so-called "vision" for Britain. This so-called "vision" is at complete odds with the interests and aims of the working class. In his speech he talked about public aspirations; globalisation; an aging society; climate change; the battle against hearts and minds over extremism; and pressure on parents. Inherent in all of these points of contention was the "universal values" that Brown has been pushing to take us further down the road of reaction. Brown talked of "change" and that the workers and people must follow

his "change". Brown made the fascistic statement about the priority of Britain being that of "hard working families who play by the rules". This means that all must conform to the Brown steps to further pay the rich or we are not playing by the rules, which is similar to Blair's statement that "the rules of the game have changed". Whose rules? and what game?

So it can be said that Brown talking about climate change and an aging society and pressure on parents is not showing genuine concern but attempting to present a social conscience aiming to steal the banner of justice and render it meaningless. In speaking under the banner of justice he is attempting to create illusions that justice in Britain will come by following the path of globalisation and big business which is the banner he

truly represents. One can see that the Brown government is as it was under Tony Blair, there to manipulate the issues and confuse the public by presenting their ideals as the best of humanity, when in actuality they represent everything that is anti-human.

This underhand manipulation of the reality is evident in Brown's concept of "the battle of hearts and minds over extremism". He is presenting the current Anglo-American wars and torture on the people of Iraq and Afghanistan as that of being just in the face of so-called "terrorism". Brown talks of a "moral compass" with which he can excuse every crime and every reactionary action. The same manipulation and outright lies of the Brown government are of the same character as Goebbels' lies, taken directly from his techniques used by the Nazis to keep the German people fixated on their own safety while the Nazis waged war on sovereign nations. The working class and people should

One can see that the Brown government is as it was under Tony Blair, there to manipulate the issues and confuse the public by presenting their ideals as the best of humanity, when in actuality they represent everything that is anti-human

pose the question of sovereignty and who are the real terrorists? It must be acknowledged that respecting the sovereignty of a country is paramount to gaining world peace, and it is clear that the Bush and Brown led Anglo-American governments are the ones violating the sovereignty of Iraq and Afghanistan carrying out terrorism in an unjust war.

Brown talked of globalisation, and Britain's involvement in it. Brown wants Britain to continue down the road of a free market economy where there is no recognition of the sovereign rights of nations to have self-determination, and instead Brown and big business are trying to expand this

economic system over the rest of the globe. Globalisation is responsible for the exploitation of workers all over the world who work for as little as 13p per hour. In Britain, jobs such as those in call centres are being shipped overseas leaving both British workers and the workers in other nations exploited. The working class and people must see that globalisation is another way to merge monopoly dictate over the whole world leaving the world's people in poverty, hunger and deprivation. The workers must organise to be the ones to decide the direction of the economy.

Brown's so-called concerns about climate change do not prompt him and his government to look at the culprits causing global warming, but to continue attacking the people by saying they are responsible and are the ones who need to change their ways. Meanwhile big business gets off scot free without challenge from the Brown government. Monopolies such as Ferrovial, the new owners of BAA, are not held to account for their role in carbon emissions. Meanwhile there is talk of green taxes on people who produce more waste and so on. So it can be said that Brown and his agenda do not solve the problem of global warming. These problems can only be resolved when power is in the hands of the workers.

Brown talked of change in the NHS, education, affordable housing and trust in the government. While his rhetoric is always that of providing better services, etc., he advocated that these better services can only transpire through the public private partnership. With huge chunks of the health and education systems already being sold off to the private sector the people should not be fooled by Brown's promises of affordable housing. Healthcare, education, and housing are all basic human rights and only by fighting on the basis of the rights of all can the working and people guarantee these fundamental rights.

So it is clear that under the banner of justice and the moral high

BROWN'S NEW LABOUR - SAME MONOPOLY CAPITALISM

ground Brown has attempted to win the public over to his neo-liberal agenda of imperialist war, privatisation and globalisation, wanting the workers and people to follow his steps towards reaction and retrogression which if left unattacked would lead us back to medievalism. The workers are not fooled by this or won't give up their own interests to appear to be "playing by the rules". The work-

The working class and people must unite against the Brown agenda, which is the agenda of the monopolies, and put forward their own programme that is a programme for an anti-war government, and to increase investments in social programmes and the recognition of the rights of all

ing class and people must unite against the Brown agenda, which is the agenda of the monopolies, and put forward their own programme that is a programme for an anti-war government, and to increase investments in social programmes and the recognition of the rights of all. The workers must do this by becoming conscious participants in the movement for a real socialist Britain where they are the decision makers. With anti-war demonstrations, strikes and worker politicians standing in elections the working class and people are taking up their own agenda. They must continue the march towards bringing about democratic renewal, with the knowledge that the workers can and must intervene in the polity and organise on their terms on their road to revolution.

