

Date: 8th July 2010

It's Time!

Many of you will be aware of the enormous media frenzy that is being directed at those of us who work in the Civil Service and the public sector, where the UK's financial problems have become something we are responsible for.

It's time for the Forestry Commission Trade Unions to campaign to protect

- our jobs,
- our standards of living, and
- our future pensions.

How - did the blame shift from the bankers and the speculators who made millions from the risks they took and the opportunity to play fast and loose with this country's economy, whilst those responsible for regulation stood by and watched it happen.

Why - does the public sector all of a sudden have to pay the price for this ineptitude brought about by many of the richest people in Britain?

Because - the coalition government has decided that the media must be right in its assessment and the only way to overcome the deficit is to get rid of 750,000 jobs in the public sector; including the Civil Service. It's not enough that jobs will be lost, *probably for good*, but those people who are left behind will have to face further punishment by the freezing of their pay for at least two years.

If we look at the reality, the pay freeze alongside rising inflation means that we will be looking at pay cuts. This will make it tougher for each of us to maintain a reasonable standard of living and will reduce our ability to weather any financial storms in the future.

Every time our pay is curtailed, the value of our pension is reduced as a direct consequence. The media has again decided that our pensions are too expensive and need to be cut with the result that the coalition government has agreed again with the media hype and so have launched an attack on our pensions.

This means more punishment for all of us because of the actions of others.

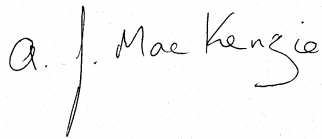
The government has now also decided to attack the trade union movement by moving forward hastily and ill-conceived legislation that will prevent you from asserting your democratic rights in being a union member.

There is a lot to consider today and as a member, you will need to decide if the rights you have worked hard to achieve are worth fighting for and to ask yourself **what you are prepared to do** about this relentless attack on you, your family, and your future.

We need to show solidarity with our fellow union members across GB because it is not only the Civil Service that is being attacked but all public servants and the valuable service that our colleagues and we provide.

It is time to start the campaign, how that campaign will look and be taken forward is up to you, all your ideas, views, and suggestions will be considered and acted upon where appropriate.

Don't be complacent, don't hide away, and don't leave it for others this is all about you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "a. j. MacKenzie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'a' and 'j'.

Allan MacKenzie
FCTU Departmental
Trade Union Secretary
By email