SPEECH FOR ECONOMIC DEBATE

23 JULY 1984

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN RETICENT, KEEN TO STAY OUT OF WHAT SHOULD BE AN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE. WE HELD - EVEN BIT - OUR TONGUES, FOR MANY WEEKS, TO SEE IF A SETTLEMENT COULD BE REACHED. WE WATCHED AS MR MACGREGOR LEANT OVER BACKWARDS TO ACCOMMODATE THE NUM'S DEMANDS. WE WAITED PATIENTLY AND ANXIOUSLY IN THE HOPE THAT COMMON SENSE WOULD PREVAIL. WE WOULD HAVE BEEN GRATEFUL FOR A SETTLEMENT AND A RETURN OF PEACE TO OUR TROUBLED MINING COMMUNITIES.

YET FOR ALL OUR FORBEARANCE AND PATIENCE, WE GOT A DUSTY ANSWER AND AN ATTEMPTED DOCK STRIKE. WE DISCOVERED THAT MR SCARGILL'S IDEA OF GIVE AND TAKE IS THAT MR MACGREGOR SHOULD DO ALL THE GIVING.

NOW WE ARE DRIVEN TO SPEAK UP. TO SPEAK UP FOR THE MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE THAT ARE SICKENED BY THE VIOLENCE WE ARE SEEING. TO SPEAK UP FOR THE POLICE, BEARING THE BRUNT OF THE ASSAULT. AND NOT LEAST, TO SPEAK UP FOR THE MANY MINERS WHO DO NOT SHARE THEIR PRESIDENT'S LOVE OF MILITANCY, AND WHO ARE APPALLED AT WHAT IS BEING DONE IN THE NAME OF A ONCE GREAT UNION.

> OUR CONCERN IS HEIGHTENED BECAUSE OF THE IMPACT THE DISPUTE CAN AND WILL HAVE ON EVERYBODY ELSE IN THE ECONOMY. ONE MAN'S PAY RISE CAN BE ANOTHER MAN'S JOB LOSS. TODAY WE ARE

WITNESSING AN EVEN SADDER TRUTH. ONE MAN'S STRIKE CAN MEAN THOUSANDS OF OTHERS LOSING THEIR LIVELIHOODS. MANY OF OUR INDUSTRIES NEED CHEAP COAL AND CHEAP ENERGY TO BE ABLE TO COMPETE. ALL OF US REQUIRE ENERGY ON WHICH WE CAN RELY. LONG AFTER THE MINERS HAVE GONE BACK TO THEIR GUARANTEED AND SUBSIDISED JOBS, OTHERS WILL BE OUT OF THEIRS. FOR STRIKES DESTROY JOBS; SALES CREATE THEM.

THE LAST 3 WEEKS HAVE SHOWN THE NATURE OF THE CHALLENGE WE FACE. THE LABOUR PARTY HAS NOT REASSERTED CONTROL OVER ITS LEFT WING. THAT LEFT WING IS NOW RAMPANT. THEY SEEK EXTRA PARLIAMENTARY ACTION. THEY ARE PICKING A FIGHT WITH THE FORCES OF LAW AND ORDER, ON THE PICKET LINES, IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND ON OUR STREETS.

THEIR TACTICS ARE THOSE OF THE BULLY BOY THROUGH THE AGES.

THE BRICK THROUGH THE WINDOW LATE AT NIGHT. THE

INTIMIDATING PHONE CALL. THE THREAT TO HARM WIVES AND

CHILDREN. THE VOW TO PURSUE A SINISTER VENDETTA AGAINST

THOSE WHO DISAGREE FOR MONTHS AFTER THE IMMEDIATE DISPUTE

HAS BEEN STILLED.

AS A BRANCH COLLIERY PRESIDENT SAID RECENTLY, "KINNOCK'S LET HIMSELF BE USED AS A PUPPET BY THE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN EXTRA PARLIAMENTARY TACTICS, AND HE'S FALLEN FOR IT HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER". AND THAT WAS SAID BY A FORMER FAN OF DENIS SKINNER (NEIL GREATREX, BENTINCK COLLIERY).

Sunday Telepept - 22-46

Quen

ANOTHER BRANCH SECRETARY HAS NO DOUBTS ABOUT SCARGILL'S

AMBITION: "WE'VE ALWAYS HAD PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY, BUT THE

AMBITION OF THE RULING CLIQUE IN THE NUM IS TO DESTROY THAT

DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND INSTALL A TOTALITARIAN REGIME . . .

IF ARTHUR SCARGILL WINS, HE'LL TAKE THE COUNTRY TO THE

CLEANERS AND DESTROY IT".

