

Trade Unions Councils Conference (June 2005)

At the Trades Union Councils conference in Liverpool this weekend the following motion was unanimously passed to urge the General Council of the TUC to take an early decision on ID cards. (The national TUC conference is in September)

Text of the motion:

"This Annual Conference of Trade Union Council expresses its deep concern at the decision of the newly elected Labour Government to prioritise ID Cards in the Queen's speech on 17th May 2005.

"The New Labour Government ID Card proposals are seen as an attack on individual rights and freedoms that could easily lead to institutional discrimination and to unfair and unlawful denial of benefits & services. It is also believed that the proposals will lead to an increase in state control & surveillance over individuals which will go against the European Convention on Human Rights - this is meant to guarantee every person the fundamental right to privacy.

"This will present dangers to marginalised, disenfranchised and disadvantaged people. The cost of providing every citizen with a compulsory ID card will be 5.5billion and each person will have to contribute around 85 for their ID card & passport on top of this - and a vast amount of money is still needed for our education system and health service. On top of these costs will be the cost of policing the many new offences and of correcting the errors. The big Government computer systems are a catalogue of disaster.

"Why does the Government want this ID scheme, it has already admitted that ID Cards won't stop terrorists?

"The answers are probably two fold: -

- i) moving the balance of power further away from the citizen to the state. A step further to 1984 and Big Brother
- ii) The contract to establish and maintain the systems will be worth billions and will almost definitely be awarded to private finance [initiatives ?] probably one of the Whitehall and industry groups such as Deloitte, Capita, EDS, Fujitsu or Siemens.

"This conference urges the General Council of the TUC to take an early decision on ID cards and notes that many Trade Unions have already expressed total opposition also, this includes the PCS whose members would be expected to work on ID cards. We therefore request the General Council of the TUC to make representation to the Government through the Home Office."