Workers' Weekly condemns Brown and his attempts to cover his sordid monopoly capitalism with the cloak of justice and prosperity. *Workers' Weekly* supports the workers' and people's movements which are standing in opposition to the Brown dictate and who are fighting for the alternative.

Oppose New Labour's "Second Wave" Foreign Policy

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and imposition of so-called "universal values" was entirely correct and should be continued and further developed through international institutions that fully embodied those values.

Context of globalisation

It was in the context of defending the "universal values" of neo-liberal globalisation that Miliband supported the invasion of Afghanistan, while at the same time stressing the need for wider interference in Pakistan in order to establish what he referred to as "strong, stable, democratic countries able to tackle terrorism on both sides of the border". It was in this context that Miliband defended sending "young men and women to fight for our values", the invasion and continued colonial occupation of Iraq and interference throughout the region. In this regard, and just as in the past, Miliband even presented Britain's role as one of working to "reconcile Sunnis and Shias", in order to "prevent that conflict first fragmenting the country and then spreading like contagion across the Middle East", as if it were not the Labour government and its allies who have provoked and fuelled such divisions in recent times, just as its predecessors did earlier in the 20th century. For Miliband, the issue was not what he called "the rights and wrongs" but rather that the government must "learn the right lessons" and "move on to address the new issues".

Just as in the past, Miliband presented what he called "the suffering of the Palestinians" as merely "an excuse for violence". He therefore stressed the "need to remove this excuse", preferring to ignore the issue of the rights of the Palestinians and the denial of these rights for nearly a century

by successive British governments. Indeed Miliband's assertion that in the Middle East "the only solution" is "a two state solution" is itself a denial of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

There can be no illusions

Miliband defended both the close alliance with the US and membership of the EU. He stressed that "we share core values with the US", which, he said, "has more power for good than any nation in the world". But he stressed that what was now required from the alliance was "a great project", that is what he referred to as the building of "institutions which re-define the global rules for our shared planet". While on the subject of the EU, Miliband favoured greater expansion, welcomed the entry of Turkey into the European union of the big monopolies, and stressed the need for the EU to intervene globally. It was in this context that he urged parliamentary support for the EU Reform Treaty which, amongst other things, facilitates further expansion and a strengthening of the role of the big powers in the EU to consolidate the dictate of the monopolies, just as the previous Labour government did.

Although much has been made of Miliband as a youthful foreign Secretary, ushering in the so-called "second wave" of New Labour's foreign policy", his speech at the Labour Party Conference shows that he and Gordon Brown's government remained committed to the export of the Eurocentric values of the big monopolies, the values of neo-liberal globalisation, aggression and war. It may well be that New Labour has learned some lessons from the last ten years and



will seek to present its foreign policy in new colours, but there can be no illusions, the "second wave" of foreign policy remains as reactionary and dangerous as the first.

