

Reason to Vote SNP in General Election 2015. Over the past week or so we have seen the 3 main Westminster Parties in a panic, running around like headless chickens, except when it comes to Anti-SNP sentiment that is. The rise in the SNP has taken everyone by surprise, none more so than the Better Together friends of Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrats. All 3 believed the Indy-ref would be the end of Scotland making a noise and demanding recognition either as a separate country or as a democratic player in Westminster, they couldn't have been more wrong. Since September SNP membership has risen from around 25,000 to over 110,000 and is rising every day, and it is not just the media portrayed Yes voters who have flocked to join either. Thousands of people who voted No in the Independence Referendum have also joined, why?, it's easy really, The Smith Commission never recommended the Powers that were promised and Westminster has diluted those recommendations even further, but more so, they have joined because they know that the SNP are the only Party that will fight tooth and nail for Scotland.

Now, the Westminster 3 will have you believe that the SNP are not interested in making it work at Westminster, in their opinion the SNP are going to London with the sole purpose of breaking up the Union. All three are claiming that a vote for the SNP in GE15 is a vote for indyref2, Labour Scotland branch have even went to the effort of making a campaign video claiming just that. They even use sections of the Mhairi Black interview that was debunked in last week's (issue 14) bulletin. This could not be further from the truth, the SNP are not using GE15 as a stepping stone, they are fighting for a Stronger Voice for Scotland and an end to the savage austerity measures of the LibCon coalition, measures that will be continued throughout the next term by all 3 Westminster Parties.

As we all know Labour are the worst of culprits, but we didn't realise how bad they would get until this week. Over the weekend it has come to light that Anas Sawar has been sending out duplicate letters (see <http://tinyurl.com/mbdu5ja>) claiming to be a neighbour. The opening paragraph goes like this "I am one of your neighbours in 'street name'. I don't normally get involved in politics, but who we have fighting for us as our Member of Parliament will make a big difference to people living in Glasgow" It is also been reported that Sawar's father has been knocking the doors of Asian families, warning them not to vote out his son. Jim Murphy has been at too, he has been sending out letters to pensioner households (see issue 14) (<http://tinyurl.com/ndfhsjr>). Jim's letter ends "I don't want to see the pensions put at risk and, unlike the SNP, will never vote to scrap the UK pension in the House of Commons. I don't want the SNP to retire the UK pension in Scotland. Now that the SNP have committed to scrapping the UK pension and Tories are determined to continue with their unfair austerity, the only way to protect pensioners in Scotland is to vote Labour". This is to be backed up by the new Leaflet going to all homes (supposedly) stating that "we have 23hrs 59min to stop a 2nd referendum". **Lie after Lie after Lie with a bit of scare thrown in.** But that's not all we have a Labour Activist group posting letters through doors, letters (<http://tinyurl.com/ozla5xw>) with the SNP letterhead claiming to be for new members, one paragraph reads "It is clear that the SNP will be sending its greatest number of MPs to Westminster ever. But, to make a real difference we need to work with others. David Cameron, despite the rhetoric in the press, supported the referendum, and in many ways is the party closest to our views of prosperity for all. You will know that beyond the rhetoric the SNP and the Tories have collaborated in the past. Outrageous and foolish propaganda by a desperate party who will stop at nothing to maintain its hold over Scotland.

Now that I have detailed the underhanded lying scaremongers the Westminster 3, especially Labour Scotland branch, I will try and detail why the SNP is the right choice for Scotland. I will not mention referendums because we all know this election is not about that, I will not mention pensions because we all know they are safe, I will look at policy. I don't think for one second that anyone can look rationally at the record of the SNP as a minority then a majority Scottish Government and realistically claim they have not done a good job. We have better public services, better education and better national healthcare in Scotland all because of the Scottish Government. Yes, they have had to make some tough decisions that not all of us have agreed with, but we must remember we can't borrow and must stay within a budget handed out to us from London. And, when London cuts our budget in Scotland, sometimes cuts must be made in Scotland of that there is no escape.