APPENSMENT

FOR NEIL KINNOCK THOUGHT HE COULD KEEP THE ANTICS OF THE LEFT OUT OF PARLIAMENT BY APPEASEMENT. FOR THAT REASON HE WENT TO A MINERS' GALA, PERHAPS HOPING TO PLAY OTHELLO TO Scargill's Iago. They would give him no such grand a part; AND INSTEAD HE PLAYED SCARGILL'S POODLE. HIS IGNOBLE AMBITION OF APPEASING THE UNAPPEASABLE HAS BITTEN THE DUST. LAST WEEK THE EVER-PRESENT THREAT OF A FURTHER PURGE OF AN ALREADY LEFT-WING LABOUR PARTY RESURFACED. WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THOSE WELL-KNOWN LEFT-WINGERS, JOHN SILKIN AND PETER SHORE, SHOULD NOW BE TARGETS FOR DESELECTION AFTER YEARS OF STALWART SERVICE TO THE LABOUR CAUSE? AND THAT ROBIN COOK, THE LABOUR LEADER'S LEFT-HAND MAN AND CAMPAIGN ORGANISER, WOULD TURN JUDAS SO SOON AFTER KINNOCK'S LEADERSHIP VICTORY, AND DENOUNCE HIS BOSS FOR DARING TO SUGGEST THAT IF THEY CHOSE, ALL LOCAL PARTY MEMBERS COULD VOTE ABOUT THE DISMISSAL OF THEIR MP?

ALL THIS HAS A MUCH WIDER SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND OF OUR ECONOMY. THERE IS A NEW AUTOCRATIC STRAND IN LEFT-WING POLITICS. THEY HATE BALLOTS. THEY SHY AWAY FROM SEEKING THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE. THEY

WISH TO DRAGOON AND PRESS-GANG THE FOOT SOLDIERS OF THE LABOUR MOVEMENT INTO THEIR MOTLEY ARMY OF WRECKERS.

THERE WAS NO VOTE AT FELIXSTOWE BEFORE THE STRIKE. THERE WAS NO NATIONAL BALLOT FOR THE MINERS BEFORE THEY WERE CALLED OUT. AND NOW THE LEFT DON'T WANT LABOUR PARTY MEMBERS TO VOTE ON THE VERY FUTURE OF THEIR MP.

BE UNDER NO DELUSION. THEY MEAN BUSINESS. THEY ARE OUT TO WRECK OUR ECONOMIC RECOVERY. OUT TO DEMOLISH THE JOBS IN CAREFULLY RECONSTRUCTED INDUSTRIES LIKE STEEL. THEY ARE OUT TO HIJACK THE TOWN HALLS AS A PLATFORM FOR ARGUING ON NATIONAL ISSUES. THEY SEEK TO TURN PROPERLY ELECTED COUNCILS INTO TYRANNIES ABOVE THE LAW, INTENT ON PURSUING THE VENDETTA AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

Que's

IN THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AS BILL SIRS SAID, THE MINERS

ARE OUT TO FIGHT THE BATTLE UNTIL THE LAST STEELMAN'S JOB

HAS BEEN DESTROYED. FOR THE MINERS ARE TO BE RUN BY

SCARGILL'S LAW IF HE HAS HIS WAY.

Scargill's law is stark and simple, and has one main tenet:

NEVER CROSS A PICKET LINE. DO NOT WORRY WHETHER YOU WERE

ASKED IF YOU WANTED TO GO ON STRIKE OR NOT: THE PICKET LINE

IS IMMUTABLE.

AND SCARGILL'S ECONOMICS IS BASED ON ANOTHER IRON LAW, WHICH WOULD HAVE DONE CREDIT TO THAT SKILLED, 16TH CENTURY

MERCHANT FINANCIER, THOMAS GRESHAM. BAD PITS DRIVE OUT GOOD. TAXPAYERS' MONEY IS TO BE LAVISHED ON PROPPING UP EXISTING PITS, BE THEY EVER SO UNECONOMIC. WHETHER THOSE PITS ARE LOSING 50, 60, 70 POUNDS A TON; WHETHER THOSE CONDITIONS ARE HOT, DANGEROUS AND BACK-BREAKING OR NOT - THEY MUST CONTINUE. IF THE NCB FOLLOWED THIS COURSE, IT WOULD STIFLE NEW MINING DEVELOPMENTS AND CRUCIFY THE INVESTMENT PROGRAMME. FOR THE MONEY WOULD BE SPENT ON THE BAD PITS, LEAVING NONE OVER FOR THE NEW. AND WHAT POINT WOULD THERE BE IN SINKING NEW SHAFTS WHEN THERE IS ALREADY AN ABUNDANCE OF COAL FROM THE EXISTING MINES?

KINNOCK'S WISH TO PLAY A MINOR RÔLE IN SCARGILL'S TRAGEDY IS'SYMPTOMATIC OF WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE OPPOSITION'S APPROACH TO THE ECONOMY. THE OPPOSITION HAVE BEEN STRANGELY MUTED SINCE THE ELECTION, WHEN THEIR ECONOMIC STRATEGY WAS DECISIVELY REJECTED AS INCREDIBLE BY THE ELECTORATE. THE ONLY WORD I HAVE HEARD SINCE IS WHEN THEY DECIDED TO TEAR UP THEIR EMBARRASSING ELECTION PLEDGE TO CUT UNEMPLOYMENT BY 2 MILLION.