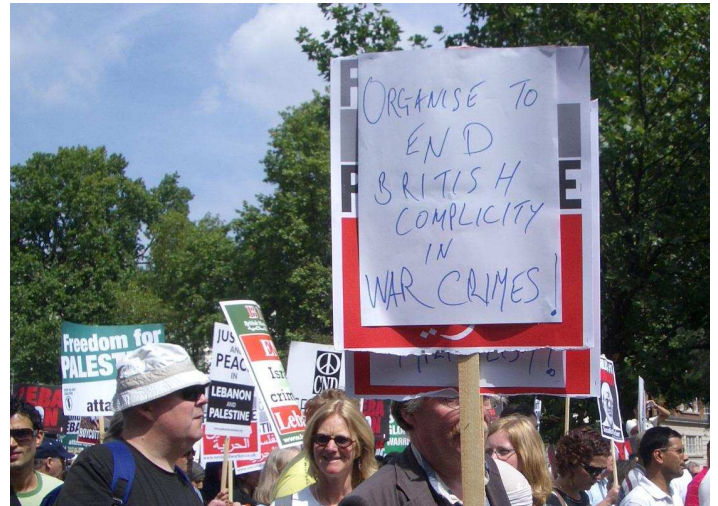
Stay the warmongers' hand

Miliband's claim of "fewer countries at war than ever before" is a fraud. Anglo-US imperialism is marauding the world with military aggression and interference, seeking revenge against all those peoples that dare to stand up against its dictate and adhere to their own values and have fidelity to their own cause and convictions. Peoples and nations fighting to defend, preserve and attain their sovereignty against this aggression and bestiality is the norm. Miliband's urbane and civilised exterior covers over the crimes of the imperialist assassins, and carefully denies any role to the people and their heroic struggles. *Workers' Weekly* calls on the working class and people to step up their struggles against this government which continues to have its hands dripping with the blood of the people of Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, and to tear off this "civilised" mask from the pontificating faces of Brown and his cohorts. The anti-war movement, the stand of the people in favour of defence of sovereignty and against imperialist aggression, must not be deflected from its goal of achieving an anti-war government with the power to stay the hand of the warmongers.

Reject and Oppose the "Second Wave" of Labour's Foreign Policy!

For An Anti-War Government!

John Reid's Stand against Human Rights Legislation



Under the guise that the Human Rights Act is hindering “the fight against crime and terrorism”, John Reid has aimed an attack at the Act in a newspaper article. Reid is using certain cases where people who have been convicted of crimes and cannot be deported in order to spread fear that the protection of human rights undermines “public safety”. Presenting that there is a balance to be struck between human rights and public security, Reid is advocating that the Labour government codify the practice of human rights violations which it has been carrying out in practice. *Workers' Weekly* condemns this fear-mongering by the former Home Secretary, which is part of the arsenal the state is at presently utilising to spread the most backward concepts of the defence of “our way of life” and to sow suspicion and divisions throughout society.

The Human Rights Act came into force in 2000 and enacted the European Convention on Human Rights into law. Now John Reid is using the legacy of his tenure as Home Secretary to act as an ideologue to spearhead justifying the elimination of the Human Rights Act. His argument is that allegedly the “world has changed”, and he echoes the Brown pledge regarding the necessity to act against “terrorist extremism”. To this end, Reid said that “we need a review of the workings of our human rights laws at a British and European level”.

He went on to say that the original convention was “adopted 60 years ago in response to Nazi

atrocities against individual citizens” and that the Human Rights Act meant that the government was fighting “crime and terror” with “one hand behind our back”. Presumably the hand behind the back is ready to come out in full fascist salute, aiming to “legally” attack human rights by “review-

The rhetoric of Reid and the Labour government is that the people's safety is in jeopardy, promoting the warped thinking that “small groups of individuals” threaten “whole communities” and “whole states”. This perverted logic is being used to attempt to whip up sentiment against sections of the people, particularly Muslims and those of Arab or South Asian nationality, and justify doing away with the rule of law on the grounds that there are exceptional circumstances

ing” the Human Rights Act.

The Labour government of the last 10 years has consistently brought in legislation to attack the people's rights and their civil liberties. Its “anti-terrorism measures” have in practice been used to deny rights and criminalise dissent.

The rhetoric of Reid and the Labour government is that the people's safety is in jeopardy, promoting the warped thinking that “small groups of individuals” threaten “whole communities” and “whole states”. This perverted logic is being used to attempt to

whip up sentiment against sections of the people, particularly Muslims and those of Arab or South Asian nationality, and justify doing away with the rule of law on the grounds that there are exceptional circumstances.

It must be pointed out that the context of these attacks is the growing resistance of the people to the anti-social and pro-war agenda of the state. In other words, the aim of targeting human rights legislation in conjunction with bringing in ever more legislation to repress the activities of individuals and whole sections of the people has not so much to do with fighting “terrorism” but rather is aimed at quelling and subverting the people's resistance.

