

Campaign Briefing

Saturday

20 September 2008

Published daily at Labour Party Conference and on line at
www.clpd.org.uk Tel. 07767 761338

Priorities Ballot: don't waste your vote

CLPs are allowed to pick four issues for debate, and the Trade Unions another four. Every year, CLPs waste their votes by picking issues the Trade Unions have already picked, and waste the opportunity to raise important subjects. **Don't let this happen again.**

Congratulations to the many CLPs who raised the windfall tax as a contemporary issue – it could be the most important topic of the week. However, CLPs don't need to vote to prioritise it. All of the unions have already agreed as a block they will prioritise: Tackling Fuel Poverty (the Windfall Tax), Energy Regulation, Employment Rights and Workers in a Global Economy. So these will already be on the agenda and CLPs should not waste their votes on them.

There is uncertainty about the exact subject titles of other issues but we would urge strong support for the issue of **Georgia** – the Government's slavish support for the US line invites a new Cold War. And, in the week of the

biggest global financial crisis since 1929 it is vital that conference discusses **the Economy**.

The continuing importance of confronting repossessions and the need for social housing with a major council house building programme makes **Housing** a vital priority again. The ownership of monopoly **Water** companies who hold the public to ransom also needs to be addressed.

DON'T PRIORITISE:

- Windfall Tax ("Tackling Fuel Poverty")
- Energy (regulation)
- Employment Rights
- Workers in a Global Economy

...THEY'RE ALREADY CHOSEN!

VOTE FOR:

- Georgia
- The Economy
- Housing
- Water (ownership)

Dump the Blairite sirens

In the face of the recent media onslaught, stoked up by a few disgruntled New Labour MPs, the Party needs to focus on the progressive policy changes needed to win. In doing this it is important to make a dispassionate assessment of how we've got where we are.

Our Party's peak of political success since 1945 was under John Smith/Margaret Beckett in the Euro-elections in 1994 when we won 62 seats. Since then it has been downhill all the way. Under Tony Blair we had so-called triangulated neo-liberal domestic

policies, the destruction of the democratic structures of the Party and the illegal invasion of a sovereign country with an obscene number of casualties. After that support has ebbed away. The Brent East by-election recorded a 29% swing against us and our total vote in 2005 was less than in 1979 when we lost. Serious misjudgements by Gordon Brown (the 75p pension increase, the abolition of the 10p tax rate, the election that never was), together with the effects of the economic

Continued over

Socialist Campaign Group of Labour MPs

Rally:

Real Change Needed

Sat 20th 7pm Mechanics Centre
103 Princess Street

Speakers include:

**Diane Abbott MP • Tony Benn
Katy Clark MP • Jeremy Corbyn MP
Ann Cryer MP • Ian Gibson MP
Kelvin Hopkins MP
John McDonnell MP
Linda Riordan MP
Alan Simpson MP • David Taylor MP
Mike Wood MP**

Campaign Briefing is published daily at Labour Party Conference by the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy and the Socialist Campaign Group of Labour MPs.

