

Mrs Thatcher

CARDIFF MARK II DH/RM

1.

THE TURNING TIDE

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

What the drift

The drift, <sup>we</sup> we have been told time and again by experts, <sup>is</sup> 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 official come first.

Resistance, they cry, is hopeless. This is the way the world is going. Appeasement and delay <sup>is</sup> the best that we can hope for.

~~August 1979~~ <sup>Mr. Chairman</sup> Well, tonight I have news for you here in Cardiff. And I have news for the defeatists <sup>who</sup> have for too long been allowed to pollute the atmosphere of public debate.

slati

Change is coming. The slither and slide to <sup>the socialist</sup> ~~socialism~~ is going to be stopped in this United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland. Halted and turned back. It can be done. It will be done - starting from May the 4th, 1979.

People are ~~in~~ <sup>rebellio</sup> against the bulging socialist state and its insatiable appetites.

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

I tell you that 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 Labour.

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

We will ~~tear down the portcullis~~ of restrictions and controls which seal millions of families into the twilight

/Labour....

Our world of council tenancies and the poverty trap.

The British people deserve better. They are capable of better, far better, given the opportunity.

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

Today there is a stronger sense of outrage and unfairness against the socialist system than I can ever remember.

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 many 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 violent 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 seemed incredible. Yet they have happened in our Britain, our supposedly free and tolerant country, with the Labour Government looking on, supine, paralysed, ~~always putting politics before people.~~ *afraid to do what they knew ought to be done unless they hear 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 once which valued people. ~~It was not my creed since my instinct is to put the individual before the collective.~~ *It's called what they call the* ~~But it had dignity, that kind of socialism, and it had warmth.~~ *collective, whatever it is but not my creed* /What a.....

*but it didn't for some time help the needs of the people very far*

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.

But stop ~~now~~ and listen a moment. <sup>Listen to</sup> ~~Hear~~ what you yourselves are saying, <sup>listen to</sup> ~~hear~~ what the voice deep inside ~~a great and ancient nation~~ <sup>is spelling out.</sup>

First <sup>we</sup> ~~it~~ was a murmur, then a cry, <sup>we</sup> ~~it~~ is now a great shout of anger and determination that <sup>we people</sup> ~~we~~ will be free, that we will be strong again, that we too can prosper, so long as we have a government which serves and does not seek to master.

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 <sup>he said.</sup> 'Carry on as we are', <sup>that</sup> was the message.

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

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.

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

/That is.....

*Just like r highest price increases of any European country except Italy*

That is exactly what they have been doing. And the decline is accelerating. What the figures tell in their ominous downward 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 - now ~~behind Finland, Austria, Libya and East Germany~~ in income per head - ~~and only~~ a whisker above Czechoslovakia. *not only France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Austria*

Is this the ~~country~~ <sup>nation</sup> that stood alone in 1940 against the collapse of European civilisation? It is the country we have become under Labour.

*Labour Britain is ahead in only one respect - the price of its oil. It is the only country that has not suffered from the price increases of any other country.*

The full magnitude of our decline has been concealed by one thing only: North Sea oil. Here was the windfall of the century. It should have been husbanded and deployed in long-term investment, to break out of the spiral of low productivity and low 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, ~~the oil will~~ <sup>production is expected to</sup> 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 answer 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.....

future and prepare for it, And we see history in human terms.

If I had to sum up Conservatism in a phrase I would say *it means*  
 'A sense of <sup>responsibility</sup> responsibility', *responsibility for one's family and responsibility to other people.*

It is precisely <sup>that</sup> ~~our~~ 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 <sup>now</sup> 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 ~~hamstring~~ 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'.

Yes, we do want change. We must have change.

To restore security to the old and hope to the young.

To put Britain back into the international race by giving new life and strength to principles which made our country the great trading nation it used to be.

But recovery can only come about through the work of individuals. Each of us must assume our own responsibilities. We must not forever take refuge behind collective decisions.

