

POSTHORN

BOURNEMOUTH & DORSET AMALGAMATED BRANCH



NORTHAMPTON BRIEFING REPORT

Wednesday 1st October/ Thursday 2nd October 2008

The briefing covered a number of important issues Pensions, Future of Royal Mail, Modernisation, Mail Centre Closures and Employee benefits. There was a lot said at this 2 day briefing much more than can be put into a report like this so I have picked out the main points.

Hooper Report

The Hooper Report on the review of the post Office was due out in the middle of October and he was hopeful that there was a great deal in the report that the CWU

would welcome. When the report is published it will be up to the Government to implement it or not. The CWU will be pressing the Government to make the changes we believe are in the best interest of the business and the members.

Someone who is 40 years of age with 20 years of service could lose 19% on their lump sum and pension.

Pensions

This is the biggest single issue which we face. We must get the changes that have been put into place amended. Someone who is aged 40 with 20 years service could lose 19% on their lump sum and pension. This is not acceptable. The Gov-

ernment must intervene and help with the deficit which could be as much as £5.5 billion by next year. Lots of things have been going on at a national level with lobbying of the Government and MPs of all parties. We have the backing of a number of these. John Hutton who is the Secretary of State for In-

dustry with responsibility for the Post Office has said that he recognises that the Government has to intervene. This campaign will be stepped up when the Hooper Review is published as Pensions is part of the reviews remit. Lots more information will be available over the next few months.

October 2008

Special Edition

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Special points of interest:

- Dave Ward speaks about getting everyone on £400 a week & 35 hour week.
- Ray Ellis is confident that a good package will come out of MTSF review.
- Billy Hayes is talking with Ministers and is confident that the Hooper review will aid us in our battle against Postcom.

Our Own Agenda



Dave Ward-Deputy GS Postal

Dave said that we have to be pushing our own agenda and not just responding

to theirs. This includes higher basic pay, £400 should be achievable on a 2 year pay deal. It may mean that an element of simplified pay. Shorter working week, 35 hour week would be in line with other industries and also would save jobs. Colleague share monies should be used to gain real long term benefits in pay. It

had to be recognised that job and finish will soon be a thing of the past, we need to work the hours we are paid for and we cannot justify this any longer given the state of the business.

35 Hour week would be in line with other industries

Review Of The MTSF



Ray Ellis-Tech & Services Section

Ray said that they had been trying to renegotiate MTSF but RM have been trying to reduce the terms. We will be trying

to improve the benefits for those who wish to stay with the business in pay protection and ETA payments. We are not looking to improve the VR terms. At the moment ETA payments are set at a maximum of £15,000. and only paid over 3 years this will have to be increased. There must be no compulsory redundancies. Redundancy payments are taxed

over £30,000 this figure must be raised. Job offers must be reasonable and job shop must be reinstated for those moving jobs either inside and outside of the business.

There must be no compulsory redundancies.

Allan Leighton had two goals as Chairman of the Post Office that was to privatise Royal Mail and smash the Union.

He has achieved neither. GOODBYE MR LEIGHTON

CWU Activity



Billy Hayes-General Secretary

Billy made the briefing aware of the lobbying and meetings that have taken place over the past months in regard to pensions, future of the Post Office and Reorganisation of Post-comm. Warwick 2 has given a

commitment to a fully integrated and publicly owned Post Office. John Hutton, Industry Secretary, had asked to attend a fringe meeting at the Labour Party Conference and said that he gave a commitment on Pensions. There has also been much lobbying back bench MPs of all political parties. Once the Hooper report has been published the campaign will be stepped up to try and persuade the Government to implement those parts of the review which

benefits the CWU. Allan Leighton has announced that he will be leaving next March his staunchest allies on the Post Office Board have already gone. Allan Leighton had two goals as Chairman of the Post Office that was to privatise Royal Mail and to smash the CWU. He has achieved neither and his decision to bail out gives some indication that the Hooper Review has not given him any opportunity to achieve these goals in the future.

Modernisation

Deliveries

Bob Gibson gave this presentation stating that the walk sequencing project has been put on hold due to the dilemma that this new technology will mean be work going out later. Door to Door items must be put into workload to maintain full time duties. There is a need to look at innovative solutions to maintain work within the business such as looking at at-

tendance patterns ie. 4 day weeks, longs and shorts and more opportunity to have the weekends off.

An agreement is hopefully going to be achieved over the Geo route which may enable us to have a greater say on the set standards ie. Miles per hour. As we have been told that in Belgium there standard walk speed is 2 MPH and ours is 4 MPH.

It was also stated that all delivery offices should be covered by a minimum standards list.



Bob Gibson
Outdoor Section

Modernisation

Processing

Martin Collins said that Royal Mail must come clean about their plans in regard to Mail Centre closures. The piecemeal approach was just causing a great deal of uncertainty and concern within the work force and also the CWU. It seems

quite clear that RM have a plan but are unwilling to share it. There are a number of items included in the criteria for Mail Centres such as geographic location, current and future capacity, transport network and financial viability. The Branch got involved in the debate by highlighting some of the challenges we face.



Martin Collins
Indoor Section

Modernisation

Network

Terry Pullinger was unavailable so Danny Robinson gave the presentation. He said that Network should remain as an end to end service. The network should be a total distribution company which could be used by other companies to

move their goods. There should be a development of the home market and look for markets globally. The network should be a fully integrated set up coordinating air, road and possibly a redeveloped rail network. The Branch entered the debate by saying we were looking to take over the work

at the airport which is performed by an outside company.



Terry Pullinger– Network

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Equality Officer
Luke Brown

Parcel Secretary
Phil Dean

Business Letters Secretary
Brian Street

Area Processing Rep
Ken Hilton

Area Delivery Rep
Graham Hardy

Area Health & Safety Rep
Kevin Fitzgerald

Conclusion

The mood of the briefing was that we can and will win major concessions in regard to pensions. Government holds the key to the future of the Post Office. Back Benchers, Ministers and indeed Gordon Brown have given a commitment to sort out the pension issue and improving the future for Royal Mail. We can and will gain benefit in regard to pay and conditions but we have to accept there will be fewer jobs. There was much talk that MTSF was going to be reduced but Royal Mail have agreed to meet to discuss improvements. It is not go-

ing to be easy to get to where we want to be and we must stick together. There will be a lot of information coming out in the near future please read this and make sure you know what the issues are.

The day after the briefing it was announced that Peter Mandelson had taken over from John Hutton. He is one of the main players in changing the Labour Party into New Labour, along with Tony Blair, so it will be interesting to see where he stands with regard to the Post Office and indeed the

Hooper Report.

It will remain to be seen whether Gordon Brown, having taken Peter Mandelson back in the Government, is a stroke of genius or the biggest political blunder of the century.



Ken Hilton-
Area Processing Rep