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## **Expropriate the Bankers! Expropriate the Financiers! Expropriate the Capitalist Class!**

There is no denying that the current economic crisis is the biggest since the great depression. Throughout the world trillions of dollars have been handed out by governments to keep the system afloat. The crisis started in America but no country is exempt, not even China. Iceland has effectively gone bust. Gordon Brown has expropriated Icelandic funds in British Banks in retaliation for British money lost due to the collapse of Icelandic banks.

In America George Bush handed out the billions to the big end of town. All except the bank Lehman Brothers were saved. In Britain Gordon Brown has gone further and nationalised the Royal Scottish Bank and well as handing out the billions.

George Bush gave out the money on advice from treasury who warned that if he didn't the whole economy would collapse. Both aspiring US Presidents John MacCain and Barak Obama voted for the hand out. Yet Bush's first-offer was rejected by Congress. There was bi-partisan support but there was also bipartisan opposition. Eventually an amended version was carried.

The ideological basis of the opponents varied. Some considered this to be socialist. Well it isn't! Since when does socialism mean giving money to capitalists to prop up capitalism? Some insisted it meant propping up inefficient business practices. Some thought this meant reinforcing sinful practice. Some said why should the big end of town get money when those thrown out of their homes get nothing!

Once upon a time many supporters of Bush talked about the perils of government intervention, to assist anyone, rich or poor. Now, with survival of the system at stake, all ideology is thrown out the window. Capitalism comes first no matter what!

This crisis is an ideological crisis for the new right. Previously their explanation for crisis was that it was the price of propping up the inefficient, businesses and inefficient individuals through welfare. Government assistance to companies was, according to them a disincentive to companies investing in the latest technology and utilising "efficient" work practices.

What "efficient work practices" means is paying low wages, and providing poor working conditions and sacking as required for the sake of profit. Of course unions are not permitted! The new right want no or minimal welfare because it comes from taxpayers money and the lack of welfare means workers are forced to accept poor pay and conditions or its out the door to starvation.

In the past two decades the new right agenda appeared to work. There has been no serious crisis some time. Yes there has been poverty but this does not concern business as long as there are of its to be made.

Now no one can say that if you leave business to tell that you will get a crisis free system. government handouts, and regulation are on the agenda for virtually every government in every country. The difference is in degree.

In Britain, for the first time since the fifties the government led by Gordon Brown is not just talked about nationalising the banks, it has done so. The Royal Scottish Bank is now in public hands. The point is of course, is not to bury capitalism but to save it. Britain is in recession. Germany is now in recession. Every country in Europe is expected to follow suit. Also Iceland is virtually bankrupt and Gordon Brown has seized Icelandic assets in retaliation to British assets lost in Icelandic banks.

In Australia things are better. This is because Australia is a resource based economy. But make no mistake Australia will suffer. It is expected that one fifty thousand more workers will be chucked onto the dole queue.

Kevin Rudd has not been forced to bail out big bankers. But he does believe in spending to help the economy. Most of his spending has been money for poor people. The main gainers will be first home owners and pensioners. Who certainly could do with more money. He figures that poor people spend more and this stimulates the economy. There is no money for unemployed.

There is however some handouts to business. The preschool enterprise ABC Learning has collapsed partly due to dodgy practices and lack of regulation. The problem is that many parents with an urgent need for child care will find themselves without. The other are of Rudd spending to favour business is in the car industry.

Car manufacturing in Australia has always been inefficient. It has been undercapitalised, poorly equipped and suffers from a small local market. It has been ripe for collapse for decades. Protection and tariffs have maintained this industry in a state of inefficiency. It is useless to give the multinationals that run the show more money. If car manufacturers go broke in America, they will close their Australian operations, no matter what, No Australian government could stop that short of nationalisation This Rudd does not intend to do.

We stress one of the most serious symptoms of this crisis will be one fifty thousand more on the dole queue and this must be stopped. This crisis is not I fault of working people and we must not be forced pay.

Unemployment must be fought. A key demand m be a shorter working week until everyone is employed: a sliding scale of hours and wages. We must spread the work at the boss's expense and n our own. It is outrageous that given this crisis and five percent inflation Rudd does not consider unemployed people worth of a pay rise, let alone a living wage which should be everyone's right.

On the shop floor, every sacking must be fought. [ one should be forced onto the dole queue. This means factory occupations. Required for this are factory committees. Factories should be occupied and placed under workers control.

