

Daily Notes

Supplement

SUPPLEMENT NO. 3

Monday 6th June 1983

SPEAKING NOTE ON CONSERVATIVE POLICY

Throughout this campaign, we have set out our Party's policy for Britain's continued recovery.

We have made clear our priorities for the economy.

- * Action to combat inflation, which is the economic equivalent of cancer.
- * Action to reduce taxation, to get revenues back into the productive sector of the economy.
- * Action to curb government spending - and to eliminate waste and inefficiency.
- * Action to regulate trade unions, so that union leaders do what their members want - not the other way round.

This is the way to make our economy productive and competitive - and it is the only way to create new jobs. We have to produce the goods people want at a price they can afford. There is no realistic alternative. A job created by inflation is like a house built on sand.

We have made clear our priorities for the social services.

- * We will protect the NHS - just as we have for four years.
- * We will act to ensure that the NHS gets value for money, so that resources can be devoted to caring for patients.
- * We will protect the pensioners, the disabled, and the sick - just as we have for the last four years.
- * We will maintain the drive for high standards and good discipline in schools.
- * We will continue to strengthen the police - because that is the way to protect the ordinary citizen.

We have made clear our priorities for Defence and for the Western Alliance.

- * We will maintain the policies that have kept peace in Europe for 38 years.
- * We will maintain Britain's defences.
- * We will maintain Britain's contribution to NATO.
- * We will play a full part in arms control negotiations - but we will not delude ourselves that this will be an easy process: there have been no signs so far that the Russians will make concessions, and far too many signs that the Russians are waiting for the West's weakness to make concessions unnecessary.

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This is the Conservative approach - Britain strong, prosperous and free. We call it the Resolute Approach. But the resolute approach is not only a matter of what Government does - it is a matter of what the people do.

- * Every time a British company goes out and sells in tough world markets - that's the resolute approach.
- * Every time workers and managers pull together to beat the Germans and Japanese at their own game - that's the resolute approach.
- * Every time a British company embarks on a major new investment programme, to equip itself for the challenges of the 1980s - that's the resolute approach.

And this is already happening. World economic conditions have never been harder. But British firms are fighting back.

We believe that by 1979 the British people were fed up with Governments that started on a policy, and then turned tail half way through. We believe that our people were fed up with false hopes - with corners that were never turned, with lights at the end of the tunnel that flickered out long before we got there.

We never sought to claim that recovery would be easy. If there was an easy way, of course we would have taken it. But the British economy was not in need of a couple of aspirins and 24 hours in bed: it was in need of painful surgery. We did not enjoy making this diagnosis - but it would have been cruel and deceitful to allow this country to drift on downwards towards disaster.

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The voters face a clear choice at this election.

- * A choice between economic stability - or renewed inflation.
- * A choice between a free economy - or massive new nationalisation.
- * A choice between trade unions that serve their members - or trade unions that run the country.
- * A choice between value for money in government spending - or wholesale squandering.
- * A choice between realistic partnership in the EEC - or withdrawal, and a massive loss of jobs.
- * A choice between strong defence - or weak defence.
- * A choice, in fact, between freedom and Socialism.

This is the only choice. Third Parties would have us believe that every hard problem has an easy solution. But such Parties can do no more than split the anti-socialist vote and let the Socialists in.

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We believe that on the 9th of June, the British people will make a choice consonant with their traditions and their hopes for a better future.

We believe that they will choose another Conservative Government.