

The Caerulean

U C L C O N S E R V A T I V E S O C I E T Y

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Back to the 80's:
[John Phelan](#)

It's never hard to find somewhere in London that is hosting an 80's night. Charity shops are raided for ra-ra skirts and leg warmers so that people can dance the night away to Wham and Erasure. The 80's are back in fashion, but far more than the music and clothes are back in vogue.

To the party-goers rolling their jacket sleeves up like Don Johnson it probably rarely occurs that we face an economic situation very similar to that of the decade of Dynasty and 3 million unemployed. In June, Mervyn King, Governor of the Bank of England, said "The lesson of the past fifty years is that, when inflation becomes embedded, the cost of getting it back down again is a prolonged period of sluggish output and high unemployment. Price stability – returning inflation to the target – is a precondition for sustained growth, not an alternative". This could almost be a justification for the 1981 budget which prompted the famous letter of protest from 364 economists. Like re-runs of Airwolf, monetarism is back.

In the 10 years before Margaret Thatcher's election victory in 1979, inflation averaged close to 12%. Various explanations were put forward. The most popular was the 'oil shocks' of

1973 and 1979 when disruptions in Middle Eastern oil production sent prices skyrocketing. Another was the pay demands of trade unions which brought the country to a shuddering halt in the winter of 1978/79.

Indeed, both of these arguments have echoes today. The rise in oil prices since 2003 has been presented by the government as a major factor in current inflation, and the trade unions are squaring up to Gordon Brown and demanding higher pay to match inflation.

In 1979 the incoming Conservative government largely ignored both of these arguments, armed as it was with the theory of monetarism. Popularised by Milton Friedman, monetarism held that "Inflation is always and everywhere a monetary phenomenon". The key, indeed probably the only, determining factor in inflation was the rate of increase of the money supply.

The money supply is the total amount of money available in an economy at a particular point in time. It includes cash, deposits, checking accounts, liquid assets and much else besides. The exact

make up depends on which measure of the money supply you happen to be using. In essence, monetarism held that if the growth in the money supply matched the growth of the economy then prices would remain stable. If it exceeded economic growth, however, the resulting gap would be inflation. In the case of rising oil prices being a cause of inflation, monetarism held that they were not; that in the 1970's, as now, they were merely price rises reflecting relative demand and supply. Inflation is not the rise in price of particular goods or services, but "the increase in the general level of prices over a specified period"

Likewise, the wage demands of trade unions need not be inflationary. If the government raises wages by £X but raises taxes by £X to cover this, the money supply has not increased, rather a portion of it has simply been shifted from one large and disparate group (taxpayers) to a smaller and more concentrated group (the public sector). If the government funds wage increases by taxation, it will not be inflationary, if it funds them through an increase in the money supply, it will not

only be inflationary but will prompt another bout of demands in the future.

This is what happened through the 1970's. Government expenditure eventually reached the limits that taxation could support with marginal rates of 90%, but even this was insufficient to fund it all. So the government took to expanding the money supply, "printing money" in the popular phrase of the time, which fuelled inflation. And as wage settlements caused further inflation unions came back with further wage demands. This became known as the 'wage-price spiral'. But according to the monetarist doctrine of the Thatcher government and its Chancellor Geoffrey Howe, the inflationary factor was not rising wages but the governments' expansion of the money supply to pay for them.

How relevant is this today? We have inflation albeit not of the double digit variety the Conservatives inherited in 1979. As we have seen, we also have people eager to blame oil prices and public sector wage demands. But what's been happening to the money

supply? Simon Heffer explained back in June.

"There is not inflation because of rising prices, or rising wages... Growth is at present about 2 per cent, and predicted to fall to about 1.4 per cent over the next year. Inflation, on the bogus measure of Consumer Price Index, is more than 3.3 per cent. Even if we believe these two figures, their sum is about 5 per cent. How fast is the supply of money increasing in the M4 measure? More than 12 per cent."

