



Communist Party June 2022

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Unity!

WE DEMAND BETTER
18.06.22
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

JOIN THE RED BLOCK

Communist Party general secretary Robert Griffiths added his voice to the call of labour movement leaders, urging unionised workers to protest in big numbers, on 18 June.

'In every workplace, the communists urge you to have work meetings across unions, our trades councils to campaign in the community and the youth to hold London on the day and bring it to a standstill. Already, 18 June has all the signs of a big mobilisation and turning point. We must seize the moment! **SATURDAY 18 JUNE PORTLAND PLACE LONDON ASSEMBLE FROM 10.30pm MARCH DEPARTS 12pm RALLY 1pm**

Working people have had enough. Everything's going up but our wages.

Sign up for info: <https://tinyurl.com/2jrdad32>

FREEZE PRICES REDUCE RENTS TAX PROFITS RAISE WAGES

NICK WRIGHT COST OF LIVING CRISIS

WORKERS' WAGES have fallen to the lowest level in ten years and more while runaway inflation is daily devaluing the cash in our pockets.

By this Spring, when price rises are factored into the calculation, pay has plummeted by 2.9 per cent, the biggest fall since November 2011 said the the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

In a gob-smacking exercise of **ruling class arrogance** the governor of the Bank of England said that – to avoid fuelling further inflation – workers should 'think and reflect' before asking for a pay rise.

If bank boss Andrew Bailey thinks he is setting us an example when he said said he would not take a pay increase on his £575,000 annual salary he will get his answer with a mass turnout by workers in response to the Trades Union Congress call to take to the streets on Saturday 18 June.

Wholesale energy prices have dropped but energy companies have hiked **consumer costs** to unprecedented levels.

Retail bosses warn that global commodity price rises mean we will have to **pay more** for our food. But Tesco's **profits** more than trebled last year. Britain's largest supermarket chain reported pre-tax profits of £2.03bn, up from £636m the previous year.

Posh peoples' favouritem Waitrose, with less than five per cent of the market, racked up £14.44m **profits**. Supermarkets have reported **record profits** – more than £4.08bn this year so far.

Household energy bills have reached record levels with working people facing a 54 per cent **rise** in their costs after Ofgem increased the price cap level. At the same time the big gas and oil monopolies are racking up record **profits**.

Shell made £7.3bn in the first three months of the year, nearly three times the **profit** it made for the winter months last year. British Petroleum burst its predicted **profits** forecast reporting a cool £4.9bn.

Nearly thirty cowboy retail energy firms went bust earlier this year after their reckless gamble on energy futures caught them out.

The iron law of capitalist competition kicked in with big firms like SEE and British Gas picking up customers from the failed firms and recording **record profits**.

Tenants across Britain face record **rent increases** as the cost-of-living crisis gets a grip. The national average rent is now 15 per cent higher than when the Covid pandemic started two years ago.

Rents in London are pricing essential workers out of the capital. A London resident with a middle-income needs **12.5 times their gross annual salary** to buy a medium-priced property. The England and Wales ratio was 7.69 in 2020.

Outside of London, in the first three months of the year the average **rent** was £1,088 a month, more than ten per cent up on last year.

Regional **rent rises** ranged from twelve to eighteen per cent with Wales, the South West and North West clocking up the biggest increases.

The rich are reaping record profits in unearned income but workers wages are

frozen or in free fall as price inflation is cutting their value.

This is a continuing capitalist crisis which follows on from the 2008 financial crunch which destroyed any illusions that the capitalist system has the stability or the capacity to solve 21st century problems.

But the profit-hungry class of bankers, bosses and bureaucrats are compelled by the logic of their system to deepen the crisis.

Where we need credible climate action, massive investment in energy efficient housing, comprehensive education, health and social care and our ageing infrastructure renewed our ruling class ramps up arms spending. Rich kid Rishi Sunak, supposedly a financial mastermind, has frittered away £11 billion in a currency insurance cock-up.

Workers face spiralling household costs and a pay packet crunch but our ruling class tells us to absorb the rent, prices and fuel costs and accept a pay freeze.

Workers have had enough. Everything is going up but our wages.

Over the next few weeks postal workers and railway workers are taking action.

A victory in their battle for jobs, safety, wages and conditions for these two groups of workers will encourage the whole working class to take on the bosses and Boris Johnson's failing government.

Solidarity with the strikers is the key to a full victory and further advance.

