

WORKERS' fight



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"The emancipation of the working class will only be achieved by the working class itself" (Karl Marx)

THEY FEAR "SOCIAL STRIFE"? THEY SHOULD!

Now that the beauty contest is in full swing, party leaders are so desperate to lure voters to the ballot box that they drag their wives onto the campaign trail, to hide the ugly face of their politics.

Indeed, why would the working class majority of the electorate vote for parties which so clearly represent the interests of the rich? Why would it support politicians who have in store more of the same joblessness, cuts and austerity, that it has faced over the past 2 years?

The bosses' campaign

That business tycoons should line up behind the Tories against Labour's rise in NI contributions is no surprise - funding public services is anathema to the bosses!

That these tycoons should demand that, instead, "waste" be cut in the public sector is the pot calling the kettle black! Aren't they the main recipients of state handouts, tax breaks, PFI contracts, etc., that is the bulk of socially wasted government funding?

Besides, it is not as if these bosses were different from the bankers. They own shares in the banks and bankers own shares in their companies. For years they surfed on the banks' mad speculative bubble to increase their capital many times over. When the bubble burst, they used the state's bailout to salvage their wealth, fat salaries and profits!

These parasites who caused the crisis with their banking mates are the real cause of waste. They should be cut out, together with their profit system!

Ironically, many of these bosses supported Labour in 1997 and have no reason to regret it: taxes on profits have never been so low and the part of state funds going to them through PFI has never been so high!

But, today, they want to use the crisis to squeeze even more out of



the working class. And they think that, since the Tories had no direct role in the banks' bailout, it will be easier for them to turn the screw of austerity by blaming the state's black hole on Labour.

The future will not be determined by the ballot box

Workers know all too well the effect of the cuts that will come after May 6th. Boris Johnson's appointment of a £127,000/yr City "specialist" to carry out cuts in London, may be a Tory stunt. But it is both a foretaste of the future and a reminder of many similar appointments in local government and the NHS by Labour.

So, no it is not in the ballot box that the real issue will be decided - i.e. whether the thin layer of capitalist parasites who caused the crisis and benefited from it, be allowed to carry on milking the system, generating more financial chaos and shifting

the bill for their criminal profiteering onto the working class.

The politicians know this. Lib-Dem leader Nick Clegg expressed their fears when he warned that "serious social strife" might break out if a government elected with limited support took austerity measures. They know that whoever wins will have limited support, if only due to a record low turnout.

So yes, the politicians are right to fear a backlash in the streets, because this is the only language that they and their capitalist masters have ever been capable of understanding.

The working class has accounts to settle after the tide of attacks against its living conditions. It is high time this tide was turned. And this will only be achieved in the streets and in the workplaces, by workers using their collective strength. ☐