This is the real cause of inflation, now at its highest rate since 1992. Since Gordon Brown ditched the Conservative spending plans he adhered to in the first Blair administration, public spending, as a share of GDP, has risen by nearly 5% of GDP to 42% for 2007-2008. This has been paid for by government borrowing which has produced a deficit of 2.8%. This avalanche of cash has flowed straight into the money supply.

It is likely that an incoming Conservative government in 2010 will have

to deal with circumstances similar in their fundamentals to the situation of 1979. Sadly, the remedy is likely to be similarly painful, with unemployment and higher interest rates. One note of comfort comes from the new monetarist consensus as demonstrated by Mervyn King. It is hard to imagine 300 economists taking up their pens in anger now.

Ultimately it proves the truth of Kenneth Clarke's observation that Labour governments are elected for as long as it takes them to wreck the economy and Conservative governments are then elected to sort it out.

John Phelan

O . B . L a d e n , C a v e 4 , C a v e L a n e , P a k i s t a n / A f g h a n b o r d e r : T o m P a r k i n s o n

So, the conventions are over, the dust has settled and the race for the White House is now well and truly upon us. Indeed, for those of us who take a perennial interest in U.S. affairs, the race is in its final stages. After all, it doesn't seem so long ago that we were forced to contemplate whether 'America's Mayor' was the only obstacle standing between the Clinton electoral machine and a Democratic President.

The race, since those pre primary days, has clearly taken several major twists and turns. However with less than 8 weeks remaining I'd like to put forward my case for one of the party nominees. Of course I can only hope to influence the hypothetical vote, as very few of us are blessed with the appropriate dual nationality - But as

Barack Obama clearly seems to think residents of Berlin can vote - I feel it shouldn't be considered an entirely fruitless exercise to extend that courtesy to those of the UCL Conservative Society.

Now... I'm not going to insult anybody's intelligence - I'd vote GOP if they nominated Newt Gingrich. However there are several crucial reasons why in January 2009 John McCain should be sworn in as the 43rd individual to serve as U.S. President. (Grover Cleveland served twice in non - consecutive terms so technically he'll be the 44th President... just for anyone who cares). Just to be clear one of those reasons is not Sarah Palin; a brilliant electoral choice, but not a genuine asset.

America will face two distinct challenges in its near future. The incoming President and his closest advisors will have an extraordinary affect on U.S. and indeed world, affairs in two principle areas. These are economic policy and international security. Let us examine each in turn.

The BRIC economies are growing at a phenomenal rate at present and show little sign of slowing. Whilst predictions of China being able to consign America to economic obscurity anytime soon are simply akin to leftist hysterical wet-dreams, remaining competitive in a global market is becoming increasingly difficult. Barack

Obama's solution appears to be the most protectionist U.S. policy in a generation. His rhetoric on Nafta is astonishing. No power, not even America, can hope to prosper by erecting trade barriers and existing in isolation. Yes, underlying economic shifts are difficult for communities, but it is a blatant fantasy to propose the recreation of a prior status quo for job opportunities. Resources should be directed to ensure competitive advantage in new industries, via investment in infrastructure and appropriate education, not wasted on propping up – or indeed trying to re-erect – defunct inefficient relics of the past. The former suggestion is exactly the position proposed by the Republican candidate.

The second issue - and focus of this article's title – makes a McCain vote even more imperative. With an increasingly belligerent Russia, an Iran simply hell-bent on acquiring nuclear weapons (there are not many countries less likely to need an energy alternative to fossil fuels anytime soon) and a perennial Islamist threat, the role of the President as Commander-in-Chief has seldom been more important. John McCain has been involved in every major security issue since 1980. He has a continuously honourable record of putting others before himself and his country before his popularity. He argued correctly for the surge and he is the only American political figure to genuinely understand the security threats faced by his nation. Barack Obama's foreign policy experience has come in for much criticism. This is a fair observation but by no means the most concerning.