- The Communist Party says**
- ★ Nationalise mail & rail
 - ★ End the cuts, invest in jobs
 - ★ Pay proper wages **No to 'heat or eat'**
 - ★ Solidarity with the strikers



▲ **FAT CAT** bankers boss Andrew Bailey 'earns' £575,000. This is nearly forty times the annual income of Britain's working poor.

Put it another way, by 10 January he will have trousered the typical annual income of a minimum wage worker, a pensioner or a benefits claimant.

Last year median income for the poorest fifth of the population fell by two per cent to £14,600.

According to the *Sunday Times* Rich List Britain's top ten richest people are wealthier than they have ever been.

The cumulative wealth of the top ten billionaires has grown from £47.77 billion in 2009 to £182 billion in 2022 – an increase of 281 percent.

British billionaires are on a bonus. Since the 2008 financial crisis their wealth has increased even further. Despite the pandemic which pushed many workers into poverty their collective wealth surged to a record high of £653 billion in 2022.

Working Britain is paying the cost of the capitalist economic crisis while the people responsible for it, the rich are getting even richer. As millions of British people endure a cost of living crisis there are more British billionaires than ever before.

It is time to end this mad system. Join Britain's revolutionary party of working class power and liberation. ★

www.comunistparty.org.uk/join

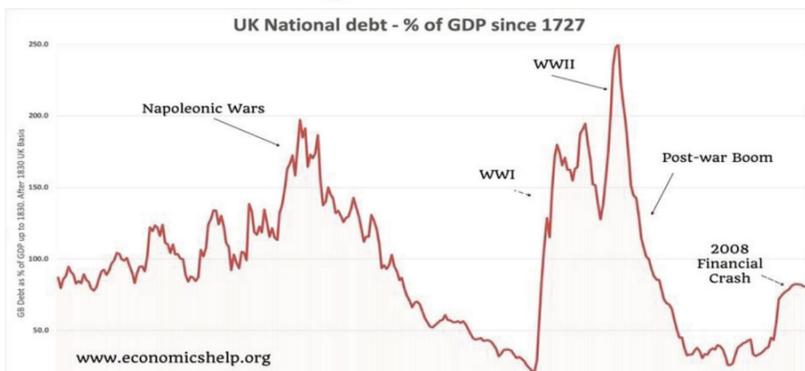


RENT, INTEREST & PROFIT

“The capitalist who produces surplus-value – i.e., who extracts unpaid labour directly from the labourers, and fixes it in commodities, is, indeed, the first appropriator, but by no means the ultimate owner, of this surplus-value. He has to share it with capitalists, with landowners, etc., who fulfil other functions in the complex of social production. Surplus-value, therefore, splits up into various parts. Its fragments fall to various categories of persons, and take various forms, independent the one of the other, such as profit, interest, merchant's profit, rent, etc.” *Karl Marx Capital*



Straight Left Stewart McGill talks sense about debt



The national debt as percentage of GDP is historically quite low, see the chart. Government debt could be around 98% of GDP by the end of the fiscal year 2021/2022, significantly lower than it was for most of the 20th century and recorded history.

Around 33% of government debt is held by the wholly government-owned Bank of England, so the headline debt figure is actually exaggerated by 49%.

Since 1945 there have only been a dozen years in which the U.K. has not run a deficit.

Further, interest rates on the national debt as a percentage of GDP are at historically low levels.

Sunak talks about a "sacred duty" to future generations and the need to 'balance the books.' This ahistorical and economically illiterate nonsense lies behind the rationale for spending cuts in real terms and the appalling imposition of increased taxes on the working class to pay for increased social care etcetera.

And rationale is all it is, if Sunak really gave a damn about reducing the debt he'd do something about tax evasion by his own wealthy class. 10% of the world's GDP is held in tax havens, eight out of the ten biggest corporate tax havens are British territories. ★

In their own words

RAIL

RAIL UNION RMT is taking three days of national strike action over 21, 23 and 25 June with over fifty thousand railway workers taking part in the biggest dispute on the network since 1989. Network Rail and the train operating companies plan to cut thousands of jobs which RMT says makes the railways unsafe.

Railway workers have suffered years of pay freeze and despite intense talks the rail bosses refuse to offer a pay increase or a guarantee of no compulsory redundancies. In a separate dispute over pensions and job losses, London Underground RMT members will take strike action on 21 June.

RMT general secretary Mick Lynch said: 'Railway workers have been treated appallingly and despite our best efforts in negotiations, the rail industry with the government has failed to take their concerns seriously.'

