

STATEMENT MADE BY MR FINNEGAN, STOCKTON SOUTH, 25 MAY 1983

I am deeply distressed at the embarrassment I have caused my Association and am very grateful to Sir Keith Joseph who in the knowledge of the facts is coming to Stockton to support me.

For my part, I want to make it clear that I deeply regret my former association with the National Front which ended 8 years ago.

I realise that their policies are totally wrong-minded and repugnant to all decent people.

This is an episode in my political life which I deeply regret and I have worked very hard to re-habilitate myself politically.

The policies which I now support whole-heartedly are those set out in the Conservative Party Manifesto which says:

"We are thoroughly opposed to racial discrimination wherever it occurs and are determined to see that there is a real equality of opportunity. The Conservative Party is and always has been strongly opposed to unfairness, harassment and persecution whether it be inspired by racial, religious or ideological motives."

I now realise that it was wrong of me not to tell the Association what I thought everybody knew.

FINNEGAN

PHONED THROUGH.

- TO FARA. 12.50 pm  
25.5.83

STATEMENT BY TOM FINNEGAN, CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE FOR  
STOCKTON SOUTH AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 32 SMITH SQUARE  
ON 25th MAY 1983

In 1974 in Birmingham and influenced by the widespread fear and concern about the affect of unrestricted immigration I joined the National Front in Birmingham. Late in 1975 I became disillusioned with the objectives of the Front and left the organisation publicly. I then joined the Conservative Association in Birmingham, with the members of the Association having full knowledge of my previous affiliations. I have remained an active Conservative worker ever since.

NOTE: Present were: Radio Cleveland and Radio Tees together with a number of Northern newspapers, the Birmingham Evening Mail, the Daily Mirror was not present.

25th May 1983

1. NF - E. W.  
2. N. C. W.  
3. C. W.