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SPEECH

Closing the ralling to the

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THE RT HON MRS MARGARET THATCHER

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AT THE CITY HALL CARDIFF

ON

MONDAY 16th APRIL 1979

Mr Chairman, I've been asked is there any special reason for coming to Wales for the first big Conservative Rally of thisElection?

Well, yes, indeed there is. I mean, where else should we kick-off for victory than where JPR Williams and his team have just won their fourth Triple Crown on the trot? Yes, I know they beat England in the last match - my husband is a great Rugby fan. But tonight we're all on the same side, shoulder to shoulder for a great Tory triumph.



There comes a point in a nation's story when the old slogans and the old illusions crumble and every thinking person comes face to face with reality.

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For more than a generation now people have been telling us socialism is inevitable.

We have been told time and again by experts that
the drift is bound to be towards state
control: towards the new order which
turns out to be the old order gone sour,
in which people come second and the
political boss and the party officials
come first.

Resistance, they cry is hopdess. This is the way the world is going.

Appeasement and delay, they say, is the best that we can hope for.

They claim we can no more hold back the inevitable than corks bobbing on the ocean can turn back the tide.

Mr Chairman, for too long those defeatists have polluted the atmosphere of public debate.

Change is coming.

The slither and slide to the socialist state is going to be stopped in this United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland. Halted and turned back.

It can be done.

and It will be done - starting from May 4th, 1979.

People are rebelling against the bulging socialist state and its insatiable appetites.

Labour, the self proclaimed party of compassion, has betrayed those for whom it promised to care.

In this campaign we will not only extend and consolidate

Conservative support. We will carry the

fight right into what were once the castles

and strongholds of Labout.



Just as you have begun to do here in South Wales.

There comes a point in a nation's story when the old slogans and the old illusions crumble and every thinking person comes face to face with reality.

Today there is a stronger sense of resentment at the unfairness of the socialist system than I can ever remember.

After five years of Labour Government our cities and streets are less safe to walk in; our old folk and children more at risk- our faith in the values and beliefs which we used to think held us together more undermined by 'fashionable' theories and official mockery.

Of how mamy things did one used to hear it said
'Well at least they'll never touch that'.

At least they'll never attack the judges, people said.

But they have.

At least they won't let the schools be closed.

But they were.

At least they won't support wielent mass picketing.

But they did.

At least they won't let militants close hospitals,
neglect emergencies, even prevent people
giving blood.
But they did that, too.

Five years ago these things would have seemd incredible.

Yet they have heppened in our Britain, our supposedly free and tolerant country, with the Labour Government looking on, supine, paralysed, afraid to do what they knew ought to be done in case they when their "master's voice".

These things will be remembered against Labour for a generation, and so they should be.

There used to be in this country a socialism ense which valued people.

It had dignity, and it had warmth.

It's methodswere those of the collective, which was why it was not my creed.

But its aims to raise the living standards of the people-were the same.

What a world away that is from the officious,
 jargon-filled intolerant socialism
 practised by Labour these last few years.
 What a world away that sort of brotherhood is from the flying pickets, the kangaroo courts, the merciless use of closed shop power, and all the other ugly apparatus which has been strapped like a harness on our people and our country, turning worker against worker, society against itself.

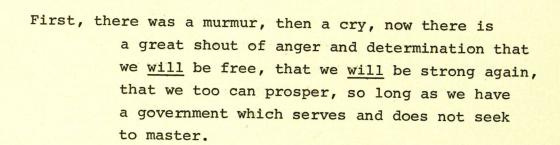
Cromwell's words to another demoralised faction come to mind:

"You were deputed here by the people to get grievances redressed, and are yourselves become the greatest grievance."

That applies has to day. Lelon parising parts.

But stop and listen a moment.

Listen to what the people are saying today. Listen to the voice deep inside a great and ancient nation.



In a broadcast just before this campaign began the
Labour Leader argued that Labour now
stood for continuity.