'We have a cost-of-living crisis, and it is unacceptable for railway workers to either lose their jobs or face another year of a pay freeze when inflation is at 11.1 per cent and rising.'

'Our union will now embark on a sustained campaign of industrial action which will shut down the railway system.'

'Rail companies are making at least £500m a year in profits, whilst fat cat rail bosses have been paid millions during the Covid-19 pandemic. This unfairness is fuelling our members anger and their determination to win a fair settlement. RMT is open to meaningful negotiations with rail bosses and ministers, but they will need to come up with new proposals to prevent months of disruption on our railways.' ★

MAIL

THE COST-OF-LIVING crisis means British Telecom workers will launch their first national strike in 35 years in response to 'insulting' pay inaction by the employers. Ballot papers go CWU members on Wednesday 15 June with a result before the month's end.

At the union's Bournemouth conference, workers unanimously rejected the imposed pay offer of a £1,500 flat rate pay rise. This was despite the company making £1.3 billion in annual profit, and with inflation rates predicted to rise to over 11 per cent by the end of the year.

CWU deputy general secretary Andy Kerr said: 'When the cost of everything is skyrocketing, nobody can expect our key worker members to accept such insulting treatment. While those at the top are enjoying better profits than even they expected, some of the workers who made that profit for them are having to choose between heating or eating.'

And postal workers in CWU have confirmed further strikes. Post Office management are insisting on a pay freeze for 2021-22, despite generating a profit of £35 million in 2020-21.

After earlier strikes management presented a marginally improved pay offer for 2022, which the CWU has labelled as 'degrading'.

CWU assistant secretary Andy Furey said: 'Our members worked hard to deliver an excellent annual profit for the company – affordability isn't management's problem here.'

'Frankly, their degrading excuse for an offer has only hardened members, who won't tolerate a collapse in their living standards.' ★



USING THE BICYCLE AS A REVOLUTIONARY TOOL FOR SOCIALISM

This year's marathon fundraising PEDAL4PROGRESS, involving 22 riders (nine being women) will be starting out in Liverpool and following the Trans Pennine Trail to Hull. The ride will set off from Liverpool on 26 July, passing through Manchester, stopping the first day at Wortley Hall, moving on to Selby the following day and finishing in Hull on 29 July.

The ride will be peppered with local rallies, where you

will be able to show your support. The aim is to raise £10,000 for the *Morning Star*. If you are involved with a *Morning Star* readers group in Liverpool, Manchester, Barnsley (Wortley Hall), or Hull, we want to hear from you, contact info@communistparty.org.uk marked 'Pedal4Progress'.

TO DONATE: Bank transfers to Merseyside Morning Star, sort code 60-83-01, account number 20428060.



MANIFESTO EXCLUSIVE

CORBYN WILL NATIONALISE ENERGY, RAIL AND MAIL

REVEALED: Jezza to fix rip-off Britain, boost NHS, schools and scrap tuition fees

▲ Contrast the *Daily Mirror* headline from 2017 with what Keir Starmer says is Labour policy today. The 2017 Labour manifesto set out an ambitious and achievable programme that chimed with the settled opinions of a majority of the British people – including on public ownership of energy, rail and mail where a majority even of Tory voters is found.

Keir Starmer was elected Labour leader on a promise to carry forward Labour's radical manifesto proposals. In two years he has abandoned every one of his promises even going on television to repudiate the call for nationalisation.

But it is not only on domestic policies that Starmer has abandoned political principle and progressive politics.

Draping himself in the butcher's apron he has striven to match Boris Johnson's government in belligerent behaviour. Where Johnson and foreign secretary Liz Truss are cheer leaders for endless war Starmer seems keen to fight Russia to the last Ukrainian.

Johnson rejects negotiations with Putin's Russia, foreign secretary Liz Truss encourages a rag-bag of make-believe mercenaries to fight alongside Ukraine's nazi militias.

The Tories are supported without reservation by Keir Starmer. Along with the right wing press, intelligence assets in the media and born-again Cold Warriors like pundit Paul Mason, his target is not Tory war mongers, not NATO's reckless expansion eastwards, not crack pot US armchair generals but the Stop the War Coalition and Labour backbench MPs. Starmer's seems more intent on proving his loyalty to a US-led Atlantic alliance to challenge China and box in Russia than arguing for a settlement that guarantees peace. He is a most respectable and loyal servant of the state. ★

New laws to counter cost-of-living protests

UNITY! NEWS TEAM REPRESSION

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH confirms the Conservative government's turn in a deeply authoritarian direction, Ben Chacko told the Communist Party's political committee.