Rudd has shown his loyalty to the system. To have consistent fight back we must break from Rudd Labor and build a revolutionary communist party committed to consistent class struggle and not helping the capitalist class.

This crisis is not the fault of working people. We m not pay and the bankers, the capitalists, the parasites do not deserve public money.

We say;

Expropriate the bankers, financiers, the bosses and the capitalist class!

### **Barak Obama New saviour for US imperialism**

Barak Obama has been elected US President and the world is excited. He is the first black man to be elected US President and patriots are using this fact to show that US really is the land of opportunity where anyone can achieve this great honour. Of course you have to have millions of dollars and/or millionaires who will back you. But there is no denying that he is a talented politician who has achieved something.

Obama's election sees the USA in the deepest crisis since the great depression. Of course this is true economically. This is also true politically. Bush brought America into an unpopular war in Iraq. It was totally exposed that contrary to Bush, Saddam Hussein did not have weapons of mass destruction. America is also bogged down in Afghanistan. All this is costing billions of dollars and costing thousands of American lives. Osama Bin Laden remains a free man. Bush's promise of hunting down the global outlaw has been exposed as hollow. Bush has been exposed for his failure to rebuild the City of New Orleans devastated by hurricane Katrina.

All this has shattered the faith of millions of Americans in their country. America is also unpopular abroad. The role of Obama is to restore that faith.

Obama stood on a platform of "change". Did he mean it? We think he did. But the change he offers is extremely minimal. Yes, he is offering a few crumbs both to the capitalists and even to the poor. But, basically, the fundamentals remain. America is an imperialist power and Obama supports an imperialist foreign policy. He is a friend of Israel and an opponent of Iran. He supports the war in Afghani which will continue. There is no talk of lifting the blockade of Cuba. And when the imperialist snap their fingers demanding war, Obama will obey

Internally, Obama stands for a more regulated and controlled capitalist system. But it is a capitalist system which he believes in. He claims to support country for all classes. This includes the capitalist. Unlike other politicians he does include the poor. But he wants the poor to unite with capitalists for more humane America.

We of course, cannot support him. We cannot support a candidate linked to the reactionary Democrats. He believes in ordinary Americans but does not believe in class politics. His programme unsupportable anyway, A workers' party is needed. America. We need a party with a programme to overthrow capitalism which is the system millions Americans are victims of. We must not get sucked by the systems' more humane Obama. We must keep up the struggle against imperialism.

### **Lex Wotton Jailed**

It is of no surprise that Lex Wotton was "convicted" and forced to do a six year sentence. We know what side the courts are on. Some will think that six years is a lenient sentence. We don't think he should be doing any time at all. It is right to rise up against poverty and state repression.

When cops killed Doomagee they got precisely what they deserved. No one should be allowed to die in custody whether it is murder, manslaughter or due to lack of duty of care. We think the death of Doomagee was murder. For the first time a copper Sergeant Hurley was charged with manslaughter.

It was no surprise when he was acquitted. We know what side the court system is on as is the Beattie Government..

We salute the heroic Palm Island fighters for taking their stand. They showed an example not just to Black people but proletarians and working people throughout Australia. We salute their courage.

It is therefore the responsibility of all proletarians working people to actively back the Islanders by supporting pickets and protests in defence of Strike action is also required. . The issue must be raised in the union movement as must the Northern Territory intervention. RED acknowledges the support of the Maritime Union of Australia Sydney Branch in providing transport for the Sydney contingent to the Brisbane rally at the start of Wotton's court case. Resolutions have been move in many union in Victoria such as the AMWU. This is a start but at the Melbourne rally in defence of Wotton there were no union contingents.

If we oppose the Howard/Rudd agenda we must stand up both in support of the Palm Islanders and against the Northern Territory intervention. If we are not part of the solution then we are part of the problem. Being part of the problem means poverty Workers' action now to free Lex Wotton!

### **Clifton Pamwal a victim of the Intervention**

Clifton Pamwal a young Black man who lived in the Northern Territory died by his own hand. He was forced to leave his community by the Intervention authorities. The reason for this exclusion was that he was in love with a young woman who was below the legal age of consent. For this he was branded a paedophile. Both he and his partner were in love and married according to their tribal lore. The relationship was totally consensual. Both parties fully understood their relationship. In no way did Clifton take advantage of a younger teenager. But in order for the Intervention forces to be seen to be fighting paedophilia, Clifton had to be punished. He couldn't handle being in a strange community apart from his partner. He therefore took his life.