It was the Conservatives who wanted to change things, he said.

'Carry on as we are", that was the message.

Well now, I will make no comment on this bizarre transformation of the Labour part y which always used to be so proud of its radicalims.

I pass over, too, the well-known fact that
the present tenant of the Labour leadership
could be evicted any day by forces within
the Labour party which are determined to
transform our society utterly and, if necessary,
violently.

to on which we sould have the parto- 2000 some of the lungs was agreed.

Labour's

But what appals me is the shameless appeal to voters
to accept our national decline as
inevitable and simply make the best of it.

It is a summons to apathy, a clarion call for inertia and indolence.

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Their campaign slogan is "Carry on downhill with Labour - carry on wheeling, carry on dealing, carry on declinging, carry on down, carry on out."

That is exactly what they have been doing.

And the decline is accelerating.

What the figures tell in their ominous downwards march we can now see for ourselves.

Travel abroad and see how much better our neighbours are doing.

Travel round our towns and cities and see the

Shabby scars of Labour Britain, open and unhealing.



Look at the ugly truth the record spells out over the last five years of socialism.

Labour Britain - the worst rate of growth of any industrial country with the sole exception of Luxemburg.

Labour Britain - with the lowest hourly wages of any industrial country with the sole exception of Ireland.

Labour Britain - in income per head not only behind
France, Germany, Holland and Austria

Labour Britain - leading in only one respect - the fastest and highest price increases of any European country except Italy!

Genery 2,2.



Is this the nation that stood alone in 1940 against the collapse of European civilisation?

It is the country we have become under Labour.

Try as they may they can't escape the record.

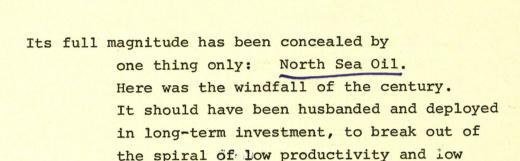
Because of their subserviance to the unions there has been no industrial progress under Labour.

Because of their commitment to equality - rather than equality of opportunity - there has been no social progress under Labour.

Because of the strength of the Left, there has been no economic progress under Labour.

Half a dozen world recessions can't absolve Labour from the major responsibility for Britain's decline.

Misur out comment have had



wages.

Instead, it has been treated like a win on the Pools, an invitation to 'Spend, spend, spend!"

The government has used it to hide the collapse of our industrial performance, and as an excuse to postpone the remedies we all know are so urgent.

During the lifetime of the coming Parliament, oil production is expected to reach its peak, and thereafter lose its power to conceal our predicament.

What would happen then if by any mischance

Labour scraped back to power?

What would they do when the spending had to stop?

The answer is to make certain it doesn't happen.

The answers is to return a Conservative

Government now - before time runs out.

One of the strengths of Conservatism is that we are not mesmerised by the present.

We honour the past and what it has to teach, we look to the future and prepare for it.

And we see history in human terms.

it means "A sense of (Responsibility",

responsibility for one's family and responsibility
towards others.

It is precisely that sense of responsibility which leads us to reject the supine 'let's go on as we are invitation.

How can I, in good conscience, say to retired people
'I have no plans to change an economy
which every single year reduces the value
of your savings by at least a tenth'?

How can I say to the young man or woman wanting to start up a business and employ a few others

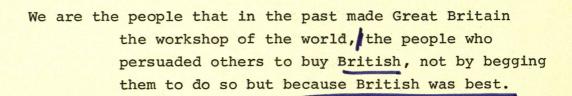
'We plan to go on with the tax rates which will make every risk financially foolish, which will dog your efforts to expand at every turn'?

I would be ashamed to say to my children and grandchildren

"Our society may not be much good, but it's

the best we can do.

Be thankful it isn't worse'.



We are a people who have received more Nobel prizes than any other nation except America.

With achievements like that who can doubt that Britain

can have a great future?

But is that future going to happen?

