

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Members of CPS Management Board
and members of RAP

FROM : Alfred Sherman

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CPS's Long-term Publishing Programme

We have tended to live from hand to mouth. I consider that a longer-term strategy for publishing would help in a number of ways.

- * It would be a mistake to leave discussion of our longer term publishing strategy till after the elections, which will in any case be a time of toing and froing, whoever wins, and when ever they take place. Better by far to work out our programme now, and go as far as we can to indentifying possible authors, commissioning where possible, so that our spring and earlier summer programme can go ahead.
- * The continuity of our Centre and our ability to attract contributions would be strengthened by a longer term programme.
- * I use the term programme in the sense of a perspective which need not necessarily come to final decisions on authors, titles or approximate publication dates, but would lay down strategy subjects and people.

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Let me re-state our objectives. They are to counter the belief that an administered politicised society is preferable to an autonomous market society where free enterprise plays a large part. To achieve this we must bring home the following concepts:

- * That state control, intervention, ownership and subsidy rarely do good and most often do harm because of built-in inherent factors, not incidentals. These include the supremacy of short-term party-political and union-political vested interests over the national interest; the lower utility of transferred income, the unknowability, the "rent" enacted in the form of over-manning, nepotism, jobbery, corruption.

- * That the "Labour movement" is in fact an exploiting caste, giving political employment at high (disguised) living standards for tens of thousands of people "on the backs of the workers". That the trade union movement has been against the national economic interest since its inception, and as it expands in size and power increasingly its own members suffer too. (In conversation with the Leader of the Party, her interest in this is made clear.)

- * That job-centres, MSC, TES and other gimmicks do harm at great cost.

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That institutional ownership (pension and life-insurance funds, etc) must be brought into the framework of our politico-economic overview.

These - and other proposed lines of thought - should be discussed and the director of studies given general authority to discuss and commission work, subject to usual safeguards.

8.8.78./AS