

YELLOW PAGES

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Fight on a Labour agenda and we will win



By
Peter
Willsman
CLPD
Secretary

Conference this week has been upbeat: the platform concentrated on attacking the Coalition, which delegates have shown they want more of. Ed Miliband's Leader's speech was well received with the media acknowledging he is likely to be the next Prime Minister.

A series of progressive policies have been announced which will also strengthen our support. Scrapping the bedroom tax, increasing free childcare hours, ending bad zero hours contracts, tighter minimum wage enforcement, scrapping ATOS, aiming to increase house building, etc. If the Party develops this agenda the voters will respond. This is likely to be undermined if we do little to distance ourselves from the Tory austerity agenda, and are seen to inward looking and divided over the union link.

The very positive response Conference gave Paul Kenny, speaking on behalf of all 14 affiliated unions, emphasised the extent to which Party members are unconvinced there is a need for change. Everyone accepts it is important to have more working class members and community involvement. But it does not follow that changing the relationship with the unions will lead to any of these goals. On the contrary, there is a serious risk that meddling with the party's well established structures could to less working class influence and involvement.

Much of what is being said is little more than wishful thinking. We should not forget that the road to

hell is paved with good intentions.

There is also a serious danger that we will find ourselves on a slippery slope towards a reactionary agenda on immigration and related issues.

Focussing our campaign on raising living standards is the way to undermine and defeat the Tories. That is why conference unanimously backed the ending of the public sector pay cap.

As has been evident this week, responsibility for any undemocratic functioning of the party does not lie with the unions but elsewhere. The interference in the CAC and NCC elections is all too reminiscent of the fixing seen in the Blair era. Also, several rule changes were illegitimately ruled out of order, including one that would create a Party Ombudsman. The latter would provide a way of solving such problems as Falkirk and provide redress against illegitimate interference in internal elections.

At this conference, delegates have shown an increasing determination not to be hemmed by the maze of rules and procedures that keep key issues off the agenda. But it was no coincidence that once the Lib Dems had made a

commitment to free school meals that our CAC accepted appeals and reinstated the school meals contemporary motions to the agenda.

Between now and the election Labour must campaign for an outright majority government, and not be side tracked by any talk of coalition. We must pull together and solely focus on this objective.

Wednesday's timetable

Today's agenda includes several key debates.

● Stop privatisation of Royal Mail!

Vote for both composites.

● Increase control of the railways!

Vote for TSSA's Emergency Motion.

● Build genuinely affordable housing for rent!

Vote for the composite.

● Step up campaigning against privatisation of our NHS!

Vote for the composite and support the pro-NHS demo in Manchester at Tory Conference on 29th September.

CLPD
Campaign for
Labour Party
Democracy

A free press?

Yellow Pages is produced by volunteers - who are out today with our buckets. Please be generous. Campaign Briefing has a cover price of £2 for the week.

Peasants Revolt

Yesterday morning, during the debate on the CAC Report, the Chair (wrongly) said that the Report is always taken as a whole, not in parts. He added that the Party has been doing this for "hundreds of years". What followed was indeed reminiscent of the distant past – particularly 1381 and the Peasants Revolt. As in 1381, the grassroots rose up to overturn the established order – or "politburo" as the Chair preferred to call it. The determined delegate from TSSA, together with several feisty CLP delegates, moved a series of reference backs, concerning unfair rulings in relation to rule changes and Emergency Motions. They demanded a card vote. The Chair tried to railroad a favourable decision through conference by putting the whole CAC Report to the vote. This was overwhelmingly defeated. Harry Donaldson, the CAC Chair, then staggered away, presumably to cobble together a compromise that might be more attractive to conference. Sadly, as in 1381, the victory of the CLP insurgents was short-lived. Harry returned and divided his response into parts. The CAC would put the TSSA Emergency on to the agenda. But Harry repeated the same stale arguments in relation to the rule changes and Emergency motions that Conference had already rebutted. The Conference Chair then glad-handed Harry's measly offering through conference.

Shenanigans

A former senior party official explained to *Yellow Pages* a few of the tricks that some of his erstwhile colleagues got up to. They graded delegates from A (new and/or impressionable delegates) to D (hard-bitten lefties). The officials only tried to influence the voting of the A and B delegates. C and D were cold shouldered. If there were several delegates in a CLP's delegation, they tried to get the A delegate to vote early in the morning.

Of course, each CLP delegation only has one ballot paper, but they falsely informed the A delegate that every delegate had a separate ballot paper. Once the A delegate had voted for the official's preferred candidates, the dirty work had been done. When the C and D delegates arrived they found that their CLP's sole vote had already been cast.

On your way home from conference this year, you might reflect on how you would be graded!!

Telecommunications - the case for public ownership



This pamphlet, produced by CWU Greater London Combined branch, tells the story of the first big privatisation of the Thatcher era and its aftermath. It is a timely warning that the madness of the market cannot deliver efficiency or better standards of service.

●For your free copy email us at office@cwuglc.org.



"Regrettably both Eds have told Conference that Labour will continue the cuts. This is making the case for the Tories."

Brian Gould, former Shadow Cabinet Minister, CLPD fringe meeting

"At the end of the day Conference is sovereign."

Keith Vaz, Conference Chair, Tuesday morning

"The manipulation by party officials is even more blatant at the youth conference. That's where they learn the dirty tricks."

Senior Young Labour activist, speaking to Yellow Pages on Tuesday

TSSA would like to thank CLP and Union delegates for supporting the successful reference back on the rail public ownership emergency motion, demonstrating that solidarity can overcome machine politics. It will be taken at 10.30am sharp.

Today was a great day for members, and for party democracy, over-turning the party machine and CAC for first time in decades with a successful "reference back".

TSSA General Secretary Manuel Cortes says: "Vote FOR the TSSA Emergency Motion to send a clear message to the party leadership and the public that Labour want public ownership for every rail franchise - the best deal for taxpayers, passengers and workers!"

Katy Clark MP and Peter Willsman thank those delegates who have approached them with witness evidence of party staff trying to influence delegates' votes. If party staff (or others in a formal capacity) have tried to influence your vote, you can still contact Katy and Pete, in confidence, about your concerns on 07710-541410.

To join the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy please fill in the form below and return it with a cheque payable to CLPD to: CLPD Treasurer, 157 North Street, Luton LU2 7QH



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