Only if we have change. We must have change,

is by giving new life and strength to principles which made our country the great trading nation it used to be.



That is the way to restore security to the old and hope to the young.

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We can go on as we have been going and continue down, or two weeks on Thursday we can stop and, with a decisive act of will, say "enough".

But recovery can only come about through the work of individuals.

We must not forever take refuge behind collective decisions.

Each of us must assume our own responsibilities.

What we get and what we become depends essentially on our own efforts.

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It is the desire for the individual

How is society improved?

By millions of people resolving that they will give their children a better life than they have had themselves.

to do the best for himself and his family.

There is no substitute for this elemental human instinct.

And the worst possible thing a Government can do is to try to smother it completely with collective alternatives.

They won't work.

They can't work.

They crush and destroy something precious and vital in the nation's spirit.

The to the Young.

The proper role of Government is to set

free the natural energy of the people.

That means real rewards for effort and skill.

That means restoring a wide degree of freedom

to the forces that make up human society.

Now we are re-learning one of the oldest lessons of history - that freedom cannot be divided into compartments.

What use is freedom of speech and of the press in a

Closed Shop world?

What value has avote if all the real decisions
in our lives are taken for us by the state?

If economic freedom is denied, political freedom will soon perish.

Our socialist opponents lecture us about the acquisitive society.

They preach that individual ambition must be replaced by communal benevolence.

But what is more heartless than the all-powerful state?

And don't the industrious and the farsighted,

by creating new jobs, benefit society as much
as themselves?

Charity begins at home; it does not end there.

The urge to save and to invest are powerful

and natural engines of wealth creation, which work efficiently and silently for every one of us, if only we will let them.

The truth is that individually man is executive;

collectively he is spendthrift.

Collectively he is spendthrift.

Governments in general, and Labour Governments in particular, simply love spending other people's money.

Give the state control of 60 percent of what we produce - as we have been doing - and wealth melts away like winter snow.

Tilt the balance towards freedom of choice, and the wealth producing process begins again.

Freedom we must have if this nation is to prosper. But it must be freedom under the law.

The greatest gift any Government can bestow on its citizens is the rule of law.

No Government can ensure equality.

The road to the Communist state is paved with such fallacies.

They call me a rechesting.

Well their a bot to rend of aunit. What homewate doesn't rend of mist . god. Und has dished prices for learn. What young should leave downie rechtyamine e jovement that her we now them doubted weeplogment. What return per sein bound recet game former that has bedred in Volue of their numer's - Juans What hand while person should prome mayer, professed person donates aut of funi, soll his men -en closed. mulquiet of seneral that letter wy dos much i lans Who wand never of owner for the textop. who donic real young pourmed lest it with the former than the wife of the former of th But what Government can provide is equality before the law and thereby justice.

Laborate Card Tark Thy we are

I am a reformer, and I am offering change.

No melodramatic overnight solutions, but a fresh and invigorating approach to our affairs.

As Conservatives we are under no illusions about the ability of government to transform the moral climate of society, let alone bring about that change quickly.

But what human folly can destory, human wisdom can restore.

Quite modest changes in the law, and still more
the conduct and example of government, can
tilt the balance back towards the creative, and
away from the destructive elements in our midst.

The first - the creative - we shall encourage and reward: the second - the destructive - we shall pursue with relentless and ungemitting hostility.

Our country is rich in natural resources, in imagination,

in talent; but regulation
and taxation have blunted initiative;

poverty of incentive has diminished enterprise.

Government has done too much and done it badly,

squandering resources that could have been used to
halt the downward trend.

Production has fallen under Labour. Prices have more

doubled under Labour.

Business has lacked the confidence to expand under

Pries have not the doubted when Labour has dragged our country down.

Labour

must go.

No easy prospect lies ahead.

When we arrive in office, we shall find the place littered with post-dated cheques, unpaid invoices and final demands left behind by Labour.

