

INDEPENDENCE NEWS POLICY ARTICLE - MARCH 2008

'SINKING BRITAIN AND THE UKIP LIFEBOAT'

At the recent South West Rally, we were all heartened and deeply impressed by the two Young Independence speakers - Laura Moralee and Daryl Scatcherd - our party's bright young future, and the excellent news from Lisa Duffy that we are already up to a hundred members of that group.

But what was most striking to me was that Laura was attracted to UKIP by our... *education* policy. She says she was disenchanted with all the other big parties, read our Education policy on our website, was struck by its common sense, and was amazed a political party was seriously proposing such a far sighted policy. I am told many of our 'Young Indies' think similarly: they want to join a party with a host of domestic policies, alongside our central policy of leaving the EU. They are not alone.

Now I believe, as Nigel quite rightly stressed at Exeter, that we must be positive as a party. So what we need to offer is a broad, distinct, alternative vision to the other 3 main parties.

Over time the choice will become more and more distinct: stay in the EU with the LibLabCon and see yet more powers, freedoms, monies and institutions bled away to a scarcely disguised political superstate - including Westminster itself, as that disgraceful undemocratic vote against protecting the supremacy of Parliament showed on 5th March [Division 120].

Alternatively choose UKIP's vision of leaving the political superstate, negotiating a free trade agreement with the EU, as its single largest trading partner (we had a £40 billion deficit in traded goods and services with the EU in 2007), regain our freedoms and ability to run our own country, restore our borders and put our own hard earned revenues to work to help our own people.

But to be effective we must tackle people's deep rooted fears, whipped up by EU propoganda, and show why an independent Britain is worth believing in.

I am personally inspired by an excellent story by a UKIP member, who worked in Ten Downing Street, and who met the leading US economist Milton Friedman. Freidman invented 'monetarism' - controlling the economy through control of the money supply - which became a guiding principle both of Mrs Thatcher and of Ronald Reagan.

Monetarism triumphed over Keynesism (controlling the economy by managing demand) which used to be believed in by nearly everyone. But at one time the Monetarists and a small group at the Chicago School were considered to be odd, extreme, beyond the pale... fruitcakes even ! And yet there was a tipping point, and Monetarism triumphed to become the accepted ideology of many governments around the world.

Our member asked Milton Friedman: "But how did you persuade them ?", to which Mr Friedman replied: "you know, I didn't persuade anybody. I just provided a lifeboat". He knew that when Keynesism failed, and the ship went down, they had somewhere to swim too. And swam they did, in large numbers.

And that's what I believe UKIP must offer: a lifeboat. An alternative vessel to the Titanic of the EU superstate with its 'unsinkable' boasts, disastrous course and flawed construction. The lifeboat may be small, but it has a clear direction and aim, and can save our nation's people.

It is our policies that will make up the ribs of that lifeboat. So when people turn to us and say, "OK, we now see what you're saying, but how would you go about it ? And what would you do about schools and hospitals and roads ?", then we are ready to provide answers. We know that free of the EU straightjacket we can transform our country for the better in all respects.

So we must tackle Gordon Brown's latest rubbish that "3 and a half million jobs will be lost" if we leave the EU (it's gone up half a million - that must be inflation !), and that we will lose influence in the world, and that peace in Europe will be compromised, and the planet destroyed, and all the other half-baked, half-brained guff that Europhiles claim as serious arguments.

Norway and Switzerland are the wealthiest countries per head in Europe, and they are not in the EU, nor have jobs been lost or peace compromised. As the EU's largest trading partner, an independent Britain would not lose jobs, but gain them by slashing red tape (90% of our economy is nothing to do with EU trade, yet suffers from EU laws), by re-investing funds and growing the economy.

So in our policy programme our aim is to provide a comprehensive, positive, alternate vision of an independent Britain and what benefits this will bring and what kind of alternative nation we could be. And that's exciting, liberating stuff.

We now have Education, Flat Tax, Energy & Environment, Fishing and Defence launched. Following those will be Law & Order and a host of further papers from the target of 18. The mill is rolling !

Every paper is readable on a computer or downloadable ('printable' in English !) from your home computer or your local library if you don't have one. It will be in the same format, albeit allowing the freedom for diverse approaches within the main papers.

Do please use these policies - as they are our 'official' policy line - in letters, articles, at speaking engagements, on local media and for local leaflets. The more we can convey our alternative vision - that lifeboat - the greater will be our impact as a political party. We will become relevant right across the board, not just be confined to the 'Europe' pigeon hole, and will go a long way to attracting many more impressive people like Laura and Daryl to our cause.