

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 Sawars 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>). Jims 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.

Broken Promises, failed policies and a Helping Hand to the Tories. Why you should not vote Liberal Democrats.

- 1.(Effects Scotland) **A tax cut for millionaires** – cutting the 50p top rate of tax gave 13,000 millionaires a handout worth on average £100,000 each.
- 2.(Effects Scotland) **Halving the fuel poverty budget.** Whilst energy bills spiral and energy companies' profits soar. Around 900,000 households in Scotland, more than 1 in 3 are estimated by Energy Action Scotland to be in fuel poverty now. This means they are unable to afford adequate warmth in the home. It is estimated that there are 7 million fuel poor households in the UK. On average Scots pay 10% more on energy bills than our friends and family down south. A definition of fuel poverty is; *the need to spend more than 10% of income to pay for household fuel bills. If over 20% is required, then this is termed as being in extreme fuel poverty*
- 3.(Effects Scotland) **Increasing VAT to 20%.** Lib Dems warned before the election of a "Tory VAT Bombshell". Then he helped them introduce it. Lower income households spend a larger proportion of their incomes on taxed goods, meaning they are proportionately harder hit, on average a 2% loss of net income compared to <1% for the richest.
- 4.(Effects Scotland) **An economic policy that choked off the recovery, the slowest for 100 years.** Vince Cable **warned** before the 2010 election that *"the danger of drastic cuts in public spending right now is that it would make the recession worse and it would make the deficit worse"* But, he signed up to them and his original statement was proven correct.
5. (Effects Scotland) **The Bedroom Tax** – an unfair policy that is hitting over 400,000 disabled people. To be fair it's a Labour Policy supported by Tories and Lib Dems. The **SNP** removed the need for Scottish Households to pay the Bedroom Tax by covering it from the Scottish Block Grant/Budget meaning poorer and disabled residents don't have to worry about being evicted.
- 6.(Effects Scotland) **The 'granny tax'.** An unfair policy leaving pensioners paying more while the highest earners pay less. A age related that means millions of people are not as protected from tax as they expected to be that effects their financial planning as they approach retirement. Taking inflation into account, this will leave 4.41 million people worse off than they would have expected, by an average of £83 per year in 2013-14. Figures from HMRC
- 7.(Effects Scotland) **The introduction of the Strivers' Tax** – a raid on working age benefits and tax credits. Estimated to leave working families £1,152 worse off over the next five years. This huge cuts to tax credits will hit 7.9 million families with at least one adult earning (2013 figure). At the same time the Lib Dems and Tories handed out a £3billion tax cut to the highest earners – worth an average of £107,000 to 8,000 millionaires.
- 8.(Effects Scotland) **The Lobbying Bill that let's Cameron's chief adviser and the cigarette lobbyist Lynton Crosby off the hook.** At the same time seeking to gag cancer charities. The bill aims to tighten regulation on campaign spending during election periods. People or organisations who are not standing as candidates or political parties will have to register with the Electoral Commission if they spend a sufficiently large sum on campaigning. A Friends of the Earth spokeswoman said the charity was "bitterly disappointed" by the development. *"This is bad day for anyone wanting to protect the environment, save a hospital or oppose tuition fees"* she said.
- 9.(Effects Scotland) **Scrapping the Future Jobs Fund** – even though the Lib Dems **promised** before the election that they would keep it. Now almost one million young people are unemployed, the number of young people unemployed for more than a year is **up 142%**. The scheme to get unemployed people into work, scrapped by Lib Dems (*Danny Alexander played large role*) and Tories for being too expensive, produced a net gain for Britain, according to a government report. The fund, introduced in 2009 to get 35,000 long-term unemployed back to work was dismissed (2011) as a badly targeted failure. An impact analysis for the DWP found that society gained £7,750 per participant through wages, increased tax receipts and reduced benefit payments. Participants gained £4,000 and employers gained £6,850, costs to the exchequer were calculated to be £3,100 per job. Two years after the start of their time, former jobseekers were 16% less likely to be on benefits than non-participants, an average of 8 days, they were 27% more likely to be in unsubsidised employment. The fund reduced the amount of time young people spent on benefits and increased the amount of time they were in unsubsidised employment, the report said.
- 10.(Devolved) **Increasing rail fares up to 9% from next January.** The Lib Dem manifesto **promised** to cut them every year.
- 11.(Devolved) **Cutting 15,000 police officers** – even though the Lib Dem manifesto **promised** an extra 3,000 police officers.
- 12.(Devolved) **Scrapping the Education Maintenance Allowance.** The EMA was a lifeline for young people from deprived backgrounds who wanted to stay in education and training after the age of 16.
13. (Devolved) **Cuts to Sure Start**, with 558 fewer centres, even though Nick Clegg said **"I want all of these centres to stay open"**.
- 14.(Devolved) **Trebling tuition fees.** Nick Clegg **promised** to vote against any rise in tuition fees. He didn't.
- 15.(Devolved) **£3 billion top-down NHS reorganisation**, while queues at A&E grow and over 5,000 nurses are cut.

Added to all above we have the increase in the national debt under the Tory/Lib Dem Coalition, figures from 2008-14 dont make good reading for two Parties who's austerity agendas have made 100s of 1000s children need foodbanks and seen people killing themselves or dying because of hardship by benefit sanctions and welfare reform. Debt by year is as follows; Labour, 2008-£0.53T, 2009-£0.62T, 2010 - £0.76T, now for Tories and Lib Dems, 2011-£0.91T, 2012-£1.1T, 2013-£1.19T, 2014-£1.26T and 2015-£1.36T. Austerity doesn't work but along with Labour and the Conservatives the Liberal Democrats will keep trying in the hope that one day it just might, but, ask yourself this. How many people will die and suffer as a result of failed austerity agendas? Don't vote Lib Dem