

(2/10/85).

Notes Towards a Speech SkeletonThe Next 10 Years

- ✓ 1. 10 years since first spoke to Conference as Leader. Seems like yesterday. Same platform, same hall. Blackpool fortunately much the same, too. But much else has changed. Hasn't been a period of marking time. Still much to do. Only just started.
2. Made clear from outset that no part of my mission as Leader or this party's purpose to preside supinely over continuing decline of Britain. Decline of economy. Decline of international esteem. Decline of independent spirit. Made no secret of what wanted to change and how intended to change it. Some people surprised that what we've done is what we said we'd do. We've kept promises, kept faith with our destiny.
3. Make clear now that not finished job. Times when right to pause, draw breath, review what done and what wish to do. That's reasonable. But can't afford to rest complacently on our laurels, think that completed mission. Haven't. Have to set before people agenda for next 10 years.
4. Others, of course, want to change, too. Difference is - our opponents want to turn the clock back not forwards. Liberals - back to 1906. Mr Steel no Asquith, Mr Penhaligon no Lloyd George. Social Democrats - back to days when had seats round Cabinet table. Hear much from them about principle. Which of them would have left Labour Party if won 1979 election? Labour turn clock back to days of inflation by Social Contract, rule by Congress House. But not Hugh Scanlon, Len Murray and those other distinguished members of House of Lords in driving seat. Now Scargill. Hatton. Militant Tendency.

5. Not turn clock back, but look back for a moment. Review what accomplished in last decade. Not to brag. Remind selves what Britain would be like without our changes in last 10 years - that makes credible what we say about changes we want for Britain in next 10 years.

6. First spoke as Leader here in wake of 2nd defeat of 1974. Main Question <sup>then</sup> ~~Item~~ - not could Conservative govern well? Could Conservatives govern at all? Question which went to very foundations of our democracy. Told had to accept that only govern if accepted Socialist ideas. Socialism by proxy. Policies which brought high inflation - iniquity, unfairness. Crushing burden of nationalised industries - losses, inertia. Tax rates - penalised effort, success. Education - William Tyndale, lowering of standards, ignoring of parents. Ownership - ruled out for millions of our fellow citizens. Internationally-world's most famous debtors. Over-charged in Europe. Under-defended. Only foreign success (-??).

7. Elected in 1979 to change that. Have. Short section on some of our successes. Growth rate. New businesses. Training. New jobs. Trade Union Law. Hong Kong. Rhodesia. Gibraltar etc, etc, etc.

8. But want to look forward not back. What for next 10 years?

9. One thing not change, can't change, unremitting battle against inflation. Can't spend more than earn, etc. Simple truths, but no less true. One of our opponents tells us wants to be Tough and Tender, Firm and Fair. Cop out. Always want to be tough until difficult decision. Need to be firm on public spending to be fair to taxpayer. Despite firmness on spending we've been fair too. During recession and years since, done better than other countries in protecting welfare programmes (example). Health Service has been safe with us. Will be, too. //

10. Real problems, though, about paying for Welfare in future. Have to pay for more (demography etc) with money earned in much tougher international market, where competitors (eg Pacific basin) don't support our level of welfare. Dishonest to pretend not a problem. Even more to recognise is a problem, then refuse to do anything about it. What sort of Welfare do we wish to see? The Fowler Review.

11. Unless take these decisions on welfare, higher tax. Higher tax hits hardest lowest paid. Ambitions for tax. And local tax. Section on Rates. Present system unfair. Regressive. Broken down. No accountability. Destroyed link between taxation and representation. Plans for rates. Local-central government relationship.

12. Low tax helps wider ownership. Small businesses - tax encouragement. More nationalised industries to sell. What still in pipe-line. How many more shareholders. Wider ownership of industry.

13. More ownership, more enterprise, more success in competitive world, greater prosperity. Also ~~hard~~ <sup>need</sup> to compete at level of greatest asset - individual talents and abilities. Education vital. Education different from training. Preparation for the good life. Broader than work. But the good life should include a job. ~~Hard~~ <sup>Need</sup> skills for that and need to be more flexible in more rapidly changing technological world. Ambition - raise standards in schools, strengthening bridges between school and work. After years of turmoil, back to fundamentals. Important to ~~raise~~ standards for higher flyers - and just as important for less able, too. Put more effort into this than predecessors. Good teachers central to task. Want to raise standards and prospects for profession. Children short-changed for too long. Unless determined effort to raise standards produce generation poorer in spirit, poorer in skills and poorer materially.

14. Good education protects standards, values. Also pursue by resolutely upholding ~~rule~~ of law. Challenged by terrorism. Crime masquerading as social protest. Drugs. Police more sophisticated in coping. Need more support. Got ours. Got Labour's?

15. Defend values at home, and abroad. Strong defences. Case for nuclear deterrent. And modernising. Hopes for disarmament (Geneva etc). SDI. Mustn't allow weakening within NATO of links between Europe and USA.

16. Links equally important in international economic sphere. Good case for strengthening EEC as real market. What want to see happen. No cases for EEC trying to go it alone. Must work with USA. Stop drift to protectionism, Threat to ~~be~~ developed - greater threat to developing - ~~continues~~ *countries*.

17. If proceed along this road, what sort of country/people will we be in 10 years?

18. "I want to see" ... peroration.

Dandy

Low

How  
much low |