Powers already given to the police, courts and immigration and intelligence officers target protestors, asylum seekers and refugees, and that new repressive measures are being planned he warned.

New laws planned would replace the Human Rights Act and ban local authorities and other public bodies from adopting boycott and divestment policies against repressive regimes in Israel and elsewhere.

'Home Secretary Priti Patel is pushing for wider deployment of tasers to volunteer police and for greater stop and search powers which we know have been deployed in a racist manner', he informed the political committee.

'These measures are being prepared at a time when trust in the police is at an all-time low following the Sarah Everard murder case and the horrific revelations from the Spycops inquiry', the *Morning Star* editor added.

He claimed it was 'no coincidence' that the government's new plans are being laid as the cost of living crisis intensifies.

'The Tories are out of touch, but they do understand where the resistance to soaring prices, job losses and cuts in public services is likely to come from and are determined to smash it. This is why government supporters and the right-wing media are attacking the most organised sections of the labour movement such as the railways workers and civil servant', Ben Chacko insisted.

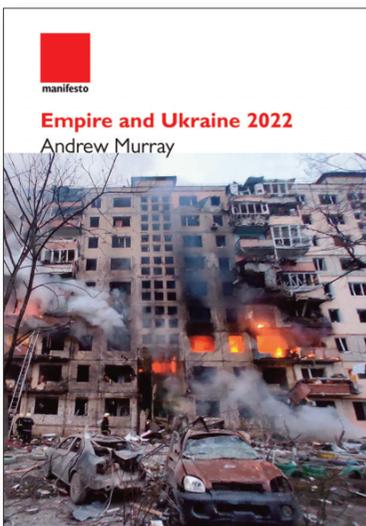
Furthermore, he argued, the huge advance of censorship during the Ukraine War underlines the need for the left to reclaim the cause of free speech from the right. In particular, monopoly control of the mass and social media must be challenged.

He urged civil rights, anti-racist and other campaigning groups to join trade unions in a mass movement against state-backed 'class warfare' on people's democratic rights, and living standards. ★



EVENTS & IDEAS & ACTION

'I must struggle with all my strength to ensure that the little positive that my health allows me to do also benefits the Revolution, the only real reason to live. **Frida Kahlo** Several years later, in 1954, the Mexican communist painter created her most pointedly political work: *Marxism will give Health to the Sick*.



Empire and Ukraine 2022
Andrew Murray

ANDREW MURRAY'S *Empire and Ukraine 2022* returns to the themes first set out in his 2015 book *The Empire and Ukraine*.

When first published by Manifesto Press it drew the attention of critics, from both the right, and elements of a self-professed left, who found its focus on the stark realities of imperialism's barely disguised operations within Europe too much to accept.

Where a very broad consensus on the left and even among wide sections of liberal opinion opposed the invasion of Iraq the projection of NATO and EU power to the borders of Russia has met with a less clear-sighted response.

The broad anti-war movement necessarily in our country includes a very wide range of political, secular and religious opinion and it has retained its coherence only by a resolute focus on the actions and policies of the one government it is able to directly influence.

The attacks on the StWC following its opposition to the bombing of Syria exposed a virulent strain of imperial ideology still present in Labour and it took a convergence of opinion between our anti-war movement, Ed Milliband with Barack Obama to stay this element of Britain's entanglement in Syria's affairs.

Andrew Murray's *Stop the War and its critics*, (www.manifestopress.coop) was written in the context of a sustained Establishment attack on the anti-war movement and its most prominent representative, Jeremy Corbyn.

The mass movement against the Iraq war, the opposition to imperialist intervention in Syria and Libya, the long NATO war on Afghanistan, the human disaster of the war on Yemen and opposition to British and US sponsorship of the Saudi war machine are big elements in the welcome growth of a conscious anti-imperialist trend in British public opinion that is as opposed to the Russian invasion of Ukraine as it is to NATO's expansion eastwards. ★

The pamphlet is £2.50 from www.manifestopress.coop.