This accolade of sorts is reserved for Obama's understanding of security issues. His level of knowledge, policy proposals and general statements leave one terrified – there simply is no other word. In his acceptance speech for the Democratic nomination Obama declared that;

'John McCain loves to say he'll follow Bin Laden to the gates of hell, but he won't even follow him to the cave where he lives'

Yes Barack, it's that simple. It's the cave with the two boulders on the right hand side of the entrance with 'Death to the American Infidel' painted in red above the door. Now in fairness one might point to the statement as being a reflection of

McCain's supposed folly in keeping troops in Iraq, thus not allowing them to relocate to Afghanistan. But this logic only serves to further undermine any glimmer of hope we may have had, that an Obama Presidency wouldn't implement several catastrophic foreign policy errors.

If we take the war the U.S. is currently engaged in against all those who take arms around the world in the name of Islamism, the differences of opinion between the respective candidates is certainly manifest. If we take the two most salient decisions any politician has been faced with relating to the conflict – the entry of U.S. forces into Iraq and the subsequent troop 'surge' – I feel we can confidently state on both counts, McCain made the correct long term decisions and Obama did not.

Just to confirm, my previous statement was not an error. Of course, the consensus on the success of the surge leaves that point needing no further explanation. The security situation in Iraq was markedly improved as a direct result of the surge. However further to that I still fervently believe that on supporting the widening of the conflict into Iraq, McCain made the correct decision. Very few people understand the ideological basis of the conflict, even less the genuine causes and fewer still enunciate an effective solution.

The current conflict was launched not by, but against, the West. The beginning of the conflict was certainly not the entry into Afghanistan of coalition forces. I would hope these two statements are alarmingly obvious. However, nor was the beginning of the current conflict September 11, 2001 or even the bombings against U.S. embassies in Africa in the late 90's. The conflict began much earlier with the uprising of the ideology which fuels the violence. That ideology is Islamism. Islamism is a movement which evolved from the writings principally of Sayyid Qutb, Sayyid Abul A'la Mawdudi, Muhammad Iqbal and Jamal-al-Din Afghani. These revivalist writings call for a resurgence and expansion of the Islamic state through any and all means. It is a political movement in principle and not a religious movement. In principle it is nothing more than a reflection of the failures of nationalism in the Arab world. It is simply a power grab. Of course it is logical that this ideology selects as its enemies those nations which embody everything to which it is opposed. However it surely is no error

that the principle enemy should be the most powerful nation on earth which has secular liberalism enshrined in its constitution. Islamists claim they hate America, but if border controls were relinquished 90% would move there. Islamists merely wish to claim America's power for themselves and they abuse a spiritual faith by entwining it with this movement, claiming to be acting on God's word when seeking nothing more than that power for themselves.

But you may ask what does this have to do with a regime which, at least in principle, was itself secular, and a nation which had few Islamist militants present and even fewer wielding any influence?

To label the conflict as a 'War on terror' is factually misleading. The West is not fighting terrorism, as acts of terrorism are clearly not exclusively carried out in the name of some perverse form of Islam. The conflict is being fought against Islamism. However warfare in this case is as much combating the spread of this ideology, as it is launching counter insurgency operations against militants. Thus the West has many lessons to learn from the 'Cold' War and its battle with Communist ideology, particularly in this region. Islamists wish to enact regimes which conform to their understanding, that all law has previously been given, and that man cannot breach those laws, or indeed form new ones. Democracy clearly violates this principle. Thus if we believe in each individual's right to influence the way they are governed, we must seek to halt the spread of this particular form of theocracy. In the past when combating Communism the West enlisted several dictatorial regimes in the Middle East to aid the fight. The sheer absurdity and manifest contradictions of this policy are surely obvious. When promoting the superiority of equality and freedom, the West enlisted the support of regimes almost as antithetical to that ideal as the enemy itself. If liberating peoples around

the world by spreading democracy is the objective, then using dictatorial repressive regimes to fight ones battles is simply counter-intuitive.

