

Stevie SS

NOTES FOLLOWING THE MEETING ON CENTRAL COUNCIL SPEECH
ON MONDAY, 10TH MARCH WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. DEEDES,
MR. ALISON, MR. LETWIN AND MR. SHERBOURNE

1. What the Government has achieved

We have restored the balance of power away from the State and towards the citizen, because we passionately believed that the State had become too powerful and people were being pushed around. We did this in the face of the greatest odds, constantly fighting against a pervasive attitude that the Government must do more and more. We have moved the whole centre of politics.

Examples:

- trade union reform
- running the finances of the Nation ^{prudently} ~~productively~~
- no financial crises, always leaving some margin so we can plan ahead, never running to the IMF
- giving industry a better chance, leaving it free to run itself, privatisation.

2. The Response of the People

People have responded to the new freedom:

- the response of the workforce in National Freight, Jaguar, Cable and Wireless, Vickers
- productivity increased
- profitability
- trade unionists deciding not to strike
- examples of "no strike" agreements (Money Programme)
- latest IOD optimistic report.

3. BL and international collaboration

We live in a fiercely competitive world. No good retreating into protectionism. If you want to see what British industry would be like with protectionism look at Fleet Street where the technology belongs in a museum.

Companies need to co-operate across boundaries to compete in the world economy. Look at how British inventions, the Comet, Vertical Harrier, Concorde, could not be developed by Britain alone. The same is true of mass produced cars.

Just as some people in industry resist new technology so some people in politics resist new solutions, the solutions which bring success. We have in our midst political Luddites as well as industrial Luddites.

What are people's anxieties about international collaboration with BL:

- (a) that it will not stay British: but look at how long Vauxhall have been here; Hoover has become part of the English language; and look at companies like ICI, Hanson etc. buying American companies.
- (b) that big corporations will stifle small enterprise: but in the U.S., where they have the biggest corporations in the world, they are not in conflict with individual freedom and small businesses, they sustain them. A big M and S brings business to the small shops around it. And those who work for big businesses spend money which helps small businesses.

- (c) that if it's worth buying British, ^{we} should keep it. But it is the new outlets, the investment in R and D and design which new investment from overseas will bring. Without it, a nationalised BL will have to compete for funds against hospitals, schools etc.
- (d) that keeping BL nationalised will be painless. But the taxpayers' pockets are not bottomless. The essential question is how to secure the survival of the company and all jobs in 5/10 years time.

How ironic that people are complaining about the number of suitors BL has. We wouldn't have had so many suitors when Jack Jones was running the country.

What we are talking about is:

- survival
- thinking long-term
- partnership

.../

4. Generosity with other people's money

The Government must never be so generous with taxpayers' money that people have not got enough money to be generous enough for their own families.

If you have earned your own money, you spend it much more conscientiously.

There are some people who are the first to complain about making money and creating wealth; but they are the first in the queue demanding money.

5. Using wealth to help others

Never let it be said that once the wealth has been created we have not provided for those in need (examples: pensions, severe weather payments). But the social services are not free. It costs the average family £X a year for education, £Y a year for the Health Service. And if you are paying for something, you want to get value for money. And people do not think they are.

6. The things that make the mind anxious

(a) Education

People are paying more for each pupil than ever before, and providing more teachers per pupil than ever before, yet too many parents find their children are not getting the education they demand. Money is not by itself the answer (some good independent schools cost less than state schools in ILEA) ~~CHECK~~.

The year of the teachers' strike has left many parents anxious. And even now the biggest teachers' union refuses to have the duties of teachers defined, refuses rewarding better teachers, refuses the means to recruit the subject-teachers we need. At last ACAS are looking at that, and that is a plus. Throughout the strike, many teachers have worked conscientiously and have borne an enormous burden, and we thank them.

(b) Crime

Mention Lord Justice Lane's guidelines on rape; and the latest criminal justice proposals.

- (c) There are certain things the Government can do and certain things the Government cannot do (applies to both education and law and order).

7. Contradictions

People still look to the Government for everything. If something goes wrong, the first thing they do is go on a march, put up a banner, demand more money from the taxpayer.

They ask the impossible:

- they want more public spending, but no more taxation (one week in the year, before the Budget, they call for lower taxes; the other 51 weeks of the year, they call for more public spending)

- they call for more houses for rent, but insist on rent control
- they want more jobs, yet want sanctions against South Africa.

8. Job Creation

Those who talk loudest about creating jobs seem hellbent on destroying jobs: they support economic sanctions, regulations, minimum wages and they want to stop investment in Britain from overseas.

9. Government and Citizen

The job of Government is to be strong enough to do the things it alone can do and then to withdraw to allow people to do what they can do.

We don't seek a standardised society. Yes, people need to conform to certain rules and laws. But the rules are there so that people can then be free to live their own lives in their own way.

Conservatives believe in extending the same freedom to others which we demand for ourselves. Compare this to Socialism in action: on the picket lines during the coal strike, in left-wing councils.

Rev 9/10/77

*There was Law less a man's job for them who
- they in always men on not wanted. The
opportunity society.*

*Choice is not a matter for me, but for anyone. That is real
concern and compassion*

over

PRIME MINISTER

cc. Mr. Alison
Mr. Redwood

Central Council Speech

1. This speech will give you the first platform this year, and the first since Westland, to state clearly the general direction of the Government's policy.

How can you do this?

- (a) by setting out your "vision" (for want of a better word), your "agenda for the nineties".
- (b) by expressing policy objectives in a language people relate to.

2. Let me set out a possible synopsis:

- (i) This Government has been in office for almost seven years ... we have a record of very considerable achievement ... other Ministers have reminded you of our record ... my job is to explain how much more there is to do.
- (ii) The battle to extend individual freedom must go on. Other parties may have their vision of society which they want to impose on people, whether they like it or not. That is a denial of freedom. As Conservatives, we want a free and responsible society in which people can choose for themselves how to live.
- (iii) There are two essentials for a free society: the maintenance of law and order at home, and effective defence overseas.

.... /

- (iv) As they look ahead, people are rightly concerned about the education of their children ... end of teachers' strike, new Education Bill ... need to improve teaching standards and increase parents' involvement ... attack on indoctrination.
- (v) Re-building free enterprise in Britain ... the new jobs being created, greater share ownership ... the hope for the future comes from free enterprise, not from nationalisation [mention of BL?] importance of overseas investment in UK and UK investment overseas (especially for when oil runs out).
- (vi) And it is a flourishing private industry which helps us finance better public services - the health service, social security, help for the elderly.
- (vii) The threat to our freedom comes from socialism - and we can already see "socialism in action".
- (viii) The threat also comes from the SDP and Liberals because they will be prepared to support a left-wing Labour Party if they thought it would lever them into power.
- (ix) Re-statement of "popular capitalism".



STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

4.3.86