Get it with the original book – now available for a knockdown price of £8



The Empire and Ukraine
Andrew Murray

Preface by John Foster

Unity! is on your side

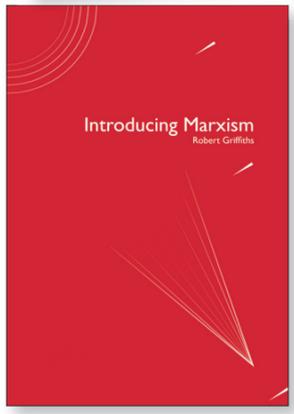
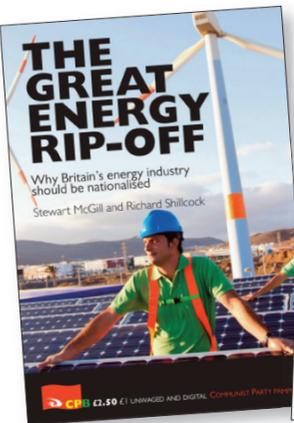
Thousands of trade unionists and their families are on the march for an end to the cost-of-living crisis, for a price freeze, an end to ever rising rents, for a windfall tax of energy profits and for nationalisation of what is ours. Rail, mail and energy.

Britain's workers need a wage rise now and a government that will legislate in favour of working people.

For many this is your first sight of *Unity!* which is published by the Communist Party. For nearly three decades, at the annual conference of the TUC, at union conferences, on every major march and rally and on picket lines *Unity!* is the voice of Britain's party of revolution, working class power and liberation.

Communists want more than piecemeal reforms. Communists fight for the rights of working people in capitalist society but we want more. We want the working class to become the ruling class, to dispossess the rich that which they have gained from our labour, to hold the nation's productive resources in common and for a world without racism, sexism and imperialist wars.

Read *Unity!* in print and online at www.comunistparty.org.uk/unity/



Johnson's post-EU Britain or progressive federalism
Centralised, anti-democratic and pro-big business – why we need 'Progressive Federalism'.

The Great Energy Rip-off
Why Britain's energy industry should be nationalised.

Introducing Marxism
The basics outlined by Communist party general secretary Robert Griffiths

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Defend the Venezuelan working class!



KEVAN NELSON
SOLIDARITY

VENEZUELA'S WORKING CLASS is facing increasingly tough challenges amid a gruelling class battle, as it confronts both US/EU imperialism, and also reformism and pro-capitalist tendencies currently in power in the country. Deteriorated on-the-ground conditions have made grassroots organising challenging, as eight years of recession and the international blockade take their toll on the once ample and efficient healthcare, education, transport, water and electricity, and telecommunications networks.

Many activists have also been forced to prioritise survival over political work, with meagre minimum wages of £25 a month obliging many to take second or third jobs to try to feed their families. All the while, the government looks to place the burden of this capitalist crisis on the shoulders of the poorest by re-privatising swathes of the economy and land, deregulating workplaces, tearing up collective bargaining, permitting a de facto dollarisation of the economy, launching regressive fiscal reforms and granting concessions to, and implementing open-door policies for multinational capital.

Increasingly draconian measures have also been seen over 300 worker and peasant leaders detained for voicing leftist critiques of this rightward shift, while others, after leading ferocious local struggles, have been forcibly disappeared and some even assassinated, all

without due legal investigation or justice. In these conditions, diverse revolutionary organisations (including the Venezuelan Communist Party and a range of trade unions) face a comprehensive media blockade.

Britain's communists, in the party and Young Communist League have responded to solidarity appeals from the working-class National Struggle Front (FNLCT) and Venezuela's Unitary Workers' Centre (CUTV), the two class-conscious revolutionary trade union confederations. The appeal looks to generate £5000 in order to supply a range of technological equipment to support workers' capacity to break the media blockade and take their revolutionary message to the people.

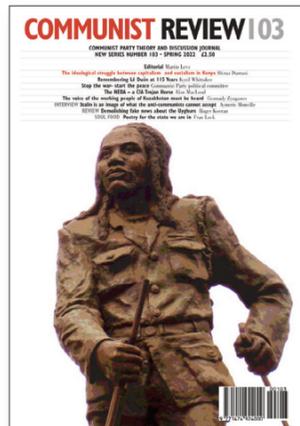
It's time to Defend the Workers and Venezuela's Class Struggle! Please consider donating to support their struggle.