The SNP have already given Scotland, Free prescriptions, free education, free personal care, best NHS in UK, 9600 more NHS staff, increased childcare, council tax freeze (5yr), no bridge tolls, free hospital parking, saved local A&Es from closure, 1000 more police officers, reduction in crime, free school meals for P1-3 kids, a commitment to provide 25000 modern apprenticeships per year, negated the bedroom tax, building 35% more homes (per 1000 people) than England and 49% higher than Wales, a Fracking planning moratorium and more. Lord Foulkes claimed "the SNP are on a dangerous tack at the moment, what they are trying to do is build up a situation where services are manifestly better than south of the border in a number of areas" asked if that was a bad thing, he replied "No, but they are doing it deliberately".

Voting SNP on Thursday will give Scotland a stronger voice, fight the life threatening austerity programme of the Westminster 3, fight child benefit, tax credit and disability cuts, push for increase in carers allowance to match min wage, protect NHS from cuts and privatisation, push for greater NHS spending, higher pensions, to stop the pension age rising, protect the pensioners fuel allowance and more (see issue 13)

Don't believe the lies of the Westminster parties, a vote for the SNP is not a vote for the Tories or Labour, **a vote for the SNP is a vote for Scotland.** Currently Scotland provides a net **35** anti-Tory MPs (47 Labour and SNP minus 12 Tory and Lib Dem). Even were the SNP to pull off a clean sweep, wiping Labour out totally, that number would rise to **59** anti-Tory MPs. That's **24 extra anti-Tory votes** in the Commons compared to the Labour landslide of 2010. **A vote for the SNP is a vote for anti-austerity** for a change in the same old UK politics that just don't work, **a vote for the SNP is a vote for Progress not just in Scotland but for the entire UK.**

Remember, if you read it or hear it research it, you will be surprised at the truth.