Reid is encouraging Gordon Brown to take “courageous decisions” on the “great issues of immigration, crime and counter-terrorism”. It is the government, not the working class and people, who are declaring that these are the great issues of the moment. The aim is on the one hand to divert the people so that they take up the government's discourse and not their own, and on the other to prevent serious consideration of how these issues themselves are manifest in society. Rather than being a contribution to resolving any real problem facing the people, Reid is posing these “great issues” to attack the coherence of the movements of the people against war, to defend the rights of all, and to build a society which embodies their interests and provides their rights with a guarantee.

The government has had so little respect for the letter and spirit

of the Human Rights Act that it declared a “state of emergency” to opt out of its binding provisions. Even now, it is unclear whether this supposed “state of emergency” continues or not, so unseriously has it been treated by the government. Its actions, for instance the detention without trial of foreign nationals under this “state of emergency”, have been ruled illegal by the law lords on more than one occasion. The government has *de facto* torn up the rule of law, and what is now proposed is to entrench this situation and legalise a permanent state of emergency in which exceptionalism is the rule.

The argument that a balance must be struck between rights and public safety cannot be accepted. It is inimical to the conception that all have inviolable rights by virtue of being human which must be provided with a guarantee. It is also inimical to the guaranteeing of public safety since it justifies and encourages state terror in the name of the security of the people. This argument hits at the very conception of the rule of law which upholds the public good and is free from arbitrariness and imposition without the people's participation and against their will.

Labour's attempts to criminalise and further alienate the people under the guise of paternal protection is at the very least condescending and is an attempt abolish the rule of law in reality. The people must reject these attempts and step up their resistance in terms of consciousness and organisation to the fascisation of the state.

Commentary

Northern Rock Crisis: Banks and International Usury

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imploding under the weight of its unidentified numerous contradictions.

Northern Rock began life 150 years ago as the Northern Community Fund, and in 1968 it merged with the Rock Permanent Benefit Building Society. Along with other building societies, which changed their character fundamentally away from being primarily concerned with granting mortgages to home buyers, with demutualisation in October 1997 it acquired the status of a bank, aggressively concerned with making the maximum return in the financial market. It was following the sub-prime mortgage fall-out in the US that Northern Rock went into crisis. Depositors took out £3bn in just a few days. The bank owns around £113bn in debts, and owes billions to international lenders and depositors.

Stealing from the oppressed

The individual mortgages and other loans owed to Northern Rock have become collateral on which the moneylender borrows more money throughout the world, which it then uses to lend out to individuals and businesses. Total deposits in Northern Rock have financed and underwrite only a fraction of the outstanding loans it owns. Most of the financing and underwriting comes from international borrowing.

The borrowing and lending involving Northern Rock and international usury can go back several stages with each step of the way dependant both on the borrower paying a regular amount of interest and on new money being available to borrow to pay off previously borrowed amounts as they become due. Specific and general crisis can erupt if borrowers at any level are unable to meet regular payments or international moneylenders are reluctant to lend more money to replace outstand-

ing money that is due. This chaotic decaying system with parasites sucking in fees and interest at each level is sustained by stealing the production from the international working class particularly the oppressed in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Working class perspective

The crisis for Northern Rock began when it was unable to borrow new money to pay off debts that were due, which is known as rolling over debt or paying off old debt with new debt. Mervyn King, governor of the Bank of England, issued a warning that it would not be a "lender of last resort", but then went on to lend emergency funds. However, his very public signal of financial difficulty coupled with the international concern and uncertainty over US debts, its economy and the falling value of the US dollar generated a sense of unease and panic.

For the working class, concern for economic stability and panic have to be transformed into conscious determination to bring the existing economic forces under the control of the human factor/social consciousness. Workers are used to hearing that markets control the economy and even control the human factor through the labour market. Under this obsolete relationship and perspective, things and phenomena such as the market place, production and the economy itself control human beings and determine their economic security. The working class perspective is that the human factor must bring things and phenomena, especially the economy on which everyone depends, under its conscious control. The working class must acquire the consciousness of controlling what it produces and not allow what it produces to fall out of control. This is a very human concept as it means bringing production, the labour market and the modern socialised econo-

my under the conscious direction of human beings in a similar manner to how humans have brought fire and other naturally occurring things and phenomena under their conscious scientific control. Panic in the face of fire is not human; it is a reversion to base animal behaviour. Panic in the face of economic forces is not human; it reduces the human factor to isolated individuals bent on fending for themselves rather than dealing with the natural and social phenomena in an organised conscious manner. The working class perspective is to bring the modern force of production of the socialised economy under the conscious organised control of the actual producers.