FOR YEARS THIS COUNTRY WAS DRAGGED DOWN BY STIFLING MARKETS AND BY FOLLOWING LABOUR'S STRATEGY. MORE AND MORE CONTROLS WERE PUT IN THE WAY OF BUSINESS. EXPECTATIONS WERE RAISED BY POLITICIANS AFRAID TO TELL THE TRUTH. AND THOSE SAME POLITICIANS TRIED TO BUY THEIR WAY TO PROSPERITY WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY.

THEY SPENT MONEY ON PROPPING UP OLD INDUSTRIES. THE MONEY WAS USED TO RESIST CHANGE AND TO TAKE THOSE BUSINESSES FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY FROM THEIR LIFEBLOOD, THE NEEDS OF THEIR CUSTOMERS. IT WAS USED TO INVEST IN NEW VENTURES THAT OTHER INVESTORS WOULDN'T TOUCH: £77 MILLION OF IT WENT DOWN THE DRAIN WITH THE COLLAPSE OF DE LOREAN'S CAR PLANT, DESTROYING THE BUOYED-UP HOPES OF ITS WORKERS, AS WELL AS WIPING THE TAXPAYERS' INVESTMENT. AND IT WAS FRITTERED AWAY ON MORE AND MORE PUBLIC SECTOR ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO FETTER AND REGULATE THE VERY PEOPLE WHO COULD OFFER HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

Nobe below

LABOUR'S ANSWER SEEMS TO BE TO SAY: "WELL, IF ALL THAT HASN'T WORKED, IT'S NOT BECAUSE ANY OF IT WAS WRONG. IT WAS BECAUSE WE DID NOT DO IT ENOUGH. SO LET'S SPEND £10,000 MILLION WE DON'T HAVE. LET'S NATIONALISE MANY MORE INDUSTRIES. LET'S TAKE OVER PEOPLE'S PENSION FUNDS. WE COULD POUR EVEN MORE MONEY INTO NEW VENTURES. AND ABOVE ALL, WE COULD REGULATE SOME MORE".

THAT ANSWER HAS NOT WORKED AND WILL NOT WORK. ONLY A RADICAL APPROACH TO CHANGE IN THE ECONOMY CAN GET INFLATION DOWN AND KEEP IT DOWN. ONLY CONTROL OVER PUBLIC SPENDING CAN DELIVER THE LOWER INTEREST RATES WE NEED FOR GROWTH. AND ONLY A MAJOR PROGRAMME TO ENCOURAGE COMPETITION AND TO DEREGULATE CAN LEAVE PEOPLE FREE ENOUGH TO CREATE THE JOBS WE SO DESPERATELY NEED.

WHEN NEIL KINNOCK SAID "FIGHTING IS THE ONLY WAY" TO THE MINERS, HE SHOWED JUST HOW LOW LABOUR NOW STOOPS. BUT THEY WILL NOT STOOP TO CONQUER. THEY STOOP BECAUSE THEIR MOVEMENT HAS BEEN BURDENED BY ITS OWN INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS.

IT IS A NOWEMENT WHICH CLAIMS TO CHAMPION THE WEAK, YET ENDS

UP CRUSADING FOR THE STRONG.

A MOVEMENT WHICH SAYS IT WANTS JUSTICE, AND YET REFUSES TO SPEAK OUT IN DEFENCE OF THE INTIMIDATED MINERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

A MOVEMENT WHICH WILLS PROSPERITY, BUT DEFENDS BITTERLY EVERY STRIKE AND DISRUPTION PUT IN OUR WAY WHEN WE SEEK IT.

FOR IT IS AT HEART A PARTY OF APPEASERS. OUT TO APPEASE THE BULLY BOYS WHO ARE STRUGGLING TO CONTROL ONCE-GREAT UNIONS.

TO APPEASE THE MILITANT ENEMY WITHIN ITS OWN RANKS. AND TO APPEASE THE MUNICIPAL FEUDALISM WHICH KEEPS THE COUNCIL TOWER BLOCKS AND THEIR HAPLESS TENANTS IN ITS CONCRETE GRIP IN OUR BIGGER CITIES.

WHEN THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION MENTIONED SOME MODEST AMBIGUITY IN LABOUR'S DEFENCE STRATEGY, HE HAD LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG. How CAN YOU BE PART OF THE ALLIANCE TO DEFEND THE WEST IF YOU REFUSE TO HAVE WEAPONS THAT CAN MATCH THE HORRID POWER OF COMECON?

no long es melear vecpon en on somme elui

They are runing up the white flags along the Walworth Road already. There will be flags galore for the militants within, as well as for the enemy without. Appeasement has found its natural home.

(BI's good dea)