The same mistakes cannot be made again. Thus in combating the spread of Islamism the West must seek to aid the spread of democracy in the region. This must not just encompass staunchly supporting the region's only democracy – Israel – but further precipitating conditions whereby democracies can flourish in other parts of the region. The 2003 war in Iraq did precisely this, while freeing Iraq's people to choose their own destiny which 63% of eligible Iraqis did on October 15, 2005. It must surely be clear to all, that a powerful, vibrant and stable democracy will be a far greater practical and moral ally in the fight against Islamism than a repressive dictatorship. Yes mistakes have been made, and no one claims that Iraq is a fully fledged stable democracy as yet, but as McCain has stated if we can make

it so, the region will be a safer place and a key part of the war against Islamism will be won.

Obama's understanding of the issue is so limited it is frightening. Not only does he seem to believe that the entire conflict encompasses fighting Al Qaeda, the Taleban and Osama Bin Laden but nor does he seem to realise that now Al Qaeda operate in Iraq itself. To withdraw now – even if the decision to engage was wrong – would be absurd. Withdrawal should only occur when Iraq is stable and not before, otherwise this manifestly risks the security of Israel and the people of the region as a whole. Yes there are militants in Afghanistan but Iraq is now just as crucial, if not more so, to the geo-political cause. In mis-identifying the enemy, in opposing the surge, in continually calling for an arbitrary withdrawal, in making no clear statement about Georgian sovereignty until 3 days after Russian tanks rolled over the border (an article for another day but still a valid point) - Obama has displayed none of the judgement that the United States so

desperately need in their 2008 – 2012 President.

The Obama campaign seems to sway between announcing dangerously misguided policies and giving speeches completely void of anything other than rhetoric. Rudy Giuliani's speech at the Republican convention summed up the latter when he stated 'change is not a policy, hope is not a strategy.' Unfortunately at present it is Obama's genuine policy pronouncements that should worry us more than his general lack of depth. Still never mind if Obama instils each citizen of the world with enough 'hope' then as world saviour he may really be able to tackle America's complex foreign policy conundrums. Unless of course Osama moves house... or should I say cave, then we'll all be screwed

Tom Parkinson

Nick Clegg, an Appraisal: Dominic Tarn

"Nick Clegg is a pale imitation of David Cameron." Harsh words indeed, from Business Secretary John Hutton, speaking on BBC One's Andrew Marr show, and judging from the questions posed to Nick Clegg, it would seem Andrew Marr would agree with him. John Hutton's opinion of Nick Clegg can not be helped of course by the fact that the Lib Dem leader has proposed scrapping the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, which is headed by, none other than John Hutton MP.

Nick Clegg's proposal may win him a few brownie points with some of the electorate, but I have to wonder at the sense of such a proposal, along with his plans to reduce the number of MP's sitting in the House of Commons, with the hope of assisting the political parties improve their abilities to get

funding, whilst simultaneously reducing the upper limit of funding from an individual to a political party to only £25,000. All part of his aim to make the political system fairer. There was a time, not that many years ago, when the Liberal Democrats looked like a genuine alternative to the Conservative Party. Now, not so much. So why am I bothering making a critique of the threat they may or may not pose to our chances in the next general election? Well, besides being in Canada at the moment, and having the time, it's due to the recent comments Nick Clegg has made at his parties' conference in Bournemouth.

On the Andrew Marr show he stated that the Conservatives "talk the talk, but do they walk the walk?" Judging from the opinion polls I would certainly say we do. But let's take a closer look at his speech. He said New Labour, and the Conservatives

are "dying sparks of a fire that's running out of fuel." Suffice to say, the facts prove otherwise. Both of those parties have ran aground and been resurrected time and again in the last 50 years, at least. The last time the Lib Dems were a viable government forming political party was before World War One. It is true that there is a rise in political apathy, but, with leaders like David Cameron in the UK, and potential leaders, like Barack Obama in the US, I believe amongst people of our generation, that this current apathy will reverse, and is reversing.

