

PRIME MINISTER

cc. Mr. Alison
Mr. Redwood

Central Council Speech

1. This speech will give you the first platform this year, and the first since Westland, to state clearly the general direction of the Government's policy.

How can you do this?

- (a) by setting out your "vision" (for want of a better word), your "agenda for the nineties".
- (b) by expressing policy objectives in a language people relate to.

2. Let me set out a possible synopsis:

- (i) This Government has been in office for almost seven years ... we have a record of very considerable achievement ... other Ministers have reminded you of our record ... my job is to explain how much more there is to do.
- (ii) The battle to extend individual freedom must go on. Other parties may have their vision of society which they want to impose on people, whether they like it or not. That is a denial of freedom. As Conservatives, we want a free and responsible society in which people can choose for themselves how to live.
- (iii) There are two essentials for a free society: the maintenance of law and order at home, and effective defence overseas.

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- (iv) As they look ahead, people are rightly concerned about the education of their children ... end of teachers' strike, new Education Bill ... need to improve teaching standards and increase parents' involvement ... attack on indoctrination.


- (v) Re-building free enterprise in Britain ... the new jobs being created, greater share ownership ... the hope for the future comes from free enterprise, not from nationalisation [mention of BL?] importance of overseas investment in UK and UK investment overseas (especially for when oil runs out).

- (vi) And it is a flourishing private industry which helps us finance better public services - the health service, social security, help for the elderly.

- (vii) The threat to our freedom comes from socialism - and we can already see "socialism in action".

- (viii) The threat also comes from the SDP and Liberals because they will be prepared to support a left-wing Labour Party if they thought it would lever them into power.

- (ix) Re-statement of "popular capitalism".


STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

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