

The **Big** interview.....

This month Michael interviews UKIP's Deputy Leader, **David Campell-Bannerman**. David is a former Chairman of the Conservative Party think tank The Bow Group and he was also Special Adviser to Sir Patrick Mayhew while Sir Patrick was Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. David was forthright and open which made for a very interesting interview indeed...



First of all David, why did you join UKIP?

I joined UKIP because the European Union is such a serious, dangerous and overriding threat to the democracy, freedoms and traditions of the United Kingdom, and UKIP is the only Party telling the truth about the issue and standing up for Britain. I love Europe, but I fear the EU.

My enlightenment came on a trip to Berlin as a Conservative Parliamentary candidate. I maintained that the Euro was a political project and was told very firmly by a senior German finance official that the Euro had nothing to do with politics. Sitting next to me was George Osborne, now Shadow Chancellor. Just months later, on the day the Euro was launched, the EU President himself said it was a political project. I was being lied to in a most shocking way - and this in Goering's former Air Ministry building of all buildings, now full now of German finance officials! I came out of that room realising just how dangerous and dishonest the EU threat was, and how this issue transcends 'normal' politics.

What do you think is the most important issue aside from the EU?

All surveys indicate that issues like health, education, crime, immigration and tax sit well above the EU issue in terms of their average level of importance. These policies change position, but they are what ordinary people put as top of their concerns. At the moment crime is vying with immigration at the top, though the NHS will always be key to the British people. As we know though, all of these issues are affected by the EU, directly and indirectly, and the interference is getting worse every day. Having policies in all these areas will dramatise and support the need for Britain to leave the European Union.

What impact has Bob Spink had since joining UKIP?

Bob has had a tremendous impact and we are lucky to have him. As someone who has led the development of involved UKIP's common sense domestic policies, it is very satisfying to see UKIP policy regularly in Hansard for the Commons, as well as the Lords. Bob is a very active MP and he joined the Party because he felt we were more than a single issue party and he liked our policies. This is proven by the passion and energy Bob has brought to UKIP's cause in the House of Commons.

Why did you become Eurosceptic?

I have been getting steadily more Eurosceptic for many years. As far back as 1997 when I was heavily involved with the Tory Party's Bow Group think tank, I wrote a policy paper that was so Eurosceptic in attacking the EU and suggesting ways to return powers home that it was blocked by someone in the Bow Group. They now happen to be a Europhile Tory MP!

Why should young people vote UKIP?

We are the fourth largest political Party in the UK in terms of votes and represent a truly independent voice which sets us apart from the three, what I like to call, "old parties". Our pro-democratic nature seems to me to be very in line with young, independently minded people who tend nowadays to have a total disdain for the three 'old parties'. What UKIP offer is a bold, confident, radical

vision of how our futures could look in a Britain which is independent of the EU, trading happily with our European friends whilst being free to look out anew to the world and Commonwealth. I want our nation back.

What does UKIP need to do in order to grow?

We must become more relevant to the every day anxieties and needs of the British people. We will do this by continuing to develop a range of policies right across the board. The key point in all of our policies is to continually point out that what we propose is only achievable by taking back our independence from Brussels.

If there was one aspect of the EU you'd love to highlight to every single British person if you could, what would it be?

Simply, the truth about the scale of the stranglehold the EU has on Britain - the EU now decides some 75% of the laws we must abide by as British citizens, imposes 120,000 regulations and directives, and costs us 50 billion a year.

What should Young Independence members do to help UKIP move forward?

Please help with Freshers' fairs and representation at other student events! They are key to building awareness of UKIP among young people. It is also important for members of Young Independence to stand in elections and support the Party by campaigning. Fit, enthusiastic people are vital when it comes to spreading our message!

I'd like to finish by just pointing out once more that by leaving the European Union we can take back control of our laws, not just the 25% in Parliament now, recover £50 billion in costs, including a £15 billion gross cash contribution, and have the freedom to scrap 120,000 regulations and directives that we must abide by as a result of our EU membership. This is something only can UKIP do, and I believe that young people and their support for an exciting new future as an independent country will be our salvation.

Many thanks to David for taking part in 'The Big Interview'. Next month, Nigel Farage will be in the spotlight so if you have a question for him please email us- youngindependenceditor@ukip.org

About YI

Patron: Lord Willoughby De Broke

Young Independence is the youth branch of UKIP and caters for 16-35 year olds. If you would like to become a member or sign up for this newsletter, or for any other information please contact youngindependence@ukip.org or telephone 07890 110225.

If you would like to give feedback or contributions please email the editors at youngindependenceditor@ukip.org.

You can also visit our website at www.youngindependence.org