Conscious organised strength

Part of the anti-human/anti-conscious factor which is perpetuated by the monopoly capitalist system is done so by the media. The media have only concerned themselves on the one hand with creating panic, attempting to paralyse the working class and stop them thinking and organising consciously on this matter. At the same time, they have worked in cahoots with the government, saying that everything is ok, that the crisis is only a blip, and that the system just needs a "correction" here or there and more "transparency" and possibly better regulations. This false optimism is also aimed at the working class. The media reported that Alistair Darling insisted the economy was "strong" and had low interest rates, allowing politicians and officials to "deal with this particular problem". This is the normal warning to the working class not to concern itself with economic and political affairs and certainly not organise into effective opposition to the ruling monopoly class. The media promotion of such soothing words of the Chancellor should be rejected and the real basis of the economic turmoil con-

fronted from a working class perspective with the people becoming involved in an organised way to defend their economic security.

The deposits in Northern Rock represent only a fraction of the debt owed and owned by the bank. The government's manoeuvres are designed to keep the initiative out of the hands of the working class to defend itself and its economic security in the face of a growing international economic crisis. The main contradiction that must be resolved is that of a socialised economy where all the wealth is produced by the working class but is owned and controlled by private cliques of monopolies and rich individuals. Those cliques of monopolies and rich individuals do not want the working class to bring its conscious organised strength to bear on the economy. The control of the state by the rich stands in the way of the working class bringing harmony to its own modern socialised economy.

Coming to power

There is a deep concern on the part of the working class that a difficult economic recession or worse is looming and workers feel powerless to do anything about it. Workers throughout the imperialist system of states do not yet realise the enormous power they have to challenge the monopolies on each and every issue, if they get organised and take conscious actions from their own perspective. Workers' economic security can only be guaranteed by themselves organising and taking conscious action to restrict the monopolies and defend the rights of all and by working out the ways and means to come to power themselves.

(Based on the article "The Dark World of International Usury – British Depositors Remove Their Money from Northern Rock" in TML Daily, On-Line Newspaper of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), September 24, 2007.)



Militant protests against the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit held in Sydney, Australia, September 2-9



Forthcoming Anti-War Events

Demonstration: Not One More Death - Bring the Troops Home

Monday 8 October

Assemble Trafalgar Square for Lunchtime Rally 1pm
Demonstrate to Demand: Not One More Death – Bring All the Troops Home Now

The Stop the War demonstration on Monday, October 8, the day Parliament re-assembles, will begin with a lunchtime rally in Trafalgar Square, at which the speakers will include Tony Benn, Mark Steel, ex SAS soldier Ben Griffin, NUS President Jemma Tumelty, Stop the War's National Convenor Lindsey German and Billy Hayes, General Secretary of the Communication Workers Union.

To get copies of the new postcard and stickers publicising the demonstration, call the Stop the War office on 020 7278 6694.

For more details, see: <http://www.stopwar.org.uk/>

Stop the War Coalition Annual National Conference

Saturday 27 October

The StWC National Conference will be held on **Saturday 27 October at Friends Meeting House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ**. The conference, at which perspectives and policies for the coming year will be discussed and voted on, is open to all current Stop the War individual members and to delegations from all affiliated organisations. Details on the submission of resolutions, the agenda and the fee will be available soon on the Stop the War website: www.stopwar.org.uk

All affiliated organisations are reminded that in order to send delegates they need to have renewed their affiliation for 2007/2008.

World Against War Conference

Saturday 1 December

Stop the War is proud to host the World Against War conference in **London on December 1**, which aims to bring together all those fighting for peace, self-determination and social justice around the world today. Speakers already lined up include former UN officials in Iraq, Denis Halliday and Hans von Sponeck. Peace and anti-war groups from South America, the Middle East, USA, South Asia, Africa, Canada and across Europe have been invited to send representatives. The World Against War conference will take place at Westminster Central Hall, adjacent to the Houses of Parliament. *Booking forms will be available soon but you can reserve your place by calling the Stop the War national office on 020 7278 6694.*

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