

WORKERS'



LIBERTY

postalworker

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A DEAL? BUT WHAT IS IT?

ON 12 December, CWU negotiators announced to the world that they had a deal on pay, Major Change and London Weighting. As the days pass, we the members still haven't got a clue what's in it.

First Deputy General Secretary (Postal) Dave Ward presented it to the Postal Executive. Former London Divisional Rep Norman Candy was responsible for press-ganging Exec members into supporting Ward. The vote was 18 to 1 in favour of the deal. Some of the members expressed reservations but voted for it "for the sake of unity" - sounds like the unity of the grave!

Does Dave Ward expect the Postal Exec to act as a rubberstamp for his decisions? And the membership to rubberstamp them in turn? It looks like that is what he expects when the (no doubt impenetrable) agreement lands on the doormats in the mem-

bership ballot promised for January. Many members won't bother returning the ballot forms.

Precisely the same method used with the Way Forward! John Keggie is dead, long live John Keggie!

The intention of this procedure is clearly to create the impression in the minds of postal workers over Christmas that the whole thing is a done deal. Meanwhile all we have to go on is rumours.

APPARENTLY the agreement on deliveries is pretty much based on the local managers' savings targets announced just before the National Pay Ballot.

This would represent a fantastic squandering of the opportunities created by the unofficial strikes. Why should we accept what our local DOM tells us we can afford to give up? He's not the one going to be the one taking the work out.

As for Mail Centres, Postalworker hears that their deal is even shoddier.

And no money for London Weighting will be paid until April 2005.

The effect on jobs will be worst in London. So how is it that the London Divisional Reps could endorse this stitch up? Where does their loyalty lie? With Dave Ward or with their members?

At union HQ, one bureaucratic machine has been replaced by another. It is up to us, rank and file postal workers and our colleagues in other unions, to resist job cuts and fight for real improvements in pay and conditions.

SECRET SCAB OFFICES?

RUMOURS have been circulating about Royal Mail setting up secret sorting offices to be staffed entirely by casuals and specifically designed to break strikes. Obviously they're not that strapped for cash if they can afford to run these sweatshops and fill them with workers with no rights paid a pittance by agencies to whom RM pays a fortune. This is a disgrace, and must be exposed. We should demand that the national union launches an immediate investigation, and publicise the results as widely as possible.

WHO WE ARE

THIS bulletin is written by postal workers who are members of the Alliance for Workers' Liberty, an organisation fighting in the unions and the workplaces for a socialist alternative to both capitalism and Stalinism, based on common ownership and democracy.

Postalworker stands for a decent pay rise for all postal workers and an immediate 35-hour, five-day week for all with no drop in pay. We are for a major increase in full-time and permanent jobs in the post office, against any sort of privatisation, and for public ownership with democratic workers' and users' control.

Want to get every issue of Postalworker sent to you? Send us a fiver (cheques payable to AWL). We welcome and will publish reports from all postal workers. So get in touch!

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