

As a new term begins ...

PREPARE FOR MORE ACTION TO DEFEND YOUR PENSION !

RALLY TO DEMAND UNITED PUBLIC SECTOR ACTION

Speakers include:

Bob Crow,
RMT General Secretary

Mark Serwotka,
PCS General Secretary

**SUNDAY 11
SEPTEMBER**

**from 1.30 pm,
at Friends**

**Meeting House,
Euston Road,
London NW1.**

**Called by the
National Shop
Stewards Network**

Sept 2011

Much has happened over the summer - unfortunately, much of it all too predictable:

* Economic reports and jitters on the world's stock markets all indicate growing fears that any limited 'recovery' in the world economy is already petering out as we slide towards a 'double-dip' recession.

Far from being a justification for further cuts, these dismal prospects are the predictable outcome of austerity packages that cut jobs, cut tax income and undermine demand as workers have even less in their pocket to spend. It's another reason to stand up to the cuts in pay and pensions that are being inflicted on teachers and many others.

* The riots exposed the alienation of many young people.

Teachers will continue to work hard to encourage our school students to make the most of their talents - rather than get caught up the dead-end of rioting.

But we will also expect politicians to do more than offer hypocritical lectures on 'criminality'. They have a responsibility to provide the jobs and training that can offer young people a real future when they leave school.

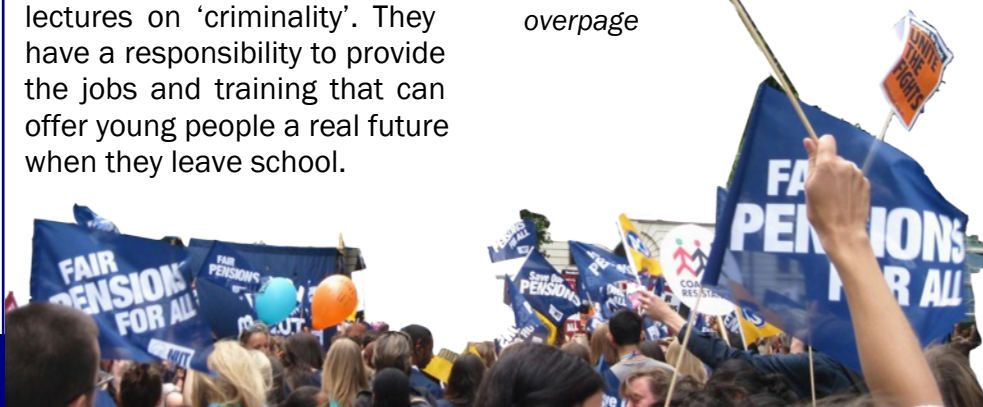
* Oliver Letwin, in charge of the Government's privatisation plans, disgracefully suggested that teachers and other public sector workers needed to be motivated by "fear" of losing our jobs.

Schools have been blighted for too long by a bullying regime of league tables and inspections. Staff work best through support and encouragement - not fear. But we need to take this warning very seriously.

Alongside privatisation and attacks on pay and pensions, the Government is planning to scrap the existing limit on classroom observations and make it easier for schools to bully teachers out of their posts. This will be another key battle in the year ahead.



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... PREPARE FOR FURTHER ACTION THIS TERM ...

* Danny Alexander, in charge of the pensions 'negotiations' with unions, released a statement at the end of term making clear that "the Government remains committed to securing the full Spending Review savings of £2.8bn (by) 2014-15".

If the Government is determined to impose a financial straitjacket in this way, there can be no genuine negotiations on offer. It means that Ministers are only prepared to discuss exactly where the cuts should fall! As July's joint ATL/NUT/UCU statement explained "without real negotiations on this key issue, these talks will be a sham - the only issue to be decided being how much more teachers will pay, and how much longer they will have to work to secure inferior benefits".

* The Government then went on to propose how much more we will have to pay from April 2012 - as they phase-in increased pension contributions. They would rise from 6.4% of salary to 7.6% for teachers on the mainscale and to 8.0% for teachers earning over £40,000. This, of course, while our annual pay rises are frozen despite inflation standing at 5% per annum.

As the NUT press release said in response, "There is no surprise in this announcement. It has been obvious from the start that the Government had no intention of listening to reason, and has been determined to implement changes to public sector pension schemes regardless of whether they are necessary or not".

But the press release also rightly concluded: "We cannot allow this ruthless dismantling of our public sector pensions to go ahead ... We will be working alongside other teaching unions and the TUC to ensure that teachers and public sector workers are not penalised by a Government which appears to be determined to wreck havoc on a pension scheme that is sustainable, affordable and fair... NUT members have taken strike action before to defend their pensions and will do so again if the Government does not see sense".

Mary Bousted, ATL General Secretary, has also been quoted in the press this week warning that the ATL are having to prepare for further action.

As the joint ATL/NUT/UCU statement made clear at the end of last term: "If the government will not budge from its current position those trade unions who have already taken action will, with regret, need to consider taking further industrial action in November".

The NUT Executive will be meeting shortly before the TUC Congress on Friday September 9th to discuss the latest developments and to prepare those plans for further co-ordinated action.

However, further strike plans should not just involve the unions who took such solid action on June 30. We must call for other unions - in education and beyond - to join with us in a joint show of strength that will make absolutely clear to the Government that we aren't going to accept their plans to make us pay more to get less pension when we retire older.

The NSSN Rally and Lobby of the TUC on September 11th is an excellent opportunity to prepare for the term's battles - and to put pressure on the TUC to help co-ordinate the strongest and widest action possible in defence of public sector pensions - get there if you can !

 nationalshopstewardsnetwork

STOP PUBLIC SECTOR CUTS! DEFEND PENSIONS, JOBS AND SERVICES!



lobby the TUC to call a

24-HOUR PUBLIC SECTOR GENERAL STRIKE

11 SEPTEMBER, ASSEMBLE 1:30PM

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, 173 EUSTON ROAD, LONDON, NW1 2EJ

FOR PRE-LOBBY RALLY

the event is supported by the following trade unions:



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Classroom Teacher

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by, and for, classroom teachers
... voicing the concerns and
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... to share your views about the pressures teachers face
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