Clifton's tragedy exposes the barbarity of both age of consent laws and the Northern Territory intervention. Yes there are predatory paedophiles around who take advantage of young people who do not understand. Often these people do emotional harm. But the fact is that young people below the age of consent can take part in consensual sex and should be allowed to do so.

The intervention has not caught any paedophiles of the predatory type. It has only prevented young people from having consensual sex. No predatory paedophile has been arrested.

The Intervention is totally reactionary. In no way will the police state plus welfare quarantining solve the serious social problems faced by those communities. The point of Mal Brough, the Howard minister who initiated the intervention was to destroy Black communities, forcing Northern Territory Black people into the mainstream. This will not solve anything. It will create social alienation and possibly more suicides of those who can't stand big town or city life with no social support. It is the responsibility of unions and working people to oppose and smash the racist intervention.

### **Freedom Socialist Party for "Community control of the police"**

In Australia there are a small group of members of the US based Freedom Socialist Party. The Freedom Socialist Party broke from the Socialist Workers Party in the USA. They claim to oppose

what they call “radical labourism” which means identifying working class with a white male labour aristocracy. They do serious work amongst the women’s, gay, Black and peoples of colour movements.

There is no denying that the FSP do some exemplary mass work in support of the exploited and oppressed, We give them full credit for getting union support for Lex Wotton in Victoria. We have serious differences with them. One of these is their description of themselves as “feminist”. They do this to show that they are for the real proletariat and not the privileged white male labour aristocracy. The real proletariat is more likely to be female than male. But their formulation is an attack on Marxism which is a science not just about immediate class struggle but about explaining social relations in terms of the productive forces i.e. capitalism. It therefore explains the position of women in this context

One blot on their copy book is their call for “community control of the police” This is to be administered by local committees “with teeth”. How do we get these committees in Australia? In no way will the state or federal governments give up their control. Perhaps it might be through an FSP Government? In any case the demand is totally unsupportable.

The whole charter of the police force is to protect private property. So if homeless people squat a house or steal food, they must act. Communists on the side of those without property. Could the police act in a nicer fashion if they were supervised. We doubt that also. Much of what the police force is technically illegal. This includes framing people bashing them in the police cells. They discriminate every day against Black or Gay people irrespective of the Racial Discrimination Act. When they kill in custody they usually get away with it. They get away with because it is they who have effective power. Witness what the Queensland police threatened if Beatie in any way critical, let alone acted against them. It is the cops who control Beatie. There is no way that the cops will concede effective control over to a community.

The thrust of FSP propaganda is to divert people from opposing the police force to wanting to reforming the force -- to humanise it. This is a dangerous dead end; The state, including the police force, is an instrument of white racist ruling class power. This won’t change until we smash it.

## Nathan Rees Horror Budget for New South Wales

On the brink of a recession, it is now fashionable for governments to spend. They argue that spending stimulates the economy. This is not true for the Rees government of NSW which has just brought down a horror budget. Which any card carrying economic rationalist would be proud of. It is even to the right of what is demanded by the Chamber of Commerce . Through the Budget Rees has satisfied nobody He certainly has antagonised working and middle class people who will suffer in many ways.

Gone is free transport to school. Deferred is lemma’s plans for railway routes to north west and south west Sydney. There is a new tax if you wish to cross the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Necessary spending on hospitals will also be deferred. Nurses and doctors are seriously overworked and this will continue often at the expense of patients.

Rees appears to be in love with the states' AAA credit rating which the state government holds with pride. Rees is effectively putting bankers before people. We are suffering to maintain this rating. Once again Labor is putting subservience to capital before working people. Rees points to the recession as an excuse. But it is now that we must spend before the recession hits harder. We need transport health and schools. When the recession hits harder we will have even less money for these necessities.

Labor is guilty of incompetence but it is not totally responsible for this mess. NSW has got a raw deal from the Federal government. The NSW has been banking on money from building but the building boom has gone but NSW has a high population but the boom in the economy is based on resources which NSW has less of than Queensland or Western Australia.

Working people are not responsible for this situation. We should not pay! We must organise against Rees, cut backs. This is another example of Labor serving capital. Workers should break from Labor and build a revolutionary communist party committed to class struggle