Yet with a new Parliament and a new government with a clear mandate for a change of direction I see migns of hope.

Provided we face up to those who make free with the taxpayer's money, practicing inefficiency and waste.

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Provided we face up to the people who claim it.

and those who earn more to keep more

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have no brush with

Provided we face up to the bogus democrats who glibly demand that political power and influence should decide everything, from who gets a house to the price of beer and what's printed in your daily paper.

Many traditional Labour supporters want the same things we want, believe the same things we do, but are held back by old loyalties and old prejudices.

To them I say:

'We understand these things. After all we too are conservative.'

You know in your hearts that Britain must take a different road.

Let's take that road together.

We need your help.

The more we can gain your cooperation and draw on your knowledge and experience the more we shall be able to achieve. We understand the deep-rooted loyalities and affections that make you he sitate to cross the Rubicon.

We know its not easy to forsake the habit of a life-time.

But the modern Labour Party is no longer the Party of Clement Attlee, Hugh Gaitskell, and Roy Jenkins.

Labour today is like a pub where the mild is running out.

Soon all that's left will be bitter - and all
that's bitter will be Left.

The present Labour Leader may not relish or approve (T'm sure he doesn't) the way the wind is blowing.

But last week's events in Newham North East show yet again the growing size and power of the extreme Left-wing of the Labour Party.

The many similarities between the Labour and Communist

Manifestoes, further underline what is happening.

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil" said Burke,
"is that the good men should do nothing."

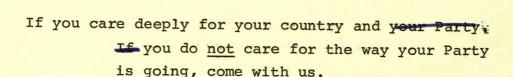
May I say to Labour's traditional supporters:

All that is necessary for the triumph of Marxist

Socialism in this country is that a majority

of you who normally vote Labour should

believe that the Labour Party of today - and even more of tomorrow is the same as the Labour Party of yesterday.



We offer you a political home where you can honourably realise the ideals which took you into the Labour Party in the first place.

When Paul Johnson resigned from the Labour Party he wrote:

"I have come to appreciate, perhaps for the first time in my life, the overwhelming strength of my own attachment to the individual spirit.

The paramount need to keep it alive, I now see, is so great as to override any other public principle whatever."

Today Labour in office stands for the ever-growing dominance of the state with all its despotism and frustration of human happiness.

That will never be the Conservative way.

The Britain we want is a country where <u>Parliament</u> remains supreme but acts in the spirit of British lab and custom.

The Britain we want is a country where
the individual, however weak, still
has definite rights which can never be
taken from him, and where the minority, however
small, cannot be crushed out of existence by
majority power.

The Britain we want is one where the <u>rule of law</u> is upheld, impartially, even against the most powerful bodies in our community.

And where those entrusted with upholding the law, whether policemen or judges, are given respect, support and encouragement.

We want a Britain where children are taught that
there is a real and absolute difference
between right and wrong and that there are
certain acts which, by their very nature,
are wrong and must be outlawed by society.

In our Britain, those who pursue violence as a

way of life, whether armed professional

thieves or back street muggers, or terrorists,

or thugs, will be treated always and solely for

what they are - dangerous criminals, to be
resisted by civilised society with all its
power.

Our Britain is a country where the honest, peaceful and hardworking citizen is valued and prized, and above all defended and supported, by all the institutions of the land.

The spirit of our Britain will be one of hope and endeavour, where all are equal in votes and before the law, but where this equality is a spring-point for those who wish to strive for a better life.

These are the values which endure, which will bind together again a wounded nation.

These are the values which will again be to the fore

in the Conservative Britain that lies ahead,

which will guarantee our liberties through

dangerous and difficult times and which will

consure that we become, once again, a powerful

partner rather than a weak and lagging passenger

amongst the free nations of the earth.

In politics, I have learn something you in Wales are born knowing: if you've got a message, preach it.

