

The ideological battle that ordinary people have to win

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I have already referred to [FT columnist Janan Ganesh once](#) today. Let me pick another but from his article, [as it is so telling as to what the dispute with Unite is about](#):

Mr Miliband's biggest idea is "pre-distribution", which seeks to reduce welfare by getting the private sector itself to raise wages at the bottom and narrow pay differentials. That implies more powerful unions. There will also be pressure on him to undo some of the Thatcherite reforms to labour laws. Unions will try to ensure his newly hawkish line on spending does not survive first contact with government.

To calm voters, Mr Miliband must renounce this. He must say Unite is wrong in its ends, not just its means. But it is not clear he believes that.

I am quite convinced Ganesh has given the game away. He does not want wages to rise. He does not want the less well off to have their situation improved. He does not want unions who could demand that. And many in Labour might, unfortunately, agree. And both he and some in labour say unions are wrong to demand fair pay and conditions.

They are wrong.

And unions are right to say they're wrong. And it is a fight the country requires, on this occasion, that unions win.