Donations can be made through bank transfer or cheque to the Communist Party of Britain (Acc. No. 50725694, sort code. 608301) with the reference Viva 2022

For more information please contact info@communistparty.org.uk or call +447521 464 927 ★

KEVAN NELSON IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY

Venezuelans walk past a mural depicting the late president Hugo Chavez with an 'SOS' distress signal scrawled across his face in Caracas. *Peoples World* picture



COMMUNIST REVIEW
Theory and discussion journal of the Communist Party
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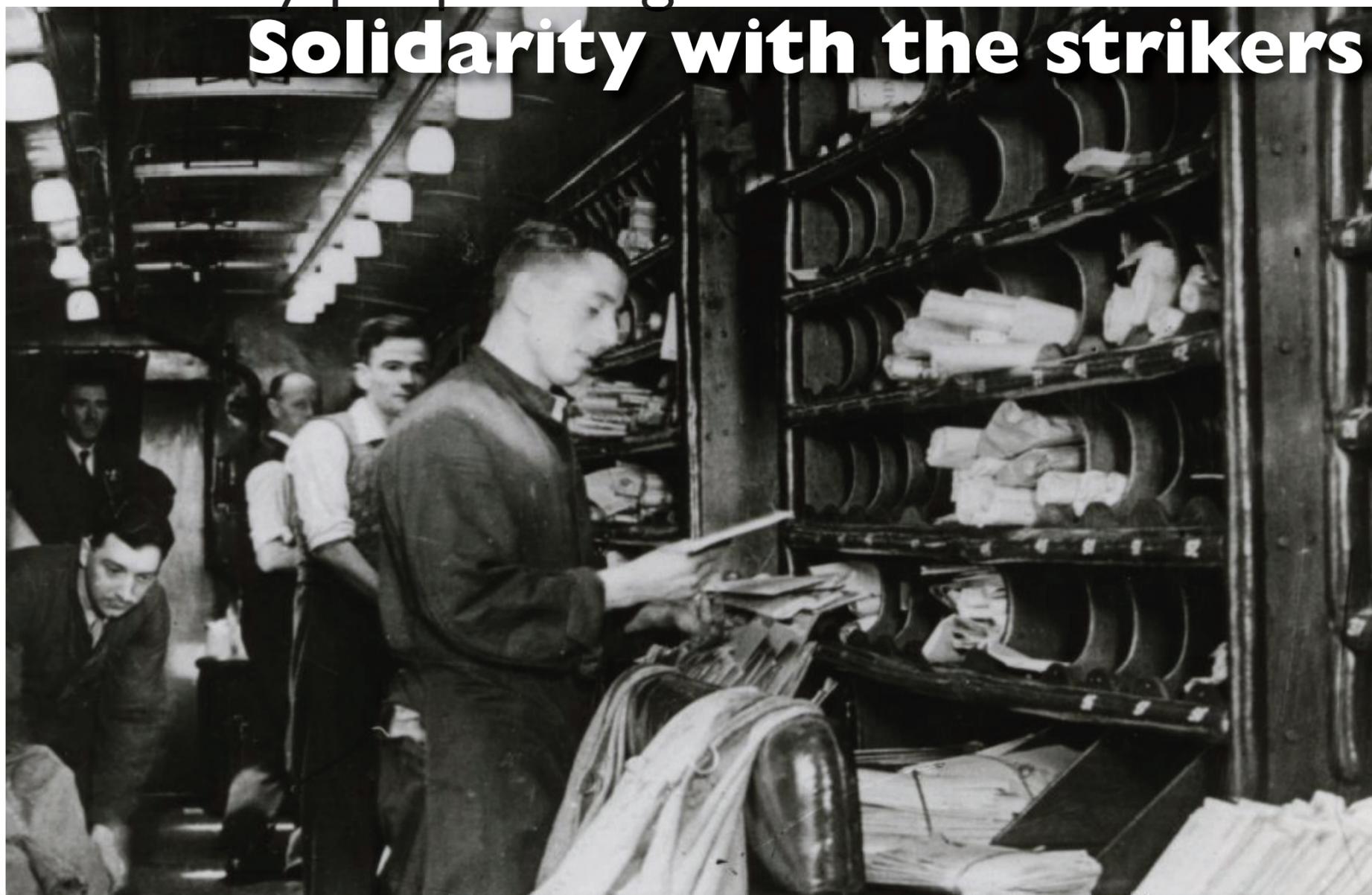


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nationalise mail & rail

End the cuts, invest in jobs
Pay proper wages **No to 'heat or eat'**

Solidarity with the strikers



Contact the Communist Party @CPBritain

Scene above from the famous 1935 film *Night Train* shows workers in the publicly owned Post Office sorting mail on the Flying Scotsman. In opinion polls two thirds support mail and rail nationalisation.