We should applaud Nick Clegg however for this: "I hold town hall meetings up and down the country every couple of weeks – where I answer any question, on any topic, and anyone can come along." However, the reason he has time

has time for it is because he is the leader of the third party in our political system. He has the time. I have reason to believe our own leader's workload, and that of the Prime Minister, are both a little . . . busier. The Liberal Democrat leader also has more of a need for this, being that it is harder for him to get his name, and his party into the press, since they are less of an issue in British politics at present.

He then goes on to propose "Transparency. Openness. A new constitutional settlement. And an end to big money politics." If he hasn't yet noticed, politics is an expensive game. However, he stated a while back that the Liberal Democrats are having issue's raising funds, so I think that fact has hit home. The Conservatives are having far fewer problems in that department. It's like the stock market; political parties get more money the more likely they are to win a general election. I don't believe I need to study politics to confirm that one. I do applaud his desire to be more transparent and open - but Cameron has similar plans - and he is more likely to be able to implement them. As for his desire to reconstruct the constitution, well that just sounds like none-sense. Our political system has been this way for centuries yet it is also constantly evolving.

History has proven time and again that violent eruptions can often have a more limited effect than the evolving of a system, or series of systems over time.

And then I found this in his speech, from a man who was rather too frank in an interview with GQ Magazine; "David Cameron wants to mimic Barack Obama and be "anti-establishment." Obama is doing things which have not been seen in decades in a US Presidential election; his style, his speeches, his writings, and his method of fund raising. This is refreshing, whatever you think of Obamas' politics, yet Nick Clegg pores scorn upon it. At the same time, in the UK, Cameron is presenting a viable alternative to Gordon Brown (since New Labour is not so 'new' without Tony Blair); so I do wonder, since Nick Clegg spent most of that speech to his Party Conference talking about how he would be so "anti-establishment," does that in fact make him "anti-anti-establishment," and therefore occupying the normal slot the Lib Dems have for the last, century, almost. That of the third party in British politics? Slightly more respectable and realistic than the Green Party or the other little ones, but not quite so presentable as the opposition. Not a wife or life partner. Not even a mistress. The 'one night stand' of our political system.

Nick Clegg has said he would not want his party to be "an annex of" one of the "establishment" political parties. Judging from the respective chances of the political parties in Britain, I think he would be lucky to get even that much, these days. Reading his speech bored me. His style is lacking in flair or charisma, compared to the political heavyweights who were (or still are) in something of a similar position; Thatcher, Blair, Cameron. A pale imitation indeed.

Dominic Tarn

A Welcome From Your New Editor: Michael Peet

Hullo and welcome to the new faces and of course hullo and welcome back to the old faces! After a long and hopefully relaxing summer I hope that you enjoyed the three excellent articles at the front of this publication and that they have got your political juices flowing! However, I am now going to briefly pause the barrage of comment in order to introduce the new additions that I have made to the Caerulean! It is my intention that you will find the new elements an interesting and stimulating addition.

The first and most provoking addition, is *The Fifth Column*, home to columnists from outside of the party who will try and argue a different point of view

from that of the party. Throughout history people have dreaded the Fifth column, however do not be afraid of this section. Be open minded, read it and most importantly; do not be afraid to agree with it! It is important that there is a large level of debate within our society and this column should help further this atmosphere and ultimately the society.

