

POLICY-MAKING FOR THE NEXT CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT

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1. The question is " What would a Conservative government do? The short answer is
 - a Halt the drift towards socialism
 - b Start the natural, organic process of recovery.

2. Achieving 1a) alone appears a mere electoral tit-for-tat. It does not stop the bleeding. To have any chance of achieving 1b), a Conservative government must first understand, with some precision, how we got to our present state.

3. A causal diagram is a useful way to model such a system process. It shows the entire system, with its dynamics, its complexity, its simultaneity, at a glance. It is inevitably large, but - once understood - it is obvious.

4. Given such a model, coherent policy-making can begin. The search is for " system triggers", not "symptom suppressors".

5. We are not talking about a planning gadget, but about the fundamental approach of a government which is trying to save a socio-economic system which can no longer save itself. The diagnostic model, the policy-making approach, and the implicit time-scale must be widely understood and accepted by the shapers of public opinion and the Trades Union leadership. Given all these things, it may still be only just possible to arrest Britain's decline.

6. The immediate question is: "Do the Shadow Cabinet agree with this approach and accept its political implications? If they do, then we can try to assemble a model-building team.

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14th October 1975.