

PRIME MINISTER

18 July 1984

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES AND THE FAR LEFT

The attached Annexes to this paper are cuttings from Left-wing newspapers, illustrating the type of activity the far Left is planning in local politics.

Annex A shows how the local government conference in Sheffield produced a joint Labour strategy for obstructing central government's rate policy in 1985-6.

Annex B shows how the local government committee of Labour's National Executive Council support that policy of obstruction, and are urging a policy of non-co-operation to block the abolition of the Met counties.

Annex C shows how Jack Cunningham and the Labour front bench are carefully providing support for a campaign of obstruction.

Annex D shows how a group of far Left Labour MPs are inciting councils to provide help for the miners.

Annex E shows the Militant Tendency attacking the Labour Parliamentary leadership for its failure to take a sufficiently tough line over Liverpool.



Annex F gives you the biographies of some of the leading figures in the TGWU, and in particular those connected with the dock workers' dispute.

Presentation of the Coal and Dock Disputes

To date, Conservative Central Office have stayed out of these disputes. Tony Shrimley is both ill and on holiday, and instructions have been left to do nothing.

Monitoring of press coverage is now taking place under Nicholas Soames MP, but is ad hoc and seems to be confined to breakfast-time programmes. It is vital that systematic monitoring of all the main news broadcasts be undertaken, if necessary professionally, under expenditure authorised by the Party.

There are three TV and three radio broadcasts still available this year as Party Political Broadcasts. Consideration should be given to using one or two of these to put over the case about the industrial disputes.

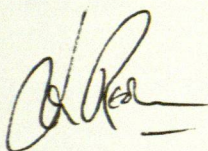
The NCB newspaper advertising is having little or no impact, as the adverts are far too dull. Whilst we do not normally intervene - and rightly so - in the conduct of a dispute, couldn't somebody have a private word with Ian MacGregor to suggest beefing up the advertisements, preferably by inviting some of the more aggressive advertising agencies to



pitch for the business? Central Office could also consider whether separate Party funding should be available to put over a pro-democracy campaign.

It is also vital to have access to good quality market and opinion research concerning strikers and the general public. During the steel strike, Central Office undertook such research, and routed the results to those whom it concerned. Couldn't something similar be done professionally for both the dockers' and the miners' disputes?

The other side in the industrial disputes have been very good at stage-managing the press. Now is the time for speeches and other events to be used to gain publicity for our side of the argument.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Redwood', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

JOHN REDWOOD



SOME LEADING LEFT-WINGERS IN THE TGWU

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(a) National Officers

Ron TODD

General Secretary elect; won election in June 1984 with 273,662 votes against 228,845 for his nearest rival. Only 34% of the TGWU's 1.5 million members voted. Todd succeeds Moss Evans next year. Although a Labour Party member Todd has considerable Communist Party associations: he has contributed to the Morning Star newspaper, addressed Morning Star rallies and supports the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions, a CP run campaign. An active CND supporter, Todd proposed the successful resolution at last year's Labour Party Conference calling for unilateral nuclear disarmament. Aged 54; worked at Ford in 1950s and full-time union officer since 1982.

Alex KITSON

Deputy General Secretary. Former Chairman of Labour Party and member Labour Party NEC. Made a series of notorious broadcasts on Radio Moscow in 1977 when he represented Labour at the Soviet Union's 60th Anniversary celebrations of the 1917 revolution. Kitson is Treasurer of the Chile Solidarity Campaign (see also Nicholson and Symes below) and is a supporter of the Institute for Workers' Control (see Nicholson and Greendale).

Jack DROMEY

National officer concerned with TGWU. Public Service worker since 1983. Former Secretary Brent Trades Council and South East Region TUC; committee member National Council for Civil Liberties; supporter Bennite, Labour Co-ordinating Committee, and Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom; organiser South East Section,

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People's March for Jobs 1981; leading organiser mass picketing at Grunwicks 1977; husband of Harriet Harman MP.

(b) Dock Workers

Walter GREENDALE

Member TUC General Council; Chairman TGWU General Executive Committee; described by Times as "Mr Benn's Chief Lieutenant in the trade union movement" (2 March 1982). Prominent in Institute for Workers' Control; Hull docker.

Bill POWELL

Represents dockers' Trade Group on TGWU General Executive Committee; Times (22 Sept 81) said he was a "Bennite"; active in opposition to 1971 Industrial Relations Act and in unofficial strike in London docks in 1975.

Brian NICHOLSON

Member TGWU General Executive Committee - negotiating committee in current dispute; supporter Institute for Workers' Control; Chairman Chile Solidarity Campaign; sponsor Anti-Nazi League 1977.

Ron HAMLIN

Member negotiating committee; Communist Party member since 1950s; worker London docks.

Jimmy SYMES

Member negotiating committee; active in Chile Solidarity Campaign.

Micky FENN

Socialist Workers' Party supporter; former secretary SWP's National Rank and File Movement; worker London docks.

Bob LIGHT

SWP supporter in London docks.

Rich PEARCE

SWP supporter; sometime since, Chairman National Ports Shop Stewards Committee; Chairman Southampton Docks Shop Stewards Committee.

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Anthony MOORE

London docks shop steward;  
Workers' Revolutionary Party  
candidate, Bermondsey 1979  
General Election.

Larry CAVANAGH

Liverpool docks shop steward;  
recently addressed Workers'  
Revolutionary Party Young  
Socialist meeting with Welsh NUM  
activists.

Paul SPOONER

Hull docks shop steward;  
contributor 'Militant' newspaper  
on current dispute - wanted  
tugmen included.

(c) Other TGWU Sections

(i) Communist Party  
Members

Jack ADAMS

Senior shop stewards' convenor,  
BL Longbridge.

William BRACK

TGWU General Executive  
Committee.

Danny BRYAN

TGWU District Secretary,  
Plymouth.

Sid CLAY

TUC North Region Secretary.

Dan CONNOR

Shop stewards' convenor, Fords,  
Dagenham.

Peter FUZZEY

Member, CP executive committee  
and TGWU General Executive  
Committee; London taxi driver.

Steve HART

Shop steward, Fords, Dagenham.

Ian MCKAY

Full-time CP National Organiser.

Eric RECHNITZ

Lorry driver, former member TGWU  
executive committee.

Sue SCHAFER

Community worker, Liverpool.

Peter SHEPPARD

Full-time CP Secretary,  
Birmingham.

Jeff STANIFORTH

Full-time CP worker, East  
Midlands.

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Eddie McCLUSKIE

Chairman, Coventry District  
TGWU.

Bryan UNDERWOOD

Member, West Region TUC Council.

(ii) Other Left-wing  
Groups

Bill MULLINS

Militant Tendency; BL shop  
steward.

Alan QUINN

Militant Tendency; member TGWU,  
General Executive Council.

Pete GLATTER

SWP; bus driver, Tottenham.

Pete GIBSON

LT bus driver; member Workers'  
Revolutionary Party (WRP)  
Central Committee.

Richard LUGG

WRP; shop steward, Heathrow.

Arthur LYNN

WRP; shop steward, Vauxhall,  
Luton.

Thomas WHITE

WRP; shop steward, BL.

Alan THORNETT

Sometime Cowley "mole"; leader  
Workers' Socialist League.