Today Would constant in

I am a conviction politician. The Old Testament

prophets didn't say "Brothers, I want

consensus'. They said:

"This is my faith, and vision. This is

what I passionately believe. If you

believe it too, then come with me".

Tonight I say to you just that.

Away with the recent bleak and dismal past.

Away with defeatism!

Under the twin banners, choice and freedom,

a new and exciting future beckons the British

people.

Let us join hands and go forward to meet it together.

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EXTRACTS OF A SPEECH BY

THE RT HON MRS MARGARET THATCHER

AT THE CITY HALL CARDIFF

ON MONDAY 16th APRIL 1979

EMBARGO 19.30



Time for a Change

I am a reformer, and I am offering change, Mrs Thatcher told

Speaking in Conditional Labour stronghold,

Mrs Thatcher stressed the vast contradictions between the aspirations which originally gained support for Labour and the kind of Britain which had grown up under Labour. She appealed to committed Labour supporters to recognise that their ideals were being betrayed by the kind of Labour and trade union rule which had actually grown up in recent years and to draw the conclusion from the facts.



"Labour, the self proclaimed party
of compassion, has betrayed those for whom
it promised to care."

There used to be in this country a socialist movement which valued people, had dignity and warmth.

What a world away from the officious,
jargon-filled intolerant socialism practised
by Labour these last few years, from the
flying pickets, the kangaroo courts, the
merciless use of closed shop power, and all
the other ugly apparatus which has been strapped
like a harness on our people and our country,
turning worker against worker, society against
itself."



"Many traditional Labour supporters want
the same things we want, believe the same
things we believe," she claimed "but are
held back by old loyalties and old prejudices.
To them we offer a political home where
they can honourably realise the aspirations
which took them into the Labour Party in the

Mrs Thatcher explicity took up Mr
Callaghan's recent claim that Labour represented
continuity whereas the Conservatives would
uproot. First, she asked what had happened to
the radicalism of which the Labour Party always
used to be so proud.

Secondly, she pointed out that the Labour leader was at the mercy of forces within the Labour party determined to transform our society utterly and violently.



But the main burden of her attack was that underlying Labour's call for continuity was a "shameless appeal to voters to accept our national decline as inevitable and simply make the best of it, a summons to apathy, a clarion call for inertia and indolence.

"Their campaign slogan is: 'Carry on downhill with Labour' ".

Contrasting her political philosophy with

Mr Callaghan's present stance, Mrs Thatcher said,

"If I had to sum up Conservatism in a

phrase I wuld say it means "A Sense of Responsibility

responsibility for one's family and responsibility
towards others.



It is precisely that sense of responsibility which leads us to reject the supine 'let's go on as we are invitation.

How can I, in good conscience, say to retired people 'I have no plans to change an economy which every single year reduces the value of your savings by at least a tenth'?

I would be ashemed to say to my children and grandchildren "Our society may not be much good, but it's the best we can do. Be thankful it isn't worse' ".

She continued that,

"we must have change to restore security
to the old and hope to the young, to put Britain
back into the international race."

Claiming that the people are already rebelling against the bulging socialist state and its insatiable appetites and that there is a sense efoutrage against the unfairness of the system created by Labour, Mrs Thatcher reasserted that the incoming Government would free thenatural energy of the people, with "real rewards and real penalties".

She stressed that she had no illusions about the ability of government to transform the moral climate and that no easy prospect lay ahead. "When we arrive in office, we shall find the place littered with post-dated cheques, unpaid invoices and final demands" she warned.



But - she insisted "what human folly can destroy, human wisdom can restore." A new government with a clear mandate for a change of direction would be able to draw on the country's resources and its people's resourcefulness.

Ending with an appeal to moral commitment;

"Governments in general, and Labour Governments
in particular, simply love spending other

people's money. Give the state control of 60

percent of what we produce - as we have been doing

- and wealth melts away like winter snow. Tilt

the balance towards freedom of choice, and
the wealth producing process begins again she

proclaimed.