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The growing public storm about the Vestas closure puts pressure on a Government about to face a general election and anxious to rally its diminished support.

For the last 12 years, the New Labour leaders have treated the trade unions which have provided the bedrock for the Labour Party with contempt. Now, shaky, they are more vulnerable to trade-union pressure. Several big unions have backed the Vestas workers. If Unite, the biggest union, would clearly back the workers' demand for nationalisation, that would add further pressure.

Energy minister Ed Miliband feels he has to write excuses in the Guardian. That tells you that he is under pressure. He knows it makes no sense to project 7000 new wind turbines in Britain and simultaneously to allow the closure of the country's only wind turbine blade factories.

It makes no sense to hand out Government money to Vestas bosses, and simultaneously to say that nothing can be done to save the Vestas jobs.

Organisation, and still more organisation, drawing the maximum number of Vestas workers into active control of their own struggle, and imaginative tactics capable of keeping Vestas bosses and the Government off-balance, are can raise pressure to a level that can make the Government budge.



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A series of discussions organised by AWL. All welcome. A pack of readings is available for these discussions, covering the 1936 Flint occupation, the big wave of factory occupations in Italy in 1920, summings-up by Leon Trotsky, and pointers from recent experience in the USA and Canada. It is in the new issue of Solidarity.

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