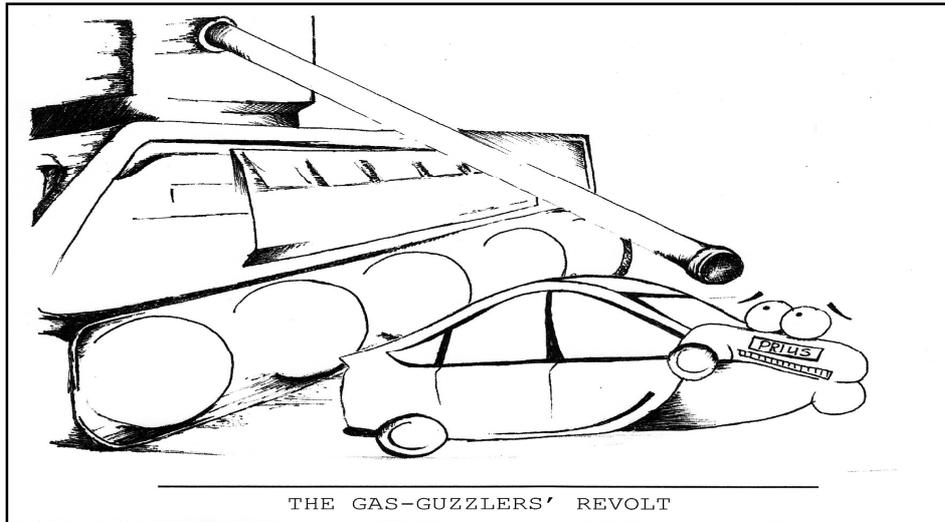
I would also like to introduce you to Amanda Oon, our wonderful events columnists who throughout the year will be making both my and your life easier! She will be covering our events, in the future publications and reporting them back to us every month. I hope this shall fulfil two functions. Firstly it means there will be incisive comment on events

and more importantly, if you miss an event she can fill you in on what you did, or did not miss!

Finally I would like to introduce our excellent artist in residence, Emily Wallis. Who shall be drawing cartoons this year for the publication. They will provide a witty and entertaining break from the articles that you will have been reading.

On a final note, I would like to say thank you to anyone who has or will write for me this year! I am hoping that this publication will remain a centre of debate within the society and an enjoyable read to those in and outside of the society!

The Gas-Guzzlers' Revolt: Emily Wallis



The Coming Year: Amanda Oon

While reading an account of yet another public display of dissatisfaction at Brown's blunders (this time a protest on the government's public pay policy), a thought occurred to me. You can pick a story from hundreds of thousand groundbreakers every day, but, like a bag of bad confectionary (Percy Pigs, or a packet of that Haribo crap in the shape of baby pacifiers) the aftertaste will always be bitter, slightly cloying and accompanied by a lingering sense of guilt. In short, the world at the moment, is pretty bloody miserable. Even our Olympic victories seem distant and clouded by the trepidation of our inferior budget for 2012 and the fact that our acrobats could never look quite as slick in UV catsuits.

As the new social events reporter, I'm here to change that outlook. It is the beginning of a new UCL year and with a new range of exciting and invigorating social events to fill the term, thanks to the committee, the darkness Labour has thrust us into will be changed to light. This reflects the fact that on a larger scale too, things seem in the midst of change. Labour has adopted the unenviable title of the 'Mean party' while the Tories, with Cameron and Johnson (bicycle) helmet clad and armed for ecological redemption are now known as the far cheerier 'green party'. Lets face the straightjacket that the government has left round

our comatose economy and talk George Osborne's fiscal framework to resolve it. Let us work toward making London a cleaner healthier place for the next Olympics, despite our lower budget. And lets face it. With mothers being fined £75 for dropping crumbs while feeding their children and high street magazines advertising clothes swapping tips, to assuage the bite of the Credit Crunch, we need a bit of positivity.

That's why all of us who clambered around the television a month ago felt that warm fuzzy feeling of solidarity when we watched Boris at the Olympic Handover celebrations. Paunch protruding nonchantly from under his ceremoniously unbuttoned jacket, our mayor, flanked by the , frankly pretty dour looking Jacques Rogges and Wang Qishan seemed the only reminder that the Games are supposed to be fun.

Loathe that that be mistaken for mindless frivolity or buffoonery (a word loved by Boris Johnson haters and 1930's schoolchildren alike). Our party can, well, party, while simultaneously working towards Trade Union welcome policies, and filling the gaping economic holes left by the last mayor of London. And we're excited to share all these ideas too. The new committee has a wealth of speakers lined up to share more on a range of topical Conservative issues and true to tradition each illuminating evening will be followed by a trip Potion-wards. There

isn't any excuse to miss a social calendar this good but should sudden death or Fresher's disorientation strike you down, I'll be featuring each occasion in the subsequent issue of the Caerulean just to show you exactly what you're missing out on. It's what I'm here for after all.

