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POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF CPSA

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Forward Battle Group Capitulation

COMMUNIQUÉ # 1112 MONDAY 19 MAY

**UNITY! FREEDOM! SOCIALISM! - ONE CIVIL SERVICE UNION, ONE GLORIOUS DESTINY!**

# Don't say we didn't warn you

## Round & About

By Judas Iscariot

Soaring temperatures and not a cloud in the sky as delegates pour into Brighton for what could be the last time for our union if the grandees get their way. Unfortunately MARK SERWOTKA won't be joining us for this auspicious occasion as he is, sadly, back on the sick list awaiting major heart surgery. His place will no doubt be ably covered by Monsieur CHRIS BAUGH for the duration. But while the grandees celebrate their first ever clean sweep in the national elections - just in time to turn out the lights - conference itself may not go entirely the way they've planned.

The Socialist Party stalwarts, who along with the cabal of senior full-time officials, have been the driving force behind the so-called merger with UNITE, clearly expected a shoo-in for the takeover motions which will be discussed and decided on Wednesday. But resistance is growing following open revelations available on the UNITE website (openness regrettably not matched on pcs.org.uk) that show the reality of what's on the table, as opposed to the rose-tinted beer-goggle view from Falconcrest.

At a meeting of the Unite Special Executive on 17th April 2014 the terms for a "transfer of engagements" (i.e. a *takeover not a merger*) from PCS to UNITE were discussed. Straight from the horse's mouth (you can't make this shit up):

*"Following a decision of the Executive Council, informal talks have been taking place with PCS on exploring a transfer of that union's engagements into Unite.*

*Unite's team has included the Chair of the Executive Council, executive officers and senior lay colleagues. PCS's team has been led by its General Secretary and has included lay EC members. The talks have covered the constitutional, industrial, political and administrative questions which would arise from joining Unite.*

*Separately, the Executive Director for Finance has met his opposite number at PCS to consider financial, pension and property issues.*

*On this basis, there seems to be no impediment to opening formal talks on a transfer of engagements which would bring PCS into Unite. Specifically:*

***No significant revision of Unite's rules would be required and the transfer of engagements will be on the basis of our existing rule book.***

*Subject to the resolution of pensions issues between PCS and the Pensions Regulator, there are no obvious financial issues that would obstruct a transfer (due diligence will nevertheless have to be completed before any final agreement is brought before the Council).*

*No change to Unite's political affiliations will be sought or considered in the context of the formal discussions*

*Short-term transitional arrangements will suffice to ensure the full and complete integration of the PCS membership **into Unite's existing structures***

*In this context, and bearing in mind the significant industrial, organisational and political advantages that would accrue to Unite as a result of such a transfer, in terms above all of the consolidation of fighting trade unionism across the public sector, it is recommended that authority be given to open formal talks with PCS to that end". LEN McCLUSKEY*

(emphasis added – bold bits are what makes this a take-over, on Unite Terms, rather than a merger on nominally "equal" terms. It means the complete dissolution of PCS and ALL its structures. Oh, and the minor impediment implied by the pensions issue has already been eliminated, less than a month after he made that statement!)

The website also reveals LEN's anticipated timetable for the putsch:

*Report on progress to PCS conference in late May, seeking approval to call a special conference later in the year*

*Once there is a specific proposal, UNITE EC decides whether to proceed*

*PCS special conference around July-August decides **whether** to ballot PCS members*

*PCS ballots its membership around September*

*PCS joins UNITE from January 2015*

So, it all appeared to be going without a hitch, but at the eleventh hour, two related fringe meetings have been arranged for today which will start asking some of the right questions. And at least two emergency motions opposing the merger have been submitted to Conference, presumably, on the grounds that the NEC's presentation of the facts is clearly incomplete and fails to spell out what the take-over will mean to the ability of the average activist to protect the interests of the average member. The NEC has yet to decide on its advice to Standing Orders but there are suspicions that they will argue that they are not *proper* emergency motions and rule them out of order.

For those who give a shit about the political lie of the land under your prospective new owners, UNITE is dominated by the UNITED LEFT which has 43 seats on the 62 seat Executive. This is LEN McCLUSKEY'S own faction and our LUNITY grandees would soon feel at home within it. The UL is supported and staffed by LEN's own followers both within and without the LABOUR PARTY along with those of the SOCIALIST PARTY and the COMMISSARS.

Needless to say there's no place whatsoever for whatever's left of 4TM in UNITE. But the PCS DEMOCRATS have lashed up to the rival UNITE NOW, a mainstream LABOUR bloc which holds 11 of the EC seats and is essentially a medium to advance the prospects of wannabe general-secretary SIMON DUBBINS, who hopes to throw his hat in the ring when LEN takes his peerage from an incoming MILIBAND government.

The INDEPENDENT LEFTS could possibly link up to the GRASSROOTS LEFT led by maverick TROT JERRY HICKS, who is backed by the SOCIALIST WANKERS and comes nowhere in the polls. You can meet JERRY himself as he is down here to voice his own opposition at one of the fringe meetings. That's if you can guess which one he'll be at. They've cleverly been organised to run at the same time (6pm) in the Friends Meeting House and a couple of hundred yards away in the Gresham Room @THE OLD SHIT. So if you guess wrong you can sprint to the alternative venue before the introductions are complete.

The SOCIALIST PARTY has imposed a three-line whip on all their delegates to support the takeover motions on Wednesday. But LEFT UNITY isn't just the SP and the remainder have a free hand unless bound by branch mandates; and, of course, everybody's got a free hand on the Bootle Taxes Emergency Motion against the putsch – which will be heard first; if at all.

Are you listening at the back? We'll be setting a test this year. So pay attention.