10 Reasons NOT to Vote Labour.

- 1. 1000 more Nurses in Scotland funded by UK tax on properties worth over £2m.** This is Jim Murphy's flagship policy, the Mansion Tax would NOT directly prop up Health spending North of the Border as the newspapers claim. New Nurses in Scotland would not be funded by any specific tax. What is happening here is politics, pure and simple, a headline fabricated by Murphy for 3 reasons. **First**, to suggest that Scotland benefits directly from the Union. **Second**, it highlights Labours pledges on the NHS as well as a Mansion Tax. **Third**, it engineers a confected split with Ed Miliband, which makes it look like Labour in Scotland is no longer taking orders from London. Press outlets like the Daily Record eat this up as the record would follow Labour into hell and right wing outlets such as the Times, the Telegraph oblige because it suits their agendas to bash Ed Miliband and Scottish Nationalism.
- 2. Freeze Energy Bills so Prices can Fall but not Rise. Reform of our broken Energy Market.** Actually consumers are being denied energy price cuts as of much as £130 per year because of Ed Miliband's price freeze proposal. Industry analysts are now telling us that the energy companies are failing to pass on the fuel drop in the wholesale prices because they're afraid they'll not be able to cover their costs if the prices rise again under a Labour Government. Now the Labour Party say they didn't mean to talk about a freeze at all, the idea was to have a cap. So, they have somewhat abandoned this policy as they are trying to reform it.
- 3. Double Paternity Leave. We will extend leave to 4 weeks and raise pay by more than £100pw so that working Dad's can afford to take time off.** A policy that may actually be a good one, but the Libdems are proposing 6 weeks and the SNP were proposing up to a shared 9 months in the White Paper on Independence.
- 4. Fair pay with an £8 (not £8.50 Murphy claimed on leaders debate) Minimum Wage and the Living Wage. To give a Pay Rise to ½ million Scots, make work pay for ordinary families and deal with the cost of a Living Crisis.** The £8 minimum wage is the most fabricated piece of nonsense by Ed Miliband. This will not occur until 2020 and that will barely keep in line with inflation. Alan Millburn's Commission on Social Mobility recently published a report that found that **this pledge makes people worse off**. The proposed £8ph rate is not at all ambitious, it implies a slower rate of increase between 2014 and 2020, than there was between 1999 and 2014. If that trend (1999-2014) continued, the same rate of growth continued, then the national minimum wage in 2020 would be £8.23ph and not £8, so reform needed on this policy. **The SNP propose a minimum wage of £8.70ph by 2020.**
- 5. A Jobs Guarantee for our Young People. We will guarantee a job, training or an apprenticeship for Young People.** Three points/questions here. **First**, what kind of jobs are they exactly? **Second**, will subsidising employers to take on the long term unemployed give those applicants an unfair advantage over others? **Third**, will the subsidisation breach EU state and aid laws? There is also some misgivings about how this policy is actually going to be funded, we'd love to see it.
- 6. Tackle Tax Avoidance. We will close loopholes that cost taxpayers billions of pounds a year, increase transparency and toughen up penalties.** So is everyone, **even the Tories** are saying they are going to tackle Tax Avoidance, although can we believe that, we are not really sure. We think every Political Party wants to tackle Tax Avoidance.
- 7. A Triple Lock against Fracking Plans. To freeze fracking in Scotland and make sure residents always have the final say with a local referendum.** The Scottish Government (SNP) has announced a moratorium on all planning consents for all unconventional oil and gas extraction, including fracking. This has been welcomed by campaigners as a very big nail in the coffin for the fracking industry in Scotland. But, when it came to a UK wide moratorium on fracking in Parliament **Labour abstained**. Labour just cannot be trusted on the Fracking Debate.
- 8. 100,000 New Homes. To deal with SNP's housing shortfall which has seen house building at its lowest level since 1930's.** Again, this is devolved to the Scottish Parliament. However, whilst we are on this subject, *to tackle the SNPs housing shortfall*. There is a problem with housing and building in Scotland, it's not going at the rate that perhaps it should be. But, the **Scottish Government has made a £200m increase in the housing budget for 2015/16** compared to the previous year. We have seen over 1300 council houses started in the past 3 years, which is more than **twice the number in the previous 11 years combined**. There are 15500 homes completed in the year to end September 2014, 901 homes more than the year ending September 2013. To put this in a UK wide perspective this equates to a rate of 289 per 1000 people in Scotland compared to 214 per 1000 in England and 194 per 1000 in Wales. So, house building in Scotland is above and beyond (**35% higher** than England and **49% higher** than Wales) what has gone on at a UK wide level. The SNP is on track to meet its commitment of 30,000 new affordable homes in the five years to 2016.
- 9. A Ban on Exploitative Zero Hours contracts (see issue 14 U-Turn). Ensuring that, those working regular hours have a right to a regular contract.** This came just 2 weeks after the revelations that the Labour Party are employing people on Zero Hours. At least 68 Labour MPs across the UK employ staff on zero hours, nearly a ¼ of Labours Parliamentary Party and Glasgow's Labour Administration employs nearly 2000 people on zero hours contracts Hypocritical is an understatement..
- 10.** This is not a pledge, policy or misdirection from the Labour Party, this is just sheer **HYPOCRICY**. The **SDLP** stands for the reunification of Ireland, yet it's affiliated with Labour. Labour stands down in Northern Ireland to give the SDLP a free run in elections. So, the **SNP** believe in independence for Scotland, and Labour point blank refuse to work with them in the UK for that reason. **Plaid Cymru** believe in independence for Wales, Labour categorically refuses to work with them in Parliament, same as they do the SNP. However, **The SDLP want independence for Ireland**, breaking up the Union, but Labour not only work with them in the Parliament but **actively help them to win seats by not standing against them**.

The Labour Scotland Branch are in disarray, candidates are not being supported by councillors, activists are lying on the doorsteps, and members are already calling for Murphy's resignation, even Labour HQ are losing it. Miliband stating "*even if I lose this election because of it I do deal with the SNP*" only for him to announce the following day "*Labour will talk to the SNP*". Don't vote Labour.