The oldest policultural party welcomes in a new academic year in a political climate that is constantly on the move. And UCL conservative society welcomes in a new term of social excitement. "Brilliant, beautiful..." was our albino friend's claim on the 2012 festivities and his prophecies of London's social prowess to come. I couldn't agree more!

Amanda Oon

Caerulean Events Commentator

The Fifth Column: Home to the comment of dissenters' in our midst!

N e v e r H a d i t S o G o o d ? :
B a r r y O ' K e l l y

When I was first approached about this article my immediate thought was that it would be easy. 'Give an overview of the current state of Northern Ireland'. The simple answer is that it couldn't be better; we have never had an era like this. We are now a self governing people with power over our own affairs. This is also the wrong answer. A realistic examination of Northern Ireland is that while there are many positives when compared to the Troubles, we are still carrying some of the dead weight of the past.

Firstly, the positives. The province is in an unprecedented era and historic days litter the timeline of the last 10 years. These range from Good Friday 1998 when the peace agreement was signed, to 'Devolution Day' on the 2nd December 1999, through to 28th July 2005 when the IRA stood down and finally on to 8th May 2008 where Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness eventually sat down to share power. These are just a few of the landmark moments that have brought Northern Ireland to peace and growing prosperity and made sure that we will almost certainly never go back to the Troubles.

However a look to the current political situation here reveals flaws in both the system of government and the attitudes of the politicians who run it. Many of whom were at the vanguard of this new era are still yet steeped in the arguments of the last one.

A case in point is the issue of Policing and Justice Powers which is currently at the top of the Northern Irish agenda. When power was most recently devolved in May 2007 one of the key powers withheld from the fledgling government was control over policing and justice. Sinn Fein, the largest

Nationalist Party are now calling for these powers to be devolved while the DUP retains its doubts. So far it's just a normal political discussion. It starts to get surreal and distinctly Northern Irish though in that, rather than sitting down and talking through their arguments the two main parties are refusing to talk and have done so for four months. This means that the executive of Northern Ireland has not met to discuss any of the issues facing the province for the whole summer. Due to the fact they will not talk about one issue everything else- education reform, rising energy prices and the recent wide scale flooding has gone unaddressed at the key decision making body in the Northern Irish government.

The above example goes to the heart of what is the biggest problem facing Northern Ireland at the moment- a failure to get things done. The root of all this is the Good Friday Agreement which demands that politicians must define themselves as Nationalist or Unionist. This then taints every other discussion with the mutually exclusive ideologies of nationalism and unionism which often leads to a stalemate when the really big decisions have to be made.

What is not helping the situation is the attitude of the politicians chiefly from the DUP and Sinn Fein. Rather than sitting down immediately to reach a compromise on an issue like policing and justice they spend months thumping their chests and scoring political points off each other until the Prime Minister comes over to knock a few heads together. In a nutshell they are still stuck in the negotiation methods of the past 10 years and somehow feel it necessary to automatically oppose what the other does. They fail to see that both communities have innumerable similarities and needs which are common in nationalist

and unionist constituencies and assume that what is promoted by the other side is automatically bad for their own side. This is a naïve and condescending green vs. orange view of the province which belongs in the last era along with terrorism and sectarianism and is one which younger generations are moving away from, in favour of a more enlightened view. The fact that I, an ardent nationalist am writing this in a conservative newspaper is proof of that.

The people are ready to move on, eager for political action that can improve our lives and political debate that can broaden our perspectives, irregardless of nationalism or unionism. Unfortunately the politicians are yet to get the message.

Barry O'Kelly

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2nd October:

Join us for our annual Westminster pub crawl. See the sights, have some drinks and enjoy the debate!



7th October:

Launch of the no to ID cards campaign, with Damien Green MP.



21st October:

JP Floru, Christopher Chope MP, Tim Barnes and Annesley Abercorn will be answering your questions, as well as sharing a Drink!



28th October:

An evening with influential Conservative blogger Iain Dale.



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