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

For what is the real driving force in society? It is the desire for the individual to do the best for himself and his family.

How is society improved? By millions of people resolving that they will give their children a better life than they have had themselves.

/There is.....

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 proper role of Government is to ~~unleash~~ <sup>set free</sup> the natural energy of the people. That means real rewards - and real penalties. It 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.

~~When economic freedom is denied political freedom means <sup>dim</sup> ~~nothing~~ <sup>penalty</sup>.~~

What use is freedom of speech and of the press in a Closed Shop world? What value has a vote <sup>if</sup> ~~when~~ all the real decisions in our lives are taken for us by the state?

*if economic freedom is denied political freedom will be a result*

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 ~~a more~~ <sup>new</sup> ~~prosperous country~~, benefit society as much as themselves?

*jobs*  
 ← *may* *not*  
 Charity begins <sup>may</sup> at home; <sup>not</sup> 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 creative; 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.....

Freedom, ~~then; that~~ 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.

But what Government can provide is equality before the law and thereby justice.

One of the most unhealthy features of our society is the abandonment of this principle, by the award of huge legal immunities to trade unions.

One man's privilege is another man's injustice; haven't we learnt that bitter truth again in recent months?

Nobody, not even the most hardened Labour supporter, can wish to see a repetition of the cruelty and callousness of this winter. None of us can be content with a society where such things happen without check or penalty.

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 destroy, 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 unremitting hostility.

Our country is rich in natural resources, in imagination, in talent; ~~but our faults lie in our leaders, not ourselves.~~ 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 than doubled under Labour. Business has lacked the confidence to expand under Labour. 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 signs of hope.

Despite all the talk of Labour's special relationship with the Unions, it is to us and to our policies, to the creed of responsibility and incentive, that millions of trade unionists have turned.

Their plea is not for more socialism, but for the right to work. They seek the chance to get the militant minority off their backs, for the chance to earn and to own. To have pride in a home, a good education for the children, a life in pleasant and safe surroundings.

What they ask of us, and what we undertake, is not to deliver miracles. It is to redress the balance in society, to see that no group, however important, has the power to stifle the aspirations or impede the achievements of the vast majority of their fellow-countrymen. Britain needs a Government that works with the trade unions, not for the trade unions.

The time has come to make some changes in the framework of law in which the unions operate, to reduce the power of the militant minority to obstruct, to tyrannize, to intimidate.

*Revised,*

We ~~must~~ face up to those who make free with the taxpayer's money, ~~permitting and~~ practicing inefficiency and waste.

*Revised in*

We ~~must~~ face up to the people who claim it is ~~wrong~~ *wrong* for those who work more to earn more and those who earn more to keep more.

*Revised*

We ~~must~~ 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.

~~The time has come to get these people out of our hair. Away with them! Let freedom, incentive and enterprise have their turn.~~

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

To them I say:

'We understand these things. After all we too are ~~Conservative!~~ *conservative!*  
(smaller)

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

Let's take the 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 loyalties & affections that make you hesitate to cross the Rubicon...*

*But we can* offer you a political home where you can *honestly* realise the aspirations which took you into the Labour Party in the first place." *Come with us*

The Britain we want is a country where Parliament remains supreme but acts in the spirit of British law 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* ~~Our~~ Britain *we want -* is one where the rule of law 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 ~~invariably~~ 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 *steering post* ~~springboard~~ for those who wish to strive for a better life.

These are the values which endure, which will bind together <sup>again</sup> a wounded nation ~~and allow it to go forward.~~

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 ensure 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 learned something you in Wales are born knowing: if you've got a message, preach it.

I am a conviction politician. The old-  
testament prophets didn't say "That's his, 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~~ <sup>me</sup>. ~~and let us go~~  
forward.

Tonight I say to you just that. Away with  
the recent black & dismal past, away with defeatism!  
Under the twin banners, choice & freedom,  
of new and exciting future leaders the British people  
believe join hands & go forward <sup>to meet it</sup> together.