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PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST

on behalf of

THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Recorded from transmission 2100 (BBC 1) 5.5.82.

RT. HON. MICHAEL HESELTINE, MP: For the past few weeks the Falklands have been at the front of the news and naturally enough, because this issue has been of immense importance to us all. But perhaps, whilst this has been happening, there's been some news you may have missed - some very good news. News that affects you, the way you live, your family, and your future.

Firstly, there was this report from leading American forecasters, published just two weeks ago.

VOICEOVER: "Britain, Japan, and France are leading the way out of the world recession. Britain's economic recovery is ahead of even the United States, West Germany, and Canada."

VOICEOVER: This month's inflation rate is down to nearly 10% and still falling. Last year, the number of stoppages in industry was the lowest for forty years. As for output per head, the latest figures show this has risen 10% in less than a year. Exports are at their highest ever and are now running at £1 billion worth a week.

After years of losing hundreds of millions, British Steel, British Shipbuilders, and BL are now moving towards breaking even.

MICHAEL HESELTINE: When we came into power, we were determined to strengthen the economy. Meanwhile, we were also determined that our old, our sick, and our young didn't suffer. Under the Conservatives hospital queues have shortened dramatically; there are 34,000 more nurses and midwives; pensioners have also seen their pensions keeping pace with inflation; in schools class sizes are the smallest ever.

What does this prove? That if you want to care for people, the best answer isn't to spend, spend, spend. The last government, they doubled public spending. The net effect was to double prices and that was a disaster for us all. It didn't help the unemployed either because unemployment doubled too.

So 'Spend, spend and spend' - it's all been tried and it doesn't work. It doesn't work for the nation, it doesn't work for your family, and it won't work at the local council level either.

Two years ago I walked down this street - Hazelbourn Road in London - in a Party Political Broadcast just before another local election. On this side of the street people pay their rates to the local Conservative council in Wandsworth; on the other side of the street, in identical houses, people pay their rates to the local Labour council



in Lambeth.

Now, compare what they're paying for a three-bedroomed house. This year £1 0 more to live under a Labour council, a difference that becomes even more marked when you subtract the Greater London Council levy. Which side of the street would you prefer to live on ?

I'll admit, of course, that this is a comparison between just two London boroughs. But let's take a look at the whole of London.

VOICEOVER: Here are the twelve London boroughs with the highest rates - every one Labour except Islington, which has the only SDP council in London.

Now, let's look at the twelve with the lowest rates - every single one of them is Conservative. Outside London the story is the same. In the counties that are Conservative-controlled the average rate increase is only 12%, but in the Labour-controlled counties the average increase is nearly three times as great, a huge 30%.

What about the SDP-Liberal alliance ? Just look what's happened where they've done deals with Labour in these three counties. The increases there are 27½% in Berkshire, 32½% in Cheshire, and 34% in Bedfordshire, an average of over 30% - even higher than the Labour average !

MICHAEL HESELTINE: As Labour and the Alliance believe in spending money - of course, it's your money and the money of your local businesses - rates are now the single biggest tax paid by industry. And when these become too high, either local firms move out, taking their jobs with them, or they go out of business, in either case putting local people onto the dole.

As we've been showing you, 'Spend, spend, spend' - it isn't the answer. It doesn't solve problems, it just creates new problems. That's why tomorrow's elections are important, critically important. Conservative councils throughout the country have been following the same policy as the government, keeping costs down, keeping spending down, making sure your money is spent on services, not on bureaucracy.

These Conservative councils, they deserve your support. They need you to go out and vote for them tomorrow. Can you afford not to vote Conservative ?