

BRANCH SECRETARY'S REPORT TO BRANCH MEETING
4TH DECEMBER 2008.

My arguments for voting **NO** to Pension Scheme changes.

A. BT Pension Review

The TFSE is recommending BT's proposed changes to your Pension Scheme(s). It is difficult to reconcile their decision in the context of protecting and promoting your interests.

At a fundamental level **YOUR PENSION** is **YOUR DEFFERED PAY** and simply put BT wants to cut your deferred pay. I have no hesitation, therefore, in recommending that you **VOTE NO** to the cut, in the Union Ballot and also in the BT consultation exercise.

If you agree to the Pension changes it will mean:-

- **Reducing YOUR PENSION by up to 25 % if you retire before 65.**
- **Reduced Pension Benefits under career average earnings.**
- **Increased contributions for a REDUCED PENSION**

The proposed changes are the result of BT's mismanagement of the Company and failing to meet its financial commitments to the Pension Scheme whilst Senior Management rewarded themselves with extravagant bonuses for abject failure.

In the Macro analysis **Capitalism is incapable** of addressing the issues of **Fairness, Equality and Justice.**

It is precisely because of the failure of Capitalism in an unregulated marketplace that we find ourselves in a recession heading towards a deflationary period of slump.

Why, then, should we accept that cuts to our Pension benefits to miraculously increase the shareholder value of the Company is to our benefit? **Surely the Pension Scheme is OURS** to ensure a **POVERTY FREE FUTURE! NOT MAKE THE RICH RICHER!**

B. What is to be done?

- 1. Vote NO to the changes.**
- 2. The Union must now launch an immediate campaign to seek a clear definition of who owns the pension scheme. That should be Pension Fund Subscribers i.e. US.**
- 3. We must fully explore the feasibility of using the Pension Fund to obtain a Majority Shareholding in BT PLC to pave the way to RE-NATIONALISATION.**
- 4. We must put the Re-Nationalisation of BT PLC & the Telecommunications Sector of the economy as our number 1 priority. It should be clear to all that CAPITALISM HAS FAILED, it is a pernicious and unjust system penalising the poor and leeching off workers to make those so-called expert captains of industry who have caused the problems even richer.**

By Re-Nationalising the Telecoms Sector, Government will have the benefit of surplus profit to invest in Social Justice Programmes and not bailing out the rich.

(VOTE NO, YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE!)

David Bell

CWU

Northern Ireland Clerical Branch

Branch Secretary