The other part of the Democracy Alliance, the high-caste PCS Democrats and what's left of the Commissars are supporting the UNITE takeover. But the PCS Democrats (prop: IAN ALBERT - 58 Today. Happy Birthday Ian) have gone one stage further in issuing a joint statement with the Unite Now faction which gives "qualified support" for the so-called merger. They coyly say:

*"Draft proposals for post-merger new public sector structure within UNITE already exist and there are some interesting aspects - particularly in relation to the future of sector conferences. However, it is essential that any new structure meets with the agreement of members that will be in the new structure and that it is primarily focused on their industrial needs and interests. It must not be put together simply to further the internal interests of any political factions;*

*"In an organisation of this size it is not acceptable that the only full-time officer elected position is that of General Secretary. If a merger is agreed, both PCS Democrats and UniteNOW will work together to develop proposals for a **future Rules Conference** that aim to increase the number of elected senior officials as well as the accountability of existing national and regional officials. This is already policy within PCS".*

But McCLUSKEY has made it clear that this is not going to happen and the only way ALBERT can possibly achieve any of these lofty aims is by kicking out the merger proposals on the table and starting all over again.

The SOCIALIST WANKERS and CHARLIE McDONALD'S wing of the INDEPENDENT LEFT have come out against the takeover and they are being backed by a number of mavericks like DAVE VINCENT and a handful of 4TMers at Conference.

There are even traces of dissent within UNITE. Some of their movers and shakers are concerned about the possible hidden costs of taking over the PCS pension black hole and other are questioning the wisdom of incorporating a significant bloc of members who are not affiliated to the Labour Party.

But there's a general consensus in support of the takeover because it gives them everything they could possibly ask for. UNITE gets the lucrative Falconcrest and Victoria offices and the subs cash-flow which easily out-weighs the PCS pension liability. UNITE'S millions will ensure that our full-timers can sleep safely in their beds assured of the fact that their seat on the gravy train is protected for as long as possible. But there's no similar guarantee for the admin workers at Falconcrest and some UNITE insiders believe 75 per cent of them could go. Even if they are unable to sell Falconcrest (which has a charge on it for the Pension Fund), it could easily replace an existing UNITE building which could itself then be sold for a fat profit.

Under UNITE rules the PCS rank-and-file would be subsumed as one more industrial sector in the UNITE colossus. The "commercial" i.e. privatised companies whom PCS represents would be slotted in to existing sections of Unite and a new Civil Service industrial sector would be formed with a bi-annual weekend conference of about 80 delegates, alternating with the bi-annual Unite National conference. The new sector would probably qualify for 2 – 3 seats on the Union Executive Council. Delegates might be tempted to reflect on what that prospective dramatically reduced democratic structure implies about the value of their present contribution.

Existing PCS branches will likely be converted into UNITE “industrial branches” - nothing like as close to the members or as active as our existing branch structure - and whose lay officers will be expected to handle all negotiations with Management without HQ support even though most have neither the training nor the experience to take on this role. Nor can they expect UNITE’S massive membership to rally round in their defence if Management turns nasty – remember GRANGEMOUTH?

Meanwhile the vultures from UNISON are circling on the lookout for some easy pickings. UNISON was granted national civil service negotiation rights by the Government in January even though it only operates in the shared services sector and amongst senior NHS managers (where they organise in a joint venture with the high-caste FDA). But they’ve always had greater ambitions. Their organisers see the vast number of low caste non-members as potential recruits to a union which can supply all the “services” PCS provides with the added bonus that its leadership is averse to any industrial action apart from bread-and-butter local disputes.

Some Unison activists therefore believe that the inevitable disorientation that would follow a UNITE takeover will create the conditions for large-scale poaching of former PCS members as well. Unison officials are apparently warning their local reps not to jump the gun but wait to see what happens over the course of LEN’s timetable.

And that’s how the Civil Service Trade Unions finally died folks. And we were there...

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## PFLCPSA NEWS

But comrades, let us not be down-hearted. One total catastrophe like this is just the beginning!

Well we did try to warn you. Now it’s all going pear shaped and nobody’s even doing the headless chicken dance, let alone peddling constructive opposition. Will the turkeys wake up and realise they’re about to vote for Christmas? The countdown has begun.

As this probably is the last year of your trade union career (except, of course, for the chosen few) you might as well go out with a smile in your heart and a song on your face. We’re here to observe. Year 37 of our glorious reign looks like being the year we outlived our audience. How the fuck did that happen? Of course, it goes without saying, we’ll turn up here next year and for years after that, whether or not you lot choose to join us. We’re here for the craick and that ain’t going nowhere.

Still, while you’re hanging around, you might as well make yourselves useful. Keep your eyes, ears and other appropriate orifices open for data, be it tittle or tattle, or even actual news, which may be of interest to your fellow sufferers at this sombre gathering. Then pass it along to one of the accredited Imams in or near their usual habitat. They’ll see it gets to the right people. And for a small consideration, they’ll keep your name out of it.

A similar gathering of unsavouries can be found lowering the tone at the OLD SHIP around the 10 pm mark so if you miss them during office hours, be sure to turn up later for the free drinks and buffet. With your wallet. Late news can be delivered up till stupid o-clock using [dropbox@pflcspa.com](mailto:dropbox@pflcspa.com) . Special agents should use the secret unregistered mobile phones as per the training manual.

Financial contributions of all shapes and sizes are welcome. This year’s T-Shirts are available in all colours including white and we’ll settle for £10, whatever the size. And we’ve **still** got some **Self Immolation Starter Packs**, at a solidarity pound apiece, for those who want to go out with a bang.

So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just  
Matthew 13:49 KJB Cambridge